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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
ENERGY FACILITIES SITING BOARD

PUBLIC MEETING OF THE ENERGY FACILITIES SITING
BOARD, held remotely via Zoom, on February 9, 2021,
commencing at 9:07 a.m.

SITTING: Kathleen A. Theoharides, Chair

Matthew H. Nelson

Cecile M. Fraser

Patrick C. Woodcock

Gary Moran

Jonathan Cosco

Joseph Bonfiglio

Brian Casey

Andrew Greene, EFSB Director

-----Reporter: Alan H. Brock, RDR, CRR-----

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 433</p> <p>1 February 9, 2021 9:07 a.m. 2 P R O C E E D I N G S 3 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Good morning. I 4 will call our meeting from yesterday of the Energy 5 Facilities Siting Board back to order. 6 Participating in the meeting today are members of 7 the Board. We have Matthew Nelson, Chair of the 8 Department of Public Utilities; Cecile Fraser, 9 Commissioner of the Department of Public Utilities; 10 Patrick Woodcock, Commissioner of the Department of 11 Energy Resources; Gary Moran, Deputy Commissioner 12 and designee for the Department of Environmental 13 Protection; Jonathan Cosco, general counsel and 14 designee for the Secretary of the Executive Office 15 of Housing and Economic Development; Joseph 16 Bonfiglio, a public member; and Brian Casey, a 17 public member. Andy Greene, director of the Siting 18 Board, will be serving as the meeting host along 19 with other staff. And I would remind everyone that 20 the meeting is being recorded today. 21 So we will be picking up from where we 22 left off last night, with additional public comment. 23 And I believe, Mr. Greene, we are starting with some 24 public officials this morning?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 435</p> <p>1 hosting this and just to note that I am fully aware 2 that there is a lot of attention on you as members 3 of this committee. 4 That being said, I do want to emphasize 5 as an East Boston resident, as a representative of 6 folks who live in East Boston, the issue of need, 7 which I believe is your standard to look at, has 8 not -- they have not demonstrated that we actually 9 need the substation. And if that's something that 10 matters to you, then I would ask yourself if the 11 only entity, the only person who is supporting this 12 substation and claiming we need it, is also the 13 entity that is going to be building it and 14 benefiting from it financially. 15 And none of the residents, none of the 16 people whose day-to-day lives would be impacted, are 17 supporting this. I'm asking you, I implore you, to 18 see this for what it really is, which is a money 19 grab from Eversource. 20 The people of East Boston including 21 myself live perfectly fine on a day-to-day basis, in 22 a pandemic, all of us at home, and there has been no 23 impact on our daily lives or use of energy. There 24 are more of us in East Boston than there ever were</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 434</p> <p>1 MR. GREENE: Yes. If I may, I just 2 wanted to provide very brief instructions on the 3 Spanish dial-in, since we may have new callers. 4 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Please do, yes. 5 MR. GREENE: Indulge me. I'm going to 6 read these directly. This is for, again, callers 7 who are interested in Spanish dial-in. 8 (Instructions read in Spanish.) 9 MR. GREENE: That's it. Thank you. I 10 hope that was helpful. 11 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. I see 12 Councilor Edwards. Mr. Greene, do you have an order 13 today, or can I let Councilor Edwards speak? 14 MR. GREENE: Sorry. Yes, we have also 15 Samantha Bennett, I believe, for Councilor-at-Large 16 Michael Flaherty, and Councilor Edwards seems to be 17 on as well. 18 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Please go ahead, 19 Councilor Edwards. Thank you. 20 COUNCILOR EDWARDS: Thank you so much 21 for taking me ahead. I do appreciate that and I 22 understand there are a lot of people who are 23 passionate to speak today. So I'll be brief. I 24 wanted again to thank the members of the EFSB for</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 436</p> <p>1 before. There are more than when this original 2 substation was proposed. And none of us, none of 3 us, are saying we need this substation. 4 More importantly, how they've designed 5 it for fossil fuels, to increase our infrastructure, 6 is missing the point of the City of Boston, which 7 has only increased its climate change and climate 8 readiness standards. We want zero net carbon by 9 2050. This is not helping. 10 It also doesn't really acknowledge the 11 fact that the location is discriminatory. It's a 12 civil rights violation to put this in a working- 13 class, immigrant concentration of people of color. 14 It's a slap in the face. It doesn't need to be 15 here. 16 Again, the infrastructure's paid for by 17 the people of Boston. It's not paid for by 18 Eversource. There is no urgency. There's no rush. 19 There's no rush. We do not need this. But more 20 importantly, we don't have to have it here. And 21 we're going to pay for it. 22 So this sense of urgency to be here at 23 this moment to do it this way, to do it this time, 24 is tone-deaf and it's false. Eversource has been</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 437</p> <p>1 lying to you. It has been lying to my 2 neighborhoods. It's lying to me -- the biggest lie, 3 of course, being that we don't need it. 4 I implore you as people in this moment 5 and looking at what this moment, this city, this 6 country is going through -- we are in the middle of 7 a civil-rights movement. We're in the middle of an 8 environmental movement. The City has responded to 9 both. We have a zoning amendment that is requiring 10 us to look at the impacts of the zoning decisions 11 and the infrastructure that we build for future to 12 come and to look at the civil-rights impacts. This 13 is a violation of that. 14 This is not only harmful, but it also 15 builds a permanent reminder to many of us that we 16 don't matter, that our lives, the health of our 17 children, the health of our environment, means very 18 little to the EFSB. 19 We already understand it doesn't mean 20 anything to Eversource. They're not bothering to 21 even come with an infrastructure change or energy- 22 source change or even perspective. They've 23 violated, I think -- they have violated the civil 24 rights of people by this process. They've been</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 439</p> <p>1 Ms. Bennett? 2 MR. BENNETT: Good morning, everyone. 3 Thank you to the Board for allowing me the 4 opportunity to provide testimony. And for the 5 record, my name is Samantha Bennett, and I'm here on 6 behalf of Boston City Councilor-at-Large Michael 7 Flaherty. 8 Councilor Flaherty has expressed concern 9 about the project in this community process 10 previously and continues to stand with the 11 neighborhood. Councilor Flaherty encourages the 12 Siting Board to continue to meaningfully engage with 13 the community and give strong consideration to the 14 range of stakeholders who spoke yesterday evening 15 and this morning. I will remain on the line to 16 listen to additional testimony, and I will be brief. 17 And thank you to the Board for your work and to all 18 the residents who took time yesterday and this 19 morning to participate. 20 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: I'm sorry to 21 interrupt for a minute. Just slow down for the 22 interpreters. 23 MR. BENNETT: Where would you like me to 24 restart?</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 438</p> <p>1 monolingual for so long. Only recently have they 2 bothered to include most of the residents of East 3 Boston, the ones whom they're going to permanently 4 impact for the rest of their lives. 5 So I implore you again, on the issue of 6 need, they have failed us. The only entity that is 7 claiming that we need this is Eversource. We as the 8 citizens of Boston, East Boston especially, are 9 going to have to pay for this, not only by it being 10 health impacts by it, but also literally pay out of 11 pocket for it. 12 So since I'm paying for this, I am 13 asking you to simply move this process a little 14 longer, acknowledge the moment that we're in. I 15 want a return on my investment. I want a better 16 energy source. And more importantly, I want to 17 actually need this. 18 So I'm talking to you as a consumer, as 19 a resident, and as a representative of East Boston. 20 I'm asking you not to approve this, to prolong the 21 process, and to make sure Eversource, if they come 22 back, comes back with a better plan that is actually 23 needed by the people of East Boston. Thank you. 24 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 440</p> <p>1 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Margaux, do you have 2 a place? Does restart have to happen? I think it's 3 okay to keep going. 4 MR. BENNETT: That's all I wanted to 5 say, that Councilor Flaherty does encourage the 6 Siting Board to meaningfully engage with the 7 community and give strong consideration to the range 8 of stakeholders who spoke yesterday evening and this 9 morning. And thank you to the Board and all the 10 residents who took time today. 11 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: I didn't do the 12 reminders today for everyone to speak as slowly and 13 clearly as you can for the sake of the 14 interpretation. 15 Mr. Greene, who do we have next? 16 MR. GREENE: I believe our next speaker 17 is Heather O'Brien -- if she is with us. 18 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Heather, I see you 19 at the bottom of the screen. 20 MS. O'BRIEN: Awesome. Thank you so 21 much. Fabulous, fabulous. So I did submit a 22 written comment in the form of a letter on December 23 9th to the Siting Board and to the Secretary, so I 24 don't want to go over exactly what I said, because I</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 441</p> <p>1 assume that is part of the record. Is that right?</p> <p>2 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Yes. Let me confirm</p> <p>3 with Ms. Evans. But all letters received are taken</p> <p>4 into the record.</p> <p>5 MS. O'BRIEN: Super. So I want to start</p> <p>6 by just acknowledging that this process was flawed</p> <p>7 with missteps from the very beginning. And that</p> <p>8 alone I think should warrant starting over and doing</p> <p>9 it right, with proper community engagement. You</p> <p>10 don't go door-knocking in a neighborhood where</p> <p>11 people speak Spanish with an English-speaking</p> <p>12 community liaison. It's just wrong. From that and</p> <p>13 the fact that we didn't have accurate information</p> <p>14 about the need for this electricity in the</p> <p>15 substation and we also didn't have accurate</p> <p>16 information about the flooding that happens at that</p> <p>17 site currently and what will happen in the event of</p> <p>18 a major storm.</p> <p>19 Another issue that hasn't really been</p> <p>20 addressed by Eversource in this process is what will</p> <p>21 happen in the event of an emergency. This is an</p> <p>22 island. If we do have a superstorm, the tunnels</p> <p>23 will be flooded. That's been verified by experts in</p> <p>24 the resiliency studies. There will be no place for</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 443</p> <p>1 So the neighborhood is also a</p> <p>2 neighborhood where people don't have back yards,</p> <p>3 they don't have gardens, they don't have places to</p> <p>4 go. That playground that is near the Eversource</p> <p>5 site is a place that people go to a lot. It's not</p> <p>6 something that you might visit once every couple of</p> <p>7 weeks. It's used all the time.</p> <p>8 The other issue in this, I know that the</p> <p>9 attorney for Eversource mentioned that the</p> <p>10 Conservation Commission for the City of Boston voted</p> <p>11 in favor of this. There are filings right now that</p> <p>12 the City of Boston Conservation Commission failed to</p> <p>13 protect the natural resources at that site under the</p> <p>14 jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act.</p> <p>15 There's filings with the DEP on this now.</p> <p>16 The Chelsea Creek and the urban wild are</p> <p>17 also home to marine animals that would be impacted</p> <p>18 by this and by the radiation that the plant, if it</p> <p>19 were to open, the substation, would give off.</p> <p>20 The Commonwealth has a goal of net zero.</p> <p>21 What we should be looking at for this environmental</p> <p>22 justice community is clean, green, renewable energy</p> <p>23 that's safe and efficient. This substation clearly</p> <p>24 is not part of that program.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 442</p> <p>1 these people to go.</p> <p>2 So those factors alone I think should</p> <p>3 warrant us stopping the process and starting over</p> <p>4 from the beginning and doing it right.</p> <p>5 I know that this Board is charged with</p> <p>6 ensuring that the projects that get approved provide</p> <p>7 reliable energy with minimal impact to the</p> <p>8 environment. We haven't seen that this is going to</p> <p>9 happen. The environmental justice principles have</p> <p>10 been ignored in this process. The risks that this</p> <p>11 community that's already bearing much of the burden</p> <p>12 for the Commonwealth and the region with the jet</p> <p>13 fuel, the airport, the highways, the subways, the</p> <p>14 shipping channels, the trucking routes, the</p> <p>15 pollution, is already enough to say wait a minute,</p> <p>16 this neighborhood is not the place to put this</p> <p>17 thing.</p> <p>18 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Sorry, Ms. O'Brien,</p> <p>19 I'm getting another cue for slowing down. I'm</p> <p>20 sorry, I do the same thing.</p> <p>21 MS. O'BRIEN: That's okay. I'm trying</p> <p>22 to be quick so I don't run out of time. It's really</p> <p>23 hard when people are trying to testify and then</p> <p>24 we're told we've run out of time.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 444</p> <p>1 Thanks, everybody.</p> <p>2 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you.</p> <p>3 MR. GREENE: Next is Grace Hall.</p> <p>4 MS. HALL: Thank you. Good morning.</p> <p>5 I'm Grace Hall, Grace Hall. I live at 1188</p> <p>6 Broadway, No. 307, in Somerville.</p> <p>7 As a Unitarian Universalist, I totally</p> <p>8 support my neighbors of East Boston and their</p> <p>9 concerns. I'm also a chemist. As a scientist, I've</p> <p>10 been very disappointed that the Commonwealth of</p> <p>11 Massachusetts would make -- actually, did make -- a</p> <p>12 decision based on data that was developed by the</p> <p>13 utility under review but never shared with the</p> <p>14 Commonwealth or anyone qualified to conduct an</p> <p>15 independent study. I'm a supporter of the Union of</p> <p>16 Concerned Scientists and found Dr. Woods's report</p> <p>17 convincing.</p> <p>18 Eversource rejected the alternate</p> <p>19 solution based on rooftop solar, and now, with</p> <p>20 additional need at the airport and at Suffolk Downs,</p> <p>21 that's probably a reasonable decision. Also, from</p> <p>22 what we heard yesterday, locating the substation at</p> <p>23 the airport would involve considerable additional</p> <p>24 expense for the high-voltage transmission from</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 445</p> <p>1 Chelsea Creek to the new location, although I don't 2 believe the actual cost was shared. 3 So there's been a rapid change in terms 4 of climate change, in terms of new development 5 needs, in terms of the increased voice of people of 6 color, immigrants, and other low-wage earners. 7 It seems time for a reset. Reopening 8 the consideration of need and location may be 9 setting a precedent that will make life more 10 difficult for companies going forward, as was 11 mentioned yesterday; but it may also be absolutely 12 necessary at this time. 13 I strongly feel it is time to step back, 14 take the time to collect all relevant information, 15 and only then make an informed decision based on 16 that information. 17 Thank you for your attention. 18 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. 19 MR. GREENE: Susan Shepherd. 20 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Ms. Shepherd, your 21 audio is not working. Try again maybe. We're not 22 hearing you. 23 MR. GREENE: Maybe we can circle back. 24 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: We will circle back</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 447</p> <p>1 extraordinary. How you can not have a safety plan 2 put in place prior to project approval to ensure the 3 safe and rapid evacuation of the surrounding 4 residential community seems to me something that 5 should stop the project in its tracks right there. 6 The cumulative health impacts have 7 already been referred to in testimony today -- yet 8 another reason to stop this project in its tracks; 9 right? There are numerous environmental hazards to 10 which this population is already subjected. 11 Cumulative health impacts that must be considered. 12 There's concern regarding community exposure to 13 greater levels of electromagnetic radiation and its 14 association with childhood leukemia. These concerns 15 have already resulted in the relocation of this 16 project away from a local business but not away from 17 the children and families who will be playing, 18 living, and working close by. 19 Frankly, this also conflicts with our 20 current public health goals -- right? -- for Boston. 21 We question the wisdom, the decision to place a 22 high-voltage electrical substation next to a site 23 where local children play and families engage in 24 healthful physical activity. Placing this next to a</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 446</p> <p>1 to Ms. Shepherd and go to our next speaker. 2 MR. GREENE: That would be Brita 3 Lundberg. Is Ms. Lundberg here? I'm not seeing 4 her. 5 Next is Paula Garcia. 6 There's Ms. Lundberg. 7 DR. LUNDBERG: Sorry about that. So I 8 am Dr. Brita Lundberg. I am chair of the board at 9 Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility. 10 Thank you to the EFSB for hearing my comments today. 11 So GBPSP has several concerns about this 12 project. The first, as has already been referred 13 to, is the risk of flood and fire at the site. It 14 kind of astounds me that -- I give testimony quite a 15 bit on sites around Boston that have been developed. 16 And how we can be yet again developing in an area 17 that is known to be prone to flooding is nothing 18 short of extraordinary to me. 19 Therefore, because of the nature of this 20 infrastructure, there's an elevated risk of fire and 21 explosion of this high-voltage infrastructure. 22 Going along with that, there's also a 23 lack of a safety and evacuation plan. As a 24 physician, I find this nothing short of</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 448</p> <p>1 playground will discourage use of that area, and 2 it's a poor investment in a community where there's 3 already ongoing concern about insufficiently healthy 4 lifestyles and a high prevalence of obesity and 5 other health issues. It will hinder targeted 6 efforts made by the City to foster healthy lifestyle 7 practices. 8 And finally, and not the least, I will 9 mention climate change. This facility will worsen 10 climate change. The substation will serve and 11 support Mystic power station, the largest and one of 12 the most polluting power plants in the state. 13 And I would also add that we all know 14 that climate change is a driver, as an infectious 15 disease physician, a driver of infectious diseases, 16 and that is in fact the reason that we're all 17 gathering by Zoom today -- right? -- is that we're 18 in the midst of a pandemic. 