

Czepiga, Page (EEA)

From: svetlana.a.semenova@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, June 18, 2017 9:26 PM
To: Czepiga, Page (EEA)
Subject: Transmission lines in Sudbury

Dear Ms. Czepiga,

I would like to express my deepest concerns regarding the transmission line proposed by Eversource that would go through Sudbury. I am expressing my concerns as a resident of Sudbury as well as an Environmental Economist with 17 years of experience in the field of natural resource economics. I hold an M.S. in Environmental Economics and an M.S. in Environmental Engineering. Over the course of my career, I have worked in environmental policy related to federal regulations as well as environmental litigation, where the primary focus of my work has been quantifying damages to the environment as a result of environment policies as well as natural and man-made disasters.

From my assessment of potential damages to the environment from the Eversource transmission line using the MBTA ROW, there are several natural resources that would be at risk the most.

Wetlands Lost: wetlands provide numerous environmental services. Some of the benefits wetlands provide include water purification, groundwater recharge, flood protection, providing habitat for fish and wildlife, including threatened and endangered species. Using published journal articles, I estimated the average value of lost wetlands in Massachusetts at \$356,132 per acre. Using the number of acres to be affected by the project (60 acres), the estimated annual losses for wetlands would be \$21.4 million. This number represents an annual loss and therefore, the total economic losses would be \$21.4 million per year added up over a certain period of time (typically, 30 years for an economic analysis). As you can see, the economic losses associated with wetlands are likely to be very significant.

Drinking Water: The town of Sudbury is in a unique position when it comes to its drinking water supply. First, Sudbury relies solely on ground water for its drinking water needs. Therefore, any contamination in the recharge area could potentially result in drinking well contamination. This is different from the towns that rely on surface water reservoirs located outside of the town like Quabbin Reservoir supplying water for Weston, Waltham, and other towns. My assessment of potential damages to drinking water from the Eversource project shows that of the total nine drinking water wells, up to five wells are at risk of contamination due to close proximity to the proposed route along the ROW. Secondly, the drinking water gets mixed up from all nine wells before treatment and distribution and therefore, in case of single or multiple well contamination, it presents serious danger of contaminating drinking water for the entire population of Sudbury (18,000 people). This is a very serious and real threat to the drinking water for the entire town.

Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species: from my experience in environmental litigation, potential harm to T&E species could result in monetizable damages exceeding all the other environmental items affected by the project.

There are many other natural resources that are likely to be affected by the proposed project, including loss of trees, conservation land, wildlife, and other, all of which have economic value associated with them. In aggregate, the impact on the environment from the proposed project is far too great to justify the proposed transmission lines going through Sudbury.

Thank you for your consideration and time on this matter.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the email address above.

--

Svetlana Semenova
49 Hunt Rd.
Sudbury, MA