



July 2, 2020

Ref: 12970.00

Christine Hopps
Assistant Director, Waterways Regulation Program
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
One Winter Street, 5th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

Re: Clarification of License Terms
Sudbury-Hudson Transmission Reliability and Mass Central Rail Trail Project
Transmittals #X285958, #X285957, and #X281935

Dear Ms. Hopps,

On behalf of NSTAR Electric d/b/a Eversource Energy ("Eversource") and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation ("DCR"), I am writing to clarify the license terms the Applicants are requesting in the applications associated with Transmittals #X285958, #X285957, and #X281935 that were submitted on May 27, 2020. The Applicants would like to request independent terms for each portion of the work for the reasons described below.

Mass Central Rail Trail

In accordance with 310 CMR 9.15(1)(c), DCR is requesting a license for an unlimited term as the proposed Mass Central Rail Trail ("MCRT") will be under the control, development, and operation of DCR, a public agency, for the provision of services directly to the public. The MCRT will serve as a regional American Disabilities Act-compliant shared use trail that is accessible by people of all abilities and will connect over 20 communities and provide over 100 miles of shared use pathway. The MCRT is considered a DCR priority and will contribute to the overall future vision of an extensive multi-use pathway traversing the state from west to east.

Sudbury-Hudson Transmission Line

As indicated on the Transmittal Forms and License Application Forms for each crossing, Eversource is applying for a Water-Dependent Extended Term License (and has paid the appropriate fees for such). In accordance with 310 CMR 9.15(1)(b)1, Eversource is requesting an extended term of 65 years for this project which will be located on "other waterways." The expected operating life of the proposed transmission line is at least 40 years, and Eversource's agreement with the Massachusetts Bay

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Transportation Authority grants Eversource a permanent easement within the inactive Central Massachusetts Branch railroad corridor. The transmission line provides the public benefit of increasing the reliability of the regional electric transmission system by resolving thermal overloads and low voltage conditions and supporting the increased demand for electricity within the region. In addition, construction of the transmission line and associated gravel access road provides a base for and expedites construction of the MCRT, which will have a life that extends beyond the standard 30-year license term and promotes use and enjoyment of these waterway crossings by the general public.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if there are any questions regarding this request. I can be reached by email at vkimball@vhb.com or by phone at 508-513-2713.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vivian Kimball", written in a cursive style.

Vivian Kimball
Project Manager
vkimball@vhb.com

CC: Denise Bartone, Eversource
Paul Jahnige, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation