

# **Western Massachusetts Gas Reliability Project**

## *Open House – Greater Springfield YMCA*

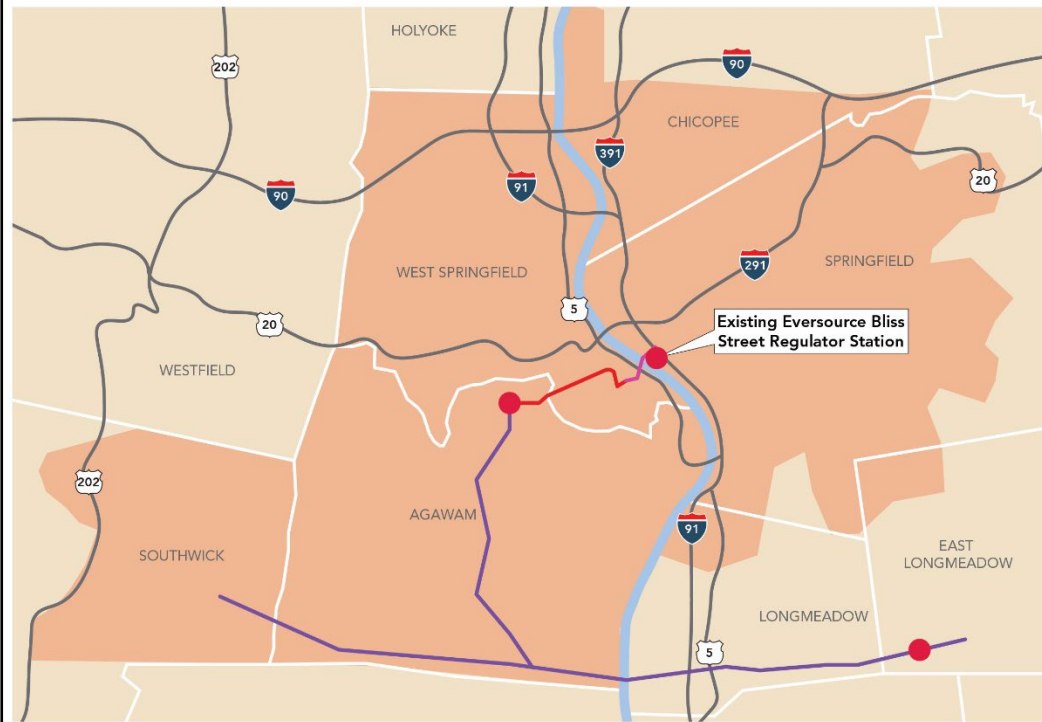
12/05/2023 6:00 PM



1. Need and Existing System
2. Impact of Service Interruption
3. Project Scope and Alternatives
4. Analysis of Routes
5. Point of Delivery (POD)
  - a) Description
  - b) Safety Features
6. Community Outreach
7. Scheduling and Permitting

## Western Massachusetts Natural Gas Reliability Project

Potential Outage Area Illustration



*Why is Eversource proposing this project?*

- This Project is needed to provide necessary system reliability to approximately 58,000 customers in the Greater Springfield Area
- Portions of this system are 70 years old

