



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

September 14, 2020

Daniel J. Padien
Program Chief
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Waterways Regulation Program
1 Winter Street, 5th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

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BY:

RE: NSTAR/Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation Sudbury-Hudson Transmission Reliability Project, Sudbury, and Hudson, MA. MHC #RC.62384. EEA #15703.

Dear Mr. Padien:

Staff of the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC), have reviewed the DEP Waterways Public Notices for removal of the Hop Brook Railroad Bridges #127 (DEP #W20-5836), and #128 (DEP #W20-5826) in Sudbury, and the Fort Meadow Brook Bridge #130 (DEP #W20-5827) in Hudson, for the project referenced above.

The MHC has previously reviewed and commented on the overall project pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (36 CFR 800) in consultation with the US Army Corps of Engineers. The MHC looks forward to reviewing the Corps' determinations and findings for the project that take into account the comments of interested and consulting parties, including the Sudbury Historical Commission. The MHC expects to continue coordination of state and federal review of the project to avoid, minimize and mitigate adverse effects to historic and archaeological resources (950 CMR 71.04(2)).

The bridges referenced above are included in the MHC's Inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth. The Massachusetts Central Railroad Bridges #127 (MHC #SUD.901) and #128 (SUD.900) are in Sudbury, and the Fort Meadow Brook Railroad Bridge/ Bridge 130 (MHC #HUD.908) is in Hudson. In the MHC's staff opinion, these three bridges meet the criteria of eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as contributing historic properties to a potential Central Massachusetts Railroad Historic District. The Central Massachusetts Railroad historic district includes extant railroad-related architectural and archaeological resources within the former Massachusetts Central Railroad corridor extending from Wilkins Street in Hudson to the Sudbury Substation east of Landham Road in Sudbury.

In the MHC's staff opinion, the proposed removal of the bridges constitutes an adverse effect (36 CFR 800.5(a)(2)(i); 950 CMR 71.05) through their demolition. The MHC has previously recommended that the Corps make an adverse effect finding, notify the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) (36 CFR 800.6 (a)(1)), and provide the documentation specified in 36 CFR 800.11(e).

The MHC looks forward reviewing the information requested above and to continued consultation to avoid, minimize and mitigate adverse effects to significant historic and archaeological resources.

These comments are offered to assist in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (36 CFR 800), Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 9, Section 26-27C (950 CMR 70-71) and MEPA (301 CMR 11). If you have questions, please contact Jonathan K. Patton at this office.

Sincerely,



Brona Simon
State Historic Preservation Officer
Executive Director
State Archaeologist
Massachusetts Historical Commission

xc: Denise Bartone, Eversource
Brooke Kenline-Nyman, Eversource
Barbara Newman, USACOE-NED
Patrice Kish, DCR
Local Historical Commissions: Towns of Sudbury and Hudson
Vivian Kimball, VHB, Inc.
Marty Dudek, Commonwealth Heritage Group

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