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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

EFSB 22-01

PUBLIC HEARING, held via Zoom video conference, by the Energy Facilities Siting Board, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts, on Wednesday, March 30, 2022, commencing at 6:00 p.m. concerning

NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY, d/b/a Eversource Energy  
Certificate of Environmental Impact and  
Public Interest - East Eagle Substation

SITTING:

Donna Sharkey, Presiding Officer

Andrew Greene, Siting Division Director

Joan Foster Evans, General Counsel

Wayne Wang and Joanna Yelen, Analysts

Brian Casey, Board member

-----Reporter: David A. Arsenault, RPR-----

Farmer Arsenault Brock LLC

Boston, Massachusetts

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PRESENT:  
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d/b/a Eversource Energy  
  
Commenters indexed on final page.

1 PROCEEDINGS -- 6:00 p.m.

2 MS. SHARKEY: On the record.

3 This is a public comment hearing of the  
4 Energy Facilities Siting Board in Docket EFSB 22-01,  
5 NSTAR Electric Company, doing business as Eversource  
6 Energy, in its request for a certificate of  
7 environmental impact and public interest for the  
8 East Eagle Substation.

9 Good evening and welcome everybody. To  
10 start, I want to explain how to use Zoom tonight to  
11 ensure that everyone can fully participate in this  
12 public comment hearing from the start. We have  
13 interpreters who will be translating from English to  
14 Spanish and Spanish to English. To select your  
15 desired language, click on the globe icon at the  
16 bottom of your screen and select English or Spanish  
17 so that you can hear everything said today with  
18 interpretation as needed. I will give you a moment  
19 so you can do that.

20 (Spanish instructions.)

21 MS. SHARKEY: For audio-only  
22 participation, attendees can dial in at area code  
23 646-558-8656, which is not a toll-free number, and  
24 then enter the webinar ID 82397324201. I'll repeat

1 that number. It is 82397324201.

2 Please do not check the box that says  
3 mute original audio. We recommend this so that you  
4 can still hear the voice of the actual speaker  
5 faintly in the background, but mostly you will hear  
6 the voice of the interpreter.

7 Dial-in participants will hear the  
8 speaker's voice without interpretation as Zoom does  
9 not offer interpretation for dial-in participants.  
10 However, all comments made by dial-in participants  
11 on this number will be interpreted into Spanish or  
12 English.

13 My name is Donna Sharkey. I'm the  
14 presiding officer in this proceeding and am  
15 conducting the public comment hearing being held  
16 tonight. Before we begin tonight I would like to  
17 acknowledge with sadness the recent death of former  
18 Board member and Department of Public Utilities  
19 Chair Angela O'Connor. Many board members and  
20 colleagues are attending services for her tonight  
21 and are unable to be here. However, as you can see  
22 on your video screen, there are other staff with me  
23 from the Energy Facilities Siting Board who will be  
24 involved in the review of this certificate request,

1 including Andrew Greene, director of the Siting  
2 Board; Joan Foster Evans, general counsel of the  
3 Siting Board; Wayne Wang and Joanna Yelen, energy  
4 facilities analysts with the Siting Board. In  
5 addition, Brian Casey, who is a member of the Siting  
6 Board is in attendance and you can see him on your  
7 screens as well tonight.

8 Finally, please note that this public  
9 comment hearing is being recorded and the recording  
10 will be posted to the Siting Board's YouTube channel  
11 for viewing.

12 The Siting Board is conducting this  
13 public comment hearing to allow the public to  
14 comment on Eversource's request that the Siting  
15 Board issue 15 state and local permits and approvals  
16 needed for the construction and operation of the  
17 substation to be located on Condor Street in East  
18 Boston. The list of those permits is provided in  
19 the notice.

20 The Siting Board approved the  
21 construction and operation of the Mystic-East Eagle-  
22 Chelsea Reliability Project, including the  
23 substation in East Boston, in Docket Number EFSB  
24 14-04/DPU 14-153 and 14-154. On February 26 the

1 Siting Board approved the relocation of the proposed  
2 substation to a location approximately 190 feet west  
3 of the prior approved location.

4           Massachusetts laws give the Siting Board  
5 authority to issue a certificate which effectively  
6 includes all state and local permits required for  
7 the construction and operation of an energy facility  
8 for a certificate -- of an energy facility that has  
9 previously been approved by the Siting Board. In  
10 order to be eligible for a certificate, applicants  
11 must demonstrate at least one of five conditions  
12 that are met as part of the request for a  
13 certificate. These include: One, the project  
14 cannot meet the requirements of a state or local  
15 agency with commercially available equipment; two,  
16 there has been undue delay by an agency in issuing a  
17 permit; three, inconsistencies in the permits that  
18 have been issued; four, there has been an  
19 unreasonable condition imposed as part of the  
20 permit; or five, a necessary permit has been denied.

21           The Board's decision on this certificate  
22 request will review the complete record of evidence  
23 presented during the adjudicatory hearings that  
24 begin on May 17. As part of our investigation the

1 Board must consider: One, there is a need for the  
2 facility; two, the facility design meets the  
3 environmental protection, public health and public  
4 safety goals and policies; three, the grant of an  
5 exemption from state and local requirements is  
6 reasonable and consistent with providing a necessary  
7 energy supply for the Commonwealth with a minimum  
8 impact on the environment at the lowest possible  
9 cost; and four, the construction and operation of  
10 the facility serves the public interest, convenience  
11 and necessity.

12 Eversource Energy has representatives  
13 who are present and will be making a short  
14 presentation describing their certificate request.  
15 After that presentation we will take comments from  
16 the public starting with federal, state and local  
17 officials, parties and interested persons from the  
18 two previous EFSB proceedings related to the  
19 proposed substation, and then members of the general  
20 public. Before the company's presentation begins,  
21 I'm going to outline some guidelines to use in  
22 speaking at this public comment hearing.

23 There is a court reporter participating  
24 remotely who will transcribe everything said during

1 the hearing. As we are all relying on internet  
2 connections or telephones to participate, we could  
3 experience some technical problems such as sound  
4 from speakers, including potential background noise,  
5 video and audio issues and potential delays. Please  
6 speak slowly and clearly to allow a speaker to  
7 finish speaking before you begin speaking and to pay  
8 attention to the video of the person speaking and  
9 unfortunately my video. I will raise my hand as a  
10 sign if I need to interrupt the person currently  
11 speaking to ask them to stop. I will briefly  
12 reiterate those instructions when we open the floor  
13 to public comment. We plan to break every 90  
14 minutes or so for ten minutes and then resume until  
15 we have heard from everyone who wants to offer  
16 comments tonight.

17 I am now going to turn to Eversource's  
18 representatives and allow them the opportunity to  
19 describe the certificate request that they have  
20 filed with the Siting Board and briefly present the  
21 important details of the request to the members of  
22 the public who are here tonight.

23 MR. ROSENZWEIG: Good evening. Thank  
24 you, Presiding Officer Sharkey and members of the



1 public. We are very pleased to be here tonight for  
2 the public comment hearing. I want to introduce  
3 Craig Hallstrom, who is president for operations for  
4 NSTAR Electric Company, and Nicole Bowden, who is  
5 the community representative for this project.  
6 Craig will start off with some opening remarks and  
7 the two of them will go through a very short and  
8 brief PowerPoint presentation highlighting what the  
9 project is all about, what is driving the need for  
10 the project, and how the project conforms with the  
11 Siting Board's standards. Thank you.

12 MR. HALLSTROM: Good evening, everyone.  
13 Again, my name is Craig Hallstrom and I am the  
14 regional president of electric operations for  
15 Eversource. I'm joined here tonight by Nicole  
16 Bowden from our Eversource community relations team.  
17 And as you have just heard, we will be doing a brief  
18 presentation on our East Boston substation project.

19 Before we get going, I just want to give  
20 you a little background about myself for the folks  
21 who don't know me. I've been in the electric  
22 utility business for just over 40 years. For the  
23 far majority of those years I've been responsible  
24 for construction, operating, and maintenance of the

1 electric system. As the president of electric  
2 operations for Eversource, my responsibilities are  
3 really to provide reliable electric service to all  
4 of our customers. In a nutshell, my job is to keep  
5 the lights on for all of our customers across our  
6 system.

7 I wanted to be here tonight because I  
8 really want to hear your comments about this  
9 extremely important project. When I think about  
10 risk for customer outages, especially during a  
11 prolonged summer heat wave, maybe this summer, this  
12 region, East Boston/Chelsea area is really what  
13 keeps me up at night. In my career I have never had  
14 a situation where a major substation like Chelsea,  
15 three big power transformers, has reached its  
16 maximum capacity to serve without a clear and  
17 actionable solution at the ready. But this is where  
18 we are at and this is what we are trying to work  
19 through. But it will be more and more challenging  
20 as time goes on to kind of manage and withstand this  
21 risk until a new substation is built. Collectively  
22 I truly believe we all need to deliver a solution  
23 for the residents and businesses in both East Boston  
24 and Chelsea.

1           In addition to myself and Nicole, we  
2 have a number of Eversource representatives also  
3 participating and listening to all comments. As I  
4 say, your comments are very valuable to us in this  
5 process. Comments can be made to us via email,  
6 projectinfo@Eversource.com, that's  
7 projectinfo@Eversource.com. And I commit that we  
8 will respond to any and all questions.

9           With that, Nicole and I will take you  
10 through our presentation.

11           (PowerPoint presentation)

12           There we go. I'm going to say probably  
13 throughout this presentation multiple times,  
14 electric service in the East Boston/Chelsea area is  
15 at risk. When you think about the electric system,  
16 just in its most elementary way, generators produce  
17 the energy, transmission lines transport it from the  
18 distance at a very high voltage, and it goes to  
19 substations where the substation does the important  
20 work of stepping down the transmission voltage to  
21 the distribution voltage that ultimately serves our  
22 customers and businesses.

23           You know, in all utilities substations,  
24 not just Eversource, but all utilities, substations

1 are located at the customer load center. That's  
2 where they do their work. And in many cases the  
3 design for areas especially with high loads, like  
4 our metropolitan Boston area, there are multiple  
5 substations that overlap each other to provide  
6 redundancy and backup and kind of that reliability  
7 that we need to serve our customers. And I'll talk  
8 about that a little later.

9 But when you look at the City of Boston  
10 and really across the Eversource system, most  
11 neighborhoods and all load centers have substations  
12 and most have multiple substations. Really, like I  
13 said, it is really a standard utility design that a  
14 substation is built, it serves a load pocket, and  
15 there's another substation and they kind of overlap.  
16 So there's redundancy and backup.

17 When you think about a substation, it is  
18 power transformers, large power transformers,  
19 switchgears, circuit breakers. They are critical  
20 parts of the system. If there's a problem at a  
21 substation, it usually takes some time to repair. A  
22 problem with a power transformer is not something  
23 that happens very quickly. And we at Eversource, we  
24 spend a lot of effort inspecting and maintaining our

1 substations because they are so critical to serving  
2 our customers.

3           When you think about the Chelsea  
4 substation, and I know you have a lot of information  
5 on it, but the Chelsea substation, quite frankly, is  
6 just out of capacity. The electric demand in the  
7 East Boston/Chelsea area has just grown over the  
8 years. And we are at this situation where it is out  
9 of capacity. When you look at East Boston in  
10 particular, the population is growing extremely  
11 fast, twice as much as the city population in  
12 general. And you take development and the request  
13 to connect new customers, EVs, those types of  
14 things, you can see how the demand in this area is  
15 growing.

16           As I said, and I'll probably say this  
17 many times, East Boston and Chelsea is at  
18 significant risk, especially in hot weather. And  
19 I'm very concerned, as I said, about our ability to  
20 serve this part of our territory reliably. If not  
21 the most, it's one of the most significant  
22 reliability risks on our system. As I said, having  
23 a substation beyond its capacity or at its capacity  
24 without a firm plan is something that makes me very

1 uncomfortable and something that we are not used to.

2 A failure at Chelsea, and it could be  
3 during a hot period, it could be lightning, it could  
4 be a number of things, but anything that causes the  
5 Chelsea station to go off line, there is no backup  
6 to the East Boston/Chelsea area. Because we are  
7 single threaded, we have one substation in the area  
8 that does not connect to any other substations in  
9 the area, it is at extreme risk.

10 As I said, the substation equipment is  
11 not easily replaced. If there is a problem, it  
12 could be hours, days or weeks. It is that  
13 significant. Moving a power transformer into  
14 Chelsea in the event there was a failure would take  
15 a significant amount of time. So we are  
16 significantly at risk.

17 I will add that without this new  
18 substation and the extra capacity, it will be a  
19 challenge for this area to be part of the new kind  
20 of electrification of systems like EVs and like heat  
21 pumps and those types of things. This substation is  
22 needed and it is really past due.

23 Go to the next slide.

24 Just graphically this kind of helps kind

1 of better understand what I've been speaking about.  
2 When you look at the Chelsea station, and you look  
3 at the graph, we have been forecasting the load for  
4 many, many years. I mean this project has been kind  
5 of in progress for many years. And we've been  
6 watching the load. And we are at a point now where  
7 in 2021 our forecasted loads were right on track.  
8 We are at the maximum of load being able to be  
9 carried by Chelsea in 2021.