# Project Need and Community Benefits

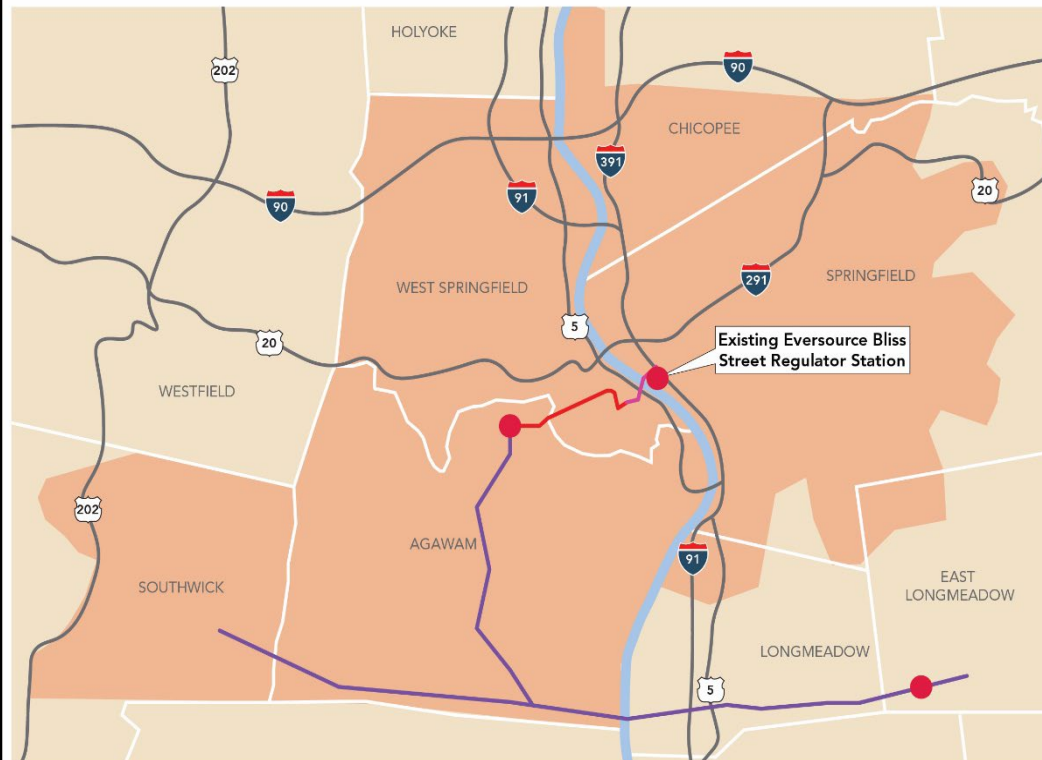
- **This Project is designed to:**
  - Update and strengthen the backbone of the distribution system
  - Reduce the risk of service interruption due to an unexpected disruption to the single source of supply
- **Risk:**
  - Interruption of supply along this pathway would result in customers being out of service for the duration of interruption
  - Particularly problematic during a cold winter period when customers' need for a reliable supply of natural gas is the greatest
  - Depending on the cause and impact of the interruption, customer outages could extend for weeks or months



Greater Springfield Area

## Western Massachusetts Natural Gas Reliability Project

### Potential Outage Area Illustration



#### LEGEND

- Area of Potential Outage (for illustration only)
- Existing Gate Station/Regulator Station
- Existing Transmission Facility
- Existing Distribution Facility
- Tennessee Gas Pipeline System



