

Myth Busting

Certain questions from the Protect Sudbury community reappear on a regular basis, so here's some help sorting fact from fiction. Please share with Sudbury friends.

Myth: The Town Can Vote Down the Project

Fact: There is no vote

Eversource proposes to build its transmission lines on land owned by the MBTA. Although the MBTA corridor runs right up to people's properties and through some of our most beautiful conservation land, it's not ours to manage. If we and the Town don't work to stop Eversource, the project could go forward.

Myth: They Can't Do This, Can They?

Fact: Yep. They can.

The Energy Facilities Siting Board has power to override any permitting process or conditions if they unduly interfere with a public energy project. If we do nothing, they absolutely can do it. That's why Protect Sudbury has hired one of the best law firms with experience in utility litigation, Burns and Levinson. But without challenging the premise of the project, yes, the utility can do it. That's why it's vital that we stay in this fight and challenge everything all the way.

Myth: The Town's Lawyer Should Be Enough

Fact: It isn't.

Our best chance at stopping Eversource includes both our grass roots group of private citizens, funding our own independent lawyer and the Town of Sudbury's official opposition. The town's lawyer works with Protect Sudbury's legal counsel, sharing information and coordinating legal strategy. Both efforts have been effective in leveraging every angle to oppose the project. Protect Sudbury and the Town of Sudbury act as separate intervenors in the siting board process so we can represent a broader range of interests. In addition, in pursuing every avenue of investigation and influence, some are more conducive to a private group and some to a municipality, so the efforts are cooperative and complimentary.

Myth: I Live In North Sudbury, This Doesn't Affect Me

Fact: It does. And here's why

Eversource's vegetation management plan includes regular spraying of herbicides that include glyphosate, classified by the WHO's cancer agency as a probable carcinogen. Some of this spraying is uncomfortably close to our gravel pack wells, which has alarmed the Superintendent of our water district. See her formal letter of concern to Eversource on the Protect Sudbury web site. There's no "us and them" with regard to our drinking water. If our water is contaminated, 18,000 residents of Sudbury are negatively affected.

Additionally, if those 100 foot tall steel monopoles go up with their 115 Kv wires (or whatever voltage they ultimately upgrade to), our community goes from rural to industrial over night. The poles would hover over route 20 in front of Lotus Blossom, and continue through our business district and neighborhoods crossing Union, Horse Pond, Peakham, and Dutton roads. With that new industrialized character comes associated drops in property values, which then degrade the tax base as a whole. We'll see a downturn in services and school budgets, making Sudbury less desirable as a community.

**Eversource threatens our health, our environment, our community.
Do Not Let Them Have the Right of Way.**