



City of Marlborough Conservation Commission

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March 30, 2016

Bev Schultz
Eversource Project Manager
One NSTAR Way
Westwood, MA 02090

RE: Hudson to Sudbury Transmission Line Project

Dear Ms. Schultz,

At its meeting on March 24, 2016 the Marlborough Conservation Commission reviewed the Eversource material presented at the Open House you held in Hudson on March 15, 2016 and have the following comments:

The electric power line proposal along the Central Mass rail line would pass by the corner of the Desert Natural Area which is a 900-acre parcel of various conservation lands managed and owned by 5 different entities: State DCR; Federal ARNWR; private Sudbury Valley Trustees land trust; Greater Federation of Women's Clubs; and municipal- Marlborough and Sudbury Conservation Commissions.

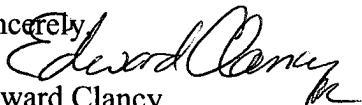
Our main concern with this transmission line proposal, although not in Marlborough proper, is that it will bisect a large area which has contiguous open space and harbors diverse wildlife with several different habitat types within its boundaries. It is home to several threatened and endangered species of animals and plants which we have worked hard to protect over the years. A large clear cut of trees along the railroad corridor which was described as being up to 80+ feet wide would change the dynamics of this sensitive area considerably. The ongoing maintenance and clearing required to maintain the above ground lines would also have long term impacts to this habitat area. Therefore, we would be opposed to an above ground transmission line for these reasons.

We know the project is in its conceptual phase at the moment and ask that you take these issues into consideration as you deliberate on the various options that were presented and work to avoid impacts to this important wildlife habitat area.

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As an abutter to the rail line we would like to be kept informed on this proposal as it moves forward. Please add us to any mailing list regarding this project.

Sincerely,



Edward Clancy
Chairman

e-mail:

Mayor Vigeant

City Council

Marlborough, Hudson and Sudbury Conservation Commission;

Libby Herland, ARNWR

Michael Waterman, DCR

Lisa Vernegaard, SVT

Joanne O'Leary and Mark Kimball, Eversource