19 It would, also, I would add, not help 20 this pandemic because the pollution created by the 21 construction of this power station is also going to 22 hinder -- or, rather, promote worsened COVID -- 23 cases of COVID and even perhaps mortality, as has 24 been shown by studies at Harvard linking pollution</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 449</p> <p>1 with worse outcomes from COVID, including increased 2 mortality. 3 GBPSP has submitted a letter to your 4 Board, and I hope that you will read it. Thank you 5 so much. 6 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. 7 MR. GREENE: I believe Ms. Shepherd is 8 now back with us. Hopefully audio is on. 9 MS. SHEPHERD: I hope so, too. 10 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: You're loud and 11 clear. 12 MS. SHEPHERD: Thank you. Hello. My 13 name is Susan Shepherd. My last name is spelled 14 S-h-e-p-h-e-r-d. I live in Cambridge, 15 Massachusetts. I'm an industrial hygienist, now 16 retired from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. 17 Although not my particular area of 18 expertise, I have some experience in the 19 environmental area. I was a hazard-waste worker 20 health and safety trainer under an NIEHS grant from 21 1988 to 1995. During that period I also had the 22 privilege of representing the public on the board of 23 registration for licensed site professionals -- in 24 fact, the first iteration of that board, where we</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 451</p> <p>1 up with an alternative for the science to show that 2 it's a bad decision. The will of the community, 3 people just trying to live their lives the best they 4 can, building the best place to live for themselves, 5 their families, and really for the common good. 6 Even back in the '80s we talked about 7 environmental justice. What is environmental 8 justice? It has taken me maybe a lifetime to truly 9 understand this concept in a heartfelt way. Oh, 10 sure, you can measure health impacts, water supply 11 issues, and all that, but the real justice is 12 democracy, the power of affected people to decide 13 their fate. 14 I grew up in the city, in South Boston. 15 When I was young, it was a dump, literally. Every 16 day a dump truck would drive down our street with 17 wet trash leaking out the back on the way to the 18 dump on Columbia Point. So much industry scrap 19 yards, all that -- the city put everything in our 20 neighborhoods and then decided it was beyond repair 21 and wanted to throw us out in the name of urban 22 renewal. Well, Southie fought back and won. But 23 Roxbury a few years later did not, not until the 24 entire Southwest Corridor was torn down, and we</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 450</p> <p>1 actually wrote the regulations. My experience on 2 that board helped me understand how little input the 3 public really has in most of these regulatory 4 situations. 5 I'm here today as a member of First 6 Parish Cambridge Unitarian Universalist congregation 7 to support the community group GreenRoots in their 8 request to stop Eversource and you from siting this 9 substation in a community that already bears the 10 burden of being home to many of society's needs and 11 their related contingencies. 12 Sometimes it is a game we play as 13 experts, where an expert can always justify their 14 position. The corporations like Eversource clearly 15 have the upper hand in that area. Does a community 16 really need to produce their own dueling experts? 17 Why can't it be enough for them to say, "We don't 18 want this here. We have had enough. We are home to 19 your airport, with all the noise and pollution. We 20 have your oil tanks. We have your traffic, not to 21 mention the burden of COVID in this community," 22 while many of their members serve as essential 23 workers. 24 This community should not have to come</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 452</p> <p>1 still see the effects of that today. 2 So this is what environmental justice 3 means: listening to all communities in the same 4 way. And I hope you know what that means. 5 And speaking of translation, you know, 6 translation -- why do we translate things? So that 7 they can understand what the corporations are 8 saying? Or do we translate things so we can hear 9 the people and what they're saying? Thank you. 10 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. 11 MR. GREENE: Paula Garcia. 12 MS. GARCIA: Good morning, everyone. My 13 name is Paula Garcia, Paula Garcia. And I am a 14 senior bilingual energy analyst with the Union of 15 Concerned Scientists, a nonprofit of rigorous 16 independent science to work to solve our planet's 17 most pressing problems, joining with people all over 18 the country, including 21,000 supporters in 19 Massachusetts. We combine technical analyses and 20 effective advocacy to create innovative practical 21 solutions for a healthy, safe, and sustainable 22 future. 23 I'm here today to explain the Union of 24 Concerned Scientists' strong opposition to the</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 453</p> <p>1 current proposal from Eversource to look at a 2 high-voltage substation in the East Eagle 3 neighborhood. The Eversource substation project and 4 process hasn't met the definition of innovative or 5 practical, nor are they going to a healthy, safe, 6 and sustainable future.</p> <p>7 Our opposition to this proposal is based 8 on three project failures. One is the lack of clear 9 technical merit. The second one is its poor 10 location, including with regards to the 11 Commonwealth's need for climate-safe infrastructure. 12 And the third point is the complete lack of proper 13 community engagement in the process.</p> <p>14 So first, on the lack of technical 15 merit: The proposal falls short in a variety of 16 technical aspects. One is the lack of demonstrated 17 need for the substation in the foreseeable future. 18 The little information that Eversource has made 19 public seems to ignore completely the changing 20 circumstances of the electrical grid in the region 21 and in Massachusetts since the submission of the 22 original project proposal, including with regard to 23 changes in the electricity amount, as explained 24 extensively yesterday by Bryndis Woods, from Applied</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 455</p> <p>1 help reduce carbon emissions, while advancing the 2 City's climate goals, and increase local resilience.</p> <p>3 Eversource's failure to provide 4 up-to-date, transparent information justifying the 5 need for the substation and analyzing alternatives 6 provides no solid justification for its proposed 7 cost to ratepayers, close to \$50 million, especially 8 now that we are going through a pandemic, with the 9 associated economic constraints.</p> <p>10 On the poor location and the lack of 11 climate preparedness, here, too, Eversource's 12 proposal fails in multiple respects. One is the 13 chosen site in a community whose residents have 14 extensively already faced a broad range of systemic 15 environmental injustices.</p> <p>16 Another concern is the lack -- of the 17 blatant disconnect between the proposed location and 18 the Commonwealth's commitment to climate 19 preparedness and climate-safe infrastructure, given 20 that the site floods presently and our own analysis 21 projects that we will be at risk of chronic 22 inundation -- that is, at risk of flooding at least 23 26 times per year -- by the end of the century due 24 to sea-level rise.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 454</p> <p>1 Economics Clinic.</p> <p>2 Another technical issue related to the 3 changing circumstances in the power sector since the 4 original project proposal concerns the dramatic 5 improvements in the availability and cost of 6 alternatives compared to a business-as-usual 7 approach. Those include both solar on rooftops and 8 energy storage.</p> <p>9 The information provided by Eversource 10 shows no sign of alternatives having been 11 envisioned, assessed on technical merits, and 12 compared on a cost basis. UCS's own analysis of 13 just one local clean energy option strongly suggests 14 that there are plausible alternatives that 15 Eversource has not sufficiently considered given the 16 changes in technologies, cost, and needs.</p> <p>17 Our analysis explored canvassing of East 18 Boston's rooftop solar potential coupled with energy 19 storage with all levels of investment similar to 20 those proposed for the substation. The results of 21 our analysis illustrate some of the benefits of such 22 a transition to clean energy at local load, 23 including residential solar energy storage, could 24 increase green reliability, save ratepayers money,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 456</p> <p>1 And on the complete lack of proper 2 community engagement, we have heard so many people 3 providing testimony of why this process has been a 4 total failure on that front. The community has 5 genuine concerns about the project and the 6 engagement process carried out by Eversource and the 7 Energy Facilities Siting Board has been far from 8 adequate to collect and consider those concerns. In 9 a community that is more than half Latinx, including 10 many non-English speakers, such an approach can in 11 no way lead to effective community engagement.</p> <p>12 Given their failings, we respectfully 13 ask that the Energy Facilities Siting Board 14 reconsider its tentative decision and not approve 15 this or any related substation proposal from 16 Eversource unless and until the proposal is based on 17 full, up-to-date, and strong data, including on 18 electricity projections, it's based on a benefit/ 19 cost analysis that proves that this substation is 20 the most cost-competitive option, with due 21 consideration to alternatives, including renewable 22 energy and energy storage, fully conforms with the 23 Commonwealth's need to prioritize both environmental 24 justice and climate-resilient infrastructure, and</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 457</p> <p>1 has integrated adequate and proper levels of input 2 from the people of East Boston. 3 Massachusetts must only be investing in 4 electrical infrastructure that will move us to a 5 modern grid that fully incorporates clean energy 6 solutions that avoid perpetuating environmental 7 injustices, and that help us move from the challenge 8 of the climate crisis to the promise of a fair and 9 clean energy economy. 10 We will appreciate your strong attention 11 to the concerns of the community and the concerns 12 about the project. 13 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. 14 MR. GREENE: We have a representative 15 from Senator Markey's office who has just joined us, 16 Jossie Valentin. 17 MS. VALENTIN: Good morning, everyone. 18 This is Jossie Valentin, and thank you so much for 19 the opportunity. I work for Senator Markey and 20 would like to read a statement on his behalf. I'm a 21 state policy adviser for him, and I'm based in 22 western Massachusetts, but obviously working with 23 the team throughout the whole Commonwealth. 24 So basically, I wanted to note before I</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 459</p> <p>1 million gallons of jet fuel, directly across the 2 street from a children's playground and family 3 homes. The area is prone to flooding, and the 4 construction of the substation along the Chelsea 5 Creek bank poses both fire and exposure risks for 6 nearby residents. 7 We cannot ask families to risk their 8 children's safety for the sake of another dangerous 9 energy project that is not needed. 10 Thank you for the opportunity, everyone. 11 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. 12 MR. GREENE: Ethan Vogt. 13 MR. VOGT: My name is Ethan Vogt. I was 14 born in the City of Boston, and I currently live on 15 Trenton Street in East Eagle, which is probably 16 about six blocks from the proposed site. Senator 17 Adrian Madaro is my state rep, Lydia Edwards is my 18 city councilor, and Joseph Boncore is my state 19 senator. 20 But I'm not speaking here just as a 21 neighbor but as a concerned citizen, a global 22 citizen. I won't debate whether this facility is 23 necessary from an electrical point of view or even 24 if flooding could be prevented within the facility.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 458</p> <p>1 read his statement that back in December Senator 2 Markey was one of more than a dozen Federal, State, 3 and local officials that filed a letter opposing 4 this substation, and so this is something that the 5 Senator has felt strongly about even as we look back 6 at December. So I wanted to read this statement 7 from him today for the record, and this is the 8 statement. 9 The choices we make during our response 10 to the coronavirus pandemic will shape our 11 communities and policy-making for decades to come. 12 It is our responsibility to repair historic 13 injustices, the injustices that are driving the 14 unequal burden of the coronavirus today, or East 15 Boston and other environmental justice communities 16 will be failed yet again. 17 That is why the Massachusetts Energy 18 Facilities Siting Board should halt the plans for 19 construction of the East Boston electric substation. 20 The proposed electrical substation is unsafe, 21 unhealthy, and unnecessary, and it is time that the 22 EFSB lay this project to rest. 23 The currently proposed site for the 24 electrical substation is within 800 feet of 8</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 460</p> <p>1 I'm sure that you could put this on some sort of 2 platform up in the air and the substation would be 3 dry in the case of a flood. 4 But I will point out, by creating an 5 island, you're also reducing water retention in our 6 neighborhood and then simply causing those flood 7 waters to spread in other areas, causing it to go 8 somewhere else. 9 As we all know and has been stated by 10 many community members, this is an area that is 11 heavily burdened with environmental problems, when 12 we have some serious cleanup to do in this area. So 13 I think that there may be an attitude that because 14 there's already damage in this area that what's the 15 big deal about one more industrial use? 16 But I don't really think that that way 17 of thinking is very productive, and unless this 18 substation is healing the Earth, I don't see it as a 19 responsible choice. 20 I also notice that this site requires a 21 special wetlands permit, and I want to remind people 22 that coastal wetlands are not empty spaces. Just 23 because humans are not using it doesn't mean that 24 it's not productive. And there's a reason we have a</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 461</p> <p>1 special permit for wetlands, because as a nation we 2 have recognized that they are rare and fragile. So 3 if you look at the history of Boston, we've filled a 4 lot of wetlands, and I would suggest we probably 5 have overfilled. 6 So they serve an ecological purpose, and 7 they should be preserved. 8 So in summary, let's put this in a place 9 that does not increase flooding, is not currently 10 damaged and overindustrialized, and is not a 11 wetland. None of these three conditions are 12 addressed in this current proposal, and so I speak 13 in opposition to this site. Thank you. 14 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. 15 MR. GREENE: Lise Hildebrandt. 16 MS. HILDEBRANDT: My name is Lise 17 Hildebrandt. It's L-i-s-e H-i-l-d-e-b-r-a-n-d-t. I 18 am the Reverend Lise Hildebrandt. I'm an Episcopal 19 priest, a resident of Arlington, and a coordinator 20 of the Creation Care Justice Network of the Diocese 21 of Massachusetts. 22 The Apostle Paul wrote in a letter to 23 the church in Corinth because they were embroiled in 24 conflict. Some members claimed that they were</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 463</p> <p>1 communities like Chelsea and East Boston. Listen to 2 them. 3 The other truth is, we are one body with 4 the Earth, with the land, water, and air. None of 5 it is disposable or expendable or an externality. 6 The poisons we put into the water, soil, or air 7 enter our bodies, and especially the bodies of 8 children in environmental justice communities. The 9 excess carbon dioxide and methane we release into 10 the atmosphere are destroying the planet's balance, 11 causing sea rise, catastrophic weather, floods, 12 fires, and homelessness. 13 What you do here, Board, matters. You 14 can make decisions from an old-world view that says 15 only profits matter and energy companies get to set 16 the agenda, or you can use a new-world view that 17 says we need to listen to the people, we need to 18 stand up and create a just, sustainable world, 19 because we are one body with each other and one body 20 with the planet. 21 You have an opportunity here to do the 22 right thing. You should heed East Boston and 23 Chelsea residents, who are already living in 24 environmental justice communities, don't want one</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 462</p> <p>1 important but others didn't matter. Paul said no, 2 you are all one part of one body, and you need all 3 parts of the body to function. The eye cannot say 4 to the hand "I do not need you" any more that the 5 head can say to the feet "I do not need you." And 6 even those members of the body which seem less 7 important are in fact indispensable. 8 Now, he was talking about the church 9 community, but what he is describing is true for all 10 humanity. We are all part of the same body. 11 Now, for the whole time that white 12 people have been on this continent, we have valued 13 some people, especially well-off white men, and 14 considered others disposable or worthless. We have 15 taken land and freedom and culture and life away 16 from indigenous people and blacks and immigrants and 17 anyone we deemed inferior. 18 It is time to change that. With the 19 pandemics of COVID and racism and climate change, we 20 are only going to survive all this if we realize 21 that we are all one body. That means we need to 22 listen to and support and follow the lead of those 23 whom we have historically ignored -- the poor, 24 immigrants, BIPOC communities -- in other words,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 464</p> <p>1 more hazard in their neighborhood, a hazard that 2 likely isn't even needed. In fact, to address 3 climate change, we need to decrease our energy use, 4 not ramp it up and assume it will keep growing. And 5 if it is needed, as you have heard so many times, 6 find another place. 7 Members of the Board, I invite you to 8 think forward, think justice, think sustainable 9 future, believe that we are all connected and that 10 we must especially listen to and follow the lead of 11 the most vulnerable among us. Do the right and the 12 moral thing and reject this substitution. Thank you. 13 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. I'll 14 just remind members of the public who are commenting 15 to just try to keep your comments within the three- 16 minute time frame so we can fit in as many of these 17 as possible this morning. 18 MR. GREENE: Matthew Pollock. 19 MR. POLLOCK: Hi, there. Can you hear 20 me? 21 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: We can. Thank you. 22 MR. POLLOCK: I'm Matthew Pollock, 23 spelled M-a-t-t-h-e-w P-o-l-l-o-c-k. I am the 24 director of East Boston-based Public Art Initiative</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 465</p> <p>1 Harbor Arts, project director for Seawalls Boston, 2 and a resident of East Boston for the last ten 3 years. 4 I want to thank you all for the 5 opportunity to speak here. I'm here in solidarity 6 with GreenRoots to voice my concerns in opposition 7 of the proposed siting of the Eversource electrical 8 substation in East Boston. It's difficult to follow 9 up so many incredible and intelligent comments and 10 perspectives from my fellow neighbors, community 11 members, and allies with another long list of 12 evidence against this project. So being here 13 towards the end on the second day of an extremely 14 untimely hearing, I'll keep mine short. 15 I'm still waiting to hear from anyone in 16 our neighborhood in favor of this project or its 17 location. Who does the EFSB serve if not the 18 people? If this was a necessary and beneficial 19 project to East Boston, we would be hearing from 20 members of our community in favor of the project. I 21 haven't heard from a single resident in favor of 22 this substation or its proposed siting. 23 As a community member and neighbor to 24 those who are even more disproportionately impacted</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 467</p> <p>1 or cannot participate due to the unreasonable timing 2 of these 11-hour-plus meetings during a workday. 3 The lack of public engagement and information given 4 to the community -- given to community members is a 5 clear attempt to exclude the community from this 6 process, especially marginalized communities of East 7 Boston. 8 You've heard it here, that's for sure, 9 and given the opportunity, thousands more residents 10 would come forward to tell you that clearly our 11 community does not want this substation. 12 I urge the Energy Facilities Siting 13 Board to restart the process, with true community 14 engagement, reopen the question of the project's 15 need, and move the proposed substation siting to 16 anywhere else, but somewhere that has been, you 17 know, determined by the community to actually work, 18 if it's needed at all. 19 So that's all I have to say. Thank you 20 for giving me this time. 21 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. 22 MR. GREENE: So we have now gone through 23 all of the preregistered commenters who were on the 24 call when we got to them. We have a number of</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 466</p> <p>1 by the proposed facility siting, I became aware of 2 this project and the process only because of the 3 publicity efforts of GreenRoots and not from any 4 community outreach efforts from the parties in favor 5 of the proposed siting. I have not heard any 6 justification for the project at all that uses 7 up-to-date data on climate projections and 8 contemporary energy needs, and certainly see no 9 obvious need to place a dangerous electrical 10 facility beside a multiuse recreation facility with 11 a playground, next to a densely populated 12 residential area, beside explosive fuel and below 13 flood lines. 14 I'm deeply frustrated that more of our 15 neighbors are unaware of the project and have not 16 truly had an opportunity to learn about this. The 17 fact that this entire process from the start was 18 performed and meetings were held without proper 19 translation services further exacerbates the issue 20 of access to these conversations for those 21 disproportionately impacted, our Spanish-speaking 22 community. This discriminatory process continues to 23 exclude those in our community who during a pandemic 24 cannot necessarily access these discussions via Zoom</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 468</p> <p>1 attendees who have raised their hand, presumably to 2 comment. So we can begin now, Secretary, if you'd 3 like, and call them in order. 4 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Yes, please. Thank 5 you. 6 MR. GREENE: We'll move them one by one. 7 Sorry, I didn't catch the name before I moved the 8 person at the top of the list into the panel. 9 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: I think it was Mr. 10 Valinch. 11 MR. VALINCH: Good morning, and thank 12 you, everyone, for the opportunity. I'm John 13 Valinch. I'm a lifelong residence of Chelsea but 14 currently residing at 72 Tibbettstown Way in Boston. 15 I should also say I am a proud board member of 16 GreenRoots, the environmental justice organization 17 that has been amplifying the dangers of this 18 proposed project and how it would impact working 19 people in this community. And so I stand in 20 solidarity with them and the residents who have 21 spoken at length and in unanimity against this 22 project. 23 So I want to thank and uplift the 24 residents, the activists, and the environmental</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 469</p> <p>1 experts and so many others who, as I said, are in 2 unanimous agreement that the EFSB and the Office 3 must reject the tentative proposal and reopen the 4 consideration of need. The actual electrical need 5 for this substation has not been substantiated by 6 reliable and neutral parties, and the largely 7 working-class, Latinx, immigrant population of East 8 Boston in this area do not deserve their lives 9 threatened.</p> <p>10 I grew up in Chelsea and spent much of 11 my life living and working there, so I know 12 something about environmental injustice and 13 structural racism and how it plagues our communities 14 and our families. The scheduling of these meetings 15 during working hours for the families whose lives 16 will be threatened by this project if it moves 17 forward is unjust. The lack of meaningful public 18 engagement on this project during working hours is 19 unjust. The failure to provide adequate and 20 simultaneous translation amounts to language 21 injustice. And placing a nonessential, dangerous, 22 high-voltage electrical substation next to the homes 23 of working families and working people is immoral, 24 it's unnecessary, and it's unjust.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 471</p> <p>1 working community of East Boston are working. The 2 essential workers who saved our lives at the peak of 3 the pandemic and keep us healthy and safe are 4 working. The people who are the economic foundation 5 of the Commonwealth are working, and they have not 6 been heard. These essential workers are unable to 7 participate because they are keeping our world 8 running.</p> <p>9 As such, this substation is absolutely 10 and irrefutably a working-people's issue, and voting 11 to approve this project is a vote against having 12 working families be protected in the neighborhood. 13 This is a flagrant and callous injustice.</p> <p>14 And so in closing, members of the EFSB 15 and the Secretary, today you have a choice. Do the 16 right thing, reject the tentative proposal, reopen 17 the consideration of need, listen to the residents, 18 stand with working people, and reject this toxic 19 proposal. Thank you.</p> <p>20 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. 21 MR. GREENE: The next person is Ibrahim 22 Lopez. I missed the last name again. Sorry. But 23 Ibrahim. 24 MR. LOPEZ: Thank you. My name is</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 470</p> <p>1 Voting to continue forward with this is 2 a direct vote that will endanger the lives of 3 thousands of residents, without an evacuation plan. 4 And so the risks are far too high. 5 Situating this next to working people's homes, near 6 a playground, and on the banks of the Chelsea Creek, 7 next to millions of gallons of combustible jet fuel, 8 these residents have borne the brunt of the policy 9 burdens and received none of those policy benefits. 10 This is an injustice.</p> <p>11 And from a policy perspective, this 12 entire process is shameful in its inequity and 13 disproportionate burdens that it is placing on a 14 predominantly low-income Latinx community.</p> <p>15 Not only has the EFSB process of 16 engagement shut out the majority of residents who 17 will be impacted; choosing to move forward today 18 with the project will signal to all watching that 19 the EFSB has tacitly evaluated and considered 20 dispensable the lives of working families who live 21 nearby. Is that what you wish your legacy to be?</p> <p>22 Right now, while speakers unanimously 23 urge the EFSB to reject the tentative proposal and 24 reopen the consideration of need, the largely Latinx</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 472</p> <p>1 Ibrahim Lopez. I was born and raised in Puerto Rico 2 and have been living in Massachusetts for the last 3 two years. I am currently a resident of Lynn, and I 4 work with community members of Chelsea and East 5 Boston.</p> <p>6 I come here today because I have been 7 listening and I have been watching the process of 8 approval for this substation. And coming from 9 Puerto Rico and having been working with community 10 members in Puerto Rico, I have experienced and I 11 have understood the need for having a reliable and 12 resilient electricity system. I went through 13 Hurricane Maria. I was months without electricity. 14 I had to depend on gasoline and diesel power plants 15 in order to survive in the hours there. So I 16 understand and I appreciate the need for having 17 resiliency embedded in our infrastructure.</p> <p>18 But having listened also and 19 understanding the past and recent transgressions 20 that has happened in this process, I have been 21 utterly disappointed at the decisionmaking process 22 and I have felt an eerily similar situation as the 23 one that I have lived through in Puerto Rico that 24 led to the results that happened due to an extreme</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 473</p> <p>1 climate event.</p> <p>2 So I am just here to voice my</p> <p>3 opposition, because I have not been convinced of the</p> <p>4 need for having this infrastructure in East Boston,</p> <p>5 with the residents and the context that has already</p> <p>6 been expressed by community members and the</p> <p>7 injustices that this will result in.</p> <p>8 So I am please asking the EFSB members,</p> <p>9 staff, to consider reopening the case for</p> <p>10 reevaluating the need for this project, and having</p> <p>11 more data and having complete transparency in the</p> <p>12 process. Thank you.</p> <p>13 MR. GREENE: Next is Clinton Burgos. Is</p> <p>14 Clinton Burgos with us?</p> <p>15 MR. BURGOS: Hi. I'm Clinton Burgos.</p> <p>16 That's C-l-i-n-t-o-n B as in "boy" u-r-g-o-s, Falcon</p> <p>17 Street. So basically the proposed substation is</p> <p>18 right down the street.</p> <p>19 I just want to say, sitting in on this,</p> <p>20 I want to acknowledge that I've had the ability to</p> <p>21 do that because I'm working from home. I haven't</p> <p>22 seen many people here who resemble my neighbors. I</p> <p>23 think a lot of them actually have to go to work</p> <p>24 physically and so they can't attend these meetings</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 475</p> <p>1 bringing your children, your grandchildren, perhaps</p> <p>2 nieces or nephews, to play in this playground and</p> <p>3 imagine how it would feel to have this electrical</p> <p>4 substation looming over the playground and how your</p> <p>5 experience of that environment would be affected by</p> <p>6 that.</p> <p>7 I'll ask also that you imagine that it's</p> <p>8 30 years from now and there's a big storm, storm</p> <p>9 surges rising. You live in the neighborhood.</p> <p>10 You're aware of this water rising, and you recall</p> <p>11 that the last time there was a big storm the water</p> <p>12 came up higher than it had before and the time</p> <p>13 before that and higher than the projections had said</p> <p>14 was reasonably likely.</p> <p>15 And now, as the water's rising, the</p> <p>16 officials from Eversource are telling you that</p> <p>17 there's nothing to worry about. You're hearing this</p> <p>18 from people who don't live in the neighborhood, from</p> <p>19 people whose children do not have their bedrooms</p> <p>20 down the street. And you're aware of the many times</p> <p>21 your community has been told in the past not to</p> <p>22 worry about the impact, the impact will not be</p> <p>23 significant.</p> <p>24 And at the same time 30 years from now</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 474</p> <p>1 during Monday and Tuesday.</p> <p>2 I just want to say, out of all the</p> <p>3 people that I've heard speak, I haven't heard a</p> <p>4 single person supporting this plan. I think that</p> <p>5 says a lot. There seems to be absolutely zero</p> <p>6 public support for this. And I think if you go</p> <p>7 ahead with this plan, that means that you're not</p> <p>8 listening to the public. How are we supposed to</p> <p>9 believe in democracy if that's what happens out of</p> <p>10 this?</p> <p>11 It seems like there are viable</p> <p>12 alternatives, like the solar roof plans that have</p> <p>13 been described by some people on here. I think</p> <p>14 there's a lot more public support for those, it</p> <p>15 sounds like. I think it's at least worth digging</p> <p>16 into those and seeing if that's viable.</p> <p>17 And that's really all that I want to</p> <p>18 say. Thanks.</p> <p>19 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you.</p> <p>20 MR. GREENE: Next is Alan Linov.</p> <p>21 MR. LINOV: Hi. My name is Alan Linov,</p> <p>22 spelled A-l-a-n L-i-n-o-v, and I live in Arlington.</p> <p>23 Having heard all this testimony, I'm</p> <p>24 going to ask now that you just imagine yourself</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 476</p> <p>1 you perhaps are aware that the compromised process</p> <p>2 by which it was determined that this substation was</p> <p>3 needed turned out to be mistaken and at that point</p> <p>4 it still was not needed.</p> <p>5 So I just want to suggest that now, in</p> <p>6 2021, when there's very wide recognition of the</p> <p>7 legacy of environmental racism and recognition of</p> <p>8 the need to move forward with environmental justice,</p> <p>9 at this point it is simply not acceptable to go</p> <p>10 forward with a project like this when the need for</p> <p>11 the project is seriously in doubt. Thank you.</p> <p>12 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you.</p> <p>13 MR. GREENE: We have a caller on one of</p> <p>14 the dial-in lines, and I'm not sure who it is, but I</p> <p>15 believe they do want to speak. So let's see if we</p> <p>16 can hear from them. If you've dialed in and want to</p> <p>17 comment, please do so now. 617.686.1405 is the</p> <p>18 number.</p> <p>19 MR. NELSON: Andy, I think they're still</p> <p>20 in the attendees. I think we have to move them</p> <p>21 over. Right?</p> <p>22 MR. GREENE: They should be available to</p> <p>23 talk.</p> <p>24 MR. FERRARI: On the phone. This is</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 477</p> <p>1 Brian Ferrari, 617.686.1405.</p> <p>2 MR. GREENE: We hear you.</p> <p>3 MR. FERRARI: I just heard my cell phone</p> <p>4 mentioned. I said I've got to get on and mention</p> <p>5 this here about a problem here with this Eversource</p> <p>6 substation.</p> <p>7 Yeah, I don't know if you guys know it,</p> <p>8 but that was back in the Menino Administration, that</p> <p>9 was called the land swap. They swapped it out back</p> <p>10 in the day. It was Edison Electric. And then they</p> <p>11 wanted to construct a library and they went down</p> <p>12 there and put this on that site over there behind</p> <p>13 where they're building the new police station. It's</p> <p>14 right across from the playground, residential area</p> <p>15 as well, highly impacted area.</p> <p>16 We always were the experiments for</p> <p>17 everything, jet fuel, fumes. We were there way</p> <p>18 before this airport came into play here. And we</p> <p>19 never had any representation. But back in the day</p> <p>20 we had a politician by the name of George DiLorenzo</p> <p>21 that went to bat. I know this is not on that same</p> <p>22 page. But he went to bat against that MassPort.</p> <p>23 That was the one that did -- that did the damage to</p> <p>24 our town. And it should be hands off because no</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 479</p> <p>1 is Sandra Lacey. I have my master's degree in</p> <p>2 energy policy from Tufts University. I have a</p> <p>3 15-year career at the intersection of innovation and</p> <p>4 energy.</p> <p>5 This proposed substation shows a true</p> <p>6 lack of innovative thinking, and with potential</p> <p>7 catastrophic impacts for the East Boston community.</p> <p>8 I live three blocks away from the</p> <p>9 proposed site. I have a dog and a little girl.</p> <p>10 She's a year and a half old. And we frequently use</p> <p>11 the American Legion playground. And we walk down to</p> <p>12 Condor Park, which is one of the few places in our</p> <p>13 already-overindustrialized community in which we can</p> <p>14 feel connected to nature.</p> <p>15 I echo the concerns you have previously</p> <p>16 heard from Dr. Luna and Dr. Woods, from flooding due</p> <p>17 to climate change to permanent loss of access to</p> <p>18 this waterfront. As this parcel of land, it could</p> <p>19 be revitalized as a much-needed green space for our</p> <p>20 community.</p> <p>21 Like the neighbors, I am also just very</p> <p>22 concerned about safety. Placing an electrical</p> <p>23 substation between a playground and large jet fuel</p> <p>24 storage tanks in a residential neighborhood on a</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 478</p> <p>1 other neighborhood has ever been impacted like we</p> <p>2 have suffered with anything they wanted to put</p> <p>3 there, we had to swallow and grin and bear it. And</p> <p>4 that's all I have to say. Enough is enough. Cease</p> <p>5 and desist. It should be built on MassPort</p> <p>6 property, airport property. Thank you.</p> <p>7 MR. GREENE: Thank you.</p> <p>8 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you.</p> <p>9 MR. GREENE: Okay, the next person whose</p> <p>10 hand is raised that we can see is Juliana Morris,</p> <p>11 and we'll move you up to the panel right now.</p> <p>12 Please turn on your mike.</p> <p>13 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Mr. Greene, do you</p> <p>14 also have Sandra, I can't see her last name, but I</p> <p>15 see you in the box?</p> <p>16 MR. GREENE: I'm sorry. Yes.</p> <p>17 MS. LACEY: Yes, I've been emailing you</p> <p>18 and tweeting at you. Sorry about that. I'm a</p> <p>19 preregistered speaker. I was skipped over. So you</p> <p>20 might want to reference the list one more time</p> <p>21 against the folks who have their hand raised.</p> <p>22 Thank you so much for taking the time.</p> <p>23 I really appreciate the hours you all are putting in</p> <p>24 to hearing our voices in the neighborhood. My name</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 480</p> <p>1 street that is prone to flooding -- honestly, I</p> <p>2 couldn't even write it more dramatically in a novel.</p> <p>3 This is not some overblown concerns.</p> <p>4 Substations can and have exploded when flooded. One</p> <p>5 exploded in New York City when Hurricane Sandy hit</p> <p>6 in 2012.</p> <p>7 But at the core, we have not been shown</p> <p>8 any data that verifies this substation is needed in</p> <p>9 this neighborhood. In fact, we've only been pointed</p> <p>10 towards old, outdated, and unverified data.</p> <p>11 Utilities do this all the time. They use old data</p> <p>12 to make big decisions.</p> <p>13 You should be questioning why Eversource</p> <p>14 is refusing to release the data that shows a</p> <p>15 load-increase anomaly for East Boston while across</p> <p>16 the entire region load has fallen and is projected</p> <p>17 to continue to decrease. Show us why there is an</p> <p>18 anomaly here.</p> <p>19 I strongly encourage the Board to reopen</p> <p>20 the underlying docket around the issue of need and</p> <p>21 demand access be granted to intervenors so that a</p> <p>22 third party can verify that the data justifying the</p> <p>23 need for this substation can be corroborated.