

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
ENERGY FACILITIES SITING BOARD**

ONE SOUTH STATION
BOSTON, MA 02110
(617) 305-3525

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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

March 17, 2016

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

Re: Eversource Energy d/b/a NSTAR Electric Company, EFSB 14-4/DPU 14-153/14-154
Proposed Eversource East Boston Substation

Dear Representative Madaro and Councilor LaMattina:

I am the director of the Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Board and, am writing you in response to your February 19, 2016 letter to Siting Board Chairman Matthew Beaton and Siting Board member Angela O'Connor, in which you seek information about a new electric substation that Eversource Energy is proposing to build near Eagle Square in East Boston. My staff and I have reviewed your letter, as well as the response to it that Mr. John Hoey of Eversource sent to you on March 11, 2016.

I want to thank you for your inquiry. Most of the questions outlined in your letter are questions that the Siting Board has addressed, and is continuing to address, in the proceeding that is currently underway before the Siting Board with respect to the project.¹ The Siting Board is reviewing the project by means of a formal adjudicatory proceeding, governed by Chapter 30A of the General Laws and the Board's statutory authority under Chapter 164, § 69J to review

¹ The proposed substation is one part of a larger project under review by the Siting Board in this proceeding. As part of the larger project, Eversource also proposes to construct two new underground 115-kV transmission lines that would travel from existing Eversource substations in Everett and Chelsea, respectively, and connect to the proposed new East Boston substation. As used here, "project" refers to the larger project, which includes both the substation and transmission line components.

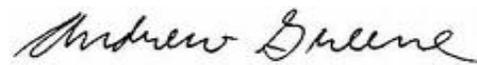
proposed large-scale energy projects in Massachusetts. At the conclusion of this formal proceeding, the Board will issue a final decision approving or denying the project. At this time, however, the Board is in the midst of the proceeding, and nearing the close of evidentiary hearings. It would be a violation of the Siting Board's procedural rules to answer, at this time, the substantive questions that you've posed in your letter, which are currently under review in the ongoing proceeding.

We currently expect hearings to end in late March or early April. Sometime after the conclusion of hearings, Siting Board staff will issue a Tentative Decision to the Board and to the parties in the case. The parties will have approximately one week to submit written comments on the Tentative Decision. Shortly thereafter, the members of the Siting Board will convene in a public meeting to deliberate and vote on whether to accept, accept with amendments, or reject the Tentative Decision. At this meeting of the Siting Board, the parties in the proceeding will be afforded an opportunity to address the Board orally.

I will include both of you on the list of persons who will receive a copy of the Tentative Decision when it is issued. Although not a formal party in the proceeding, you are welcome to submit written comments on the Tentative Decision, and, as elected officials, would be provided with an opportunity to address the Siting Board members directly at their public meeting to deliberate and vote on the Tentative Decision. To that end, I will have Kathryn Sedor, the Presiding Officer in the case, forward to you by email a copy of the Tentative Decision, and the notice of the Siting Board's public meeting, as soon as they have been finalized.

I also want to let you know that your February 19, 2016 letter, like all project-related comment letters, has been posted in the Siting Board's official electronic docket for this case, as has the Company's March 11, 2016 letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or Presiding Officer Kathryn Sedor, if we can be of any further assistance to you regarding the East Eagle substation project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrew Greene". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Andrew Greene, Director