November 2022

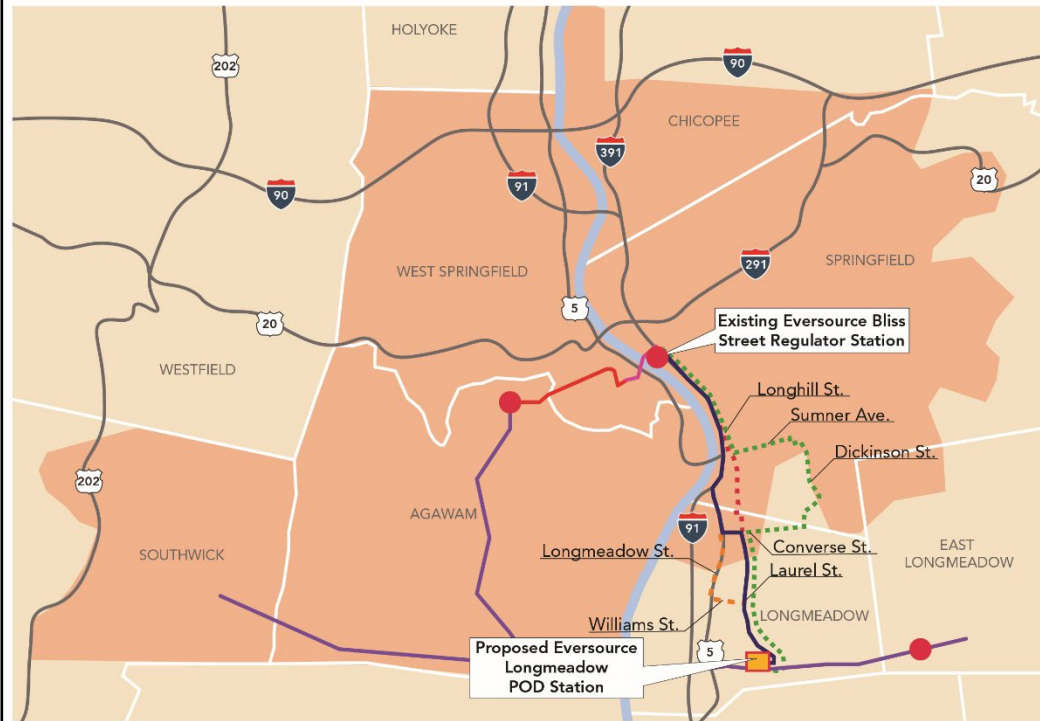
This is the map shown earlier in the presentation.

The next slide will show the same map, but with the proposed routes added in.



## Western Massachusetts Natural Gas Reliability Project

Potential Outage Area Illustration and Proposed Route Options



### LEGEND

- Preferred Project Route
- Noticed Alternative
- - - Noticed Variation #1 to Preferred Route
- ... Noticed Variation #2 to Preferred Route
- Area of Potential Outage (for illustration only)
- Proposed Longmeadow Point-of-Delivery (POD) Station
- Existing Gate Station/Regulator Station
- Existing Transmission Facility
- Existing Distribution Facility
- Tennessee Gas Pipeline System



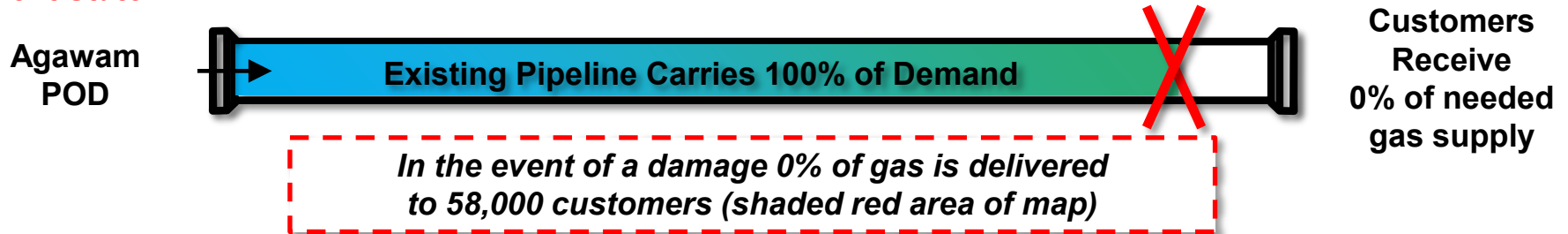
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## Scope Includes:

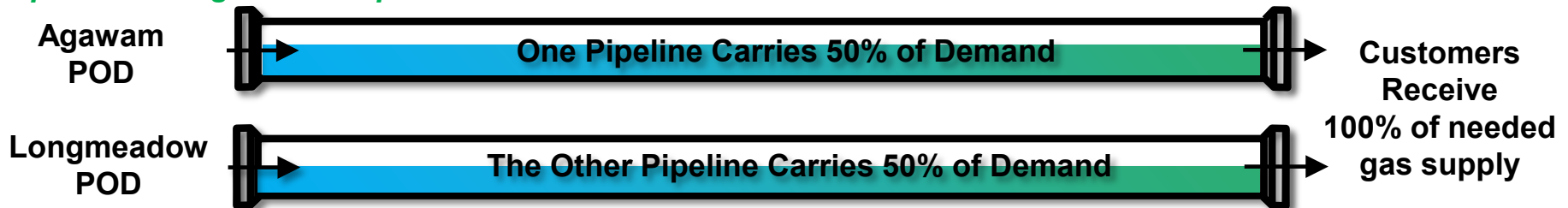
- Construction of a new Point-of-Delivery (POD) Station in Longmeadow
- Installation of a new, 5.3-mile, 200 psig, 16-inch pipeline
  - From:** The new POD in Longmeadow
  - To:** The existing Bliss Street Regulator Station in Springfield
- Regulator station upgrades at Bliss Street