</p> <p>24 I am also disturbed at how this public</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 481</p> <p>1 process has unfolded, the way in which --</p> <p>2 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: You're running out</p> <p>3 of time. But the translator is having difficulty</p> <p>4 with the speed.</p> <p>5 MS. LACEY: Sorry. No, I understand.</p> <p>6 The way in which my community has been involved, it</p> <p>7 really is a true illusion of inclusion in the 11th</p> <p>8 hour.</p> <p>9 Finally, you know, in innovation we talk</p> <p>10 a lot about pivoting, and so what does that really</p> <p>11 mean? It means that, as you go along in your</p> <p>12 process of trying to build something, you learn new</p> <p>13 information along the way that causes you to change</p> <p>14 direction.</p> <p>15 I implore you to have the courage to</p> <p>16 pivot this project. You learned many things along</p> <p>17 the way, and one thing that you've learned is that</p> <p>18 there are creative, safer, and cheaper ways to meet</p> <p>19 the ultimate goal if indeed there is a proven need.</p> <p>20 Why not change direction?</p> <p>21 I implore you to stop worrying about</p> <p>22 precedent and start worrying about doing the right</p> <p>23 thing for your fellow Bostonians. This conversation</p> <p>24 should not be about if siting this thing gets sited</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 483</p> <p>1 have on our already-overburdened communities.</p> <p>2 I see the impacts of the air pollution,</p> <p>3 industrial pollution, environmental injustice every</p> <p>4 day in my clinic as I care for people with asthma,</p> <p>5 early-onset cardiovascular disease, and other</p> <p>6 conditions, and I'm really scared about the new</p> <p>7 health threats that the substation would bring.</p> <p>8 I'm sure many of you are aware, but</p> <p>9 electrical currents are involved in many processes</p> <p>10 in the body -- nerve conduction, brain processing,</p> <p>11 digestion, heart pumping. And the concern is that</p> <p>12 with the electromagnetic field that this will induce</p> <p>13 stimulation of new currents and affect these</p> <p>14 biological processes.</p> <p>15 I'm aware that there is -- the data is</p> <p>16 oftentimes disputed. But we do not know the</p> <p>17 long-term consequences of exposure, particularly in</p> <p>18 children. And I'm particularly concerned about how</p> <p>19 close this particular substation is to where people</p> <p>20 are living and what the cumulative effect on top of</p> <p>21 other environmental exposures would be for our</p> <p>22 communities. There's also the risk of explosion and</p> <p>23 fire, which can lead to injuries -- this has been</p> <p>24 discussed many times -- as well as toxic</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 482</p> <p>1 on one side of the lot or the other. This</p> <p>2 conversation must be about if siting this substation</p> <p>3 on this lot at all is the right thing to do when, if</p> <p>4 it is needed, there are cheaper, cleaner, and safer</p> <p>5 alternatives, like solar, batteries, weatherization,</p> <p>6 and demand response.</p> <p>7 I hope the Board joins me in having a</p> <p>8 strong opposition to this project and reopens the</p> <p>9 underlying docket to determine need. Thank you very</p> <p>10 much for your time.</p> <p>11 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you.</p> <p>12 MR. GREENE: Our next speaker is Paul</p> <p>13 Kozak.</p> <p>14 MR. WANG: Andy, you skipped Juliana.</p> <p>15 MR. GREENE: I'm sorry.</p> <p>16 MS. MORRIS: Good morning, everyone. My</p> <p>17 name is Juliana Morris. I live at 8 Orient Avenue,</p> <p>18 Apartment 1, in East Boston, and I'm a primary care</p> <p>19 doctor in Chelsea.</p> <p>20 I'm calling in today to voice my</p> <p>21 opposition to the Eversource substation. I share</p> <p>22 many of the concerns that have been expressed thus</p> <p>23 far, and in particular wanted to discuss my concerns</p> <p>24 about the health impacts that the substation would</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 484</p> <p>1 inhalations.</p> <p>2 And the impact of chronic stress</p> <p>3 resulting from a community feeling neglected, not</p> <p>4 heard, should not be underestimated. We know that</p> <p>5 these impacts lead to mental-health problems,</p> <p>6 diabetes, hypertension, other conditions.</p> <p>7 So we know that people living close to</p> <p>8 electromagnetic fields have reported higher rates of</p> <p>9 headaches, vertigo, cognitive problems, mental-</p> <p>10 health problems. And these are things that I see a</p> <p>11 lot in my clinic. I believe they will be just</p> <p>12 exacerbated with the presence of the substation.</p> <p>13 So I just put it to you, why build this</p> <p>14 so close to these communities that do not want the</p> <p>15 substation? We know that there are other options.</p> <p>16 These are communities already overburdened by</p> <p>17 pollution and disproportionate rates of COVID-19.</p> <p>18 Instead, we need cleaner air, parks,</p> <p>19 community centers, other health-promoting</p> <p>20 interventions. Why subject us to one more health</p> <p>21 hazard when you know there are other options? Thank</p> <p>22 you for your time.</p> <p>23 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you.</p> <p>24 MR. GREENE: Mr. Kozak.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 485</p> <p>1 MR. KOZAK: Good morning, everyone. 2 Thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is 3 the Reverend Paul Shoaf Kozak. I'm an Episcopal 4 priest. I appreciate the Reverend Lise Hildebrandt 5 speaking on behalf of the Creation Care Justice 6 Network of the Episcopal church. 7 While I'm confident that our bishops 8 would support us come out for the community, I don't 9 speak as an Episcopal priest right now, I speak as a 10 member of East Boston. I live about 50 yards from 11 the proposed site on 313 East Eagle Street. I'm 12 probably the second-closest house. Rebecca and I, 13 my wife, we live here with our three kids. We've 14 been residents of East Boston for three of eight 15 years. 16 I'm not going to repeat what other 17 people have said. I want to try and distill what's 18 happening down to make it simple. It seems like 19 essentially Eversource is arguing that the need for 20 the substation is because of a hypothetical 21 possibility that there may be energy increase 22 regarding usage in the future and therefore the 23 substation will buffer an increase in energy. We 24 don't know if that's the case for sure. It's still</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 487</p> <p>1 I will not pretend to judge you, and I 2 don't believe that I can pretend to think how God 3 would judge. But I do know that history will judge 4 you, and you will be on the wrong side of history if 5 you continue to support such projects that impact 6 black and brown communities. Yesterday Solicitor 7 Foster Evans even noted that in one of the hearings 8 the communication was one-way for the Board, which 9 is to say that it was unfair, it was unjust, it was 10 a violation of the rights of the local participants. 11 So what side do you want to be on in 12 history? I invite you to lean into your 13 consciences, and please, decide on behalf of the 14 community, not on behalf of an energy company that 15 is into this sort of profit-making endeavor. Thank 16 you. 17 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. Andy, 18 just a quick check: It looks like we have three or 19 four remaining participants. We will try to take a 20 break at 10:30, 10:45, as we wrap these up. 21 MR. GREENE: It looks like we have 22 Reverend Kozak's family member on next, Rebecca 23 Shoaf Kozak. 24 MS. KOZAK: Can you hear me?</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 486</p> <p>1 hypothetical, because we can't predict the future, 2 and also we don't know what data they're using. The 3 numbers are still obscure and unbeknownst to us. So 4 it's completely unclear. It's hypothetical. 5 Hypothetically, we're making many points 6 ourselves. One hypothetical point is the danger of 7 the substation. We don't know that someone wouldn't 8 enter the facility and injure themselves, but we do 9 know it's happened at Eversource's own facility on 10 the South Shore. That's a fact. Hypothetically we 11 don't know if it will flood, although we have pretty 12 good reason to think it will flood, because Condor 13 Street has flooded twice in the last two years. We 14 don't know for sure if the high voltage impacts 15 children or other people, adults, but we can't 16 unequivocally say that it does not, either. 17 And so ultimately why would the Board 18 give preference to the hypothetical situation of 19 Eversource compared to the community? 20 Ironically, we're having this discussion 21 during Black History Month, so the issue boils down 22 to environmental justice. Throughout history boards 23 comprised of primarily white people have made 24 decisions that have impacted black and brown bodies.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 488</p> <p>1 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: We can. Go ahead. 2 Thank you. 3 MS. KOZAK: Hello. Thank you, Paul, for 4 being at home with our kids while I'm at work 5 primarily, and thank you for everyone's 6 participation here. 7 I will not repeat what everyone has said 8 today or yesterday. I've caught glimpses of it as I 9 could and as the time has allowed. And I will not 10 repeat it also because we've been saying the same 11 thing for about almost six years now. 12 But I, like a previous speaker, I want 13 to invite everyone from the Board to think about 14 their own communities. So we live 50 feet in front 15 of this proposed site, so we are very directly 16 impacted. Every night I put the boys to bed and I 17 shut their blinds and I look out on the proposed 18 site. It is that close to our house. 19 Based on a very quick Google search, 20 some of you live in Peabody, Arlington, Newton. I 21 don't think any one of you lives in East Boston, let 22 alone East Eagle. And I might be wrong. Maybe 23 there are one or two of you. But I think it's just 24 so easy to not care and not be as invested when</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 489</p> <p>1 something isn't right in your face every day.</p> <p>2 So I invite you to think about this</p> <p>3 happening in your own community, and I invite you</p> <p>4 specifically, if you have children, if you're</p> <p>5 caretakers, to think about your children and think</p> <p>6 about what decision you would make if this were a</p> <p>7 proposal in your community.</p> <p>8 And I think that is something that I</p> <p>9 want to invite you to do because I think that that,</p> <p>10 inviting that empathy and growing that empathy,</p> <p>11 could make a difference in this decisionmaking.</p> <p>12 We as parents are tasked with protecting</p> <p>13 our children, like Joaquin, who's right there with</p> <p>14 Paul. We are tasked with protecting them at all</p> <p>15 costs, even under hypothetical situations where</p> <p>16 risks could be involved.</p> <p>17 So I want to leave you with that. I</p> <p>18 want to leave you with that invitation. Eversource</p> <p>19 has not been open or willing to hearing the</p> <p>20 community. So it's now up to you, the EFSB, on the</p> <p>21 website that says you are here to listen to</p> <p>22 marginalized communities and make decisions with</p> <p>23 very minimal risk. Thank you.</p> <p>24 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 491</p> <p>1 climate work for several years now. We are only</p> <p>2 moving towards cleaner energy, getting rid of</p> <p>3 fossil-fuel use. The City of Boston just went to</p> <p>4 Community Choice Energy, which is looking for</p> <p>5 increasing percentages of clean energy use,</p> <p>6 renewable energy use.</p> <p>7 So this is such a reductive approach to</p> <p>8 bringing energy that is not provenly needed rather</p> <p>9 than going to the solar use, solar energy, moving</p> <p>10 towards constantly getting rid of fossil-fuel usage.</p> <p>11 This facility, as dangerous as it is,</p> <p>12 located in an incredibly poor location, will be --</p> <p>13 what's the word? Sorry; language -- will be</p> <p>14 unusable in 30 to 50 years.</p> <p>15 So I just want to say all, everything</p> <p>16 that everybody has said, I just share. I am with</p> <p>17 it. And please, stop this project now. I don't</p> <p>18 even think you need to revisit. I think you need to</p> <p>19 move forward. As someone said, pivot, pivot, and</p> <p>20 move forward into renewable energy use. Thank you</p> <p>21 for your time today.</p> <p>22 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you.</p> <p>23 MR. GREENE: Next is Deysi Gutierrez.</p> <p>24 MS. GUTIERREZ: My name is Deysi</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 490</p> <p>1 MR. GREENE: Next is Sara Driscoll.</p> <p>2 MS. DRISCOLL: Good morning. Thank you</p> <p>3 so much. Sorry, I was on the list early yesterday</p> <p>4 and not able to be on the entire call, so I missed</p> <p>5 my opportunity then.</p> <p>6 I am a retired electrician with Local</p> <p>7 103 IBEW. I'm so sorry. I hear you. Thank you,</p> <p>8 Margaux.</p> <p>9 I am a retired electrician from Local</p> <p>10 103 IBEW. And everybody has said pretty much</p> <p>11 everything I would say about environmental justice,</p> <p>12 about listening to the community, about the dangers</p> <p>13 of explosion and fire. As an electrician, I have</p> <p>14 particular concern about that and understanding.</p> <p>15 I feel like I want to say that the</p> <p>16 people of Chelsea and East Boston have been fighting</p> <p>17 environmental injustice for so many years, and not</p> <p>18 only the airplanes and the cars and the fuel tanks,</p> <p>19 but also that gigantic salt hill that is not</p> <p>20 covered, that blows particulate matter throughout</p> <p>21 the community all of the time.</p> <p>22 So I really would like -- I live in</p> <p>23 Jamaica Plain, and I am a member of the Boston</p> <p>24 Climate Action Network. I've been active doing</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 492</p> <p>1 Gutierrez. I live on Condor Street. And today I</p> <p>2 come on no professional -- I'm a college student</p> <p>3 that has been living on Condor Street since I was</p> <p>4 ten.</p> <p>5 When I first moved here, it was so</p> <p>6 peaceful, and I loved it, my family loved it. And</p> <p>7 now it's completely different. One of the problems</p> <p>8 is a hell lot of development going up, which is</p> <p>9 never going to stop. And so just add to that a</p> <p>10 substation might go up, like, this is completely</p> <p>11 crazy, and I think it's a big F-U to the community</p> <p>12 of Eagle Hill.</p> <p>13 I don't know, it disappoints me a lot,</p> <p>14 because I have lost faith in people who are supposed</p> <p>15 to protect us. And I hope you guys can prove me</p> <p>16 wrong. But my community has changed so much, and</p> <p>17 this is not only changing physically. The buildings</p> <p>18 are not only changing physically, but it's also</p> <p>19 mentally like draining for people who live here.</p> <p>20 Like my home no longer looks like the home that I</p> <p>21 bought, that my parents bought, you know. And it's</p> <p>22 just really frustrating.</p> <p>23 And another point I wanted to make, that</p> <p>24 I'm not 100 percent sure not all my neighbors know</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 493</p> <p>1 what's really going on, just because, yes, you give 2 everybody around here pamphlets and informational 3 stuff, but like we've said plenty of times in this 4 meeting, everybody's folks is probably working 5 because most of the people who live here, they're 6 working. They come home after a long shift, they're 7 not going to read a whole information letter about 8 what a substation is, you know. And I've been lucky 9 to know about this because -- I've been lucky enough 10 to know about this because people like GreenRoots -- 11 I've just been lucky. But it's not because I knew 12 it from Eversource.</p> <p>13 So I just wanted to say, I really have 14 no faith in this. I'm pretty sure like Condor 15 Street is going to change and continue to change. 16 But I hope you guys can reassess and really think 17 about how we feel, how we physically feel. So thank 18 you so much.</p> <p>19 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you.</p> <p>20 MR. GREENE: Next is Abdi Ali. You're 21 on mute, please.</p> <p>22 MR. ALI: Can you hear me now? All 23 right. Thank you very much, and good morning, 24 everybody. My name is Abdi Ali. That is A-b-d-i.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 495</p> <p>1 park. I was there for about a weekend ago. With 2 COVID, we realize how important it is --</p> <p>3 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Abdi, I'm sorry, can 4 you slow down a little bit for the interpreter.</p> <p>5 MR. ALI: Thank you very much, 6 Secretary. We have realized how crucial it is to 7 have an open space when COVID happened, and we need 8 absolutely any space that we can get here in East 9 Boston. We couldn't go elsewhere. We were locked 10 down here in this neighborhood. And we were the 11 hardest-hit neighborhood of Boston, that we were 12 really hammered by COVID. We have the highest 13 infection rate of Greater Boston because of our 14 condensed neighborhood.</p> <p>15 So we need that space to be a green 16 space. Reimagine, 21st century, we can do anything 17 and everything. So why are you building a 18 substation? We don't need it. I have stayed on 19 this call all day yesterday, and I didn't hear one 20 single resident saying yes to this. We don't need 21 it. Why are you forcing us? Why are you silencing 22 us? Why are you doing this to us? Why are you 23 doing this to us?</p> <p>24 And so I don't understand. If MassPort</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 494</p> <p>1 Last name A-I-i. I grew up in this neighborhood. I 2 am a longtime organizer and activist of East Boston.</p> <p>3 Basically, I think that nearly not two 4 decades ago we were the youth that fought Eversource 5 not building the substation in Bremen Park. So it 6 saddens me that almost a little over a decade now 7 that I'm coming back and saying no substation again. 8 We know what we were able to get out of that space, 9 which is now the most beautiful part of our 10 neighborhood, which is the library where our ten- 11 year-old goes there every single time when we didn't 12 have COVID.</p> <p>13 So I am calling you to look inside, deep 14 in your heart, and really think about this 15 community. We have been fighting for a very long 16 time. We're exhausted fighting big corporations, 17 developers, like Deysi said. We're exhausted. And 18 that has really a mental-health issue on us. My 19 folks in East Boston, a majority of them are 20 literally out working today. I'm now multitasking 21 myself being here. And I'm one of the lucky ones 22 who could work from home. But 80 percent, almost, I 23 think, 90 percent of my neighbors cannot work from 24 home, they are at work. And our kids play at the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 496</p> <p>1 wants it, give it to them. If Suffolk Downs wants 2 it, give it to them. We don't want it. So we are 3 asking you to really today consider it. My ten- 4 year-old is growing up here, and I don't want him 5 fighting the same fight I have fought as a youth.</p> <p>6 So I call you all to be on the right 7 side of history and really say no to this 8 substation. It is just unbelievable that we're 9 going to build on closer to the Chelsea Creek, right 10 on the water. So many people have said that. I 11 don't have to repeat that.</p> <p>12 So I am saying here, as an organizer for 13 racial justice, for us, this is a racial justice 14 issue.</p> <p>15 So I thank you very much for your time, 16 and I hope you will vote no today.</p> <p>17 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. I think 18 we have one more speaker, and just a reminder to be 19 slow as possible, if you can, for our translator.</p> <p>20 MR. GREENE: Yes, Councilor Damali 21 Vidot.</p> <p>22 COUNCILOR VIDOT: Thank you for allowing 23 me the opportunity to speak. My name is Damali 24 Vidot. I'm an at-large city councilor in Chelsea as</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 497</p> <p>1 well as a limited participant, and I've been 2 involved following these hearings for the past two 3 years. I'm sure some of you recall. I've been very 4 critical of this Board because of the translation 5 issues in the past. 6 Am I talking fast? 7 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Sorry. 8 COUNCILOR VIDOT: I'll slow down. I'm 9 working on it. I don't really want to sit here and 10 go over what everyone has said. I continue to have 11 the same concerns based on need. I continue to have 12 the same concerns about the community not being 13 prioritized. The speaker before me brought up an 14 excellent point about the potential of this going on 15 a private site. If MassPort wants it, put it on 16 MassPort's site. If Suffolk Downs wants it, put it 17 elsewhere. 18 But when you have 100 percent opposition 19 from the residents in the community that, quite 20 frankly, are still, to this day, reaping the effects 21 of poor policies of the past, let's be honest here: 22 We're talking about black and brown immigrants, poor 23 communities, Chelsea and East Boston, areas that are 24 known to flood. Historically we know -- I mean,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 499</p> <p>1 community that has long been ignored and that is 2 still suffering from the consequences of folks not 3 making the right decisions in the past. The 4 decision you make today will have impacts on these 5 communities for decades to come, and we are dealing 6 with enough. 7 So please, I beg of you to do the right 8 thing today and, as public servants, to please make 9 a decision that's going to prioritize the health and 10 wellbeing. It is clear that this State 11 administration, when you look at the policies, when 12 you look at the vaccine rollout -- there are many, 13 many things that have proven that they're not going 14 to prioritize us. But it is up to you to make this 15 decision. The community's against it. We're 16 against it. Thank you for allowing me the 17 opportunity to speak, and I hope that you vote no 18 today. 19 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. 20 MR. GREENE: Secretary Theoharides, we 21 have finished all of the commenters. I believe this 22 is the time when our stenographer and interpreters 23 need a break. Perhaps we move on. 24 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Yes. I was going to</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 498</p> <p>1 it's not a secret -- that there have been policies 2 and institutional racism and policy-making that has 3 made it so that COVID is ravaging through our 4 communities. We have had 15 hours of testimony in 5 these meetings for folks that don't even have access 6 to the Internet or the luxury of being able to sit 7 on a Zoom call for so many hours waiting to be 8 heard. 9 I am asking you, as one public servant 10 to the other, to really consider the long-term 11 impact that this is going to have on these 12 communities. Maybe it was a great idea when it 13 started six years ago, although I beg to differ. 14 Maybe at some point years ago it seemed like a good 15 idea. But we should be shifting to cleaner energy. 16 We should be shifting to creating policies that are 17 equitable, that are inclusive. And quite frankly, 18 the way this whole process has been, it has not 19 demonstrated none of that. 20 I think it behooves you to set a 21 precedent right now and making sure that you make 22 decisions as public servants, which I know how hard 23 that can be, to make a decision right now that's 24 going to prioritize the health and wellbeing of a</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 500</p> <p>1 propose we take a 15-minute break at this point, 2 which would bring us to coming back at 10 of. No, 3 I'm doing math wrong. About there. 4 MR. GREENE: Yeah, just about. 5 (Discussion off the record.) 6 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Caroline Ellenbird, 7 we'll hear from her now. 8 MS. ELLENBIRD: Am I on? 9 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: We can hear you, 10 although it's a little bit quiet. 11 MS. ELLENBIRD: My name is Caroline 12 Ellenbird. I'm a resident of Chelsea. I live at 13 107 Shurtleff Street. I am able to do this because 14 I am working from home and I have my children 15 working from home as well here. 16 Yesterday you heard that Eversource's 17 evidence for the need of this project is not on the 18 record. Eversource will have you think that this is 19 irrelevant because it's already been decided. But 20 you are in a position where you need to make an 21 educated, thoughtful, and ultimately moral decision. 22 You can try to wipe your hands of it and say I can't 23 decide, it's already been decided, that's not what's 24 up for being decided, or you can recognize that the</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 501</p> <p>1 decision to look more deeply and recalibrate the 2 inequities of this situation is in your hands. This 3 is a time to look at this moment of history that we 4 are in. 5 Look at what has happened since that 6 decision was made, how much that has been pushed 7 under the rug has now been made clear, raw and in 8 the open, racial and environmental public-health 9 inequities since the decision was made by 10 Eversource -- or by the Board. Look at what else 11 has been made clear since that decision. The four 12 new load additions that Eversource used as evidence 13 of the need have all come online. And as you have 14 heard over and over, there has been consistently 15 less demand than they had anticipated. Eversource 16 had said there would be blackouts and failures 17 without the substation and we have not seen this 18 happen. There has been exaggeration of the need for 19 this project, and we do not have access to these 20 submissions. 21 I ask you who you are protecting, 22 including who you are serving. The point of 23 supporting a project by Eversource in this community 24 would be to support the needs of the people for</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 503</p> <p>1 So we've moved through the public 2 comments, the limited participants, and the 3 intervenors at this point and are now ready to 4 deliberate on the tentative decision. And we will 5 also consider amendments to the tentative decision 6 by staff and any additional amendments from Board 7 members. 8 Before we do that, I would like to get a 9 sense from the Board of what people are thinking 10 about the decision in front of us; what additional 11 information, if any, is needed. I would remind the 12 Board that they can ask questions of the company, of 13 the intervenors, of the limited participants during 14 this time. 15 Chair Nelson, I will start with you. 16 MR. NELSON: Thank you. Thank you. I 17 think we have a couple of amendments and things to 18 go through. 19 I think I'll start by saying that I just 20 want to thank the members of the public and the 21 intervening parties, from GreenRoots and CLF. I 22 think I speak for all of the Board when I say the 23 amount of opposition and activism was very apparent 24 and noted in this case.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 502</p> <p>1 energy. But where is the evidence that Eversource's 2 plan supports the needs of the people? 3 Again, who are you serving? Listen to 4 what you are hearing. You are at a pivotal moment. 5 You have choices to make, and you are responsible 6 for the choices you make. Listen to all the 7 testimony that you have heard. You have an 8 obligation, a moral obligation, an intellectual one, 9 based on facts and based on morals, to deny this 10 project change notice and also to reopen the 11 question of the project need. 12 This has been going on for a long time. 13 It's come and gone. Here we are, the final moment. 14 I ask you to listen, pause, don't say your hands are 15 tied, take the responsibility that is in your hands, 16 and act on behalf of the people of Massachusetts and 17 especially of Chelsea and East Boston. Thank you. 18 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. At this 19 point we will take a 15-minute break, come back at 5 20 of 11:00. So we're off the record. 21 (Recess taken.) 22 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: So I will put us 23 back on the record, please. I am just going to get 24 back to the place in my script.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 504</p> <p>1 I think this should have been a simple 2 case. I don't say that pejoratively. I think it's 3 a credit to the people that intervened in this case 4 that a simple project change, moving one substation 5 location to another position across a lot, in 6 addition to what was an environmentally hazardous 7 site, has -- there are so many issues that have been 8 raised for us to consider here, because this case is 9 far but simple. 10 I'm impressed by the public engagement 11 and the public outcry in this case. And I think 12 there's a lot of thorny issues we need to go through 13 here. 14 And so I think to start, at least for 15 the group -- and I tried to do this in some of my 16 cross-examination of some of the intervenors -- is 17 there's two issues here. I think the first one is 18 whether or not the record should be reopened. And a 19 lot of what we heard from public comment and others 20 was related to the decision that has been made and 21 finalized in the underlying case, which is there is 22 a need. That's not what we're debating today. 23 The question is is there new evidence 24 that has been presented or is there a threshold that</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 505</p> <p>1 has been reached in doubt to open up the underlying 2 case to need. And I think two credible arguments 3 have been made by the intervenors. The first is 4 that the data is old, it's stale. And the second is 5 that the process was not fair. So we can talk about 6 those.</p> <p>7 I think separately, once that issue has 8 been decided, there's the issue about whether or not 9 the existing project, which if we reject the first 10 part, should be moved from the original location to 11 the new location and anything like fires and 12 flooding that we need to be concerned about in that 13 instance.</p> <p>14 So I think for the purposes of the 15 discussion today, I think that's probably a good way 16 to frame the two topics, know what lane we're 17 talking about, because I think one is the 18 legal-threshold question and the other one is the 19 facility and the proposal in front of us sufficient.</p> <p>20 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. I think 21 those are good points, and I would echo your 22 comments about the robust discussion and the strong 23 voices we've heard from the community on this, and 24 appreciate so many people coming forward to make</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 507</p> <p>1 discussion, is it okay if we reach out to the 2 company, Attorney Rosenzweig?</p> <p>3 Can you give us a landscape of what East 4 Boston looks like now? Are there any major 5 substations in East Boston currently, or is it all 6 served via distribution circuits?</p> <p>7 MR. ROSENZWEIG: It's the latter. There 8 is no transmission or large substations or any 9 substations of that nature in East Boston that 10 Eversource operates. MassPort does have its own 11 facilities on its site that's separate and apart 12 that manage load within its -- within the airport 13 itself. But East Boston is an island. It is served 14 only by distribution. There is no transmission. 15 And those contingencies give rise to the need here 16 that the company's attempting to address by this 17 proposal.</p> <p>18 MR. CASEY: So is it safe to say that, 19 independent of CELT data, which I personally 20 reviewed in the ISO and it aligns from a CAGR 21 standpoint to be around 1 percent a year, on a macro 22 level, but that's not really germane to our 23 discussion.</p> <p>24 With that being said, independent of</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 506</p> <p>1 their concerns known.</p> <p>2 I would ask other Board members: Are 3 there things you'd like to share? I agree with 4 Chair Nelson that the sort of framing of the two 5 issues -- the issue of the question of need and 6 reopening the record, and then actually what's in 7 front of us for this decision, which is the siting 8 of this project in the new location -- are really 9 the two areas of discussion, in my mind, this 10 morning. Mr. Casey?</p> <p>11 MR. CASEY: I would agree with Mr. 12 Nelson's approach, to narrow it down to those areas 13 of focus for the Board's consideration.</p> <p>14 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: If others agree, is 15 there -- should we focus on one of those areas 16 first, and is there a preference for which? 17 Mr. Moran?</p> <p>18 MR. MORAN: I'd suggest -- I do agree 19 that those seem to be the two primary issues. And I 20 think it would be helpful to focus first on the 21 issue of need and whether the record should be 22 reopened based on the information presented.</p> <p>23 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thoughts?</p> <p>24 MR. CASEY: In support of that</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 508</p> <p>1 those kind of loads, we're really talking about 2 servicing the last mile of load; correct?</p> <p>3 MR. ROSENZWEIG: It's the isolated load 4 pocket, as we would call it, that exists in the East 5 Boston area that is vulnerable to interruptions 6 under current circumstances, where there would be 7 peak loads or a contingency at the Chelsea Station 8 or outages on the available distribution circuits, 9 where there is not an independent transmission 10 supply into the East Eagle area or the East Boston 11 area and the inability to serve customers in that 12 area and the load in that area under those 13 contingency conditions.</p> <p>14 MR. CASEY: Without consideration to 15 Suffolk Downs or MassPort, what is the system peak 16 load for this load pocket for the East Boston 17 community that the proposed station would be 18 servicing?</p> <p>19 MR. ROSENZWEIG: In current years, it's 20 about 120 or so megawatts; that would be indicative 21 of what the current load is. If you are to consider 22 out in time what the company's load projections are, 23 they would include additional step loads from Logan 24 Airport and Suffolk Downs. But current peak loads</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 509</p> <p>1 are in the 120-megawatt, give or take, area. 2 MR. CASEY: That's fairly substantial. 3 And I don't know -- this is obviously -- I'm new to 4 the Board from the previous decision, that are being 5 moved forward with the need being determined. 6 But is there something being lost here 7 in translation with the community? A community of 8 this size and that kind of load almost warrants or 9 dictates a station to service it. Was that not 10 articulated to the community? 11 MR. ROSENZWEIG: The question I take it 12 wasn't to me. 13 MR. CASEY: It was to you, yeah. 14 MR. ROSENZWEIG: Oh, for sure we 15 articulated that need in our outreach to the 16 community and the public comment hearings and at 17 community meetings. But nonetheless there was 18 resistance to that messaging, and there was 19 questions about other alternatives that might be 20 able to meet the identified need, which we presented 21 in the underlying proceeding, including both 22 transmission and nontransmission alternatives, such 23 as solar and storage. But those just aren't 24 feasible to meet this type of need and certainly not</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 511</p> <p>1 be ethnic diversity, there are also more affluent 2 communities. 3 So it really is a very nondiscriminatory 4 type of approach the company undertakes. It looks 5 at its electric loads. It looks at its available 6 facilities. It looks at where the system needs to 7 be reinforced irrespective of the demographics of 8 that community. And it seeks to build facilities to 9 ensure reliability to all customers, regardless of 10 environmental justice considerations. That's more 11 of an outreach and a meaningful-opportunity type of 12 participation obligation. But where there's a need 13 even in the environmental justice communities, we 14 have the same need to ensure reliability to those 15 customers as we do in any other area of our service 16 territory. 17 MR. CASEY: Thank you, Counselor. 18 MR. WOODCOCK: If I might, I just want 19 to clarify for the record is, my understanding is 20 when this decision was made that the system in this 21 load pocket had experienced a reliability 22 standard -- in a previous year it was a particularly 23 warm, humid event. But we did meet a standard where 24 the existing system was not within NERC standards.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 510</p> <p>1 at a cost that's competitive to the company's 2 proposal. 3 So we did our best to communicate all 4 that type of information but was not able to make 5 progress within the community and secure their 6 support for it. 7 MR. CASEY: And last but not least -- I 8 won't trespass on my other fellow members' Board 9 time. But considering an urban area that's not so 10 urban, like more of a suburban area -- like let's 11 say the City of Newton. One of the public comments 12 was that we have people, Board members that don't 13 live in the neighborhoods. The City of Newton has, 14 I don't know, 100,000 people. To your knowledge, 15 are there major substations in those communities? 16 MR. ROSENZWEIG: There are. We build 17 substations where they're needed, and there are 18 substations like this in Newton. The last project 19 that was just approved by the Siting Board was in 20 Sudbury. 21 So you find we build facilities where 22 they are needed, where there is load, and that can 23 be in areas where there's ethnically diverse 24 populations as well as areas where, while there may</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 512</p> <p>1 Is that correct, Andy? 2 MR. GREENE: I think what you're 3 referring to, Commissioner Woodcock, is the year 4 2013, when one of the transformers at Chelsea 5 substation, which is used to serve the East Boston 6 load area, exceeded its normal rating for a period 7 of time during a very hot, humid summer day. And 8 that was one of the red flags that the company has 9 identified that signaled a need for an upgrade of 10 the transmission system into East Boston. 11 MR. WOODCOCK: I think, you know, the 12 parties have raised that the CELT forecast has 13 altered quite significantly, and that is correct, 14 although that does not -- that does not reduce 15 existing reliability challenges. 16 I would just note that from DOER's 17 perspective, as established in the 2018 18 Comprehensive Energy Plan and reflected in our draft 19 Clean Energy and Climate Plan, if you were to ask me 20 in 2017 versus kind of today our assumptions of 21 electrification for buildings and transportation has 22 become more prevalent and most likely our most 23 cost-effective route to greenhouse gas emission -- 24 that is starting to be reflected in CELT forecasts,</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 513</p> <p>1 but my confidence in additional load increasing is 2 higher than it would have been in 2017. I'm just 3 offering that to the rest of the Board members. 