



September 27, 2016

Jim Hunt, Vice President for Regulatory Affairs & Community Relations
Beverly Schultz, Project Manager
Eversource
One NSTAR Way
Westwood, MA 02090

Via Email: James.Hunt@Eversource.com, Beverly.Schultz@Eversource.com

Dear Mr. Hunt and Ms. Schultz,

On behalf of the Massachusetts Chapter of the Sierra Club, I am writing to urge you to retract or revise your proposal for the Sudbury-to-Hudson Transmission Reliability Project.

Any siting of a transmission line – either above or below ground – will have significant and permanent deleterious effects on protected lands, threaten the town water supply and devalue residential neighborhoods and historic districts along the path which you call the “preferred” route.

I also question whether this transmission line is really needed. I understand that at the time ISO-NE identified the reliability projects, demand was forecast to be higher than it has proven to be. Massachusetts now leads the nation in energy efficiency, and just approved the largest offshore wind procurement in the country. As costs for renewables drop and demand is managed by efficiency and demand response, old plans become obsolete and need to be revisited. Our focus should be on an energy future that preserves our environment, wildlife and human health and the historic character of our communities. It’s time to focus on localized clean electric production and consumption instead of on destructive and unnecessary legacy infrastructure.

If you continue to maintain that this is a necessary reliability project, then, given the adverse consequences of this route along the right-of-way, we ask that you withdraw your proposal in its entirety and allow (and urge) ISO-NE to re-evaluate the previously submitted proposal by National Grid that did not place transmission lines along a totally new path.

As wild lands, wildlife, recreation areas, and historic districts are increasingly at risk in our country, our obligation to current and future citizens is to do everything in our power to ensure that we preserve every precious natural resource that we currently enjoy.

We understand that Eversource is putting forth the above-ground line as a “lowest” cost proposal. We believe, to the contrary, that it and any other route through conservation lands represents the highest-cost proposal and should be discarded. We cannot afford to dismiss the consequences of failing to ignore the value to humankind of unbroken forest and wetlands, wildlife and clean water. I believe Eversource customers would like to believe they are supporting a

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company that protects the natural environment of its customers, rather than destroying it as a purported “least cost” solution.

Renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy storage, demand response... these are the solutions of the future. New transmission lines through natural lands is not.

Sincerely yours,



Emily J. Norton

Director, Massachusetts Chapter

Cc:

Sen. Ed Markey

Sen. Elizabeth Warren

Rep. Niki Tsongas

Rep. Katherine Clarke

Sen. Mike Barrett

Sen. Jamie Eldridge

Rep. Carmine Gentile

Matthew Beaton, Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Brad Campbell, Conservation Law Foundation

George Bachrach, Environmental League of Massachusetts

Jim Gish, Protect Sudbury, Inc.