EVERSOURCE ENERGY

1165 Massachusetts Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

John F. Hoey
Community Relations Specialist
Direct Dial: 617-541-7634

March 11, 2016

Mr. Adrian Madaro
State Representative of the 1st Suffolk District
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The General Court, Room 544, State House
Boston, MA 02133-1053

Mr. Salvatore LaMattina
Councilor, District 1
Boston City Council
1 City Hall Square, Suite 550
Boston, MA 02201-2043

Dear Representative Madaro and Councilor LaMattina,

Thank you for your recent letter concerning Eversource Energy's new proposed substation in East Boston, a part of the Company's Mystic-East Eagle-Chelsea Reliability Project.

Simply stated, the significant growing electric demand in Boston and surrounding areas has made the addition of substation and transmission capacity an absolute necessity. The Mystic-East Eagle-Chelsea Reliability Project is one of approximately 40 individual transmission projects to emerge from an extended study process conducted by ISO-New England to identify and address performance needs of the transmission system that serves northern Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire, including the greater Boston area. By reducing transmission congestion, we estimate that these projects will save ratepayers approximately $800 million per year.

The Mystic-East Eagle-Chelsea Reliability Project is part of this important effort. The East Eagle Street Substation will be built on Eversource property that is within a larger, City-owned parcel. As you know, Eversource obtained this substation site from the City in exchange for an Eversource-owned parcel on Bremen Street, which was needed to accommodate the construction of the new East Boston Branch of the Boston Public Library. We are proud of our ability to partner with the City on this important community improvement.

On the enclosed pages, we have provided answers to your specific questions. We realize that any project of this magnitude will attract the attention of our customers, your constituents, and we have communicated the benefits of the project at local meetings and through a dedicated page on our website, which you may reference at Eversource.com on the Major Projects & Infrastructure page under the About section.

EVERSOURCE ENERGY

1165 Massachusetts Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

John F. Hoey
Community Relations Specialist
Direct Dial: 617-541-7634

Keeping the lines of communication open is an important part of our work in your community and if you have any further questions or concerns, I encourage you to call me at 617-541-7634.

Sincerely,

John F. Hoey

Response to questions from letter dated 19 February 2016

1. *Is there a demonstrable need for this substation in East Boston?*

Yes, there is a demonstrated need for the new substation.

The proposed East Eagle Street Substation will provide a secure and reliable source of power to supply the customers within East Boston. As Boston and the region grow, Eversource is working proactively with state and municipal officials to ensure that our electrical system keeps pace. To do this reliably and safely, the Company is involved in a number of projects to maintain and upgrade our system, including the Mystic-East Eagle-Chelsea Reliability Project ("Project"), which consists of a new proposed substation in East Boston and new 115 kV transmission lines linking the new substation with existing substations in Mystic and Chelsea.

Presently, the load served by Eversource's Chelsea Substation, which serves both Chelsea and East Boston, exceeds the normal operating conditions allowed by Eversource planning guidelines. The electrical load in these areas is growing steadily, including the development of several major commercial and residential projects. Without additional substation capacity, the new load growth will strain the capability of the Chelsea Substation, resulting in the potential need to disconnect customers within East Boston and Chelsea during certain circumstances. The construction of a new substation at East Eagle Street and installation of new transmission and distribution lines will reduce the load on the distribution system emanating from the Chelsea Substation, support the growing load requirements in the area, and ensure the regional reliability needs and performance of the local 115 kV transmission system.

2. *What are the expected health impacts to the residents of East Boston?*

The proposed East Eagle Street Substation will not result in any health impacts to the residents of East Boston.

Eversource proposes to construct a compact, state-of-the-art substation on Eversource-owned property that is set back within a parcel owned by the City of Boston off East Eagle Street. The Company has evaluated the potential impacts of a number of environmental parameters and has designed the substation to have minimal impact to the community. As part of its environmental review, the Company evaluated the potential impact of electric and magnetic fields ("EMF") that are created by the transmission lines and substation. Electric and magnetic fields are invisible lines of force that surround any electrical device.

Eversource retained the services of an expert in EMF, Dr. Peter Valberg, who evaluated the potential of EMF from the proposed East Eagle Street Substation. Dr. Valberg found that, for this Project, the projected EMF levels fall well below the accepted health guidelines for power frequency magnetic field exposures, including those of the Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Board. To help put the exposure in context, residents are exposed to

magnetic fields from a variety of everyday sources, including household appliances. While in-home, everyday exposures are well within recommended ranges, the level of magnetic fields encountered at home is often greater than residents would have from walking or driving by the proposed new underground lines when in operation even under maximum loading.

Over the past 30+ years, national and international scientists (university, medical, government, and laboratory) and governmental bodies have examined the scientific literature on facilities such as these to determine whether they affect biological systems and health. Based on the prolonged and concerted efforts by dedicated researchers to identify biological effects, mechanisms of action, and risks, the overall conclusion of public health agencies has been that the probability of being a health hazard is small.