10 As we look into 2022, you can see -- if  
11 you look at the brown line, that line is the normal  
12 operating limits of the equipment at the substation.  
13 So we always want to be operating below that brown  
14 line, and really, somewhat significantly below the  
15 brown line. We like to operate the system  
16 conservatively because substations are so important  
17 to us. But in this case, again, there's no place  
18 else to put the load. We are single threaded. We  
19 just have Chelsea. So in 2022 under the right  
20 conditions, and most likely it will be during a  
21 prolonged heat wave this summer, we will exceed the  
22 normal capacity of the Chelsea substation.

23 What that means is, when we go above  
24 that brown line we have approximately 30 minutes to

1 get it back under the line. Traditionally if we are  
2 in another part of our system and we had a  
3 neighboring substation, we operate those substations  
4 as one system and we would be able to transfer load  
5 to the other station. So we basically leverage all  
6 the capacity in the area. We won't be able to do  
7 that here because there's no place to transfer it  
8 to.

9 We are looking at options. We are  
10 looking at portable generators, and we would like to  
11 have those at the ready in case this happens and we  
12 are working through that. We have other things we  
13 can do such as reduce voltage, which reduces the  
14 power consumption at the station. We can ask  
15 customers to reduce their load. But in reality  
16 during a prolonged heat wave this summer we could be  
17 de-energizing customers and go into rolling outages  
18 until we can get our portable generators up and  
19 going. And as the graph shows it only gets worse as  
20 you go into '22, '23, '24.

21 Now the red line, that red line  
22 signifies the point at which all transformers, all  
23 equipment in the substation, have exceeded its  
24 emergency limits. So when you get to 2025 and the



1 load goes over the red line, it basically shows that  
2 there's just no way to carry the load any longer.  
3 So in those cases, and even in the years before, we  
4 really need to look at connecting new customers and  
5 our ability to do that. And for '23 and '24, we are  
6 really going to have to look at the load profile  
7 from this year to see if it is what we forecasted,  
8 and hopefully it is not higher. And then we will  
9 have to look at other mitigations such as  
10 potentially rolling in a mobile transformer, more  
11 generators. But it gets harder and harder as we go  
12 to mitigate this issue.

13 That's why it is extremely important; as  
14 the slide shows, time is of essence. We need to get  
15 this substation permitted. We need to start  
16 construction because by the time we hit 2024, 2025,  
17 we are going to be in a real bad position.

18 And I would add, it is just not  
19 responsible. I mean it's not the way I want to  
20 treat our customers. It's not the way I want to run  
21 our system. And with this substation, it really  
22 needs to be built.

23 The next slide. So this slide really is  
24 kind of a recap of what I just said. The slide on

1 the left is the current situation where we have one  
2 substation in Chelsea that serves the entire area.  
3 And just, kind of history, way back a hundred years  
4 ago this area was served directly out of the Mystic  
5 generating station. So the circuits and the feeders  
6 came directly from Mystic to serve this area. But  
7 as load grew, that no longer was an option and we  
8 built the Chelsea substation to feed this area. And  
9 at that time although not optimal -- but that was  
10 many, many years ago; because the one substation as  
11 I said does not give us redundancy -- but it served  
12 the load. And then at a time later on, it was two  
13 transformers, we added three transformers.

14 So today we have maxed out those three  
15 transformers. It is not a good way to run an  
16 electric system with no redundancy. And again you  
17 can see it from this picture on the left, the  
18 Chelsea/East Boston is somewhat of an island. There  
19 is no other sources into that area except for  
20 Chelsea. And the transmission comes out of Mystic  
21 and goes to Chelsea at this point. So our options  
22 with just the one transformer are very limited.

23 The slide on the right is what we are  
24 proposing, adding the East Eagle Substation. That

1 substation is positioned in the middle of a load  
2 pocket of East Boston and it is located where we  
3 installed a new creek crossing several years ago so  
4 that we can very -- we can facilitate bringing the  
5 transmission over. But again, those two substations  
6 will back each other up. So that when it is time to  
7 do maintenance at either substation, the other  
8 station will pick up the load so that we can  
9 de-energize and do maintenance.

10 Right now all the circuits that serve  
11 East Boston all come out of Chelsea. They come out  
12 of the substation, they cross the creek and the new  
13 crossing, and get distributed amongst East Boston.  
14 With the new substation, with new East Eagle, we can  
15 reduce the length of some of those circuits and that  
16 in turn reduces the exposure. So reliability will  
17 increase as well, as well as the additional capacity  
18 for the future; we will actually be able to improve  
19 the reliability and, if the lights do go out, our  
20 ability to restore very quickly.

21 So clearly, the slide on the right is  
22 where we need to go. There is no other option. As  
23 I said, we are out of time and we are in a very,  
24 very difficult position going forward over the next

1 few years until this station gets built.

2 With that, I'm going to turn it over to  
3 Nicole and she is going to go over some of the  
4 outreach we have done, some of the details about the  
5 substation, the safety, the design, and so I'll turn  
6 that over to her.

7 (Nicole Bowden)

8 MS. BOWDEN: Thank you so much, Craig.  
9 Unlike Craig, I will not go through my background,  
10 but I am a community relations specialist with  
11 Eversource. I think most of the folks on this call,  
12 we are all old acquaintances as we have been going  
13 through this journey with each other for the last  
14 few years. So welcome. Thank you all for being  
15 here. I know it has been a very long March with  
16 wonky weather this week. I think we have had  
17 winter, summer, spring and fall. We have had a  
18 bunch of it and everyone is kind of tired with the  
19 long March. So thank you for being here this  
20 evening as participants.

21 I just want to start off by reiterating  
22 some of Craig's comments. I can't restate enough  
23 how urgent the need is for this substation to be  
24 constructed in East Boston. As Craig stated, there

1 is a serious threat for reliability for the East  
2 Boston and their neighboring Chelsea community this  
3 upcoming summer 2022. We need to get the substation  
4 constructed to continue to ensure reliable power to  
5 both of these communities.

6 And with that, we need to ensure that we  
7 have the permits in place to begin that  
8 construction. While it is our preference to  
9 continue working with our partners at the City of  
10 Boston throughout that permitting process, we  
11 understand this great need and we have to proceed  
12 with this override process in conjunction with  
13 working with those partners at the City of Boston to  
14 be sure that these permits are obtained in a timely  
15 manner to construct the substation. In addition to  
16 working with our partners at the City of Boston, it  
17 is also pivotal that we work with our partners in  
18 the community.

19 What you see here on this slide is a  
20 rendering of the future substation. This new  
21 substation is a necessary solution that will provide  
22 the area residents with reliable and safe power to  
23 support electrical demand now and in the future.

24 And on this slide, you will see your

1 residents have spent the last several months working  
2 through different renderings with us to develop what  
3 you see here today, offering input, driving this  
4 design and developing what is here. Over the next  
5 several weeks we will reach out to more of the  
6 community to drive this design and give us their  
7 input so that we can have a product that will be  
8 both aesthetically pleasing to the East Eagle  
9 community, and will be safe, and will not allow for  
10 trespassing, that will also enhance the urban wild  
11 community while adding to the aesthetics, again, of  
12 the Plan East Boston that is going on in the  
13 community as well as the Eagle Hill community.

14 Next slide, please. Again, as I said,  
15 we are all old acquaintances. I wanted to take this  
16 time to look back and discuss a little bit of the  
17 outreach that has happened with both the City of  
18 Boston and folks of East Boston. While this slide  
19 states that we started our outreach in 2014, most of  
20 you know the outreach began sometime in 2008 with us  
21 working with the City of Boston to do a land swap  
22 for the area that everyone now frequents with the  
23 East Boston branch of the Boston Public Library.  
24 The beautiful building on Bremen Street was a

1 property once owned by Eversource that was going to  
2 be used to develop a substation there.

3           During that land swap Eversource  
4 acquired the property in Eagle Hill and began the  
5 siting process for the substation that is currently  
6 sited where it is today. Throughout that process  
7 in 2014 and beyond we worked with the East Boston  
8 community having many discussions regarding the  
9 siting, the development of the substation, the  
10 soliciting of feedback. In 2017 the project was  
11 approved with the condition that we work with the  
12 City of Boston to relocate the substation on the  
13 parcel that Eversource and the City of Boston  
14 currently own jointly. We filed a petition with the  
15 EFSB to move the parcel to the location that it is  
16 today.

17           Subsequently that location was approved  
18 by the Energy Facilities Siting Board. And with  
19 that approval Eversource began the permitting  
20 process with its partners at the City of Boston.  
21 Throughout that permitting process Eversource has  
22 proactively worked with our partners in the City of  
23 Boston supplying them with the documentation  
24 necessary to move our permits forward for the grant

1 of location process, the environmental permitting  
2 process, and any other process that the city has  
3 required of us.

4 As we continue to work with the city, we  
5 will work with the city and the EFSB to move these  
6 permits forward so that the substation can be  
7 constructed and so that reliability and power remain  
8 in the East Boston community. In addition to  
9 working with the city to construct the substation,  
10 we will also continue to work with the community  
11 throughout the aesthetic design process.

12 I just wanted to quickly give you folks  
13 in addition to this physical outreach, I wanted to  
14 give you some numbers on the outreach for the  
15 aesthetic design process. We have been using  
16 something called Constant Contact for email  
17 notification. Beginning in August of 2021 and  
18 throughout March of 2022 we sent out roughly 50 (15  
19 - inaudible) emails whether they include invites or  
20 updates on the focus groups that we have had. Those  
21 emails we have an 89 percent open rate. So people  
22 are engaging with us. They are reading the content,  
23 and they are getting involved even if it is only  
24 through email and that design process. We are



1 working with the community as necessary and above  
2 and beyond to make sure that we solicit that  
3 community input and that your stamp is on the design  
4 of this substation.

5           Next slide, please. I know you guys are  
6 probably sick of hearing this, but electricity is an  
7 essential service. Without it everything goes down.  
8 We know this. During the pandemic there was a  
9 shift. There was a day when everyone got the phone  
10 call that said you are going to be working from  
11 home. We all had to plug in and power up. Because  
12 of that we were all happy that when you hit that  
13 light switch the lights came on, when you plugged in  
14 those laptops the laptops were able to come on and  
15 we were all able to join in the Zoom calls as we are  
16 doing here tonight. Without this substation this is  
17 not going to continue to be possible as in years  
18 past.

19           Immediate action is needed to protect  
20 the interest of electric customers in East Boston,  
21 and again your neighbors in Chelsea because this too  
22 affects the folks in Chelsea. Our concern for the  
23 community interests are propelling us forward. I  
24 like to use this analogy. This summer we are hoping

1 that we will have some beautiful, hot weather as  
2 things go back to normal and heading out of this  
3 pandemic. You are coming home from work, your kids  
4 are coming home from camp, everyone is tired, you  
5 are ready to get in the shower. You don't have any  
6 electric. The water is not hot. You can't sit down  
7 and watch the Red Sox game, the TV is not coming on.  
8 The AC is not blowing, the fans are not blowing.  
9 And there will be three, four, five, six days of  
10 this because we have to roll these generators in to  
11 bring the power back up. We want to avoid this.

12 We understand that the substation cannot  
13 be constructed this summer as we work through  
14 permitting, but we need to get it working, and we  
15 need to get the substation constructed. We need to  
16 get generators into these communities so we can keep  
17 the power running.

18 We are requesting a certificate of  
19 environmental impact and public interest to grant  
20 the remaining state and local permits required to  
21 construct the East Eagle Substation. These include  
22 certain grants of location that we believe were  
23 unduly delayed, necessary construction permits that  
24 are not quite progressing, and state and local

1 wetland permits that, yes, were granted but are  
2 currently under appeal.

3 Next slide, please. In addition to the  
4 project info hot line, I believe that many of you  
5 already have my phone number, but here you will see  
6 my cell phone as well as my email address. There  
7 are many of you that know I do answer my phone  
8 personally as well as my emails. Please feel free  
9 to give me a call, email me, or reach out to  
10 projectinfo@Eversource.com. Thank you so much.

11 MR. HALLSTROM: That ends our  
12 presentation. I do want to thank you for giving us  
13 the time to present the information. I know some of  
14 you have heard this before, but it is a serious  
15 situation, but I'm confident that we will work  
16 through it and get to a better place. Thank you.

17 MS. SHARKEY: Thank you.

18 Next we will turn to the public to offer  
19 comments and ask questions about the company's  
20 certificate request and information provided by  
21 Eversource in its presentation. We are going to  
22 take some people out of the order we had originally  
23 scheduled because of other public meetings going on  
24 in the East Boston area. So I'm just going to give

1 a little, brief speech about what people need to pay  
2 attention to when they speak. Then we will turn to  
3 some of those people who have signed up with the  
4 Siting Board to speak tonight.

5 If we experience technical problems  
6 during the meeting such as background noise, video  
7 or audio issues, the stenographer may request a  
8 speaker to repeat themselves. I ask anyone who  
9 speaks tonight to mute their audio when listening  
10 and only unmute when it is your turn to speak. This  
11 will ensure the best audio quality for everyone.  
12 Please speak slowly and clearly and allow the prior  
13 speaker to finish before you begin speaking. We  
14 appreciate everyone's participation today.

15 We will also be posting a video  
16 recording of tonight's public comment hearing on the  
17 Siting Board's YouTube channel so that people who  
18 could not attend but wish to see what was said at  
19 this hearing will be able to view that recording.  
20 In addition, a written transcript of this hearing  
21 will be posted in the Siting Board file room for  
22 this proceeding. People would be able to access the  
23 transcript at [https://mass.gov/info-](https://mass.gov/info-details/East-Eagle-certificate)  
24 [details/](https://mass.gov/info-details/East-Eagle-certificate)East-Eagle-certificate. Those

1 links are also posted in the notice for this  
2 hearing. Please notice that the transcript is the  
3 official record of this public comment hearing.

