

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

**ENERGY FACILITIES SITING BOARD AND
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

**NOTICE OF ADJUDICATION AND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING**

EFSB 19-06/D.P.U. 19-142/19-143
NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 69J, 72, and G.L. c. 40A, § 3, NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource” or the “Company”), located at 247 Station Drive, Westwood, Massachusetts 02090, has filed three related petitions with the Energy Facilities Siting Board (“Siting Board”) and the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) in connection with the Company’s proposal to construct, operate and maintain an approximately 12.5-mile, overhead 115-kilovolt (“kV”) electric transmission line in the towns of Bourne, Sandwich, and Barnstable, Massachusetts (“New Line”). The New Line will be constructed in an existing Eversource right-of-way (“ROW”) between Eversource’s Bourne Switching Station and West Barnstable Substation. The Bourne Switching Station and West Barnstable Substation will require new equipment, and the existing western fence line at the West Barnstable Substation will be extended by approximately 65 feet to accommodate the modifications. The New Line, together with the related station modifications, are referred to as the Mid Cape Reliability Project (the “Project”). The Project is proposed to enhance the reliability of the regional electric transmission system on Cape Cod, Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket.

Due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency, a virtual public comment hearing will be conducted online to receive comments on the Project. The Siting Board will conduct a public comment hearing using Zoom videoconferencing to receive public comment on the Project on Wednesday, June 10, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. Attendees can join by clicking (or entering) the following link: <https://zoom.us/j/93490203778> from a computer, smartphone, or tablet. No prior software download is required. For audio-only participation, attendees can dial in at 1 (646) 558-8656 (not toll free**) and then enter the Meeting ID# 934-9020-3778. If you anticipate providing comments via Zoom during the hearing, please send an email to Geneen.Bartley@mass.gov with your name, email address and mailing address by **June 9, 2020**. If you anticipate commenting by telephone, please leave a voicemail message at 617-305-3529 with your name, telephone number, and mailing address by **June 9, 2020**. Additional commenters may be allowed during the hearing, at the discretion of the Presiding Officer.**

During the public comment hearing, Eversource will present an overview of the Project. Public officials and members of the public will then have an opportunity to ask questions and make comments about the Project. The public comment hearing will be recorded by a court reporter. The public may also file written comments with the Presiding Officer. To file written comments, please see the section titled “Filing Instructions” toward the end of this Notice.

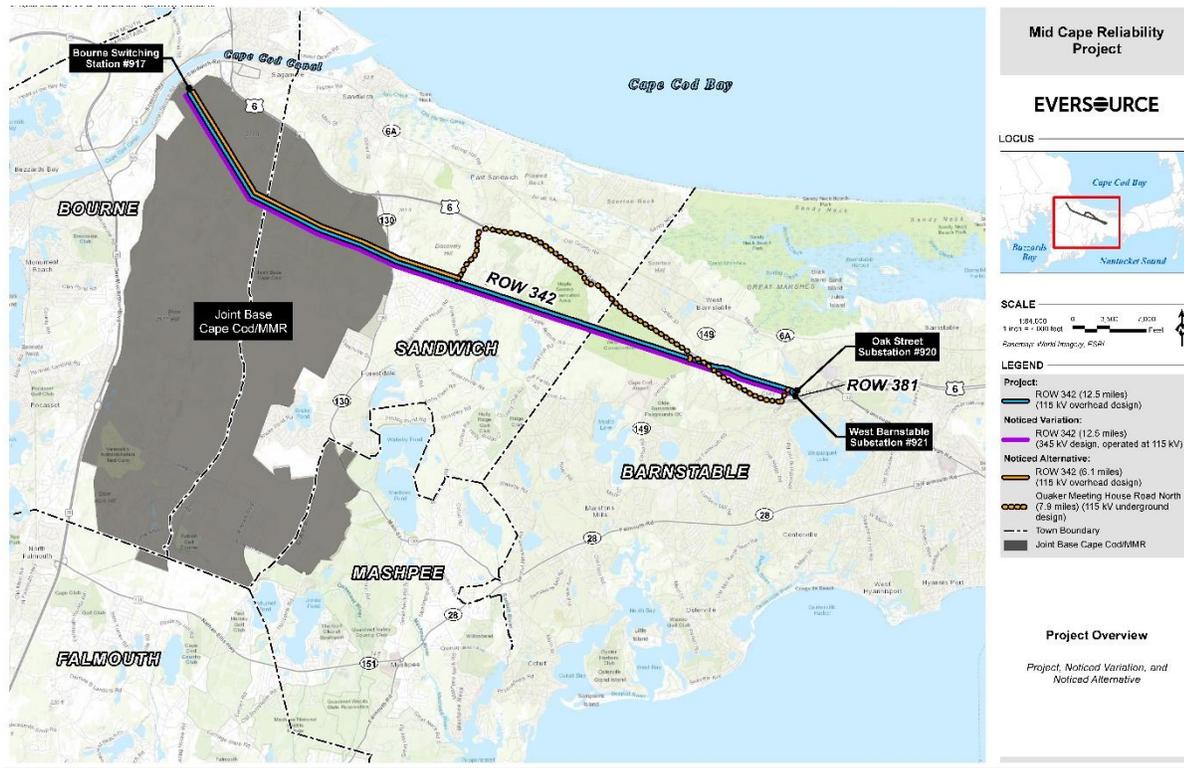
Written comments will be accepted on the Project until 5:00 p.m. on **July 1, 2020**. The Siting Board encourages written comments to be submitted electronically to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and

