

## MEMO

TO: Sudbury Board of Selectmen  
From: Len Simon  
Date: March 7, 2016  
RE: Eversource Sudbury to Hudson Transmission Line

I attended the Hudson Board of Selectmen meeting on March 7, 2016

### **Hudson Board of Selectmen meeting**

Hudson's Executive Assistant, Thomas Moses, is the Chief Administrative Office, will compile an email list of those who signed up for notification regarding the Eversource project and will distribute notices and materials via that list.

Take away points from this meeting.

1. The five members of the Hudson Board is unanimous in their view that the transmission line be placed underground.
2. The Hudson board will not ask for the transmission line to be abandoned.
3. Reasons for asking for the line to be underground.
  - a. One 115 kV line is sufficient for all of Hudson and Stow
  - b. All power for Hudson (and Stow) comes in via a monopole from the opposite direction. So while there was redundancy power could be lost altogether if those lines or a pole came down.
  - c. In 2008 there was interruption along that source, either from a down pole or interruption of both lines.
  - d. The town was entirely without power.
  - e. A line from the east would provide a backup.
  - f. Having it underground would ensure against loss of power from downed lines, as happened previously.
  - g. Because Hudson is a terminus, or end point for the line, it must pay a fee to Eversource.

- h. If the line from Sudbury is put in the terminus charge will be removed. This will result in a 5-7% savings for customers of Hudson Power and Light.
  - i. The Hudson Board feels underground placement will be less objectionable to their Conservation Commission.
  - j. The new line will make it easier to attract a fortune 100 company which looks at reliability and redundant power supply. In particular the Intel plant on the hill which was a loss of revenue for Hudson they are looking to find a new tenant.
4. The first resident to speak was an abutter who said having the above ground towers would be 'a disaster, with the 82 foot wide cutting it would entail. The abutter did not specifically ask for the line to be placed underground.
  5. Hudson is planning to become an intervenor at the Energy Facilities Siting Board.
  6. Hudson will not use town counsel but hire outside counsel with expertise in transmission line placement. (May be hard to find counsel who will represent opponents).
  7. There is an opportunity for Sudbury to join with Hudson to oppose overhead transmission line. Combine resources, common goal, additional bases for opposition, not fighting with each other. Cost savings.
  8. An intervenor has the right to appeal a determination of Energy Facilities Siting Board. If not an intervenor, no right of appeal.
  9. Intervenor status will get them into all meetings, copies of other intervenors filings.
  10. Siting board requires an intervenor to be represented by counsel, unless a waiver is granted.
  11. Very unlikely to overturn a finding of Energy Facilities Siting Board. Standard for overturning is 'abuse of discretion.
  12. The Sudbury to Hudson project is one of 40 projects, and actually one of the less expensive ones.
  13. Hudson is well aware of Sudbury's discussion of not wanting the line to be built at all.
  14. This is contrary to their stated position.

15. Hudson has contacted their legislative reps and made their views known that they want the line and want it, demand that it be underground.
16. There are few abutters in Hudson, but the town stands with the few.
17. Energy Facilities Siting Board has not submitted an application yet. This is expected to happen early in the second quarter. Then intervenors have 15 days after the hearing to file as intervenor. Can get ready to file before that.
18. Intervenor can petition to be admitted as intervenor. Must share filings with other intervenors.
19. The Preferred Route and the Notice Variation Design are both feasible, as demonstrated by engineering studies.
20. The decision for the siting board is which route, Preferred or Noticed Variation. No build is not an option for them.
21. The determination of need for the transmission line has been made at federal and regional level, based on capacity, future demand, reliability and need.

#### Selectmen's positions

Chair Lucy- "Calls it an underground project.

Parent - "Only wants it underground"

Quinn – only want it underground

Duplisea - Only support if underground – if not – fight it tooth and nail.

Durant – Underground or nothing. Some benefit to Power and Light. Lower rates.

Quinn – should be below ground –

Less maintenance than above,

No 82' swath needed,

Lines not seen,

Wildlife returns.

Once done bring back wetlands to the way they were.

22. This is not a Hudson Power and Light Project. It did not ask for the project.
23. This is one of 40 projects. ISO did much research and study was done to identify needs.
24. FERC – done for reliability. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission – works with ISO New England, and North American Electric Reliability Association – can impose a fine for non-compliance.
25. ISO NE meets with Eversource and National Grid. They run studies as to where power is need, future demands, and need for redundancy. Then projects come downstream.
26. Energy Facilities Siting Board- their job is to license.
27. This is not a toll road to transfer energy to Boston. – Per FERC rules there is no metering of the flow of electricity – only a return on investment for building the new line. Eversource makes money off of the capital assets.
28. Parent and Durant are members of the Hudson CPC.
29. TO STOP THIS LINE – PROBABLY WILL NOT HAPPEN.
30. The difference to Eversource of this project from 46 million to 100 million is not such a big deal – when combined with other projects and this is one of the less expensive ones.
31. The open houses in Hudson on 3/15 and Sudbury on 3/16 will be a few tables – drop in – ask w=questions, not get same information at each table. Somewhat disappointing. Will not be a big hearing with an Eversource panel.
32. You or BOS can ask Eversource if they will have a public meeting to hear residents – or will it only be ISO NE.
33. This project goes back 10-15 years.
34. Senator Eldridge will be supportive of underground transmission line and Representative Hogan has been asked for support for an underground line as well.
35. Try to bring legislative weight to bear – on siting board.
36. “a NO BRAINER – must be underground
37. At the end of the day the decision for ISO will be above ground or below ground
38. ISO and FERC wanted this to be done 3 years ago
39. An abutter – what authority does Board of Selectmen have in this instance?  
Answer – not a lot, can use state law, but not a lot of authority under local

bylaw. Power is to act as an intervenor, through an attorney acting on behalf of town.

40. An abutter – in Winchester new lines must be underground. That is a local bylaw for sub divisions within the town. Not applicable to this project. Hudson selectmen noted that Hudson had not adopted the underground utility requirement, although other towns had done so.
41. A discussion was directed to putting the line along the streets, but that was not the preferred option nor the noticed variation. Both street routes were longer than the MCRT path.
42. A resident – can this gravel path that Eversource install become a rail trail? Hudson got grants to pave the Assabet River trail. Some noted it was a benefit to the town, and one Selectman said, “Looking forward to it.”

**Particular to Sudbury**

Line would create miles of visual pollution

Line is close to Route 20 and highly visible

Line would run through and be visible to Sudbury's the central commercial district

## ACRONYMS, NOTES AND ABBREVIATIONS

ISO-NE – Independent System Operator for New England region – including eastern Mass.

ISO is not part of Eversource or National Grid

Staffed by

Energy Facilities Siting Board –EFSB State agency – state law applies

Requires two routes:

Preferred Route

Noticed Variation Design

FERC ---The **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)** is the [United States federal agency](#) with [jurisdiction](#) over interstate electricity sales, [wholesale electric rates](#), [hydroelectric licensing](#), [natural gas](#) pricing, and [oil pipeline](#) rates. FERC also reviews and authorizes [liquefied natural gas](#) (LNG) terminals, interstate natural gas pipelines, and non-federal [hydropower](#) projects.

The top priorities in 2014 include:

- smart grid
- demand response
- integration of renewables
- natural gas - electric coordination
- Order No. 1000 - transmission planning and cost allocation<sup>11</sup>

NAERC North American Electric Reliability Corporation

At a November 15 meeting with Hudson and Sudbury it was requested that Eversource evaluate an underground route. (Page 4 of Eversource document)