4 Normally we begin taking comments from  
5 public officials. Tonight Senator Lydia Edwards has  
6 asked to speak but she asked to offer her remarks at  
7 7:15 tonight. So we are going to begin with the  
8 first state public official who has requested to  
9 speak tonight, Representative Adrian Madaro. If  
10 he's not available. I believe his chief of staff is  
11 going to offer a statement on his behalf.

12 MS. RIVAS: Hello. My name is Gloribel  
13 Rivas. I am chief of staff for Representative  
14 Adrian Madaro. Unfortunately he had another  
15 commitment this evening. He wishes to be here but  
16 had another meeting. I will speak on his behalf  
17 very briefly if that's okay with you.

18 MS. SHARKEY: Thank you.

19 MS. RIVAS: Thank you. So I'm here  
20 tonight on behalf of State Representative Adrian  
21 Madaro to reiterate his steadfast opposition to the  
22 proposed Eversource substation. He firmly believes  
23 this is not the right location for the substation.  
24 This substation is being proposed next to a public

1 park, fuel tanks, and the Chelsea Creek in a  
2 community that has long been overburdened by  
3 environmental hazards and pollutants.

4           The placement of the substation along  
5 the Chelsea Creek and in East Boston would go  
6 against the wishes of every elected official  
7 representing East Boston in local, state and federal  
8 government, as well as those of Boston residents who  
9 overwhelmingly voted in opposition to this project  
10 in November 2021. It would also contribute to a  
11 longstanding history of environmental injustice. We  
12 know that as a formerly red line community in large  
13 part due to immigrant and working class population  
14 East Boston has borne the burden of airport  
15 construction and expansion. It has also been sliced  
16 by highways and littered with other polluting  
17 industries resulting in elevated levels of asthma  
18 and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

19           Many of these developments were met with  
20 resistance from residents, much like the Eversource  
21 substation is today. The placement of the  
22 Eversource substation in East Boston would represent  
23 a failure to course-correct these injustices. Last  
24 year Representative Madaro in partnership with

1 advocates in our community and across the  
2 Commonwealth worked to put protections for  
3 environmental-justice communities like East Boston  
4 into state law. These protections require that --

5 MS. SHARKEY: Could you slow down,  
6 please. Sorry, the translators need a little more  
7 time. Thank you.

8 MS. RIVAS: Would you like me to repeat  
9 that or just keep going?

10 MS. SHARKEY: Margaux, do you need her  
11 to go back a little bit? You are on mute.

12 MS. RIVAS: I'm happy to go back.

13 Again, the placement of the substation  
14 at the current proposed location would contribute to  
15 a longstanding history of environmental injustice.  
16 We know that as a formerly red line community in  
17 large part due to its immigrant and working-class  
18 population East Boston has borne the burdens of  
19 airport construction and expansion. It has also  
20 been sliced by highways and hosted other polluting  
21 industries resulting in elevated levels of asthma  
22 and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

23 Many of these developments were met with  
24 resistance from residents, much like the Eversource

1 substation is today. The placement of the  
2 Eversource substation at its current proposed  
3 location in East Boston would represent a failure to  
4 course-correct these injustices.

5 Last year Representative Madaro in  
6 partnership with advocates in our community and  
7 across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts worked to  
8 put protections for environmental communities --  
9 environmental-justice communities like East Boston  
10 into state law. These protections require that the  
11 state take into consideration the cumulative impact  
12 of placing multiple dangerous energy facilities in  
13 one place. We believe that the proposed Eversource  
14 substation should be subject to this review to give  
15 our neighborhood a full accounting of the toll it  
16 would take on the health and well-being of all  
17 residents. Thank you so much for your time.

18 MS. SHARKEY: Thank you.

19 At this time we are going to take  
20 someone else, unfortunately, out of the order we are  
21 going to proceed in because I understand Mr. Burkman  
22 has another meeting that begins at 7:00. So  
23 Mr. Burkman, I see that you are on. If you would  
24 like to speak now, please proceed and we'll go back



1 to the regular order that we normally move on.

2 (Eric Burkman)

3 MR. BURKMAN: Thank you. Yes, it is  
4 true that the Eagle Hill Civic Association meets  
5 tonight at 7:00 p.m., which is a standing monthly  
6 meeting on the last Wednesday of the month or fourth  
7 Wednesday, whatever today is. So I was going to  
8 bring this up in my remarks anyway because I feel  
9 like in the process for this we have just shifted  
10 from kind of, you know, no community process into  
11 the bare minimum process. Like for example, the  
12 civic association has been meeting on this time and  
13 day for a while and we have had conflicts in the  
14 past. So it feels a little bit like it doesn't feel  
15 great that community members have to choose now  
16 between staying in the substation meeting which  
17 affects us and going to the civic association  
18 meeting.

19 So I think this all just sort of  
20 contributes to a situation where I feel like as  
21 somebody who will see this facility every single  
22 day, even from inside my house, like I feel like you  
23 all have politely listened to the community but  
24 still not really heard us. And I just don't feel as

1 a community member very respected in the process.  
2 And I understand that that doesn't mean that,  
3 feeling heard in a public process doesn't mean that  
4 you get your way. But I still don't feel heard.

5 So do I think this will be approved by  
6 the EFSB today? Yeah, I absolutely do. I think you  
7 will get your emergency permitting or whatever  
8 because that's been the pattern that we have seen in  
9 the EFSB so far, is that whatever Eversource asks  
10 for Eversource gets sort of regardless of what the  
11 feedback is from the community.

12 So I do believe the facility is needed  
13 but the question you hear from the community is is  
14 it needed right here? Is it needed positioned on  
15 the site exactly as it is? Is it needed in our  
16 specific corner of the neighborhood or is there a  
17 better location in East Boston that can also fulfill  
18 that need, even if it means laying transmission  
19 cables under the street, which lots of our streets  
20 have, right?

21 And I believe that the load grows in hot  
22 weather and warm weather and I do like having  
23 electricity service at my house. But I don't have  
24 air conditioning in my house. It is over a hundred

1 years old. I have one window air conditioner that I  
2 run on hot nights. And I walk around and see these  
3 luxury condo mid-risers and a brand-new  
4 international terminal at Logan and I think am I  
5 staring at a substation every day where I would like  
6 to have a park or maybe some more green space so  
7 that people who live two miles away on the  
8 waterfront with a view of downtown can run their air  
9 conditioner at 68 degrees in the middle of July; and  
10 so that the Terminal E international terminal  
11 expansion, you know, can have people coming here  
12 from all over the place, right, polluting the air  
13 and flying a loud, large, wide-body international  
14 jet over my house when I'm trying to have a beer on  
15 my deck, right, because it is too hot to sit inside  
16 because my house doesn't have air conditioning.

17 So that's the piece I don't really feel  
18 heard on. Like, why right here? Does this need to  
19 be right next to my house? Because it feels like  
20 though I do get a community benefit from having  
21 reliable electrical service, it feels like a lot of  
22 growth in my community are the people who will  
23 benefit of this while I still bear the cost.

24 Moving on to my next point. This has

1 been well documented that the neighborhood doesn't  
2 really feel engaged. You know, I'm a professional  
3 urban planner and I pay attention and I have an  
4 advanced degree and everything. It is hard for me  
5 to follow this sometimes, getting 30-page documents  
6 in my email that I have to take my personal time to  
7 read and everything. And that's okay; that's part  
8 of being engaged in your community. But certain  
9 pieces I feel like have been inaccessible even to  
10 me. And so people who are less educated than me or  
11 less interested than me or have less time than me  
12 are probably even further frozen out from the  
13 process. And I don't have a suggestion on how to  
14 include them, but they need to be included.

15           So for example, the mitigation plan was  
16 emailed to limited participants and others, but I  
17 don't believe that Eversource ever presented a  
18 mitigation plan to the civic association or  
19 advertised like an opportunity to provide feedback  
20 on the mitigation plan more broadly. And I'm sure  
21 that my neighbors would have feelings about, would  
22 like to have a more accessible interaction with the  
23 mitigation plan rather than receiving a 30- or  
24 40-page document that has been negotiated on behalf

1 of them by other civic association elected, or, you  
2 know, socially elected people, right?

3 The visual plan or the design, the  
4 barrier design or fence design, whatever we are  
5 calling it, I have participated in the community and  
6 that has been an engagement point where I have felt  
7 heard. However, I think the October meeting at the  
8 Salesian Girls and Boys Club had maybe four  
9 community members who attended. I was the only  
10 community member on the phone in October -- I mean  
11 in January, I think was the last meeting. I think  
12 it started with two people and the other guy had to  
13 drop off. So by the end I was the only one  
14 providing feedback. Is that really a representative  
15 sample of people in the neighborhood that Eversource  
16 can say we were engaged in how this really looked?  
17 I don't really think so.

18 Nicole, Meredith, you have done a great  
19 job with that group. It still doesn't really feel  
20 like you are reaching people, possibly because of  
21 the long background of us not really feeling heard  
22 in the community.

23 And then, Nicole, you did mention that  
24 Plan East Boston or the BPDA in their Plan East

1 Boston process is addressing the site. That's been  
2 one of my feedback pieces from the very beginning,  
3 is that this site actually is blocked out in Plan  
4 East Boston, it is not included in any of the  
5 outreach in Plan East Boston between the police  
6 station site or the substation site. And I think at  
7 the very first meeting I attended I advocated for a  
8 more comprehensive site plan that includes the  
9 police station and includes the substation and  
10 includes some of the elements that were originally  
11 presented so many years ago which included enhanced  
12 green space. That has never come to fruition. This  
13 was before there was even a shovel in the ground for  
14 the police station, which is now built.

15 Pieces that really impact the substation  
16 from this, we as community members have been coming  
17 and saying we are concerned about electrical  
18 infrastructure next to flammable heating oil and jet  
19 oil. Well, now the current site plan with the  
20 police station which is already built has two or  
21 four fuel pumps, presumably gasoline, which is far  
22 more volatile than heating oil, directly next to the  
23 where the substation will be built. So from the  
24 community member standpoint, already not feeling

1 heard, having advocated for a comprehensive site  
2 plan between the police station and the substation,  
3 and having a expressed concern about flammable jet  
4 fuel and heating oil fuel next to an electrical  
5 infrastructure, now I walk down the street and see a  
6 gasoline pump directly next to the electrical  
7 infrastructure. So this is another piece I don't  
8 really feel heard about, something that I have been  
9 advocating for as a community member, a more  
10 comprehensive site planning process, that now the  
11 ship has sailed really, because now the police  
12 station is already there.

13           There have been inconsistencies in this  
14 process. One of the things that was named in the  
15 reasons that Eversource can get immediately issued  
16 building permits was that permits that had been  
17 issued by public agencies were inconsistent or that  
18 the process had been inconsistent. But that same  
19 thing, that same piece is not really extended to the  
20 community. We don't have an opportunity to say that  
21 Eversource and EFSB have been inconsistent in this  
22 process or any community benefit resulting from  
23 inconsistencies that we see on our end in the  
24 Eversource process.

1                   So for example, the change from the  
2 tentative decision to the final decision increased  
3 the size by 70 percent, moved it by more than what  
4 was in the project change request or whatever it was  
5 called. This has been since corrected in the  
6 paperwork, that's fine. But there's these little  
7 pieces that still contribute to a lack of  
8 transparency or perception of lack of transparency  
9 that are really frustrating in this process.

10                   In fact, tonight I can only see how many  
11 people are in the room because I've been promoted to  
12 a panelist which I've signed up ahead of time,  
13 right? So there are 109 participants in this  
14 meeting, 80 attendees, 29 panelists, and of course  
15 the panelists include speakers and Eversource. But  
16 to a member of the public, before I was promoted to  
17 panelist in this meeting, I didn't even know how  
18 many other members of the public were attending this  
19 meeting. So I don't actually know how much support  
20 is kind of -- how many people are actually in  
21 attendance. That is an important piece of the  
22 public engagement, in my opinion, to be able to see  
23 and interact with others who are there joining your  
24 cause or experiencing the information as you do.



1           So finally, many of us have been talking  
2 about, in the vein of lack of transparency, talking  
3 about the issues between Channel Fish Company and  
4 Eversource and BPDA, City of Boston, and Energy  
5 Facilities Siting Board and Environmental Energy  
6 Affairs the Executive Office. And if you are  
7 looking back through the timeline, many of which  
8 have been provided in written comments that I have  
9 given to this board, there's an additional lack of  
10 transparency in these agreements on changing the  
11 project from the greenway to this site and from the  
12 original positioning on the site to the new  
13 positioning. I can't help but feel that this has  
14 been a done deal from basically the very beginning  
15 because there are these timeline inconsistencies in  
16 the way that certain decisions were approved very  
17 quickly and others were not.

18           And especially in the way that the  
19 community, the neighborhood had a lot of support  
20 from Channel Fish at the beginning and then suddenly  
21 they have just disappeared from this public  
22 discourse, not even pro or anti-site substation, and  
23 seemingly experienced the benefit where it moved  
24 away from the factory, which was previously one of

1 the sticking points for the factory owner. It feels  
2 like another point where the community members here  
3 who have less power than these larger organizations  
4 have been frozen out and have not actually been able  
5 to understand the kind of the agreements between  
6 these public agencies and a private company to the  
7 detriment of what -- or to what we feel is  
8 detrimental to our community.