donna.sharkey@mass.gov. Please include “EFSB 19-06 – Mid Cape Reliability Project” in the subject line of the e-mail with your comments. In the alternative, the public may submit written comments via mail to the Energy Facilities Siting Board, One South Station, Boston, MA 02110, attention Donna Sharkey. Please be advised that there may be delays in receiving written comments via mail.

Siting Board Jurisdiction

Pursuant to an Order issued by the Chair of the Department on April 29, 2020, the Company’s three petitions relating to the Project have been consolidated for hearing before the Siting Board, with consolidated docket number EFSB 19-06/D.P.U. 19-142/19-143. Under G.L. c. 164, § 69J, the Siting Board will review the Company’s filing to determine whether the Project will provide a reliable energy supply with a minimum impact on the environment at the lowest possible cost. Under G.L. c. 164, § 72, the Siting Board will determine whether the proposed Project is necessary, serves the public convenience, and is consistent with the public interest. Under G.L. c. 40A, § 3, the Siting Board will determine whether the requested zoning exemptions in Barnstable are required for the Project and whether the present or proposed use of the land or structures is reasonably necessary for the convenience or welfare of the public.

Figure 1: Mid Cape Reliability Project



The Company’s Preferred Transmission Line Route

The Company’s Preferred Route for the New Line is approximately 12.5 miles along existing, occupied Eversource ROW 342 that runs between the Bourne Switching Station and the West Barnstable Substation through Bourne, Sandwich and Barnstable. The initial 4.8 miles of ROW 342

is located on Joint Base Cape Cod (“JBCC”) property. East of JBCC, this route crosses the following roads in the Town of Sandwich: Forestdale Road, Kiah Way, Quaker Meeting House Road, Mill Road, and Great Hill Road, and the following roads in the Town of Barnstable: Crocker Road, Service Road, Prospect Street, Route 6, Pine Street, Plum Street, and Oak Street. ROW 342 contains an existing overhead 115-kV line on its north side, an overhead 345-kV line roughly in the center of the ROW, and a 7.6 mile 25-kV distribution line on the south side. The 25-kV distribution line will be permanently relocated toward the center of the ROW to accommodate the New Line. The New Line will then be constructed on the south side of the ROW and will require 89 new steel monopole transmission structures. The Preferred Route is the shortest, most direct route between the Bourne Switching Station and West Barnstable Substation.

The Company’s Noticed Alternative Transmission Line Route

The Company also identified a Noticed Alternative Route for the New Line, which would traverse overhead on ROW 342 from the Bourne Switching Station for about 6.1 miles before transitioning to an underground line design at Quaker Meeting House Road. From Quaker Meeting House Road, the New Line would continue underground for 7.9 miles to West Barnstable Substation, primarily within public roads. The 6.1-mile overhead portion of the Noticed Alternative Route within ROW 342 is the same as the Preferred Route. Where the New Line would transition to the underground segment at Quaker Meeting House Road, the underground transmission line route heads north for approximately one mile before turning east onto Service Road, then follows Service Road for approximately 6.5 miles to Oak Street. From Oak Street, the route turns north, crosses Route 6 via the Oak Street bridge, then turns southeast into the West Barnstable Substation. The Noticed Alternative Route is approximately 14 miles long and passes through the municipalities of Bourne, Sandwich and Barnstable.

The Company’s Noticed Variation for the Preferred Transmission Line Route

The Company has also identified a Noticed Variation for the Project, where the Company would build the New Line along the same route as the Preferred Route on ROW 342 but would use transmission structures capable of supporting 345-kV conductors. The Company would operate the New Line at 115 kV until a time when the higher voltage may be required, at which time the Company would return to the Siting Board for permission to operate the line at 345 kV. The Noticed Variation would allow the Company to meet the current identified need for the Project while also minimizing the potential cost and impacts of building an entirely distinct 345-kV line or rebuilding the proposed 115-kV line to 345-kV standards in the future. The primary difference between the Project and the Noticed Variation is that the Noticed Variation structures would be larger and taller, and the conductors would be slightly larger.