3. *What are the expected environmental impacts to the community of East Boston?*

The impacts to the environment and the community will be minimal and limited mainly to the construction phase of the Project.

There are no rare species habitats, drinking water supply districts, or Areas of Critical Environmental Concern within the Project limits in East Boston. The Project will not be located within any vegetated wetlands. The substation will not impede or limit public access to Chelsea Creek. It has been designed to comply with the Massachusetts Stormwater Management Standards and will result in an improvement in the collection and treatment of stormwater runoff from the site. As to noise, the Company has completed a study to assess the impact of transformer noise on the surrounding environment once the substation is completed. The study concluded that the anticipated noise increases from the substation would be minimal, unlikely to be audible, and would comply with the MassDEP noise policy, the Boston Municipal Code, and the Boston Air Pollution Commission Regulations for noise.

The substation will be designed with an architectural screen surrounding the site, which is being designed in conjunction with the Boston Redevelopment Authority and City of Boston, so that the visual aesthetic of the site blends in with existing and proposed surrounding uses.

During construction of the substation and transmission line there will be typical construction period impacts that may include dust, noise, and potential for disruption to traffic. Construction activities associated with both the substation and the transmission line will be conducted to include appropriate mitigation measures and Best Management Practices to minimize these potential impacts to the extent practicable. Some examples of mitigation measures to be implemented include: requiring well maintained equipment with functioning mufflers; compliance with DEP's Anti-Idling Regulations; operating stationary equipment away from residences; proper soil management; and dust control techniques. Eversource Community Relations representatives will work with local residents and

businesses to provide updates on construction activities. Flyers will be distributed to abutters and nearby community members ahead of construction and the Company will maintain a 24-hour hotline so that Eversource can be reached and concerns can be dealt with directly.

4. *What are the expected impacts to surrounding businesses?*

   There are no expected impacts to surrounding businesses within East Boston.

5. *What alternatives have been explored? In particular, has the possibility been explored of expanding the Chelsea facility to accommodate the need for more power?*

   Yes, Eversource did consider expanding the existing Chelsea Substation as an alternative to the Project. However, because the existing substation so densely occupies the existing site and there is no room for expansion, the only design that is possible at the site would be to build a platform above the existing substation to support the new equipment. This option could impact the reliability of the system both during construction and operation of the substation. In addition, because part of the load is in East Boston, a more efficient solution is to inject the power into the distribution system closer to its point of consumption.

6. *Where else have these types of high voltage lines been run? In other words, are there other communities that house these high voltage lines in residential areas, and if so, what have their impacts been?*

   Eversource and other transmission operators operate thousands of miles of 115 kV and 345 kV lines throughout metro Boston and New England to bring service to millions of customers. Lines run overhead or underground in residential, commercial and industrial areas across the Commonwealth. There are minimal impacts associated with the lines and, in the case of underground lines, most people are not aware of them.

7. *What are the risks involved when these high voltage lines are installed underground? What are the risks presented to the community with the construction and operation of the substation?*

   There are no risks to the community involved with underground transmission lines, which increase system reliability because they are not subject to weather conditions. Moreover, there are no electric fields associated with underground lines and magnetic fields are lower than with overhead lines.

8. *Are there risks involved with the proposed substation being located near oil tanks?*

   No. The National Electric Safety Code, which governs electrical substations and generating stations, does not specify any minimum distance from fuel storage facilities or refrigerants. Fuel storage and handling facilities are routinely located at generating stations that have

equipment similar to a substation. Likewise, fuel storage, fuel handling and refrigeration facilities have electrical systems to operate their equipment.

9. *What percentage of the load capacity created by the substation will be used by Logan International Airport?*

   The Project, including the East Eagle Street Substation, is needed to meet increased capacity in the area. Massport's Logan International Airport, the Company's largest customer in East Boston, has informed the Company that it is not increasing its electrical load. Thus, while Massport is a significant customer within the area (it will represent approximately 35% of the load at the proposed substation), it is not a contributor to the anticipated load increase within the Chelsea-East Boston supply region that is driving the need for the proposed substation.

10. *What impacts would this substation have on nearby property values and home insurance rates?*

    Based on studies conducted by independent third-party appraisers, the Company has not found any evidence of measurable effects on real estate values and/or home insurance rates due to proximity to underground transmission lines. The proposed substation will be set back from East Eagle Street in an existing industrial area and will be surrounded by a screen wall designed in consultation with the Boston Redevelopment Authority.

11. *How would the current proposal impact operations of the proposed City of Boston Public Works, EMS, and Police facilities at the same location?*

    The proposed Substation will not impact the City of Boston's plans to develop its property at 338 East Eagle Street. In fact, the City's current development plans for the remainder of its property on East Eagle Street incorporates the substation location.

    Eversource acquired the substation property from the City of Boston. It was carved out of the City's parcel and the City identified the location of the substation. Eversource has coordinated closely with City representatives as it has advanced the design of the substation and the substation will not impact any facilities that the City plans for the site.