9           So in sum, I don't really feel heard in  
10 this process. I understand it has been going on for  
11 a long time. I just don't, you know, feel heard in  
12 the process and I don't really feel like -- whether  
13 or not it is because of Eversource -- people in the  
14 community, I don't feel like we've really been  
15 reached in this process. And, you know, I am just  
16 naturally somebody who is going to go get the  
17 information, but there are a lot of people in this  
18 community who cannot or are not going to do that  
19 particularly as it relates to the mitigation plan,  
20 understanding what Eversource is doing to protect us  
21 and benefit us in this substation electrical  
22 infrastructure that we will have to look at though  
23 we maybe feel that it benefits other people in our  
24 community, not us. So I think those are all my

1 comments. Thank you.

2 MS. SHARKEY: Thank you, Mr. Burkman.

3 I'd like to go back to the original  
4 order we have. And before Lydia Edwards speaks at  
5 7:15, I would like to know if there are any other  
6 elected or appointed public officials who may not  
7 have signed up to speak but who are present at the  
8 public hearing tonight who might like to offer  
9 comments.

10 MR. GREENE: And if so, please raise  
11 your hand, so that we can identify you as an elected  
12 or other public official, by clicking on the  
13 raise-hand icon at the bottom of your Zoom screen or  
14 pressing Star 9 if you are dialing in on the  
15 telephone, and then we can identify you as an  
16 elected or other public official and we'll put you  
17 on the panel.

18 We have somebody Carrie Marsh Dixon from  
19 the Boston Parks Department. Let me put her on the  
20 panel.

21 MS. DIXON: I wanted to introduce  
22 myself. I am Carrie Marsh Dixon. I'm the executive  
23 secretary of the Boston Parks Commission. I'm just  
24 here tonight to listen to the public and the city is

1 reviewing this project, and we'll be preparing  
2 remarks in advance of the deadline. Thank you very  
3 much.

4 MS. SHARKEY: Thank you.

5 MR. GREENE: If there are any other  
6 public officials who wish to speak tonight, please,  
7 again, raise your hand by pressing the icon. I see  
8 Art Gordon.

9 MR. GORDON: Hello. Good evening. My  
10 name is Art Gordon. I am the senior advisor for  
11 Congress Woman Ayanna Pressley. I've been on the  
12 Zoom for past hour. Unfortunately I have to hop on  
13 another meeting at 7:00 o'clock. I was grateful to  
14 be here to gather some information, and want to  
15 offer the Congress Woman's solidarity with the  
16 community and residents of East Boston. Thank you  
17 so much.

18 MS. SHARKEY: Thank you.

19 MR. GREENE: Again, any other officials,  
20 please raise your hand with the icon.

21 Presiding Officer Sharkey, I think I do  
22 not see any further requesting speakers.

23 MS. SHARKEY: In that case, would people  
24 who were preregistered who are parties or limited

1 participants in the two previous Siting Board  
2 proceedings regarding the substation like to speak  
3 and potentially take the opportunity to do so before  
4 Senator Edwards is scheduled to speak.

5 Ms. Rubin, I believe you were first on  
6 the list.

7 MS. RUBIN: Thank you very much,  
8 Presiding Officer Sharkey. My name is Staci Rubin,  
9 and I am the vice president of environmental justice  
10 at Conservation Law Foundation or CLF. CLF is a  
11 public interest advocacy group that works to solve  
12 the environmental challenges that threaten the  
13 people, natural resources and communities across New  
14 England. Conservation Law Foundation is partnering  
15 in this proceeding with GreenRoots, residents of  
16 East Boston and Chelsea, and other impacted  
17 residents.

18 CLF is committed to challenging  
19 Eversource's East Boston substation because the  
20 proposal does not avoid or minimize impacts to the  
21 environment, public health and safety. This project  
22 does not serve the public interest. This project  
23 does not advance environmental justice.

24 Eversource proposes a project located in

1 an environmental-justice population already  
2 overburdened by dangerous infrastructure facilities  
3 and underserved by open space and public amenities.  
4 Eversource's current filing aims to avoid the need  
5 for the company to obtain 15 state and local  
6 permits. Eversource spent seven years obtaining  
7 approval from this Siting Board in the underlying  
8 proceeding.

9           The company now seeks to waste Siting  
10 Board, community, and intervenor resources by  
11 petitioning for a whole new proceeding to obtain a  
12 certificate of public interest. This certificate if  
13 granted would prevent state and local agencies from  
14 exercising their expertise on issues of wetlands and  
15 waterways licenses, among other matters. Eversource  
16 asserts that it is experiencing undue delays in  
17 obtaining those state and local permits. The  
18 company asserts that one of those delays is because  
19 of an appeal relating to a Chapter 91 waterways  
20 license.

21           On January 24, 2022 CLF filed an appeal  
22 for the Chapter 91 waterways license issued by the  
23 Massachusetts Department of Environmental  
24 Protection. The Siting Board members are not

1 experts on public tidelands and waterways. CLF is  
2 concerned that Eversource has failed to provide  
3 sufficient information for the Massachusetts  
4 Department of Environmental Protection to find that  
5 the substation is water dependent. That is a key  
6 for determination for the project to move forward at  
7 its proposed location. The Siting Board cannot  
8 grant the certificate because it does not have the  
9 knowledge needed to address the waterways and  
10 wetlands issues for which there are pending appeals.

11 The substation lies roughly 80 feet from  
12 the high-water mark of the Chelsea Creek. Portions  
13 of the substation site will flood in the next 50  
14 years under a 36-inch sea-level rise scenario  
15 according to projections by Climate Ready Boston.  
16 Water inundation at the site would not only damage  
17 the area's energy infrastructure, flooding events  
18 may additionally lead to onsite electric fires and  
19 explosions which have known to occur following large  
20 storms. These storms are expected to increase in  
21 frequency and intensity as a result of climate  
22 change. These are matters under consideration by  
23 other entities in state and local permitting  
24 proceedings, and those are the agencies with the

1 expertise to properly address these issues.

2 Eversource asserts that the substation  
3 is needed to keep the lights on in East Boston this  
4 summer. It is inappropriate for Eversource to only  
5 offer two bad options. Option one, either the  
6 substation does not get built and East Boston  
7 residents and businesses do not have electricity; or  
8 option two, the substation is built at the wrong  
9 location despite the longstanding opposition and  
10 completely reasonable concerns of residents,  
11 businesses and officials. Only in an environmental-  
12 justice population would the options be so dreadful.  
13 Eversource has the responsibility to work with the  
14 environmental-justice population to find a more  
15 suitable location.

16 Since the Siting Board's approval in the  
17 underlying proceedings, a new law passed and is now  
18 effective. The environmental-justice provisions of  
19 the roadmap law requires the Siting Board to  
20 consider the environmental-justice principles in all  
21 of its decisions. The Siting Board should find  
22 throughout these proceedings that it must deny the  
23 certificate on numerous grounds because the East  
24 Boston substation is counter to the Commonwealth's



1 environmental-justice principles.

2 Mr. Hallstrom from Eversource stated  
3 tonight that he is uncomfortable running the system  
4 in the way it is currently running. I am  
5 uncomfortable with Eversource's way of doing  
6 business. Eversource continues to negate the  
7 environmental-justice issues in East Boston and  
8 numerous other communities.

9 I urge the Siting Board to deny the  
10 certificate of public interest and look forward to  
11 participating in this proceeding. And thank you  
12 very much for the opportunity to comment.

13 MS. SHARKEY: Thank you, Ms. Rubin.

14 I would ask the staff if anyone from  
15 Senator Edwards' office has joined yet.

16 MR. GREENE: Please identify yourself by  
17 raising your hand using the icon at the bottom of  
18 the screen.

19 At this time it does not appear that a  
20 representative is here from Senator Edwards' office.

21 MS. SHARKEY: In that case, Mr. Walkey,  
22 I believe you are next on the list.

23 MR. GREENE: Sorry, Julia Frennet has  
24 raised her hand. I don't know if she intended to.

1 She did not. She just unraised her hand. Sorry for  
2 the interruption.

3 MS. SHARKEY: Mr. Walkey.

4 (John Walkey)

5 MR. WALKEY: Thank you very much. Thank  
6 you for this opportunity, and also just as an aside,  
7 my condolences on the loss of Angela O'Connor, and  
8 also Kathryn Sedor this past summer who worked  
9 earlier on on this project. Sincere condolences to  
10 all you who worked with those people and their  
11 families as well.

12 And in the sense of being human about  
13 this, no one doubts, I think, the sincerity  
14 especially of engineers who are trying to make sure  
15 things work. I understand the concept of belts and  
16 suspenders. We want to make sure that the  
17 electricity doesn't go out. That's the job that  
18 Eversource has. So no one doubts the sincere  
19 concerns about the situation that we are in or your  
20 desire to maintain reliable electricity because that  
21 is the task at hand. No one wants a blackout. No  
22 one wants to be, especially if you have Great Aunt  
23 Kamela on a respirator or something, you do not want  
24 the electricity going out.

1                   We also don't want transformers on  
2 telephone poles exploding and burning down houses a  
3 couple of weeks before Christmas and displacing  
4 families in Chelsea or any other neighborhood. But  
5 these are things that do happen and they happen  
6 regardless of what's built if certain parts of the  
7 infrastructure are not maintained. So there really  
8 is I think a concern. A lot of people have voiced  
9 some issues in regards to trust. And some of these  
10 things are in relation to some of the forecasts that  
11 we have seen.

12                   And one of the things that I know for  
13 myself and for GreenRoots that we have harped on for  
14 quite some time has been the accessibility of data,  
15 of being able to understand what this data says, and  
16 being able to have a better handle on these  
17 forecasts. As we have gone in and looked at the  
18 data that's been made available from Eversource as  
19 well as the data from ISO New England -- which is  
20 admittedly at a broader scale of Massachusetts or  
21 eastern Mass. or New England wide -- we are not  
22 seeing these forecasts are panning out. If this was  
23 the forecast from your stockbroker you would be  
24 firing them.

1                   There were projections, ten-year  
2 projections of where electricity demand was going to  
3 be going and was through the roof when this project  
4 was first proposed. And a few years after those  
5 original projections the actual electricity demand  
6 was lower than where we started. And the demand  
7 lines had all been curved down. Then we were told  
8 no, we don't understand it, it is all about the  
9 pocket load in East Boston and Chelsea, that that's  
10 special. And we were told years ago that there were  
11 so many projects going online that when these things  
12 come online we are going to have rolling blackouts  
13 or at least brownouts next year. And this again was  
14 eight years ago or so. These projects came online  
15 and we haven't seen these impacts.

16                   It feels a bit like the boy who cried  
17 wolf as we have seen what the actual summer peak  
18 loads have been in comparison to what some of the  
19 projections are. And we are not sure exactly why  
20 this is. I think it was four different step loads  
21 that were supposed to add 12 megawatts to the peak  
22 back in 2016. The actual load in 2016 was far below  
23 what the estimate was. And those step loads were  
24 added but there was no effect on the demand in the

1 pocket.

2           And so we are still just feeling like we  
3 are being told you are going to need this, because  
4 everything is going to hit the fan next year. And  
5 the next year comes and it hasn't happened and it  
6 keeps going and going. And I know from an  
7 engineer's perspective you're saying that's right,  
8 and we are like at the end of the plank and we are  
9 going to go off the edge. Well, it doesn't feel  
10 like this really plays out properly.

11           Eversource put out 2020 summer peak load  
12 projections for the pocket which were higher than  
13 the kinds of projections that we would have if we  
14 looked at what was coming in from Massachusetts-wide  
15 loads. And then in 2021 came out with another  
16 peak-load projection that was much greater than what  
17 the 2020 was. I would like to know why that bumped  
18 up so much. What is it that is being added? A lot  
19 of housing has been added. You did make the point  
20 that the population has been growing. It has been.  
21 But it is growing in new housing that is energy  
22 efficient, that has demand control, and has a lot of  
23 measures in place that are bending that curve.

24           Now, there are other things in the

1 neighborhood that could be causing that demand to go  
2 up. There could be something else that you are  
3 worried about that is going to cause an overload of  
4 the system. But I'm not so sure that it is the  
5 housing market here.

6 I'm beginning to think that it might  
7 just be the Terminal E expansion at Logan Airport.  
8 Because one of the reasons they wanted to expand  
9 Logan Airport after bringing in so many -- you know,  
10 if you build it, they will come. Actually, they  
11 didn't build it, they just said come, and then they  
12 had to build, they had to expand Terminal E. And  
13 the reason that MassPort has given for that is that  
14 they had planes sitting on the runway just idling  
15 because there were not enough gates for these huge  
16 international flights to pull up to. And we don't  
17 want them blowing that fossil fuel out into the  
18 neighborhood. We certainly don't. And the best way  
19 to prevent that is to have a gate they can pull up  
20 to and plug in. So that's a huge electricity  
21 demand. And I am assuming that that is part of this  
22 step load that's such a danger to the community.

23 And if it is, then it really makes sense  
24 to move this thing onto Logan Airport's campus. If

1 this is something really needed by Logan Airport and  
2 not by the people in the community, then I don't  
3 know why we have to bear the risk of this, that we  
4 have to bear the loss of property that could have  
5 benefits to the community and not just be a risk.

6 As Staci Rubin referred to, a year ago  
7 we fought to get environmental-justice legislation  
8 passed. Now we are fighting to get every single one  
9 of the state agencies that have to implement this to  
10 actually implement it. This is a case where looking  
11 at the cumulative burden in this community should be  
12 something that has to be done in this process.