4 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Commissioner, that's 5 something I've been thinking about as well, based on 6 the 2030 draft plan. Do you know -- do you have a 7 sense of sort of when that timeline or when that 8 load starts to ramp up and do you think it's -- and 9 I'm not questioning you -- but do you think it's 10 different in different geographies, the shape of 11 that load ramp? 12 MR. WOODCOCK: I just offer this: The 13 two priorities for the Department of Energy 14 Resources with our next three-year plan, where the 15 draft is coming out in April, are to expand 16 electrification, especially for heating, and also to 17 improve programs in environmental justice 18 communities. 19 That's very different than how DOER has 20 operated previously. Previously really our lighting 21 program and reducing load has been the only 22 objective of the program. We'll continue to try to 23 advance all cost-effective energy efficiency 24 programs. But I would note that we are increasingly</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 515</p> <p>1 to try to embrace more renewables while we bring on 2 offshore wind, while we bring on hydroelectric 3 energy, versus using something like the Mystic power 4 plant, which is scheduled to retire. 5 So I do think that we will see loads 6 increasing, and I think we'll see ISO predicting 7 load increasing as well. I would expect that to go 8 down to the distribution level. That's kind of my 9 take on where I'm expecting we're heading in terms 10 of need. 11 I think if we did reopen the record, 12 there's certainly push-and-pull elements to both, 13 but I think I'd probably expect, with weather 14 getting hotter and the electrification efforts, that 15 the need would still persist into the future, since 16 we're building this for, you know, 30, 40 years out, 17 for an expected life going to 2070. 18 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: One of the questions 19 I've had -- and I think we've discussed this a 20 bit -- but related to the threshold of the need 21 discussion; you know, is the question that there's 22 been additional change or additional information 23 that could be presented over a certain threshold to 24 reopen the need decision, or is the question just</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 514</p> <p>1 seeing electrification, strategic electrification, 2 as a big part of our long-term plan and upcoming 3 plan. 4 ISO continues to try to update the CELT 5 forecasts based on public policies. They would make 6 updates based on energy efficiency programs. They 7 have just last year made modifications for the 8 forecasts for EVs, and that is starting to show up, 9 although it's later in this decade. I don't know, 10 Chair Nelson, if you want to add anything to that. 11 MR. NELSON: Yeah, I think the two big 12 things in the CELT report that are driving load down 13 tend to be energy efficiency efforts and solar, and 14 I think that the issue is with solar, like a 15 10-megawatt solar farm, you're talking about, what, 16 5 acres of land for one megawatt of solar. So 17 that's very difficult -- that would have East Boston 18 be an outlier from seeing that declining load 19 probably because of just not having the land to do 20 that. 21 For forecasts, I think, you know, that 22 we are definitely, you know, working with ISO to 23 talk about being sure that they have the equipment 24 and the load to meet demand as we start to electrify</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 516</p> <p>1 that the data is old enough that it should be 2 opened? And I guess that's a question perhaps for 3 the Siting Board staff. But revisiting the 4 threshold question would be helpful for me at this 5 point. 6 MR. GREENE: Ms. Foster Evans, would you 7 like to address that? 8 MS. EVANS: Yes. Thank you, Secretary. 9 The question before the Board that's in the TD is, 10 there is certain evidence presented that -- there 11 was certain information presented by GreenRoots and 12 by the company, with the argument that the record 13 should be open because enough has changed in the 14 load forecasts to warrant taking a look and 15 reopening the record. 16 Now, if we were to reopen the record, 17 there would be more information presented than just 18 was presented with the motion. You'd look at not 19 just the CELT forecast and the company's analysis 20 presented during the motion to reopen, but then you 21 would take a look at these other megatrends that 22 we're talking about. 23 We did not look at those megatrends. We 24 did not look at the Logan Airport additional</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 517</p> <p>1 requirement. We did not, obviously, look at Suffolk 2 Downs, because that was not a reality at that time. 3 We did not look at electrification. None of that is 4 on the record here. We don't have numbers or timing 5 for any of those additions. 6 We looked at what GreenRoots had 7 presented and what the company had presented. And 8 it was staff's determination that the information 9 that GreenRoots presented was not enough to 10 significantly change the Board's decision. It was 11 almost, you know, a small amount of change in the 12 forecast for the area. 13 And as someone here has pointed out, 14 there was an event already. There was already an 15 existing need. It was not based on the future load 16 growth. So that need was existing. Equipment 17 already did go past its ratings. 18 And therefore it was staff's 19 determination that the information presented would 20 not significantly impact the Board's decision on 21 the -- the previous decision the Board had made on 22 the need for this project. 23 MR. NELSON: Ms. Foster Evans, I believe 24 there was some previous case where the data had</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 519</p> <p>1 company has more information about that particular 2 case. I was not on that particular case myself. 3 MR. NELSON: That's okay. But I just 4 want to understand the implication here. If we 5 reopened the record here, we would be reopening 6 everything and making a determination that the 7 process by which the original determination was made 8 needs to be relitigated. Is that correct? 9 MS. EVANS: Well, not the process. The 10 question of need -- if you're going to reopen the 11 record, you would reopen the record on the need for 12 the facility. Therefore, you would redo the whole 13 need analysis for the facility, and would likely 14 spill into other areas. You might want to look at 15 the alternatives analysis, which also was done in 16 the proceeding. 17 So it's a significant step. 18 MR. NELSON: Okay. Thank you. 19 MR. MORAN: If I could: So when you 20 mentioned -- so for reopening a final decision, 21 post-decision, there has to be new evidence that 22 would have a significant impact on the initial 23 decision. 24 As far as the primary evidence -- and</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 518</p> <p>1 been -- sorry, let me rephrase that -- where the 2 Board revisited their decision in a case and 3 reopened the record. And I remember that was, the 4 data was old in that case, but if I remember the 5 docket -- I was not on the Board, obviously, for 6 that docket. Could you refresh my memory as to what 7 the basis was for reopening the record in that case? 8 Was it the data was old? I think there was 9 something related to safety as well there that had a 10 different standard. 11 MS. EVANS: Yes, you're talking about 12 the Colonial Gas case, and I think we discussed that 13 a little bit on December 16th, during the Board 14 meeting. In that particular case, the issue of 15 safety -- the Board took a look at the issue of 16 safety. That issue had not been litigated below, in 17 the original decision. 18 But the Board ended up -- the Board took 19 a look at some of the safety information to 20 determine whether to reopen the whole record, and 21 the Board did not reopen the whole record in that 22 case. It looked at the safety information and 23 concluded that the installation -- that the company 24 had proven that the installation was safe. If the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 520</p> <p>1 this is to Board staff, I believe. The primary new 2 evidence that you considered in determining if there 3 was a significant impact, was that basically just 4 the revised -- the 2020 CELT forecast? 5 MS. EVANS: So the standard is likely to 6 have. Just a small change: If the standard is 7 likely to have a significant impact, you don't have 8 to prove it will, but it's likely to have a 9 significant impact. 10 And the information we looked at was the 11 CELT forecast and Ms. Woods's testimony that went 12 with it, I believe, and the analysis that Eversource 13 had provided in response to that new CELT forecast. 14 We looked at those two pieces of information that 15 were presented to us in the motion to reopen and the 16 opposition to the motion to reopen. And then 17 GreenRoots had also put in some rebuttal. 18 MR. MORAN: As far as Dr. Woods's 19 testimony, she had -- correct me if I'm wrong -- she 20 had applied the revised CELT forecast and the 21 average reduction -- I think it was negative .2 22 percent -- and basically showed a reduction in the 23 peak load, 2023, from 323 megawatts to just over 300 24 megawatts. Is that correct?</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 521</p> <p>1 MS. EVANS: Mr. Greene?</p> <p>2 MR. GREENE: Yes, that sounds like a</p> <p>3 reasonable description of her proposed testimony.</p> <p>4 MR. MORAN: If you accept the use of the</p> <p>5 revised forecast in that manner to project a new</p> <p>6 peak load, how would that adjusted peak load affect</p> <p>7 the initial final decision in terms of the basis of</p> <p>8 the final decision, which was to resolve the N-1-1</p> <p>9 risk of low-voltage violations? So I'm just</p> <p>10 wondering, if you look at accepting that</p> <p>11 recalculation, would that have likely changed what</p> <p>12 the initial decision was at the time?</p> <p>13 MR. GREENE: So our review of her</p> <p>14 testimony as well as the response to it provided by</p> <p>15 the company was that there was a bit of an</p> <p>16 apples-and-oranges-type problem, where the analysis</p> <p>17 that was being presented was at a more regional</p> <p>18 level. The 300 megawatts you're referring to was</p> <p>19 not specific to the East Boston load situation. And</p> <p>20 the load conditions in East Boston can vary from the</p> <p>21 surrounding region. And that's where the question</p> <p>22 of what significant load additions are on the</p> <p>23 horizon becomes an important variable in East Boston</p> <p>24 specifically, as well as the potential differences</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 523</p> <p>1 contingency that was the problem at Chelsea</p> <p>2 substation. And the solution to that was to create</p> <p>3 a new 115-kV line between the Mystic substation and</p> <p>4 the Chelsea substation.</p> <p>5 So that problem has been solved. But</p> <p>6 that was the problem that affected the larger region</p> <p>7 that ISO was focused on and had a responsibility</p> <p>8 under the NERC standards that Commissioner Woodcock</p> <p>9 referenced to resolve that issue. And that would</p> <p>10 have put at risk tens of thousands of customers --</p> <p>11 close to 100,000, actually, I believe is the correct</p> <p>12 number.</p> <p>13 But East Boston is still an unresolved</p> <p>14 reliability concern, and that's what the substation</p> <p>15 is designed to alleviate and the reason that staff</p> <p>16 felt on review of the additional information that</p> <p>17 was proposed, and the hopes by GreenRoots of</p> <p>18 reopening the record that we found to not be</p> <p>19 persuasive and not change the basic story line of</p> <p>20 what the need is in East Boston.</p> <p>21 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: I'm just trying to</p> <p>22 follow this. So the threshold in this case for</p> <p>23 reopening, which is a high bar, as we've discussed</p> <p>24 throughout this case, because it is reopening a sort</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 522</p> <p>1 in the rate of load growth -- or load decrease, for</p> <p>2 that matter -- that would be different between East</p> <p>3 Boston and the surrounding region.</p> <p>4 We had problems to solve in the Greater</p> <p>5 Lynn/Revere/Chelsea load area that were part of the</p> <p>6 ISO solution, to deal with the limitations at the</p> <p>7 Chelsea substation; but there was a separate</p> <p>8 identified reliability problem at East Boston that</p> <p>9 relates to these step-load additions as well as the</p> <p>10 rate of load growth.</p> <p>11 MR. MORAN: I guess my question was</p> <p>12 just, putting aside the East Boston-specific</p> <p>13 situation, looking at the broader area of</p> <p>14 Chelsea/East Boston/Lynn, whether, assuming that</p> <p>15 reduction would have changed the determination of</p> <p>16 whether there would still be the N-1-1 --</p> <p>17 potentially N-1-1 violations. I just didn't know if</p> <p>18 you looked at that.</p> <p>19 MR. GREENE: Yeah, we did. The answer</p> <p>20 is no to that question, that the loss of significant</p> <p>21 amounts of load and customers would not have been</p> <p>22 relieved by a slight decrease in the load-growth</p> <p>23 projections. There were still potentially hundreds</p> <p>24 of megawatts of load lost in the N minus 1 minus 1</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 524</p> <p>1 of duly heard, processed decision -- the threshold</p> <p>2 in this case was that the Siting Board did not think</p> <p>3 the data presented by GreenRoots significantly</p> <p>4 changed the data that had been used during the</p> <p>5 initial decision?</p> <p>6 MR. GREENE: Correct, and not to a</p> <p>7 degree where there was a likelihood of the Board</p> <p>8 reversing its earlier findings, that were final, had</p> <p>9 survived the appeal period, and come with a lot of</p> <p>10 legal precedent on regulatory finality and the</p> <p>11 importance of that for project proponents who have</p> <p>12 to build things on a schedule to resolve problems</p> <p>13 with reliability or other needs.</p> <p>14 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Are there questions</p> <p>15 from additional Board members? Yes, Commissioner</p> <p>16 Fraser?</p> <p>17 MS. FRASER: Thank you, Madam Chair.</p> <p>18 Can staff just briefly touch on the issue of access</p> <p>19 to certain information with respect to the need and</p> <p>20 meeting the burden?</p> <p>21 MR. GREENE: I can start, and then,</p> <p>22 Ms. Evans, you can back me up.</p> <p>23 But the case -- the project-change case,</p> <p>24 if that's what you're referring to, Commissioner</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 525</p> <p>1 Fraser, is -- this case was scoped initially as 2 being about the relocation of an approved 3 substation, as we've heard over the last few days, 4 from the east side of the City parcel over to the 5 west side. So it was not scoped as a relook at need 6 or project alternatives or where else transmission 7 lines could be located.</p> <p>8 However, GreenRoots had certainly raised 9 concerns about need and whether that was still a 10 valid finding from the underlying proceeding, which 11 it was not an intervenor in or participant in at the 12 time. And my recollection is that GreenRoots did 13 ask some discovery questions of Eversource, which 14 the company objected to on legal grounds but they 15 did provide responses to those questions. So we did 16 have some discovery during the project-change phase 17 to shed some additional light on the question of 18 need. And that's referenced in the TD.</p> <p>19 MS. EVANS: It is.</p> <p>20 MS. FRASER: Thank you.</p> <p>21 MR. NELSON: Ms. Evans, I think the 22 other argument that I want to touch on is fairness 23 and not holding a public hearing in East Boston for 24 the underlying case. I think it came down to a</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 527</p> <p>1 town. And we have interpreted the term "locality," 2 which is the word used in the statute, as being 3 different from "municipality." And our regulations 4 sort of further clarify that distinction.</p> <p>5 So I don't think we felt that there were 6 grounds to find that a procedural defect in the 7 underlying proceeding that would compel us to reopen 8 the process to shed -- you know, new involvement of 9 the public or evidence on that question -- or at 10 least because of that question, let's say.</p> <p>11 I will note, by the way, that in the era 12 of Zoom, that sort of becomes perhaps a 13 less-important factor, because this Webinar, this 14 Zoom event, is not obviously geographically located 15 anywhere; it's on the Internet. So it does provide 16 access to all who are affected by the project, at 17 least who can participate on Zoom or dial in on the 18 two lines that we have.</p> <p>19 So I think that's a benefit and a 20 positive of this platform.</p> <p>21 MS. EVANS: I'd like to agree with 22 Mr. Greene, in that I think that holding the public 23 comment hearing in Chelsea met our legal obligations 24 under our regulations. Whether we could have done</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 526</p> <p>1 matter of interpretation there around localities. 2 Could you remind me again exactly where the public 3 hearings were held in the underlying case?</p> <p>4 MS. EVANS: The public hearing was held 5 in Chelsea in the underlying case.</p> <p>6 MR. GREENE: And specifically at the 7 Chelsea Senior Center. I don't have the distance 8 from East Boston, but I can tell you that in the 9 notices sent for this case, which went to households 10 within a quarter mile of the substation, we did 11 include some mailings into Chelsea because it is 12 that close.</p> <p>13 MR. NELSON: So I guess the only other 14 question I would have to other Board members were: 15 Do we feel like that met the standard there? Is 16 that something we want to relook at in the 17 underlying case?</p> <p>18 MR. GREENE: I guess I'll jump in on 19 that one, Chair Nelson. I think we -- as Ms. Evans 20 was mentioning the other day, and I think counsel 21 from Eversource touched on this, that we have a lot 22 of projects that are across multiple municipalities, 23 and it has not been our practice to uniformly hold 24 public comment hearings in each and every city and</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 528</p> <p>1 more public hearings -- I think you can always do 2 more public hearings. But I think that the choice 3 to have it met the legal obligations and wouldn't 4 have been an argued factor to reopen the record 5 below.</p> <p>6 MR. WOODCOCK: Secretary, I would say 7 the thing that I found most compelling from the 8 public testimony was regarding interpretation 9 services. I did recognize that, as an environmental 10 justice community, we do have a standard of 11 additional engagement and work. And furthermore, I 12 do wonder whether we could use this, I think as some 13 of the commenters said, as sort of a teachable 14 moment for the EFSB.</p> <p>15 Now, that is -- I was not a member of 16 the Board for this underlying case, so I'd be 17 interested in kind of a reaction from other Board 18 members of those concerns that were raised. But I 19 do think there were some suggestions that we should 20 take to heart from the public.</p> <p>21 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Yeah, I agree. I 22 think we heard some of those complaints through the 23 public comment process. And I wonder for Board 24 members who were part of the Board at this period of</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 529</p> <p>1 time if there's any feedback for those of us who 2 were not here at that point or feedback from the 3 staff? 4 MR. GREENE: Maybe I can start. I don't 5 know if we have a lot of Board members who go back 6 to the beginning phases. 