

HUDSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN STATEMENT REGARDING THE EVERSOURCE
SUDBURY TO HUDSON TRANSMISSION RELIABILITY PROJECT

The Hudson Board of Selectmen are concerned with all matters that affect the quality of life in our Town, including the so-called “Sudbury to Hudson Transmission Reliability Project” proposed by Eversource Energy.

The Selectmen have heard from a number of residents regarding this project, and share many of their concerns, including but not limited to: visibility of overhead structures and lines; use of herbicides; damage to sensitive environmental areas; destruction of wildlife habitat; water quality; effect on home values; impacts on municipal budgets and personnel; provision of emergency services; compliance with federal, state and local energy and public health and safety laws; reliability of the electric grid; and potential for traffic disruptions and delays.

Although the Selectmen must wait to see what preferred route and alternatives are ultimately proposed before forming an opinion, there are aspects of the proposals set forth to date to which they are opposed.

Specifically, the Selectmen oppose overhead lines on all, or even a portion, of this project. The lines should be safely underground.

Also, the Selectmen believe that the host community for any such project should be made whole, that is compensated for all costs and expenses, short term and long term, direct and indirect. The project should produce for the town net benefits exceeding detriments.

When Eversource has completed its evaluation of routes, it will file applications with the Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB) and the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). The Selectmen stand ready to represent the Town in formal administrative hearings and any appeals as necessary and appropriate. To this end, they have retained the legal services of a leading environmental law firm, McGregor & Legere in Boston. McGregor & Legere will advise the Selectmen on the Town’s rights, important considerations, options and opportunities in anticipation of Eversource’s filings with the EFSB and MEPA. They will represent the Town before those agencies when the time comes.

The Town’s participation in state agency proceedings will focus on ensuring that the rights and interests of the Town and its residents, as a whole, are fully protected and that all issues associated with the project are fully vetted and given the appropriate weight.

In the meantime, the Selectmen continue to monitor and analyze information and communications from Eversource. In addition, they maintain lines of communication with citizen groups, businesses, landowners, non-profits, and state and federal agencies.