13 I guess in looking at the full story --  
14 and Nicole did a great timeline. I have to rip that  
15 off because I want to do a timeline too. This goes  
16 back so far. And I can remember this project before  
17 it actually became something filed with the EFSB  
18 when we were first having these conversations at a  
19 Eagle Hill Civic Association meeting where there was  
20 a deal that was being struck. And then after the  
21 fact we were looking for what has happened with that  
22 deal in those early days.

23 There was a purchase and sale agreement  
24 signed before an RFP had gone out, within the city,

1 not the state, it is on the city. And, of course,  
2 at this point the people who were involved are  
3 either dead or no longer in office. And the chief  
4 of energy and environment in the City of Boston at  
5 the time when this deal was being made is no longer  
6 working for the City of Boston. He's working for  
7 Eversource.

8 So it is things like that that undermine  
9 our trust in the community outreach. Nicole is  
10 doing her best, her damndest to get us trusting  
11 Eversource. But things like that in addition to  
12 things like forecasts that never pan out and data  
13 that we can't actually get our hands on are things  
14 that undermine the trust; and the things that Eric  
15 Burkman had referenced, the feeling of not being  
16 heard. It is a sense of not being heard because  
17 this isn't anything that people want to hear.

18 I will stop there so that my state  
19 senator can come on board and give her testimony.  
20 Thank you very much.

21 MS. SHARKEY: Thank you, Mr. Walkey.

22 Senator Edwards, would you like to speak  
23 now? Sorry you are slightly delayed but we were  
24 anxious to let Mr. Walkey finish.



1 (Senator Lydia Edwards)

2 SEN. EDWARDS: No, I'm always excited  
3 and happy to hear him speak. I appreciate the fact  
4 that you are listening yet again to many of us in  
5 the community in response who is going to be  
6 impacted by this. I see the members of the EFSB and  
7 I want to thank them for being here tonight; and  
8 also Nicole for her emails and continued outreach.

9 I do want to echo one point, which is to  
10 start out by saying that there is no doubt in our  
11 mind that we are changing as a community. We are  
12 growing as a community. And we absolutely need to  
13 make sure that our infrastructure matches our  
14 growth, matches our needs. I understand the EFSB  
15 and utilities companies play an important role in  
16 making sure that communities are meeting the moment.  
17 That being said, I really want you to ask is -- the  
18 moment has changed; and our definitions for what we  
19 need to meet has changed. We are an environmental-  
20 justice community. That definition didn't exist  
21 when this project first started.

22 We are also part of a green new deal for  
23 the City of Boston. We have new zoning requirements  
24 that include racial equity, and under AFFH, and

1 finally we are looking at an entire different way of  
2 planning our municipal harbor plan just for East  
3 Boston.

4           What I'm trying to say to you is that  
5 the moment and what we feel is necessary and what we  
6 are prioritizing has changed greatly. What has not  
7 is this plan. What has not met the moment and  
8 understanding of what we need is this plan and the  
9 process. I personally think that if we were to  
10 actually go back to the community and ask them about  
11 the permitted infrastructure that Eversource is  
12 trying to build and whether it is meeting this  
13 moment in our needs, I think you have heard  
14 consistently over the years East Boston has said no,  
15 not this way and not at this particular location.

16           So for Eversource to file and for a  
17 certificate to confirm it is meeting the community  
18 benefits and necessities really to the EFSB over the  
19 community's opposition should be something that  
20 concerns you. Again, the opposition is not that we  
21 don't need infrastructure to meet our greener  
22 future, that we won't need to be able to generate  
23 for our EV stations or solar panels, and so on and  
24 so forth. That is not the question.

1 I just think that what we have been  
2 trying to say for the past several years, and in  
3 many different languages, we can be more creative  
4 than this. This is not going to prepare us or help  
5 us become healthier or greener in our future.  
6 Eversource should know that. But the EFSB, you are  
7 supposed to be the caretaker and the guardian for  
8 that for our communities. But you can, you can meet  
9 the moment; but this way, in a different way.

10 This process I honestly think has  
11 been -- while Eversource may feel that it has been  
12 slowed down, I feel that it has been rushed. I  
13 honestly think it should be undone and hopefully it  
14 will be undone by our new governor. I hope when she  
15 comes in, and if it takes a year and a half,  
16 supposedly this may take, whatever time you are  
17 starting, I think you should acknowledge the  
18 political winds that are changing.

19 You can rush as much as you want but I  
20 really will be lobbying to make sure any governor  
21 that I support is absolutely in opposition to this  
22 substation in this location.

23 So I would hope that you are seeing this  
24 moment, and I hope that it's your understanding that

1 when we come back to the table with a new governor  
2 we might be having this conversation anyway.

3 I have also informed Eversource of a  
4 different location that the community is willing to  
5 tolerate that is in an industrial area, that is  
6 further down the creek, not near a playground, that  
7 is already fenced off, and Eversource's response  
8 was: We are close to the goal line. Not that we  
9 can't do it, not that it is just too expensive. It  
10 was just: We could win here.

11 The owner of the private land is willing  
12 to provide the space for Eversource to move the  
13 substation. Eversource is refusing to do so simply  
14 because they just don't want to wait the time. You  
15 heard from John Walkey. Every single time clock  
16 that Eversource has set about when we will be  
17 desperate to need the energy has been blown away.  
18 They have not been able to project the needs of this  
19 community from day one. And they have not been able  
20 to meet and firmly earn the trust from this  
21 community from day one. It's not without trying.  
22 But the fact is the reps in this community and those  
23 who live in this community, I am telling you  
24 Eversource can be doing better by this community.

1 I encourage the EFSB to require  
2 Eversource to do just that, to consider the other  
3 location, and also to consider the political  
4 implications. Again, we are going to be working as  
5 hard as we can for as long as we can to stop this  
6 substation; not to stop energy infrastructure, to  
7 stop this particular substation in this location.

8 I've been a proud opponent of this. We  
9 have had hours-long hearings on this. We have  
10 spoken with Eversource, the questions about the  
11 data, where it is coming from. The process is set  
12 up for them to set what our needs are, for them to  
13 judge those needs, and then for the EFSB to  
14 unfortunately tend to agree with them over us.

15 So what I'm hoping is that you do  
16 something different this time; that you stand with  
17 the community not, again, to prevent all  
18 infrastructure but to instead hopefully prepare us  
19 for a greener, healthier future, and not support  
20 this substation in this location, consider another  
21 location, and please consider working with the  
22 community to help us define what that infrastructure  
23 should be. Thank you.

24 MS. SHARKEY: Thank you, Senator

1 Edwards.

2 At this point we will turn to the list  
3 of people from the general public who have  
4 preregistered this evening.

5 MR. GREENE: We are getting very close  
6 to our 90-minute mark and I would suggest a break  
7 before we turn to the public comments.

8 MS. SHARKEY: That will be fine. Can we  
9 take a five-minute break, Mr. Arsenault? In that  
10 case, we will break for five minutes and come back.  
11 Thank you.

12 (A recess was taken.)

13 MS. SHARKEY: The first person who  
14 signed up on our list tonight is Heather O'Brien.

15 MS. O'BRIEN: I hope you can see me. I  
16 know you've heard from me before. I appreciate the  
17 time to be able to speak again about this process  
18 and about where we stand right now. I think that  
19 most of us can agree that this has been an arduous  
20 and flawed process and a lot of it started before  
21 many of us have been part of it. I think that for  
22 the City of Boston and for -- I think Mr. Hallstrom  
23 was talking about the increased need and this  
24 incredible overdevelopment that has happened in

1 Boston and that maybe it has outdone what our  
2 infrastructure can support. I really wish that if  
3 Eversource really felt that way, that they had  
4 brought those concerns to the City of Boston and the  
5 Planning and Development and to maybe some of the  
6 people that they had contact with all along about  
7 maybe not to approve all of this development.

8 I believe that there's an awful lot of  
9 development that has increased load to the  
10 neighborhood. However, I believe that when this  
11 process started that since then we have a lot more  
12 energy-efficient buildings, a lot more energy-  
13 efficient appliances, and there's a lot more energy  
14 sources that we could be looking at. It is not like  
15 Eversource is coming in and giving something to this  
16 community. They are charging for it. They are  
17 charging dearly. People in this community pay  
18 multiple things on every single one of these bills  
19 and they are the ones that will be funding this  
20 project. These people in an environmental-justice  
21 community are going to be paying for this project on  
22 their electric bills every single month.

23 MS. SHARKEY: Could you just slow down a  
24 little bit for the interpreter.

1 MS. O'BRIEN: My apologies.  
2 I do know that in this process there  
3 have been people who have had internal meetings with  
4 the City of Boston. I'm referring to one letter in  
5 November of 2015 written to Eversource by one  
6 individual in the City of Boston saying: As well as  
7 coordinate our internal planning efforts, we  
8 understand and appreciate Eversource -- blah, blah,  
9 blah -- we understand that Eversource is taking both  
10 individual and comprehensive zoning exemptions from  
11 the Boston zoning code. This letter is to confirm  
12 that the city supports the DPU's granting individual  
13 and comprehensive zoning exemptions for the  
14 Eversource project.

15 This was from one man working in the  
16 City of Boston signing away all the rights to kind  
17 of appeals or knowledge for an entire city. Since  
18 this letter was written in 2015 this one person has  
19 left office under investigations of bribery. So the  
20 process has been flawed internally and externally  
21 with the public.

22 I think right now we see a process where  
23 now we have environmental-justice language written  
24 into law. We have extreme environmental-justice



1 things to consider, extreme factors. Just because  
2 when this process started those weren't in place  
3 doesn't mean we can't consider them now. There is  
4 some discretion there. And we should consider what  
5 putting an electrical substation next to underground  
6 fuel storage tanks next to 18 million gallons of jet  
7 fuel, a playground and housing, very dense housing,  
8 does to a community. It is a real and present  
9 danger.

10 You know, to say that the only people  
11 that I didn't see at community meetings as far as  
12 elected officials were Charlie Baker and Mayor Marty  
13 Walsh or Tom Menino. I saw everybody from my U.S.  
14 senators down to my city councillors down to my ward  
15 committee members at these meetings. None of them  
16 have said this is a good idea, let's go forward, we  
17 need electricity.

18 There must be a better way. We have  
19 technology. We have the knowledge now going  
20 forward. And we also have right now a bunch of  
21 unresolved legal issues, a bunch of appeals, a bunch  
22 of legal actions at the city and state level with  
23 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. I would urge  
24 that the Energy Facilities Siting Board not grant

1 any relief right now to Eversource in this process,  
2 to let this process play out. As flawed as it was  
3 and unfair as it was to an environmental-justice  
4 community, we know things now.

5 We know that over 100,000 Bostonians  
6 voted no to this proposal where it is at. That was  
7 more votes than anything else on that ballot, more  
8 votes than the mayor got. Once people know that  
9 this is happening, they said wow, that would never  
10 be approved. It is irresponsible. It is dangerous.

11 We are at a place right now where  
12 climate change is affecting everything. We do know  
13 that we have got a heat island problem over here in  
14 East Boston. We have less open space, less tree  
15 canopy than any other neighborhood, and we have a  
16 more dense population.

17 I think that in light of where we are at  
18 and where we have come from we should not do any  
19 more injustice to this environmental-justice  
20 community. I would urge you not to grant relief to  
21 Eversource at this time for this. I would urge you  
22 to let the appeals process play out, and I would  
23 urge going back to the table and consider the  
24 environmental-justice compounding factors to this

1 community.

2 That's pretty much it. I think I'll  
3 give other people some time. Thank you very much  
4 for having me tonight.

5 MS. SHARKEY: Thank you, Ms. O'Brien.

6 Mr. Munley, you are next, but I forgot  
7 to mention coming back from break, we normally ask  
8 people to give their name, spell their last name,  
9 and give their address. So if commenters going  
10 forward could follow that procedure, I would  
11 appreciate it.

12 MR. MUNLEY: Yes, no worries. Thank you  
13 again, everybody, for listening and hearing me out.  
14 My name is Charles Munley, 454 Saratoga Street, a  
15 block and a half east of the proposed plan for the  
16 substation. I'm not an environmental activist by  
17 any means. However, knowing what I know from my  
18 background in emergency services, putting a  
19 substation this close to a flood zone, in a  
20 hurricane-impact community -- granted it doesn't  
21 happen very often; however, we have seen what  
22 happens when substations get hit by superstorms.  
23 Super Storm Sandy is example one.

24 You are putting it right next to fuel

1 tanks and homes and jet A fuel. None of those  
2 things mix. As much as you try to deter children  
3 from getting into substations, let's be honest,  
4 children are not the most intelligent individuals on  
5 the planet. Having this in the middle of a  
6 neighborhood is absolutely irresponsible.  
7 Especially knowing that now we know there is a  
8 second location that could potentially work. Why is  
9 that not being explored? These are just questions  
10 that don't make any sense to me.

11 Not to mention living in a country  
12 that's divided on every topic as we are, yet you  
13 have 84 percent of voters saying this is a bad idea.  
14 I implore the environmental board to please strongly  
15 take that into consideration because we --  
16 unfortunately -- for once the majority of us agree  
17 on something. Thank you.

18 MS. SHARKEY: Thank you, Mr. Munley.

19 If Mr. Olsen is on, could he please  
20 raise his hand. He's next on the list. Leonard  
21 Olsen. If he isn't right now, we'll come back to  
22 him later.