7 But I agree, actually, with what 8 GreenRoots has said and what many of the commenters 9 from East Boston have said, which is that we have 10 gotten better at language access over the course of 11 this proceeding. And I do credit GreenRoots for 12 their persistent advocacy for making these 13 improvements. And we have learned how to master the 14 technology as well as the human side of delivering 15 the best language access that we're able to do. And 16 I hope the improvements have been evident. 17 I think this does set a new stage for 18 the future for language access that we'll be able to 19 continue to make improvements on as we have more 20 cases in the future. So I appreciate the advocacy 21 and the call to improve and provide better language 22 access, which I personally feel is very important. 23 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: And procedurally, 24 during the discussions on this in earlier testimony,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 531</p> <p>1 one thing for the record today, which is that, again 2 in response to concerns about GreenRoots, that the 3 dial-in features of Zoom were an impediment to those 4 who required interpretation into Spanish. 5 We did devise our own solution to that 6 problem by creating a separate dial-in line with 7 interpretation features. And over the course of the 8 two days, it's true, we did not put this in the 9 notice, since we had just recently developed the 10 solution, but we've certainly mentioned it many 11 times and included it on the slides that have been 12 shown. And we haven't had any callers yet who have 13 been on that line. So if there was an unmet demand, 14 we have not seen it. 15 MS. EVANS: While that line did not go 16 onto the notice that was mailed out to everybody in 17 early December, it's on our website. It went to the 18 service list. It went to the registered caller 19 list. We tried to disseminate that information 20 broadly. 21 MR. GREENE: And I will say also that, 22 now that we've developed this, we'll continue to use 23 it where the language characteristics warrant. And 24 perhaps Zoom will up its game a little bit and add</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 530</p> <p>1 it sounded like the Board had met statutory or legal 2 obligations in terms of access? Did we meet 3 additional -- 4 MR. GREENE: If I can answer that. The 5 tentative decision does provide a lot of descriptive 6 information about the procedural history, the 7 claims, counterclaims about what constitutes a 8 sufficient level of language access. And the 9 recommendation of the tentative decision is that we 10 do believe that we have met the requirements of the 11 language access policies -- noting that there have 12 been improvements. 13 So as a legal matter, I think our 14 position is that we have met our obligations, but it 15 is also an area where continuous improvement is 16 possible. 17 MS. EVANS: And I would agree with 18 Mr. Greene on that. I think the awareness and 19 standard has been evolving, and we are trying to 20 evolve with it, with a good push from GreenRoots. 21 And I think we have continually improved and 22 continually tried to provide the best language 23 access that we can. 24 MR. GREENE: I would like to just note</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 532</p> <p>1 this as part of its standard features. 2 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Mr. Cosco, any 3 questions from your end? 4 MR. COSCO: No, I think I'll all set, 5 Secretary. Thank you. 6 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Mr. Moran? 7 MR. MORAN: Just one additional 8 question. We've heard it referenced a number of 9 times that the four step loads have been added. 10 There haven't been any issues with reliability. So 11 that diminishes the need for the substation. I 12 guess the question again for staff: Could you 13 respond to how you would answer that, and maybe for 14 Mr. Rosenzweig as well. 15 MR. GREENE: So I would say that the 16 step loads did materialize. They came in a little 17 bit less than expected, but they still were put on 18 line. And the system did not crash, that is true. 19 But one does need to bear in mind that reliability 20 planning is not based on average daily weather 21 conditions. So they are by design based on 22 extremely hot and humid days that test the system. 23 And layer onto that something else happening that is 24 an event, whether it's loss of a transmission line</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 533</p> <p>1 or a nearby power plant that provides energy into 2 that location of the grid. 3 These are the planning parameters that 4 are used at the national level by FERC and at the 5 state level as well as by transmission companies to 6 determine the adequacy of the transmission system. 7 So if we had both the step loads and the same kinds 8 of conditions that were reflected in the modeling, 9 we could very well have the problem that was 10 identified in the underlying case in East Boston. 11 MR. CASEY: Andy, is it safe to say 12 that, given what I would call realtime situations, 13 Eversource is going to mitigate those risks however 14 they can with the infrastructure they have? 15 MR. GREENE: That's always the first 16 approach, is to try to redirect load to other areas 17 of the system that can support it, by using various 18 switching techniques. 19 The problem in this area is that, given 20 that it's served entirely by distribution voltage 21 and not transmission voltage, there are fairly 22 limited options to do that kind of switching to 23 alleviate a problem that might crop up during a hot, 24 humid day.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 535</p> <p>1 that this project was part of a collection of 2 transmission upgrades that occurred in the Greater 3 Boston reliability study, which was initially 4 conducted in 2011, 2013, with updates in 2015, and a 5 number of projects were built using the same data 6 set, including some that we're still looking at. 7 And the original filing was based on 8 2013 CELT data. That was updated during the course 9 of the underlying proceeding to include the most 10 recent CELT data of the time, which was 2015. 11 So yes, there have been CELT reports 12 issued since then. They're issued annually. 13 However, again, as we were just discussing earlier, 14 the conditions that led to a finding of need in our 15 view have not materially changed and are not likely 16 to lead to a different outcome if the Board took 17 this rather extraordinary step of reopening a final 18 record. But five years is five years; you can't 19 argue with that. 20 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: And so would that 21 be -- would that in and of itself be a first on the 22 other end of things, that length of time for a data 23 set? Or no? Is that sort of typical? 24 MR. GREENE: Again, it's not really so</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 534</p> <p>1 MR. CASEY: I think that's my point, 2 that by not moving forward with the proposed 3 solution, we're unfairly harming the neighboring 4 facilities. Is that accurate? 5 MR. GREENE: There can be a variety of 6 different adverse repercussions of this kind of 7 event, whether it's to the location of the outage 8 concern, like East Boston; it could also be a factor 9 for adjacent areas that might have to be called in 10 to support a load in the system from avoiding 11 cascading blackouts if we have this group of bad 12 events and difficult conditions. 13 So yes, there can be problems that 14 radiate out from where a line goes out or where a 15 power plant goes offline in a bad moment. 16 MR. CASEY: Thank you. 17 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: In terms of the age 18 of the data for the original decision: How does 19 that compare to other substations that have been 20 sited? I know, you know, we have had a whole 21 conversation about a point in time, but I think the 22 issue of the years of the data -- six years, I think 23 it is -- how does that compare? 24 MR. GREENE: So we should keep in mind</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 536</p> <p>1 much about the number of years that have elapsed as 2 the status of the case, that it was a final 3 decision, that there was no appeal of that decision, 4 and that construction of the project was well 5 underway. And in fact, again, the majority of the 6 Everett-Chelsea substation transmission reliability 7 project that we're dealing with has been built, but 8 for the substation. That is the remaining piece. 9 So the findings that were made have led 10 to construction, improvements in the system, but not 11 the complete measure of improvement. That's the 12 piece that we are dealing with now. 13 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: And with the project 14 change -- I'm just trying to get my dates 15 straight -- from the original site to this new site, 16 the decision that's actually before us today, was 17 that done midstream construction on the other 18 elements? When was that decision made to change the 19 project? And this might be a question for Mr. 20 Rosenzweig. 21 MR. ROSENZWEIG: After the Siting 22 Board's decision in 2017 -- it was December 2017 -- 23 the company was authorized to go forward with 24 construction of the transmission lines that were</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 537</p> <p>1 part of the regional study -- that is, from Mystic 2 to Chelsea and from Chelsea to the Chelsea Creek -- 3 ultimately to be connected into East Eagle, but not 4 to go forward with that connection until the 5 substation was later approved by the Siting Board. 6 The Siting Board asked for the company 7 to investigate an alternative location within that 8 City parcel, and we've had plenty of testimony on 9 that. But construction of the lines themselves did 10 proceed shortly after the Siting Board's decision in 11 2017 -- in the 2018-or-so time frame. Construction 12 was just completed a few months ago on that, and 13 those lines are in place now between Chelsea 14 substation and Mystic -- awaiting for a Siting Board 15 order that would authorize the lines to be brought 16 into the existing duct banks in the Chelsea Creek to 17 what hopefully would be an approved substation 18 location there, to be fed directly into that 19 substation. 20 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. 21 Mr. Greene, I know we have a member who has to leave 22 at noon, Mr. Cosco, and I know we have not gotten 23 into the second item on our list, which is the site. 24 Do you have a best-path-forward proposal at this</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 539</p> <p>1 provide notice to the parties and participants in 2 this case and get the word out as best we can and 3 use the same general process. 4 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Are there other 5 Board members who have hard stops? 6 MR. BONFIGLIO: I have a hard stop at 7 12:30. 8 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Okay. Others? 9 MR. CASEY: No, I can continue as you 10 see fit. 11 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Okay. Well, let's 12 continue for the time being for sure. I just don't 13 want to unnecessarily rush us. We've heard a lot of 14 testimony. We have a lot of decisions to consider. 15 I may still have some questions on the 16 needs piece. But do we want to move into the siting 17 piece? 18 MR. NELSON: I think that's a good place 19 to move on to. I think the testimony that I heard 20 on the siting piece, there were two things that 21 concerned me, which were flooding and the fires. So 22 I think there was good testimony provided on the 23 flooding. I think maybe we could start there and 24 see if anyone had opinions on it. I think that we</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 538</p> <p>1 point? I know no one wants to delay this further, 2 but I'm not sure how to proceed, given where we are 3 on timing. 4 MR. COSCO: Secretary, just so you know, 5 I can extend my presence here for another 15, 20 6 minutes. 7 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Okay. 8 MR. GREENE: Shall I delay the answer to 9 your question? 10 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: No, I think we're 11 probably -- we may need a backup plan, depending on 12 how long this goes. 13 MR. GREENE: Given that we were feeling 14 somewhat cursed by the weather, that every Board 15 date that we've scheduled corresponds to a 16 snowstorm, we did look to see if there was another 17 date that we could have as a backup to today and 18 yesterday. And it looks like we could hold another 19 Board meeting on February 22nd -- that's two weeks 20 from yesterday -- and resume at 1:00 o'clock in the 21 afternoon, as we did yesterday. 22 So I would suggest that that would be a 23 time to continue the meeting, assuming we don't 24 conclude in the next 15 minutes. We can again</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 540</p> <p>1 had the discussion of footings and foundations and 2 potential amendments related to that. 3 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Yes, I believe, 4 Mr. Greene, we did ask staff to look at some 5 amendments to increase the flood safety of the site. 6 MR. GREENE: Right. We definitely took 7 note of the questions that were being raised by all 8 parties in this case, as well as the Board, about 9 the adequacy of resilience to the new substation 10 site, in terms of both sea-level rise, flooding, 11 storm surge. 12 And we do have some potential additional 13 mitigation measures and supplemental conditions that 14 could be considered as amendments by the Board. 15 This may -- this discussion may take us beyond the 16 15-minute time frame, so this may be something that 17 we either take up at the following meeting or 18 perhaps distribute to the parties in the proceeding 19 as proposed supplemental staff amendments. 20 But we certainly are prepared right now 21 to at least present them. We can do a screen share 22 right now if that's helpful. But I think that's a 23 level of detail that may take more time than we 24 have.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 541</p> <p>1 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: I do agree. If, 2 which is seeming likely, that we do have to adjourn 3 and bring more time, it would be good for the 4 members and the parties to be able to review those 5 amendments. 6 I do have a quick question maybe for Mr. 7 Rosenzweig, which is: I know there's some question 8 around the lifespan of one of these substations, and 9 it seems like the electrical components -- it's 10 about 40 years, and then there's upgrades that sort 11 of are planned for. Would those -- while the 12 footings and the, you know, base may stay the same. 13 But is that a general -- is that sort of 14 a way you work, that this thing operates for 40 15 years and there's some upgrades done, and would that 16 time frame in your estimation allow for changes to 17 reflect altered flooding conditions at that point? 18 MR. ROSENZWEIG: I do believe that's 19 accurate. Forty years is the expected life of the 20 equipment. With maintenance and perhaps replacement 21 of components if it's needed, the equipment may be 22 located at the site and provide continuing operation 23 beyond that time frame. 24 I won't get into sort of the design</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 543</p> <p>1 been distributed to the parties. It did require the 2 addition of a condition to require the development 3 of an emergency response plan. And maybe I can turn 4 to Mr. Hazle, who can describe that in more detail. 5 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Before he does, I 6 see Mr. Casey. 7 MR. CASEY: I just wanted to follow up 8 to your point, Chair -- maybe it's a question to 9 Counselor Rosenzweig. What kind of resident systems 10 are going to be part of the substation as far as 11 fire suppression, security? A, is it typical, or 12 has the party contemplated additional measures 13 beyond what the standard substation has? 14 MR. ROSENZWEIG: Well, I would say that 15 the station is designed with a state-of-the-art 16 fire-suppression system that would comply with 17 industry standards and the Mass. Fire Safety Code 18 and NFPA requirements, National Fire Protection 19 requirements. There will be ample security at the 20 site, with the fencing and the security gating and 21 the monitoring of the site as well as its proximity 22 to the police station. 23 We do believe that our plan is 24 developed, an emergency response plan, in compliance</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 542</p> <p>1 flood elevation discussion again. But we do believe 2 there's ample time between now and the end of the 3 expected 40-year life for the company to be in a 4 position to investigate and take notice of extant 5 conditions -- sea-level rise, storms, whatever's 6 going on -- that would perhaps require and merit 7 adjustments to the station to ensure that the 8 continued operation of that facility would be not 9 susceptible to those types of storms or sea-level 10 rise. 11 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Other questions, or 12 should we go into the amendments? Mr. Woodcock? 13 MR. WOODCOCK: I might propose -- are 14 there any other amendments that Board members are 15 considering, rather than start going into the 16 amendments maybe that staff are to prepare? 17 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: I think one of the 18 things I would like more information on is an 19 emergency plan and evacuation plan, which I've heard 20 mentioned -- or just the need for one. But I don't 21 have a specific amendment there, just a flag for 22 something for us to discuss. 23 MR. GREENE: So I can refer to the 24 existing staff proposed amendment sheet that had</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 544</p> <p>1 with the proposed condition that addresses 2 essentially all hazards and has an extensive 3 outreach and communications system that would apply 4 to the community as well as public officials and 5 safety officials, if there were an upset condition, 6 to ensure that the emergency response objectives are 7 met. Flooding would be included within the scope of 8 what our emergency response plan would cover, as to 9 what measures we would take and how we would 10 communicate that within the community and to 11 affected agencies, if there were anticipated an 12 adverse condition as it relates to inundation of 13 waters on the site. 14 So our plan would be for filing of that 15 type of plan for the Board's review or staff's 16 review at least 30 days in advance of construction 17 to address all the topics that the staff specified 18 in the proposed amendment. 19 MR. CASEY: This is a detail you may or 20 may not know, but does the substation design 21 contemplate a compartmentalized design? Meaning is 22 there separation between the power transformers 23 either via CMU wall or some kind of separation? 24 MR. ROSENZWEIG: There would be walls</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 545</p> <p>1 around the transformers, yes. I'm not sure of the 2 exact terminology you use, whether it complies with 3 that requirement. But they would be separated by 4 walls as a safety and equipment protection measure. 5 MR. CASEY: So it would prevent 6 cascading events -- i.e., if one transformer goes, 7 it doesn't impact the others? 8 MR. ROSENZWEIG: That's correct. That 9 much I can assure you, yes. 10 MR. CASEY: Thank you. Thank you, 11 Chair. 12 MR. GREENE: Could I just ask if 13 Mr. Hazle could explain the proposed condition and 14 the additional element that we're contemplating 15 regarding sea level? 16 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: That would be 17 helpful. 