# Proposed Solution

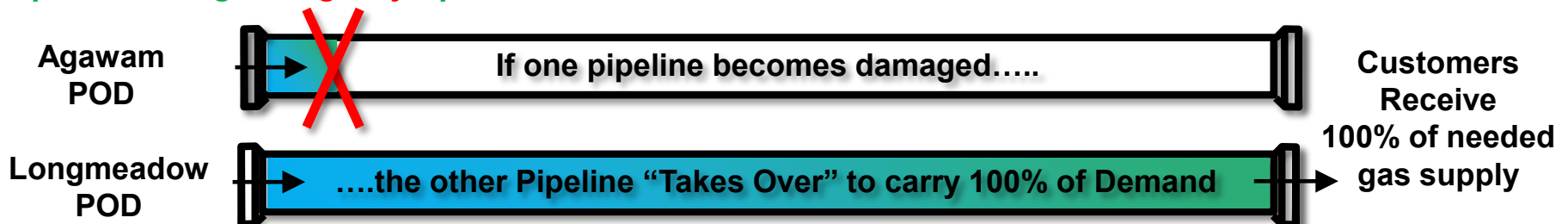
## Current State:



## Proposed During Normal Operation:



## Proposed During Emergency Operation:



## Non-Pipeline Alternatives

- Energy Efficiency
- Demand Response
- Electrification
- Geothermal



## Pipeline Alternatives

- No Build
- Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)
- Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)



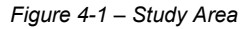
## Alternative Locations

- Alternative New POD Locations
- Expansion of East Longmeadow POD



***These alternatives do not meet the current need to provide our existing customers with reliable service, consistent with considerations of environmental impacts and costs***