23 Mr. Wang, could you tell me who the next  
24 person on the list is?

1 MR. WANG: There is Juliane Manitz. She  
2 has raised her hand. Ms. Manitz?

3 MS. MANITZ: Thanks a lot for giving me  
4 the opportunity to comment on this. I'm following a  
5 lot of very eloquent people speaking very clearly  
6 about things. And I hear a lot of mistrust in the  
7 data and mistrust in the whole process. I'm a  
8 trained statistician and have a Ph.D. in math. When  
9 I look at these graphs that are used as a basis to  
10 say the substation is at capacity, at capacity, at  
11 capacity, there's no substation in East Boston. I'm  
12 looking at that graph and it makes me mad. Because  
13 it is actually a really good example of how to cheat  
14 with statistics. It makes me mad for my profession  
15 and it makes me mad how the local community is  
16 treated.

17 So if you present predictions you have  
18 to make clear what kind of assumptions are going in,  
19 what is the data that you build the assumption on.  
20 You have to show all the variation and uncertainty  
21 that counts as a prediction error, and forecast  
22 always comes with uncertainty. You have to make  
23 very clear what assumptions, what kind of sea-level  
24 rise, and what kind of conditions you are using.

1 Other things that are something that you  
2 learn in Stats 101 and that is very easy to cheat is  
3 just put a zero on the Y axis. It is not that  
4 difficult. These things should not be a basis for a  
5 decision like that.

6 So we are at capacity. And we don't  
7 trust the data. Why don't you just publish the data  
8 so that we can trust the data. There were a lot of  
9 issues in the past of making clear of what can  
10 happen with the community involvement. Why don't  
11 you make a 180 and show us that you really want  
12 this.

13 I live just a mile away from this  
14 proposed plant and it is a bad idea. Next to the  
15 environmental flooding issues, we don't know if  
16 there's appropriate consideration of the flooding  
17 that we actually can expect with the climate crisis.  
18 The area is flooding already.

19 We have safety concerns that is the  
20 explosion and other hazards that is just amplifying  
21 with jet fuel and heating oil in the area. It is a  
22 densely populated neighborhood and then the public  
23 park. That's what's ridiculous. And clearly it is  
24 not in the public interest as the Boston ballot has

1     been showing.

2                     The Boston ballot is unfortunately  
3 nonbinding but it is closer to a democratic process  
4 than overriding 15 (inaudible) processes that seem  
5 to be already very questionable. In previous years  
6 there were hours and hours of public commentary and  
7 we found we were all ignored the entire time.  
8 Nobody has listened. It is really frustrating.

9                     Please publish the data so that we can  
10 understand and we can have a communication on the  
11 same basis and move that thing. Because in a  
12 flooding zone is nothing where electricity and water  
13 should mix. Thank you.

14                    MS. SHARKEY: Thank you.

15                    I believe Claire and Karl Miller are  
16 next on the list.

17                    MS. MILLER: I went away for a moment.

18                    MS. SHARKEY: We can hear you. I want  
19 to remind you to spell your last name and give your  
20 address.

21                    MS. MILLER: Absolutely. My name is  
22 Claire Miller, M i l l e r. I live at 9 Riverside  
23 Square in Hyde Park. I use they/them pronouns.

24                    I am testifying today on behalf of the

1 Unitarian Universalist Mass Action, the state action  
2 network for UUs, as well as the coordinator for the  
3 Mass Power Forward coalition of more than 200  
4 organizations standing in solidarity with  
5 GreenRoots, East Boston, and all environmental-  
6 justice neighborhoods.

7 I'm here to echo what has been said over  
8 and over to reject this request from Eversource.  
9 Like many humans across the world through space and  
10 time, Unitarian Universalists believe in justice, in  
11 equity, in compassion in all human relations --  
12 human relations. Unfortunately we have seen again  
13 and again how corporations like Eversource work  
14 tirelessly to make money at the expense of everyone  
15 else.

16 It is up to you and other governmental  
17 bodies to do what is best for the public interest.  
18 So please, we implore you, I implore you, protect  
19 our collective public interest. The City of Boston  
20 has not unduly delayed any permits. They don't  
21 issue permits when there are pending appeals or  
22 legal cases on a project as there are here. The  
23 state should not be allowing private corporations,  
24 entities that are really only answerable to their



1 shareholders, to be overriding our really important  
2 laws such as Chapter 91, which again protect our  
3 collective public interests in the Commonwealth.

4 Unitarian Universalists respect the  
5 interdependent web of our existence of which we are  
6 all part. I can't help but listen to all this and  
7 wonder if we are really on track for brownouts in  
8 East Boston this summer. Why are we not hearing,  
9 why are we not working aggressively to think about  
10 what are all the ways that we could be keeping the  
11 lights on? Why aren't we hearing about an amazing,  
12 aggressive, energy-efficiency program, a retrofit  
13 program to get ahead?

14 We are called to do better than this.  
15 Particularly, as mentioned, as a nation, two years  
16 after George Floyd's assassination -- of greater and  
17 greater awareness of antiblackness, racism,  
18 environmental racism, we are called to do better and  
19 to repair harm in environmental-justice  
20 neighborhoods in particular.

21 Please listen to all of us allies across  
22 the state. We stand with GreenRoots and we know  
23 that this request needs to be rejected. Thank you  
24 so much.

1 MS. SHARKEY: Thank you for your  
2 comments.

3 I believe next on the list is Mireille  
4 Bejjani. I'm not sure how it is spelled or  
5 pronounced. If you can unmute yourself and give  
6 your name and address to the stenographer before you  
7 begin your comments.

8 MS. BEJJANI: Hello. My name is  
9 Mireille Bejjani, B e j j a n i. My address is 92  
10 Peabody Lane in Greenfield.

11 I am the energy justice director at  
12 Community Action Works, a regional nonprofit that  
13 works side by side with everyday people to confront  
14 those who are polluting and harming the health of  
15 our communities. I'm here in solidarity with  
16 GreenRoots to ask you to reject Eversource's request  
17 for the certificate.

18 This request from Eversource is an  
19 attempt to ignore public opinion and bypass the  
20 regulatory process that is put in place to protect  
21 our environment and our communities. The residents  
22 in the area, as folks have pointed out, where the  
23 substation is being proposed, and in the City of  
24 Boston as a whole, have overwhelmingly expressed

1 their opposition to this project time and time  
2 again. From testifying at hearings to voting on the  
3 ballot initiative in the November of last year, the  
4 community has made it evident that this project  
5 flies in the face of public interest.

6 What makes it even more egregious is the  
7 fact that East Boston and Chelsea are  
8 environmental-justice communities already over-  
9 burdened by pollution and harmful facilities. The  
10 new roadmap law was put in place to protect  
11 communities like these from cumulative impact and it  
12 should be applied in this instance.

13 Eversource's request for the certificate  
14 not only ignores the public interest and the  
15 public's voice, but it also attempts to ignore the  
16 protections years of legislation and regulation have  
17 put in place for our environment and our  
18 communities. There is a reason that projects must  
19 undergo detailed scrutiny from numerous  
20 decision-making bodies at the municipal and state  
21 levels that have specific expertise to ensure a  
22 measure of accountability and care.

23 Eversource is a private company  
24 accountable only to its stakeholders. EFSB granting

1 this certificate would undermine our state  
2 democratic processes by removing the accountability  
3 that comes from Eversource needing to earn its  
4 permits from the City of Boston and the State of  
5 Massachusetts.

6 I use the word "earn" intentionally  
7 here. Too frequently in my work with communities  
8 across the state I see corporations like Eversource  
9 adopting an attitude of entitlement when it comes to  
10 projects they want to build as though they should be  
11 able to move forward how they want, where they want,  
12 when they want.

13 MS. SHARKEY: Could you slow down,  
14 please. It is difficult for the translators unless  
15 people take their time when they speak. Thank you.

16 MS. BEJJANI: So I was saying too  
17 frequently in my work with communities across the  
18 state I see corporations like Eversource adopting an  
19 attitude of entitlement when it comes to projects  
20 they want to build as though they should be able to  
21 move forward how they want, when they want, where  
22 they want to pollute and harm our communities.

23 Decades of regulatory and permitting  
24 processes deciding in their favor have emboldened

1 corporations to further dig into and exhibit this  
2 attitude. And Eversource is continuing to push this  
3 project forward without showing the public the real  
4 data demonstrating its need and justifying its  
5 placement.

6 Eversource must go through the whole  
7 process including pending appeals and legal cases.  
8 They must earn every permit required to build this  
9 project. They should not be allowed to circumvent  
10 steps designated to protect our communities, that  
11 are designed to protect our communities.

12 So please deny this request for a  
13 certificate to override municipal and state  
14 decision-makers. Thank you.

15 MS. SHARKEY: Thank you for your  
16 comments.

17 Is Mr. Olsen available now? In that  
18 case --

19 MR. WANG: I just promoted presumably  
20 Mr. Olsen to the panel.

21 MS. SHARKEY: Mr. Olsen, are you Mutual  
22 Aid Eastie?

23 MR. OLSEN: Hello, everybody. Can you  
24 hear me okay?

1 MS. SHARKEY: Before you start, can you  
2 give your name, spell your last name, and give your  
3 address for the court reporter.

4 MR. OLSEN: Yes. My name is Leonard  
5 Olsen, O l s e n. I live at 97 Lexington Street,  
6 Apartment 2, East Boston, Mass. 02128.

7 MS. SHARKEY: Thank you.

8 MR. OLSEN: Thank you all and thank you  
9 for putting me back in the queue. I appreciate it.

10 As my Zoom name aptly describes, I work  
11 with the Mutual Aid Network in East Boston.

12 MS. SHARKEY: Mr. Olsen, could you just  
13 slow down a little bit. Even though people are  
14 excited, when they speak too fast it is tough for  
15 the translators. We want to make sure that  
16 everybody's comments are fully captured and provided  
17 for the transcript and the video recording.

18 MR. OLSEN: Yes. Understood. Thank  
19 you. Apologies to the interpreters. Thank you for  
20 your work tonight.

21 In any case, I'm one of the  
22 cofacilitators of the East Boston Utility Network.  
23 I'm here with another member of our team speaking  
24 from the office which is only a couple of blocks

1 away from the proposed site of this substation. Cy  
2 (phonetic) lives in another part of East Boston. I  
3 was explaining to him a little bit about the  
4 project, about a high-voltage, electrical substation  
5 being placed in a flood zone next to where kids  
6 play, next to all the jet fuel in New England. And  
7 Cy, of course, told me what anybody has said about  
8 this project: It sounds like a great project.  
9 That's of course a joke. Nobody has ever said that  
10 about this project that I've described it to, and I  
11 have described it to a lot a lot of people.

12 And I think that resonates with some of  
13 the comments you heard before. I'll get to -- I  
14 know we are here for a specific purpose and a  
15 specific request from Eversource tonight, but I  
16 think that just needs to be underlined that this is  
17 a really absurd and offensive proposal to us here  
18 who live in the neighborhood to be placing the  
19 substation in the place it is meant to be placed.  
20 And like I said, it is only a stone's throw away  
21 from where I am right now.

22 Eversource is a public company,  
23 therefore the intent of all projects should be to  
24 benefit the public and the residents of East Boston.

1 But burdening us in an already environmental-justice  
2 community with both this substation and a rate hike  
3 to go along with it, it doesn't seem to be in  
4 anyone's benefit or the public's benefit whatsoever.

5 In any case, as far as the request to go  
6 around and bounce around the permitting process, not  
7 referring to this in the legal language, but as far  
8 as my interpretation here, this is Eversource  
9 requesting to evade the permitting process and build  
10 this thing before the appeals that have already been  
11 filed on several state and city processes are  
12 finished. It is equally absurd as the project  
13 itself.

14 To put it in summary, I'm here against  
15 what's being proposed before the EFSB today and ask  
16 that the Board stand with the community and the  
17 people here in East Boston and abide by the law,  
18 simply. Eversource has not by any means shown a  
19 reason for why we shouldn't wait for these appeals  
20 and for this process to play out. We are going to  
21 oppose the construction of this at all costs and we  
22 ask the EFSB to do the same.

23 Thank you, everybody, for standing with  
24 the people in East Boston. Again, one more time,



1 I'm here to speak in opposition of the proposal from  
2 Eversource today. Thank you.

3 MS. SHARKEY: Thank you, Mr. Olsen.

4 I believe Tali Smookler is here on the  
5 list. Could you just start by giving your name,  
6 spelling your last name and giving your address.  
7 Please be slow.

8 MS. SMOOKLER: My name is Tali Smookler.  
9 My last name is S m o o k l e r. I'm at 13 Danforth  
10 Street in Jamaica Plain. I'm here with the  
11 Unitarian Universalists Mass Action, as Claire was  
12 earlier as well. We are a statewide faith-based,  
13 social-justice organization and many of our members  
14 live in the Boston area. One of our core issues is  
15 climate and environmental justice.

16 This is a project that depends on  
17 sacrificing the safety of people in East Boston.  
18 Every time I hear about the substation, that it  
19 would be built in a flood zone, near a playground,  
20 near millions of tons of jet fuel, it is really hard  
21 to believe that decision-makers would approve this  
22 clearly dangerous proposal and put communities at  
23 risk. So I ask that you listen to the hundreds of  
24 testimony that residents, allies and politicians

1 have given in the past several years at hearings  
2 like this one against this substation, and also the  
3 residents of Boston who have voted overwhelmingly  
4 against this project this past November, and to not  
5 move forward with this project.

6           Lastly, there are environmental-justice  
7 laws that should be applied to this project that the  
8 cumulative impact of this project on a community  
9 already so heavily burdened should be considered  
10 strongly. And so with that, I really urge you and  
11 ask that you do not move this project forward.  
12 Thank you.

