



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Eastern Massachusetts National Wildlife Refuge Complex
73 Weir Hill Road
Sudbury, MA 01776-1420



January 11, 2017

Ms. Beverly Schultz, Project Manager
Eversource
One NSTAR Way
Westwood, MA 02090

Dear Ms. Schultz:

I am writing to request an update on the status of the proposed Sudbury to Hudson Transmission Reliability Project, which runs adjacent to the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in Sudbury and Hudson, MA.

As you know, we have expressed concerns with the proposed project to Eversource both in a letter dated June 28, 2016, and during a meeting at Assabet River NWR held on July 22, 2016, at which time we shared our concerns and visited the proposed site.

On December 8, 2016, I sent emails to Eversource Senior Environmental Engineer Denise Bartone requesting an update on this project. I appreciate the quick response that Eversource had not submitted its Petition to the Energy Facility Siting Board so no environmental permitting for the project had been undertaken yet.

We remain concerned about the proposed project and the impacts that the electric transmission line might have on the Assabet River NWR, and surrounding conservation lands. Our concerns include habitat fragmentation of thousands of acres of conservation land, increased invasive species, impacts from the use of herbicides, and the likely increase of unauthorized uses particularly ATV's and dirt bikes.

We sincerely hope that Eversource more fully develops an alternative proposal that would route electrical transmission cables underground through local streets, thus avoiding these and other environmental impacts including potential impacts to endangered species.

I am requesting the following information from Eversource: a description of any revised alternatives, a timeline for the proposed project, and how concerns expressed by the Assabet River NWR have been considered and addressed. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Herland
Wildlife Refuge Manager