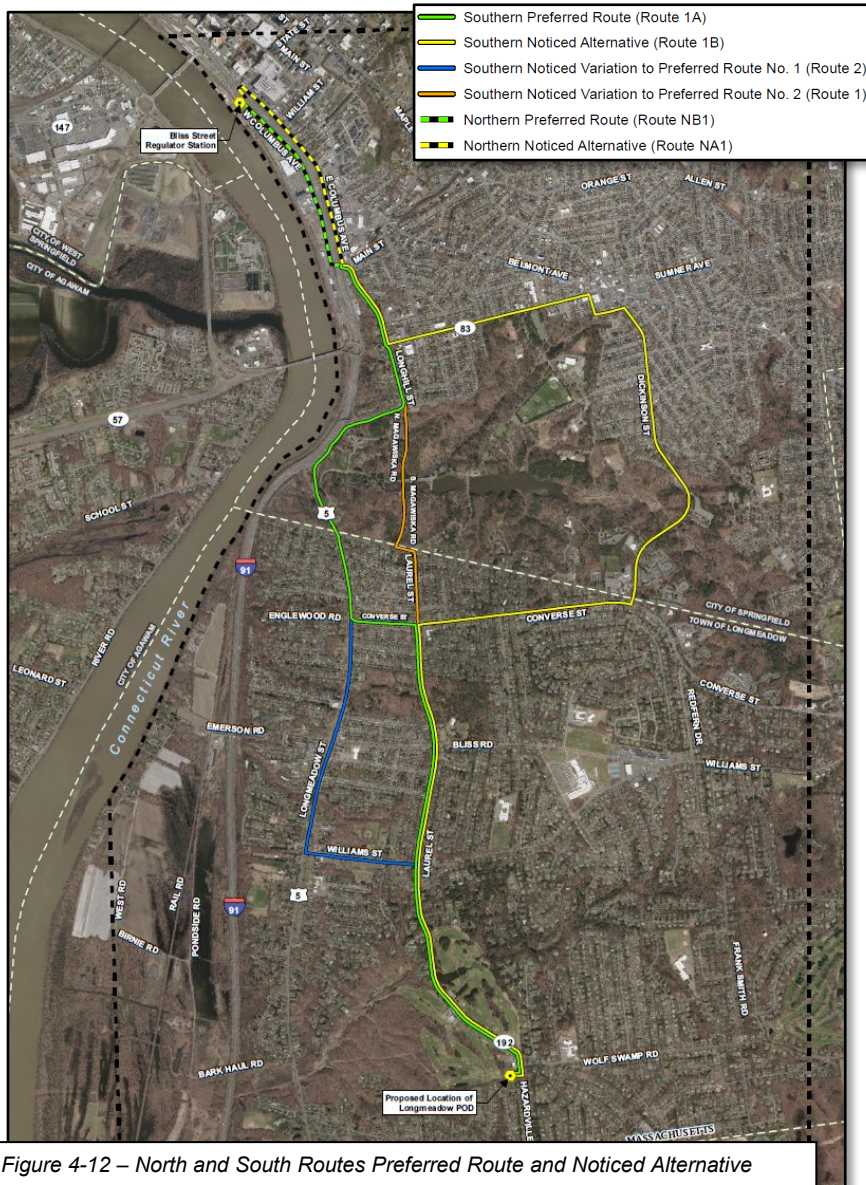
- ✓ Wetlands, Rivers, Streams
- ✓ Endangered Species
- ✓ Tree Clearing

- ✓ Land Use (residential, commercial/industrial, recreational)
- ✓ Sensitive Receptors
- ✓ Historic Resources
- ✓ Traffic/Public Transportation

## 8



## Preferred and Noticed Alternatives/Variations



- **Preferred Route**

- (Green)
- I-91 (MassDOT)
- Approximately 5.3 miles
- Approximately 1,000 abutters

- **Noticed Variation 1 to Preferred Route**

- (Blue)
- Approximately 5.4 miles
- Approximately 900 abutters

- **Noticed Variation 2 to Preferred Route**

- (Orange)
- Forest Park
- Approximately 5.0 miles
- Approximately 900 abutters

■ **Noticed Alternative**

- (Yellow)
- Approximately 7.2 miles
- Approximately 1,900 abutters

*Figure 4-12 – North and South Routes Preferred Route and Noticed Alternative*

# Proposed Longmeadow Point of Delivery

- A POD is a site where natural gas is transferred from Tennessee Gas Pipeline (TGP) to Eversource
- Proposed POD buildings are being designed to match existing structures in the area and will be constructed with noise-reducing technology
- These buildings will house piping and equipment, allowing 24/7 monitoring of gas operations at the site
- Alarms will notify personnel immediately if unexpected operating conditions arise



*Longmeadow Country Club Cart House*



*Representative POD Interior*



# Proposed Longmeadow POD Buildings



*Proposed Longmeadow POD Visual Study (View from Hazardville Rd)*

- 24/7 Remote Monitoring and Onsite Inspections
  - Security alarms, leak detection, remote control & emergency shutdown
- Automatic Alarming to Gas Control Room
- Damage Prevention
  - Regular patrols by trained technicians and supervisors
  - DigSafe and excavator monitoring, communication and training
- Corrosion Prevention
- Emergency Preparedness
- Eversource partners with local Fire Departments for safety trainings