13           MS. SHARKEY: Thank you.

14           Next on the list is Karry Muzzey.  
15 Again, the same routine. Give your name, spell your  
16 last name, and give your address and then your  
17 comments. Thank you.

18           MS. MUZZEY: My name is Karry Muzzey.  
19 My last name is spelled M u z z e y. And I live at  
20 3688 Washington Street in Boston. I'll keep it  
21 brief because a lot of what I was wanting to say has  
22 already been said so well by others, and you've all  
23 heard community input on this project. Boston  
24 voters overwhelmingly oppose, voices from the

1 neighborhood overwhelmingly oppose, city councilors  
2 and the state rep and senator for the neighborhood  
3 oppose. The only party saying that this substation  
4 is in the public interest seems to be Eversource.

5           And to the Siting Board, if you are  
6 going to seek public input from the residents of the  
7 neighborhood who have less power but who are those  
8 most affected by this project who will have to see  
9 it and pass by it every day for the next several  
10 decades, their voices should be given at least as  
11 much weight as Eversource, a private corporation.

12           There are other locations, as was  
13 pointed out, in the East Boston neighborhood with  
14 higher elevation, further away from the banks of the  
15 Chelsea Creek, further away from the heating oil and  
16 jet fuel and recreational areas that should be  
17 seriously considered.

18           There's also a microgrid slated to be  
19 coming online in Chelsea and that should help with  
20 some of the reliability issues that Eversource  
21 mentioned. It could be expanded and could  
22 contribute to the region's energy independence.

23           This project of course, as others have  
24 stated, shouldn't be exempted from the new

1 environmental-justice provisions that are now law  
2 which state that communities with heavy air  
3 pollution and industrial pollution should be given  
4 extra consideration before any energy projects are  
5 built. That law passed to help repair historical  
6 injustices, and Massachusetts needs our commitment  
7 and dedication to environmental justice.

8 So I recommend that you please at least  
9 wait until all the outstanding appeals and lawsuits  
10 have been decided before allowing this project to  
11 move forward. Thank you for the opportunity to  
12 speak tonight.

13 MS. SHARKEY: Thank you for your  
14 comments.

15 The next person on the list I believe is  
16 Tania Del Rio. If you are here, could you raise  
17 your hand.

18 MS. DEL RIO: I'm here.

19 MS. SHARKEY: The same rules as  
20 everybody else. Could you give your name, spell  
21 your last name, and give your address, please, and  
22 give us --

23 MS. DEL RIO: Yes, thank you. My name  
24 is Tania Del Rio, D e l R i o, 28 Teragram Street in

1 East Boston. I want to add my voice to the many  
2 community members who have added their voices  
3 repeatedly to this conversation no matter the  
4 hurdles that have been placed upon the community for  
5 participating in this process.

6 People have been exercising their  
7 leadership and their advocacy in opposition to this  
8 substation for the reasons that have been stated  
9 before. It is dangerous. It is near to almost 20  
10 million gallons of jet fuel. It is in a flood zone,  
11 in a densely housed area right next to a playground  
12 that my children have used for years.

13 We, instead of considering building a  
14 substation in this specific location, should be  
15 looking at building a buffer zone to protect our  
16 environmental-justice community, the community, the  
17 neighborhood and the City of Boston that's the most  
18 at risk for sea-level rise and for storm surge  
19 flooding which we have actually seen on that very  
20 street.

21 We should be looking for open space  
22 permeable surfaces (inaudible), and extension of the  
23 urban wild. Instead what we got was a police  
24 station, and a substation is proposed. And as

1 others have shared, the process has sown mistrust,  
2 and has featured in many points just the lack of  
3 inclusion, which I am heartened to see improved with  
4 the translation services and the remote options.  
5 Still the damage has been done.

6 I guess what is most troublesome to me  
7 and it is makes my blood boil a little bit, to be  
8 honest, is the fact that we have had repeated  
9 meetings where the overwhelming majority of the  
10 people who are testifying, both neighbors and  
11 allies, are telling you, are telling Eversource, not  
12 necessarily the Board, but Eversource that we oppose  
13 the substation, that there are better locations for  
14 it, that we understand the need for infrastructure  
15 but that's not the right location, and repeatedly  
16 the process keeps moving forward. Now we have seen  
17 even legal action being taken.

18 So that part to me is, it is hard to  
19 understand, the fact that in the face of now the  
20 whole City of Boston voting overwhelmingly against  
21 this substation being located here, Eversource  
22 continues to insist. So to me the presentation  
23 earlier today around presenting scenarios to scare  
24 us, around how we are not going to have power and

1 how, you know, if we don't have the substation we  
2 are just going to not have electricity is just a  
3 tactic that's not appropriate. I see it as a power  
4 play. It is either a power play or just not caring  
5 about community input.

6 So I ask the Board with respect to  
7 please stand with this neighborhood, stand with the  
8 rest of the City of Boston that has said this is not  
9 the appropriate location for this piece of  
10 infrastructure, and we need to be more creative  
11 around how to provide energy for our community. As  
12 has been mentioned before, there is technology  
13 available, there are better ways. We can be more  
14 creative. So my ask to the Board is do not grant  
15 this relief to Eversource. The community opposes  
16 it. Please stand with us.

17 MS. SHARKEY: Thank you.

18 Is Linda Jenkins here, who is next on  
19 the list who signed up with us? If you are, can you  
20 raise your hand? We will try and come back to her.

21 Sabine Peterka is next.

22 MS. PETERKA: My name is Sabine Peterka,  
23 P e t e r k a. I live at 68 Bailey Street in Boston  
24 02124.

1 I work with kids in East Boston and  
2 Chelsea and so I'm here tonight to voice my  
3 opposition to Eversource's attempt to avoid  
4 necessary permitting processes for this project,  
5 which is largely opposed by the community. I'm  
6 asking the Board to deny the certificate.

7 The kids that I work with already face  
8 high levels of pollution and chemicals which  
9 threaten their health and well-being. This project  
10 would bring an increased risk of accidents around  
11 the voltage in this flooding area as well as  
12 increased pollution from construction and taking  
13 away green space which would further burden these  
14 kids with more adverse environmental conditions.

15 I believe that safe alternatives exist  
16 to meet our future energy needs without sacrificing  
17 our health. We all deserve opportunities to  
18 advocate for safe conditions in our communities, and  
19 Eversource must be held accountable to taking public  
20 opinion seriously and taking it to heart. Thank  
21 you.

22 MS. SHARKEY: Thank you.

23 Next is Thomas Price. Would you raise  
24 your hand if you are here.



1 MR. PRICE: I'm here.

2 MS. SHARKEY: I saw you pop up on the  
3 screen. Could you do the usual, give your name,  
4 spell your last name, and give your address, please.  
5 Thank you.

6 MR. PRICE: My name is Thomas Price, P r  
7 i c e. I live at 472 Saratoga Street, Apartment 2.

8 So my main reason for comments are  
9 really to ask some questions to Eversource in  
10 regards to how they plan on dealing with the siting  
11 and their current plans as drawn, given out in the  
12 flier that was mailed out.

13 It is, as has been mentioned multiple  
14 times, in a flood zone with proximity to the Chelsea  
15 Creek. I want to understand, to know what  
16 considerations have been taken in regards to  
17 particularly the transformer protection for leaking  
18 transformer oil. There's a base that's made for  
19 that. How is that being designed to take into  
20 account the significant rainfall events, in  
21 particular hurricanes, and the fact that there are  
22 higher-intensity storms now occurring more often.  
23 And also, how they are going to handle what's  
24 involved in the siting of the electronics shack, I

1 think it was called, or the maintenance building  
2 where all the protective relay equipment will most  
3 likely to be stored and with that location being  
4 closer to the creek, meaning that it is going to be  
5 on the lower -- I'm not an expert and I haven't seen  
6 every single part of the design -- but it most  
7 likely will be starting at a lower elevation than  
8 the rest of the -- than other parts of the  
9 substation design.

10           Also, in addition, there's a lot of  
11 maintenance, a lot of roads that's going to be going  
12 through extensive work to put in the new conduits to  
13 tie to the distribution. What I want to know is how  
14 is that going to be managed so as to mitigate the  
15 amount of streets that are closed, access. This is  
16 a neighborhood with a certain amount of one-way  
17 streets and also a very, very tight parking  
18 situation as it exists today. And it gets worse  
19 when we have repair work done on a street and half  
20 of a block is closed down.

21           To a bigger extent my question is this.  
22 We are trying to give -- the discussion is a request  
23 for a certificate to proceed with the construction  
24 when questions like these need to be answered before

1 you can go ahead and build something that's going to  
2 be here for 50 to a hundred years, and if we don't  
3 account for that we will have damage to our electric  
4 system that I as a ratepayer will eventually end up  
5 paying. That's the extent of my comments.

6 MS. SHARKEY: Mr. Price, if I could just  
7 ask you to qualify. You said this was in a flier?

8 MR. PRICE: The notice that was mailed  
9 to us.

10 MS. SHARKEY: Okay.

11 MR. PRICE: Sorry.

12 MS. SHARKEY: That's fine. I wasn't  
13 sure what you were referring to.

14 Would the company like to respond to  
15 Mr. Price's question?

16 MR. HALLSTROM: There was certainly an  
17 awful lot there. I don't know if I can hit  
18 everything. Certainly we are going to build a  
19 substation that will last 50 years. That's how we  
20 will design the station. And our intent will be for  
21 that substation to do its job for many years.

22 In terms of the oil containment, the  
23 transformers do have in their design containments if  
24 there should be an oil release. But all of our

1 transformers have a very significant amount of  
2 monitoring. New transformers, new substations with  
3 today's technology, we see a lot remotely from our  
4 control center on how the equipment is performing.  
5 There are many, many alarms that would give us a  
6 heads-up if anything was going, that's happening  
7 that shouldn't happen.

8 As I said in my opening remarks, when  
9 you think about substations and their importance to  
10 the electric system and serving customers, we  
11 inspect, we maintain. All of our substation are  
12 inspected at least monthly. We put a lot of  
13 emphasis into maintenance and operations.  
14 Substations can't afford to go down. We can't  
15 afford to have an issue. We put a lot of attention  
16 into them.

17 So I'm very confident about the design  
18 and its location and its ability to serve our  
19 customers for many, many years.

20 MR. PRICE: Can I ask just a quick  
21 follow-up? How is the design being impacted, in  
22 essence what's the criteria being used for the  
23 design of the substation, the siting of the  
24 equipment in the site to account for the ever

1 increasing, the significant flooding risk from  
2 climate change, sea-level rise, and the increase in  
3 significant rainstorm events? I have seen pictures  
4 of massive, massive storms in urban areas. I just  
5 would want to make sure that before there's any go-  
6 ahead to build this, you are anticipating, and it's  
7 designed properly. That concerns me with just  
8 giving a green light with agreeing to go ahead with  
9 the certificate of interest.

10 MS. BOWDEN: Thank you for your  
11 question. We do have significant information on the  
12 record. I'm going to ask Mr. Zicko to come forward  
13 and answer this question, just a high-level  
14 overview. Additionally, there's some information on  
15 this in the underlying case.

16 Mr. Zicko?

17 MR. ZICKO: Good evening. Can everybody  
18 hear me?

19 MS. SHARKEY: Yes.

20 MR. ZICKO: The spelling of my last name  
21 is Z i c k o. I'm the director of capital project  
22 engineering at Eversource.

23 When we first started to conceptualize  
24 this station, there weren't a lot of industry

1 standards on how to deal with sea-level rise and  
2 flooding and storms and climate change. We adopted  
3 at the time what we felt were very conservative  
4 assumptions that are, as Ms. Bowden said, are amply  
5 documented in the record. As time went on the  
6 industry in general adopted standards for the flood  
7 resiliency stations. One of the most notable that  
8 we refer back to is the one by the independent  
9 system operator ISO New England. They are charged  
10 with keeping the lights on all over New England.

11 As it turns out, the assumptions that we  
12 made and plan to build the station to exceed what is  
13 in the ISO New England standard. ISO New England,  
14 for those of you who don't know, is charged with the  
15 safe, reliable and cost-effective operation of the  
16 electric grid in New England.

17 We have designed for a certain flood  
18 level and storm. We realize that nature can be  
19 unpredictable. And there's nothing in the design  
20 that would prohibit the use of portable flood  
21 barriers if they became necessary in the future. As  
22 Mr. Hallstrom very eloquently said, this is a big  
23 investment for the company. We don't want it to  
24 flood, and we want to make sure it stays online to

1 the maximum extent possible. Thank you.

2 MS. BOWDEN: Thank you, Mr. Zicko.

3 MR. PRICE: Thanks for answering the  
4 questions.

5 MS. SHARKEY: Thank you, Mr. Price.

6 Mr. Wang, is that the end of the list of  
7 people who have preregistered?

8 MR. WANG: It is, it is.

9 MS. SHARKEY: In that case we would open  
10 up the floor to people who are in attendance and  
11 want to speak but were not able, for whatever  
12 reasons, to preregister with us to speak. If you  
13 are in attendance and you have any questions or  
14 comments, please raise your hand.

15 MR. WANG: We have four hands raised.  
16 I'm going to promote them by the order they are  
17 showing up in my list.

18 MS. SHARKEY: Thank you.

19 MR. WANG: We have Ms. Mariam Cohen  
20 first.

21 MS. SHARKEY: Before you start, if you  
22 can spell your last name and give your address  
23 please and speak slowly.