18 MR. HAZLE: Thank you, Mr. Greene. The 19 staff proposed a condition that would require 20 Eversource to develop an emergency response plan. 21 We proposed that that plan would include details 22 about what equipment, the plan of action, and, you 23 know, things like where temporary barriers would be 24 deployed, how pumps would be used in the event of a</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 547</p> <p>1 few times today. The tentative decision states that 2 the minimum required separation distance, you know, 3 as required by the Massachusetts comprehensive fire 4 safety code, is 80 feet. 5 The new site, where the substation is 6 presently proposed, is 450 feet away from the jet 7 fuel storage tanks. 8 So based on the fire safety code and 9 that distance, the TD indicates there's a very low 10 risk of any catastrophic fire involving the jet fuel 11 storage tanks. 12 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Okay. And the 13 emergency plan -- I'm sorry if you said this -- when 14 would that be completed by? Does the amendment 15 specify? 16 MR. HAZLE: Yes. The condition would 17 include a requirement that the company submit that 18 to the Board at least 30 days prior to the start of 19 operations. 20 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: And how does that 21 involve -- does it involve -- local law enforcement? 22 MR. HAZLE: The plan generally -- well, 23 excuse me. The condition that we've proposed would 24 require the company to describe the specific</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 546</p> <p>1 flood. 2 So the emergency response plan would be 3 required to include specificity about how the 4 company would respond to the threat of inundation or 5 an extreme flooding event. 6 Additionally, emergency response plans 7 describe things like the chain of communication, how 8 the company would disseminate information both 9 internally and externally to public officials. 10 Currently, the emergency response plan 11 does not have any language about evacuating 12 residents or an evacuation plan. I heard that 13 mentioned as something you might be interested in, 14 and staff could -- 15 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: I don't know enough 16 to know if that is necessary in this site or with 17 this station. So I guess it's a question to others 18 with more expertise. 19 MR. HAZLE: Yes, the record in this case 20 did not assess the question of whether residents 21 would be evacuated. 22 One thing that is considered and 23 described in the tentative decision is the distance 24 from the jet fuel tanks. That's been brought up a</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 548</p> <p>1 structure of communication that would be followed in 2 the event of an emergency. I understand that 3 language to mean the structure of communication with 4 local safety authorities. We could certainly add 5 that language to directly address that concern. 6 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Okay. I think 7 that's worth adding. 8 Other questions for Mr. Hazle about this 9 amendment? 10 Mr. Greene, given that we don't have a 11 main motion, we can't make progress on this 12 amendment now; is that correct? We'll come back to 13 it at the end? Okay. 14 MR. GREENE: Right. 15 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: I just want to get 16 my order of operations correct here. 17 MR. GREENE: You are correct. 18 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Do you want to go 19 into the flood risk one now? We have 15 minutes, it 20 looks like. 21 MR. GREENE: Again, I'm not sure what 22 the time limitation is for each Board member. So 23 let's assume we can continue. 24 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Okay.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 549</p> <p>1 MR. HAZLE: Mr. Greene, I could explain 2 this verbally, or I could attempt to do a screen 3 share. It's up to the preference of the Board, I 4 suppose. 5 MR. CASEY: I love visuals. 6 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Visuals are helpful, 7 I agree. 8 MR. HAZLE: We have this translated side 9 by side with English and Spanish. So I apologize if 10 the text is a bit small. I'm trying to keep it all 11 visible. 12 So the main condition that staff have 13 proposed to address sea-level rise in an additional 14 manner is the concept of having the foundations and 15 footings for flood walls installed as part of the 16 initial construction. The idea is that, you know, 17 at a point in the future when flood walls may be 18 necessary, you know, there would already be kind of 19 the foundational and sub-base work in place, so that 20 the company could more easily and quickly construct 21 these flood walls without requiring, you know, a 22 major reconstruction of the substation. 23 The other item that we found sort of 24 advantageous about this proposal is that it would</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 551</p> <p>1 maybe this is a question for Mr. Moran, with his 2 expertise on the wetlands side. Is this something 3 that would require another order of conditions from 4 the Boston Conservation Commission? 5 MR. MORAN: I was actually just looking 6 at -- I've been trying to see if I could see the 7 details of where this would be constructed. 8 I'm not sure. If it's in the resource 9 area, depending on what was filed with the 10 Conservation Commission, it could require that to be 11 amended. And currently that order of conditions is 12 actually under appeal to the Department. 13 MR. HAZLE: I would note that yesterday 14 Mr. Rosenzweig indicated that, you know, adding 15 foundations to the substation's initial design could 16 require some repermitting, although I don't think he 17 specified which permit would need to be modified. 18 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: So could we make -- 19 just from a process standpoint, could we make this a 20 condition without knowing the permitting outcome at 21 the local level? 22 MR. HAZLE: I think that's the case. 23 Perhaps Mr. Greene could confirm. 24 MR. GREENE: I'm not sure we have a</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 550</p> <p>1 perhaps defray the entire cost of putting in flood 2 walls. We don't think flood walls will be needed 3 until much, much later in this century. So it would 4 maybe not be the most prudent thing to incur the 5 full cost at this time, immediately. So perhaps 6 installing the flood walls, the foundations, would 7 offer sort of a middle ground on the prudence 8 considerations for cost. 9 So anyway, that's the general concept of 10 the flood wall mitigation condition that could be 11 added to the tentative decision. And I have the 12 exact language that we've proposed here on the 13 screen. 14 MR. CASEY: I do love your style. I 15 assumed we were going to get a visual, we weren't 16 going to get words, we were going to see a drawing. 17 MR. HAZLE: I could -- 18 MR. CASEY: No, that's fine, that's 19 fine. 20 MR. HAZLE: I'd be happy to answer any 21 other specific questions about, you know, how this 22 condition works and, you know, what the advantages 23 and drawbacks of it might be. 24 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Is this something --</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 552</p> <p>1 solid record to know whether this particular 2 condition would reopen the order of conditions that 3 was granted and is now on appeal, as Mr. Moran 4 mentioned. 5 I will say that there have been 6 instances where we have imposed conditions as part 7 of an approval that did require repermitting in 8 other areas that we may not have been aware of at 9 the time the Board voted on a decision. So it would 10 not be unprecedented for that to happen. We 11 generally want to know what the ramifications are of 12 the conditions, both on mitigation, on cost, and on 13 other permitting agencies. 14 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Sorry. So I missed 15 the answer, I think. 16 MR. HAZLE: I think the answer is yes, 17 we can require this, and it would be the company's 18 obligation to permit the project as ordered by the 19 Board. 20 MS. EVANS: And I agree. 21 MR. ROSENZWEIG: If it's any help to the 22 Board, what I had in mind when I said that -- and 23 the Conservation Commission was one area -- is the 24 project is not directly in any wetlands area, it's</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 553</p> <p>1 only in buffer zone. And if these foundations and 2 footings were to go toward the rear of the site, it 3 would still be within the site, presumably, and 4 maybe further into the buffer zone, but not within a 5 wetland resource area itself. Again, it depends on 6 the design. But there would not be a direct impact 7 to wetlands.</p> <p>8 And if the project is subject to a 9 superseding order of conditions, it may be something 10 that could be addressed with DEP down the road as 11 part of, let's say, an amendment to the project, as 12 part of DEP's review. Again, that would depend on 13 timing and the substance of the condition.</p> <p>14 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Is there elevation 15 in this site such that a more soft solution could be 16 considered, or is this really a wall is really the 17 best option here?</p> <p>18 MR. HAZLE: What do you mean by "a soft 19 solution"?</p> <p>20 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Swales or berms or 21 some type of, you know, softer-structure landform.</p> <p>22 MR. HAZLE: I'm not sure of that off the 23 top of my head. You know, we could certainly offer 24 a condition that asks the company to endeavor to</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 555</p> <p>1 floodwater and surrounding areas? If the walls are 2 put in place, does that make the situation worse?</p> <p>3 MR. MORAN: Sorry for that. My screen 4 just changed. I think we'd need to look at where 5 the walls are being placed, and it's something to 6 consider, just to make sure there wasn't deflection 7 into other areas to create problems.</p> <p>8 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Other questions? 9 It's harder to see you all when we have something up 10 on the screen.</p> <p>11 MR. HAZLE: I do have just one more 12 visual that might be illustrative for the Board to 13 look at. These are visual renderings of the 14 substation that were prepared during the hearing -- 15 I think, you know, prepared by an architectural firm 16 or something like that. I'm looking for the best 17 view here.</p> <p>18 Okay. So this is looking to the south. 19 This fence right here is closest to Chelsea Creek. 20 And the tentative decision has already ordered that 21 this fence be replaced with, I think it's a 22 20-foot-high wall. So that was a safety condition, 23 to try to prevent the opportunity for, you know, 24 kids or whatever to climb the fence or access the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 554</p> <p>1 identify softer solutions to divert water away from 2 the substation or something like that. But those 3 types of mitigations would not be rooted in the 4 existing record.</p> <p>5 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: And then there's 6 something here that says -- oh, dewatering pumps. 7 So the pumps are to ensure that water does not 8 bounce off from the wall into the street? Or is it 9 to remove water from inside the wall?</p> <p>10 MR. HAZLE: The pumps would be only to 11 remove water that, you know, works its way in 12 through penetrations in the walls or, you know, 13 small cracks or even seeps up just through like 14 groundwater penetration. You know, if the water 15 table rises in a flood event.</p> <p>16 So the dewatering pumps would only be 17 effective in combination with walls. And the 18 company estimated that those would cost about a 19 million dollars in 2019 dollars. So if pumps are 20 purchased in 2070, obviously that number would be 21 different.</p> <p>22 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Mr. Moran, I'll ask 23 you a question again, just based on your permitting 24 experience: Do you think there are issues with</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 556</p> <p>1 substation. It would just make the substation even 2 less accessible to the public from a safety 3 standpoint.</p> <p>4 So already the substation will have a 5 wall along what I think is the north side, bordering 6 Chelsea Creek, and then it will be walled along this 7 side, which I think is Condor Street. I'm sorry if 8 I'm getting my geography mixed up. Yes.</p> <p>9 So the substation currently has, you 10 know, solid wall panelings on at least two sides, 11 and adding foundations and footings in would sort of 12 make it possible to finish off adding walls around 13 the remainder of the substation.</p> <p>14 MR. ROSENZWEIG: Just a quick 15 correction, Mr. Hazle: I think you said 20 feet. 16 My recollection of the TD was 25 feet -- 12 feet of 17 concrete and 13 feet of fiberglass.</p> <p>18 MR. HAZLE: Thank you, Mr. Rosenzweig. 19 I'll stop sharing my screen so that the 20 Board can see each other and continue their 21 discussion.</p> <p>22 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. I know 23 we're losing two of you in a moment -- for the 24 record, Mr. Cosco and Mr. Bonfiglio. Are there</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 557</p> <p>1 other -- I think we have -- we can continue talking. 2 Are there other questions or proposed amendments 3 from the Board on the siting of the substation on 4 this particular parcel? 5 MR. WOODCOCK: I have one that I'd like 6 to raise regarding -- I had one question, I think 7 two days ago -- but whether we could enhance the 8 community outreach for the design, for the 9 esthetics, ensuring that there's -- I think there's 10 an open house proposed, that it be done with 11 translation services and be done during an evening 12 and weekend time period. 13 Furthermore, I did want to ask -- I am 14 concerned about the site selection, of the 15 esthetics. It was helpful to see that visual -- but 16 whether there's been any discussion of further 17 mitigation compared between the original site and 18 this site -- it is much closer to the playground -- 19 and whether there's been some consideration to 20 mitigate that somehow. 21 MS. EVANS: I think we could definitely 22 put some language -- propose some language to 23 include in the final decision that would require the 24 outreach portion on the esthetics to, perhaps</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 559</p> <p>1 that you had mentioned earlier? 2 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Which one? I'm 3 sorry. 4 MR. GREENE: The motion to adjourn for 5 today and reconvene. 6 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Yes, I think that 7 probably makes the most sense. I at least am 8 feeling like I could use a little bit more time with 9 the record and all of the new pieces that we now 10 have in front of us. I know that everyone would 11 like to move forward with this quickly. I do think 12 with the absence of two members and with the number 13 of things we've heard and the amendments we're 14 looking at, I would appreciate some additional time. 15 Can you go over, Mr. Greene, the 16 schedule for the next meeting of the Board? And at 17 this point we will have closed all of the commenting 18 portion. It will just be the deliberations 19 remaining. 20 MR. GREENE: That's right. And again, 21 we have a time available with Board members' 22 calendars for Monday, February 22nd, at 1:00 o'clock 23 in the afternoon until really whenever the 24 deliberations are completed.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 558</p> <p>1 instead of us guessing what the best timing is for 2 those meetings, maybe involve GreenRoots in finding 3 out what is the best time for the community to meet 4 on those esthetics and to require interpretation. 5 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: I don't know if 6 Mr. Daniels wanted to comment on this at all from 7 GreenRoots' perspective or from the community 8 perspective. I don't remember the earlier 9 discussions exactly around the esthetics of the site 10 and the process there. 11 MR. DANIELS: We don't have comments to 12 offer about esthetics. 13 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Okay. 14 MR. COSCO: Madam Chair, I do have to 15 leave the meeting now. I apologize. 16 MR. BONFIGLIO: And I as well. Thank 17 you. 18 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: Thank you. 19 MS. EVANS: We should identify for the 20 record the people that just left. 21 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: So Mr. Bonfiglio has 22 left at 12:30 and Mr. Cosco has left at 12:30. 23 MR. GREENE: So given that we have 24 thinned out a bit, should we get back to the motion</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 560</p> <p>1 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: I think if possible 2 we should leave that time -- I mean, I am hoping we 3 are in a good place to not use more than a couple of 4 hours, now that we've gotten this far. But I would 5 encourage folks to leave their calendars free for 6 that time, so we can indeed get through the final 7 decision that day. 8 At this point, I would like to thank the 9 members of the Board and the staff, particularly all 10 of the people who have come and shared their public 11 comment with us, to the intervenors and limited 12 participants for the data and testimony that they 13 have provided, to the company for continuing to 14 answer questions, and to everyone who's been able to 15 watch at home. Thank you very much, and we will see 16 you on the 22nd. 17 MR. GREENE: We do need a motion and a 18 vote. 19 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: I was jumping the 20 gun here. So do I have a motion to -- 21 MR. WOODCOCK: Motion to adjourn. 22 MR. CASEY: Seconded. 23 MR. WOODCOCK: Second. 24 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: All in favor? We</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 561</p> <p>1 don't need to do a roll call for this, Mr. Greene?</p> <p>2 MR. GREENE: I saw everybody's hand up.</p> <p>3 CHAIR THEOHARIDES: The video helps.</p> <p>4 Thank you very much.</p> <p>5 (The hearing concluded at 12:34 p.m.)</p> <p>6</p> <p>7</p> <p>8</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 563</p> <p style="text-align: center;">I N D E X</p> <p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 Comments by:</p> <p>4 Lydia Edwards 434</p> <p>5 Samantha Bennett (for Michael Flaherty) 439</p> <p>6 Heather O'Brien 440</p> <p>7 Grace Hall 444</p> <p>8 Brita Lundberg 446</p> <p>9 Susan Shepherd 449</p> <p>10 Paula Garcia 452</p> <p>11 Jossie Valentin (for Edward Markey) 457</p> <p>12 Ethan Vogt 459</p> <p>13 Lise Hildebrandt 461</p> <p>14 Matthew Pollock 464</p> <p>15 John Valinch 468</p> <p>16 Ibrahim Lopez 471</p> <p>17 Clinton Burgos 473</p> <p>18 Alan Linov 474</p> <p>19 Brian Ferrari 476</p> <p>20 Sandra Lacey 478</p> <p>21 Juliana Morris 482</p> <p>22 Paul Shoaf Kozak 485</p> <p>23 Rebecca Shoaf Kozak 488</p> <p>24 Sara Driscoll 490</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 562</p> <p>1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 I, Alan H. Brock, the officer before</p> <p>4 whom the foregoing proceedings were taken, do</p> <p>5 certify that this transcript is a true record of the</p> <p>6 proceedings on February 9, 2021.</p> <p>7</p> <p>8</p> <p>9</p> <p>10 _____</p> <p>11 Alan H. Brock, RDR, CRR</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 564</p> <p>1 Deysi Gutierrez 491</p> <p>2 Abdi Ali 493</p> <p>3 Damali Vidot 496</p> <p>4 Caroline Ellenbird 500</p> <p>5</p> <p>6</p> <p>7</p> <p>8</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p>

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