*Eversource Control Center*



# Enhanced Outreach Plan

## Community Outreach

- Virtual Open Houses – November 9 and 10, 2021
- Community “Pop-Up” events with interpretation, 2022
- Project Website with Translation
- Project Hotline and Email Address
- Flyers, Mailings, Newspaper Ads
- Meetings with local officials
- Door-to-door outreach and door hangers

*Conversations with the community will continue throughout the permitting and construction process*



Hispanic American Library/Union Station Springfield – 3/28



Eastfield Mall in Springfield – 4/6, 4/29, 5/6



Old San Juan Bakery in Springfield – 4/1, 4/2

# Projected Schedule

## Milestones

## Target Dates\*

Stakeholder Outreach  
(Government, Agencies, Landowners, other Stakeholders)

Ongoing

Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act  
(Environmental Notification Form Filed in May 2022)

Ongoing

Submit EFSB Petition

✓ May 2022

Submit MassDOT State Highway Access Permit

Q3 2023

**Anticipated EFSB Decision**

Q2 2024

Design and Award Contracts

Q3 2024

Project Construction

Q4 2024 – Q4 2025

Project In-Service

Q1 2026

*\*Subject to change*

## **Local**

- Street Opening Permits
- Building Permits (for POD)

## **State**

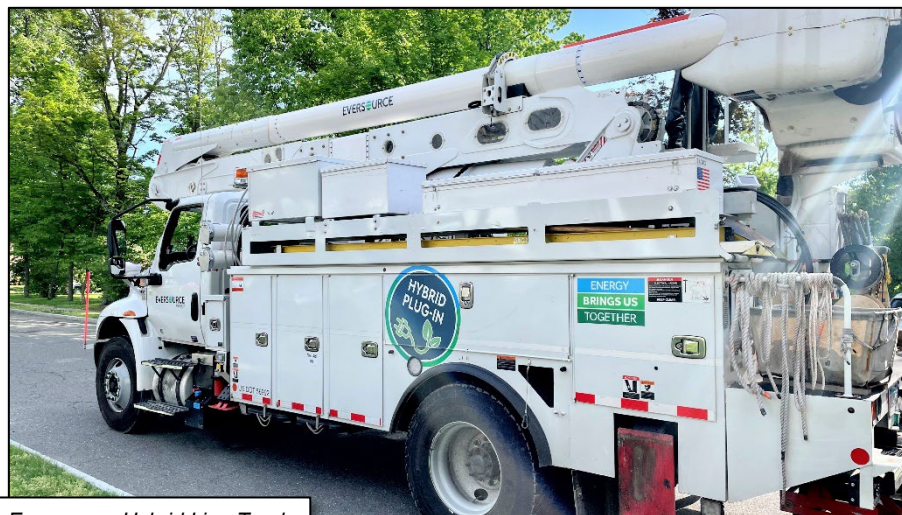
- Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Certificate, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
- DPU Zoning Exemption for POD
- Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and local bylaws
- MassDOT Permitting – Highway Access Permit
- Office of Dam Safety Review

## **Federal**

- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit
- National Historic Preservation Act Consultation via the Massachusetts Historical Commission
- US Fish and Wildlife Endangered Species Consultation

***The proposed Project ensures reliability for the benefit of our customers.***

- Eversource has an **obligation** to provide **reliable gas service** to our current customers who rely on it for heating, hot water and other purposes. Many of those customers are in EJ communities in the Springfield area.
- This Project addresses an **unacceptable reliability risk** for our customers in Greater Springfield.
- This Project is *not to serve new customers* – it is solely to ensure safe and reliable service to existing customers. We are not trying to expand, we are trying to ***strengthen the system that is already there.***



Eversource Hybrid Line Truck



# Project Contact Information

## For More Information:



**1-800-793-2202**



**[ProjectInfo@eversource.com](mailto:ProjectInfo@eversource.com)**



**[www.eversource.com/wma-gas-reliability](http://www.eversource.com/wma-gas-reliability)**



You can also keep up-to-date on happenings in your community by providing your contact information via phone, email or by scanning the QR code with your smart device.

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