Related Modifications to the Bourne Switching Station and West Barnstable Substation

The New Line will connect at both the Bourne Switching Station and West Barnstable Substation. Bourne Switching Station is located inside JBCC. The Company is currently rebuilding the Bourne Switching Station in a different project, using a design that has space to accommodate the New Line. Modifications to the Bourne Switching Station would occur within the fence-line of the rebuilt station.

The West Barnstable Substation is located at 661 Oak Street in Barnstable. To accommodate the New Line, Eversource would expand the substation by approximately 65 feet to the west in order to provide space for additional new circuit breakers and disconnects, transformers, lightning rods, and other electromechanical equipment. The Company requests exemptions from the Barnstable Zoning Ordinance for modifications to the West Barnstable Substation.

Public Review of the Company’s Petitions

The general location, layout, dimensions, and configuration of the Preferred Route (including the Noticed Variation) and Noticed Alternative Route for the Project are shown on maps and plans included in or as attachments to the Company’s petitions. Copies of the Company’s petitions, including all attachments have been filed with the Towns of Barnstable, Bourne and Sandwich. Copies are also available for public inspection in electronic format at the following locations:

Department of Public Utilities’ website at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber/EFSB19-06>. To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, or audio format) contact the Department’s ADA coordinator at DPUADACoordinator@mass.gov.

Town websites at: Town of Barnstable <http://www.townofbarnstable.us/>;
Town of Bourne <https://www.townofbourne.com/>;
Town of Sandwich <http://www.sandwichmass.org/>;

Eversource’s website at : <https://www.eversource.com/content/ema-c/about/projects-infrastructure/projects/massachusetts-transmission-projects/mid-cape-reliability-project>

Written Comments

Written comments regarding the Project will be accepted at the public comment hearing or may be filed with the Siting Board until 5:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, July 1, 2020**.

Intervention and Participation

Persons or groups who wish to be involved in the Siting Board proceeding beyond providing comments at the public comment hearing or submitting written comments may seek either to intervene as a party or to participate as a limited participant. Intervention as a party allows the person or group to participate fully in the evidentiary phase of the proceeding, including the right to participate in evidentiary hearings, and to appeal a final decision. A limited participant would receive

documents in the proceeding, file a brief, and would have the opportunity to present written or oral argument to the Siting Board at the Siting Board meeting.

Any person interested in intervening as a party or participating as a limited participant in this proceeding must file a written petition with the Siting Board. A petition to intervene or a petition to participate as a limited participant must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 980 CMR 1.00, the Siting Board's procedural rules, which can be found on the Board's website at:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/980-cmr-1-rules-for-the-conduct-of-adjudicatory-proceedings/download>

Filing Instructions

Written comments on the Company's petitions, or a petition to intervene or participate as a limited participant, must be filed in three places:

First, the petition to intervene or participate must be filed in hard copy with: the Presiding Officer, Donna Sharkey, Energy Facilities Siting Board, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts 02110 no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Wednesday, July 1, 2020**. Written comments will also be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on July 1, 2020.

Second, the comments or petition must be filed with the Siting Board in electronic format by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and donna.sharkey@mass.gov. The text of the email must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (EFSB 19-06/D.P.U. 19-142/19-143); (2) the name of the person or entity submitting the filing; and (3) a brief description of the document. The electronic filing should also include the name, title and telephone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing.

Third, the comments or petition must be sent in hard copy and electronically to counsel for the Company, David Rosenzweig, Esq., Keegan Werlin LLP, 99 High Street, Suite 2900, Boston, MA 02110, drosen@keeganwerlin.com.

Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Include a description of the accommodation you will need, including as much detail as you can. Also include a way we can contact you if we need more information. Please provide as much advance notice as possible. Last minute requests will be accepted, but may not be able to be accommodated. Contact the Department's ADA coordinator at DPUADACoordinator@mass.gov or (617) 305-3500.

Interpretation services for those with limited English language proficiency are available upon request. Include in your request the language required, and a way to contact you if we need more information. Please provide as much advance notice as possible, and no later than May 27, 2020. Last minute requests may not be able to be accommodated.

Any person desiring further information regarding this Notice, including information about intervention or participation in the proceeding may also contact the Presiding Officer at the addresses or telephone number below:

Donna Sharkey, Presiding Officer
Energy Facilities Siting Board
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110
(617) 305-3625
Donna.sharkey@mass.gov