



**What soil and groundwater testing has been conducted, and what remaining tests will occur?**

RESPONSE: Three separate sampling events have been conducted in Sudbury in 2018, 2021, and 2022. Documents summarizing these sampling activities, and other local permits, can be found on the Town of Sudbury website: <https://sudbury.ma.us/selectboardsoffice/2022/09/01/eversource-transmission-line-project-information/>

No additional testing along the ROW is planned.

**Who conducted the testing and what were their qualifications (e.g., LSP, PG, etc.) and what guarantee of objectivity is there?**

RESPONSE: All of the testing has been conducted under the oversight of Mr. Paul McKinlay, a third-party Massachusetts License Site Professional (LSP). An independent LSP review of the 2018 results was conducted by Partner Engineering and Sciences, Inc.

LSPs are required under Massachusetts governing regulations 309 CMR Section 4.03 (1) to ...” hold paramount public health, safety, welfare, and the environment in the performance of professional services” and under Section 3.09(3)(a) “exercise independent professional judgement”. Rather than utilize internal LSP support, Eversource chooses to engage 3<sup>rd</sup> party LSP’s to obtain independent opinions and expertise. Mr. McKinlay, who has extensive experience with railroad projects, has been supporting this project for more than 6 years.

**How many testing sites are there and how were the sites chosen?**

RESPONSE: A total of 67 soil samples from 66 soil borings and 7 groundwater samples from 7 monitoring wells were collected in Sudbury to characterize soil and groundwater that will be managed during the project.

Soil and groundwater sampling performed was performed at strategically targeted areas chosen based on extensive research that was conducted in accordance with MassDEP’s policy: Best Management Practices for Controlling Exposure to Soil during the Development of Rail Trails. The results of this research is available at the Town of Sudbury website:

<https://sudbury.ma.us/selectboardsoffice/2022/09/01/eversource-transmission-line-project-information/>.

**What depth(s) did the sampling dig to?**

RESPONSE: Sampling conducted has ranged from 0 to 15 feet below grade which corresponds to depth of disturbance of the project. Sampling depths have been targeted to evaluate specific concerns and objectives. Documents summarizing these sampling activities, and other local permits, can be found on the Town of Sudbury website: <https://sudbury.ma.us/selectboardsoffice/2022/09/01/eversource-transmission-line-project-information/>



**How were the soil samples collected?**

RESPONSE: Soil samples were collected, screened, and prepared using MassDEP prescribed methodology and have been collected both manually and with the assistance of various drilling techniques. Drilling methods have included direct push, hollow stem auger and tripod methodology to limit disturbance to resource areas while obtaining representative data. All soil samples were submitted in laboratory supplied containers, properly preserved, transmitted under chain of custody protocols, and analyzed using MassDEP prescribed Compendium of Analytical Methods by an independent qualified laboratory in Massachusetts.

**Could the samples be contaminated or altered in any way?**

RESPONSE: No.

**Has any contamination been found?**

RESPONSE: As expected, residual railroad and roadway compounds from past operations were identified in the abandoned MBTA right-of-way and a road crossing located in Sudbury. The presence of these compounds is expected based on past use of the right-of-way and is well documented and addressed in MassDEP's policies, guidance and regulations. MassDEP directed the project to utilize their policy: "Best Management Practices for Controlling Exposure to Soil during the Development of Rail Trails" to address these common residual compounds which has been strictly implemented by Eversource and it's independent LSP.

**What risks to public health do these contaminations pose?**

RESPONSE: The compounds identified along the rail corridor and road crossings are expected for the historical use of this area. The project will remove and/or isolate these compounds as is common with all rail trail projects in Massachusetts in accordance with MassDEP's policy: Best Management Practices for Controlling Exposure to Soil during the Development of Rail Trails.

**What risks to the groundwater or spreading into the groundwater do these contaminants pose?**

RESPONSE: None. Groundwater testing did not identify any compounds of concern. Documents summarizing these sampling activities, and other local permits, can be found on the Town of Sudbury website: <https://sudbury.ma.us/selectboardsoffice/2022/09/01/eversource-transmission-line-project-information/>