24 MS. COHEN: My name is Miriam Cohen, C o

1 h e n. I live at 126 Hudson Street in Somerville.  
2 And I am going to be brief because I just want to  
3 reiterate everything that's been said really  
4 eloquently by a lot of people here tonight.

5 I'm an organizer with Massachusetts  
6 Interfaith Power and Light. We organize people of  
7 faith in congregations for climate and environmental  
8 justice across the state. First of all, we stand in  
9 solidarity with GreenRoots and the coalition of  
10 folks that are fighting against the substation.

11 On a personal level, this is the first  
12 hearing, meeting like this that I've been on. And I  
13 am actually surprised by how little I learned  
14 tonight. Everything that was said by Eversource,  
15 representatives from Eversource about the substation  
16 being necessary I have heard before. And the points  
17 made by the advocates saying this is the wrong place  
18 for this kind of facility I've heard before. I'm  
19 disappointed that this time is being spent in what  
20 feels like pretending to listen to community  
21 members.

22 So I reiterate on behalf of myself as a  
23 Massachusetts resident and the folks that I work  
24 with to take into account the laws that legislators



1 have passed and the message that voters have sent.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. SHARKEY: Thank you.

4 MR. WANG: We have Dr. Marcos Luna next.

5 MS. SHARKEY: If you can unmute yourself  
6 and give your name, spell your last name and give  
7 your address.

8 MR. LUNA: My name is Marcos, M a r c o  
9 s, Luna, L u n a. I live at 143 Saratoga Street in  
10 East Boston, just on the other side of the hill from  
11 the substation site.

12 I want to say that the certificate of  
13 public interest should be denied. Eversource has  
14 not clearly and transparently demonstrated that this  
15 facility in this particular location is a pressing  
16 need ;in fact, the repeated projections have turned  
17 out to be incorrect, and the fact that it refuses to  
18 share localized data to empirically support its  
19 supposed need.

20 Given the deep and consistent opposition  
21 by the community and its representatives about a  
22 substation at this location and the frustration with  
23 the public engagement process itself, I think the  
24 Energy Facilities Siting Board has an obligation to

1 at the very least adhere to a fully vetted process  
2 that allows the permitting process to be completed  
3 without shortcuts for legal maneuvering.

4 Finally, while a essential  
5 infrastructure is certainly in the public's  
6 interest, so is due process and a substantive public  
7 engagement process and equity. This is why the  
8 Commonwealth passed legislation this past year  
9 defining environmental-justice communities and  
10 directing state agencies to incorporate  
11 environmental justice into their processes and  
12 decision-making.

13 The proposed siting of this substation  
14 fits a pattern of inequitable industrial development  
15 that is overly concentrated in certain communities,  
16 disproportionately distributing the burdens while  
17 the benefits are captured by others. This is not in  
18 the public interest.

19 Again, I ask that you deny Eversource's  
20 petition for a certificate of public interest.

21 Thank you.

22 MS. SHARKEY: Thank you.

23 Next we have Karla Ceruzzi. If you can  
24 raise your hand.

1 Give your name and address for the  
2 stenographer.

3 MS. CERUZZI: My name is Karla Ceruzzi,  
4 C e r u z z i. I live at 115 Saratoga Street in  
5 Boston. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

6 I have been following this process for  
7 many years from afar. I've not been to one of these  
8 meetings before. I wanted to thank some of my  
9 fellow East Boston parents and neighbors in Eagle  
10 Hill for working to spread the word about this  
11 project and about this process which has from my  
12 perspective really flown under the radar for a long  
13 time.

14 A lot of people have already made good  
15 points so I'll keep my comments short. I just  
16 wanted to add my voice to the record. I'd like to  
17 go back to the beginning of the meeting when we  
18 heard that there's no plan B for kind of adding  
19 additional capacity to this area, electrical  
20 capacity.

21 I think that this project has been  
22 talked about for a long time. Community opposition  
23 to the project as it is currently sited has been  
24 going on for many years. Over these years we have

1 all learned a lot more about sea-level rise and  
2 extreme weather, the importance of green  
3 infrastructure, resilient infrastructure, and  
4 comprehensive planning as well as environmental  
5 justice. So a lot has happened over those years.

6 My question is why is there no plan B?  
7 Why are there no alternatives on the table? I'm not  
8 familiar with the data that underpins all of these  
9 assumptions. But what I do know as a member of the  
10 community, a longtime resident, is that this  
11 community has rejected this version of the project  
12 many times, at the ballot, in meeting, through our  
13 elected representatives, through public comment. I  
14 don't understand why we seem to be just powering  
15 through that opposition instead of developing  
16 alternatives. I don't understand why this is the  
17 right site and only site that makes sense for this  
18 project.

19 To wrap up, I think it would be  
20 unfortunate if the Board that is hearing this  
21 request fell into this false sense of urgency that  
22 everything is going to go bad or everything is going  
23 to go dark if we don't grant sort of this work-  
24 around for public process. It doesn't seem like

1 there's much investment in coming up with  
2 alternatives. I think that working together with  
3 the community it should be possible that we can come  
4 up with something else. Thank you.

5 MS. SHARKEY: Thank you.

6 Next we have Nora Paul-Schultz.

7 MS. PAUL-SCHULTZ: Good evening. My  
8 name is Nora Paul-Schultz, P a u l hyphen S c h u l  
9 t z. I live at 13 Danforth Street in Jamaica Plain.

10 I'm a physics teacher in Boston public  
11 schools. Many of my students live in East Boston.  
12 They talk about walking in the parks near the  
13 proposed site for the substation. When we talked  
14 about the substation as an example of how physics is  
15 connected to their lives, many of them are really  
16 horrified that anyone would choose to put a  
17 substation in this place. They were concerned about  
18 the flooding and about the fuel tanks and the  
19 proximity to parks and playgrounds. They were  
20 asking --

21 MS. SHARKEY: I think we lost her.

22 MR. GREENE: Apologies for the technical  
23 glitch there.

24 MS. PAUL-SCHULTZ: Hi. Thank you.

1 MS. SHARKEY: Thank you for coming back.

2 MS. PAUL-SCHULTZ: No problem. The  
3 virtual world we are in.

4 My students are concerned and want to  
5 know why people would choose this spot as a spot.  
6 So I stand with GreenRoots and other groups  
7 advocating to not have the substation in this spot.  
8 And I hope that we can find a different spot that  
9 will not inhibit my students' access to green space.  
10 Thank you so much.

11 MS. SHARKEY: Thank you.

12 Next is Gabriella Coletta. Unmute  
13 yourself, give your name, spell your last name, give  
14 your address.

15 MS. COLETTA: Good evening. My name is  
16 Gabriella Coletta, C o l e t t a. I live at 99  
17 Trenton Street, Apartment 1, in East Boston. I'm a  
18 lifelong Eagle Hill resident and a candidate for  
19 Boston City Council. Thank you.

20 I stand with GreenRoots and other  
21 amazing advocacy organizations and ask that you  
22 reject this certificate. There is no pressing need  
23 and there is no support. There is only community  
24 power in opposition.

1 East Boston faces unique challenges. It  
2 has always been, it has always been bearing the  
3 burden of generational environmental injustices. An  
4 electric substation has no place on the shoreline of  
5 this community near gas tanks, period.

6 Eversource has contended that recent  
7 developments mandate that a new substation be built.  
8 But they have yet to produce an hour-by-hour need or  
9 any data to back up their claims. In fact, the  
10 Union of Concerned Scientists has provided data from  
11 New England power showing increased efficiency in  
12 new buildings and appliances. They have also failed  
13 to engage non-English-speaking populations in the  
14 community.

15 We have seen time and time again that  
16 our community is overburdened and we are tired, we  
17 are tired by polluting-energy infrastructure with  
18 the lack of intentional community outreach to  
19 residents who do not speak English. This  
20 perpetuates a cycle of injustice by not allowing  
21 residents to voice their concerns, ask questions of  
22 major energy corporations, and fully understand the  
23 impact on their health and well-being.

24 We also need to also effectively

1 incorporate contemporary data as it relates to  
2 sea-level rise and storm surge. We must plan for  
3 the future and what we know will be coming and what  
4 has already happened, which is coastal flooding.  
5 There are a million different alternatives that  
6 could go here and the community has said time and  
7 time again they are against it, and the entire City  
8 of Boston voted against this.

9 So my question is, who are your  
10 supporters, Eversource? I haven't heard one here  
11 tonight. We are an activist community. We have  
12 risen up during this process to collectively say no  
13 to this substation. We do not want, we do not need,  
14 and Eversource has not demonstrated a need for the  
15 substation. Do the right thing and please reject  
16 this proposal. Thank you.

17 MS. SHARKEY: Thank you.

18 Is there anyone else remaining who would  
19 like to speak? If they could raise their hand.

20 MR. WANG: There's a Nomey Rodriguez.

21 MS. SHARKEY: Before you start, could  
22 you go through the process where you give your name  
23 and spell your last name and give your address and  
24 then give us your comments. Thank you.



1 MS RODRIGUEZ: (Through interpreter)

2 Nomey Rodriguez, N o m e y, R o d r i g u e z.

3 Good afternoon. I am a resident of East  
4 Boston, of West Eagle Street in East Boston, and I'm  
5 also an organizer of community purposes with  
6 GreenRoots. My testimony of tonight is the  
7 opposition. Given prior years when Eversource  
8 started bringing these projects to our community we  
9 were excluded, and you also have to remember that.  
10 We were excluded from the reunions (verbatim), one  
11 for not having the correct interpretation knowing  
12 that we are a part of this community. We are from  
13 those Hispanics that didn't understand the  
14 terminology or understood the preoccupations or the  
15 chaos that this was going to bring to our community.  
16 It is really infuriating to see that you guys are  
17 approving the energy source invading the right that  
18 we have as Hispanics.

19 This is also our community. We also  
20 have privileges inside of this community. My sons  
21 have enjoyed that park where they would like to  
22 construct this plant for eight years. And it is  
23 unjust that they come with this project. We are  
24 tired, because our sons are the ones that are

1 suffering the impacts of what this is causing, the  
2 contamination, the asthma has been more prevalent  
3 now in our children. We need to stop. We want to  
4 stop because we have an overcharge of this and I  
5 think it is unjust.

6 I think they need to understand we know  
7 the need that you have. What you need to understand  
8 and listen is what is our concerns as parents and  
9 why we don't want the substation close to the park.

10 I'm very thankful with all our people of  
11 the community. Now I'm speaking in my language and  
12 I feel strengthened because now they are listening  
13 in the right language that they should have brought  
14 this proposal to. But unfortunately we were  
15 excluded when we had to stop working, when we had to  
16 pay so that they could take care of our children,  
17 and not understand absolutely anything for four  
18 hours.

19 Now, you have to understand that we are  
20 stronger than yesterday when we couldn't see that  
21 all this impact was coming upon us as well. And  
22 this is why I'm against this proposal. What we want  
23 is parks, green areas where our children can explore  
24 and learn and educate themselves in a greener way.

1 We don't want a substation. We want more parks. We  
2 want us to help create this park, this green park to  
3 create what we need in the environment, what we need  
4 as humans that we are destroying. Thank you.

5 MS. SHARKEY: Thank you.

6 If there isn't anyone else, I would like  
7 to thank everyone for attending tonight's Siting  
8 Board hearing.

9 MR. GREENE: We have one more, Presiding  
10 Officer Sharkey.

11 MS. SHARKEY: Thank you. I can't see  
12 the hands raised virtually. Who do we have next?

13 MR. GREENE: Sandra N.

14 MS. SHARKEY: So Sandra could you follow  
15 the same routine where you give your name, spell  
16 your name, and give your address before you give us  
17 your comments.

18 MS. NIJJAR: Thank you. I am Sandra  
19 Nijjar, N i j j a r. I live at 137 Saratoga Street.  
20 I am, I live a couple of blocks away from where you  
21 are proposing to put in this substation.

22 So I am against the installation of this  
23 electrical plant in my neighborhood. I have  
24 expressed this feeling and this frustration over a

1 and over and over again. I have shared with all of  
2 you my feelings, my sense on this proposal.

3 I really believe that an electrical  
4 substation to be installed straight on the ground by  
5 the Chelsea Creek water without any platform and  
6 without any shielding to protect us from the  
7 electrical magnetic rays, it is ridiculous. It is  
8 so wrong and you know it. This substation will be  
9 extremely hazardous to our safety and to our health  
10 and you all know that too.

11 And I don't understand why you  
12 consciously make such a decision to install such a  
13 ticking bomb in my neighborhood. How can you sleep  
14 at night knowing that you have sentenced us all to  
15 death over money? And you all know this. It seems  
16 to me that this is about ego more than it is about  
17 money. You don't like to be told no, Eversource.  
18 You are used to doing as you please at all cost.

19 Well, we, the East Boston residents, are  
20 telling you no. We do not want your dangerous,  
21 ticking bomb electrical substation in our  
22 neighborhood. Take it to your backyard. Put it  
23 next to your neighborhood. See how you feel walking  
24 by it, especially when you know you have had heavy

1 rains and the water rises, and you are thinking  
2 every night, oh, my God, the substation is a block  
3 away from my house and it is raining heavy. It is  
4 right next to the water and it floods. It is in a  
5 flood zone. Am I going to be awake tomorrow or am I  
6 going to be gone, am I going to be ashes? Try to be  
7 in our shoes for a little bit. Try to pretend to be  
8 us for a little bit and see how you feel.

9 I beg you, please, think about us for a  
10 little bit over money. Money is not everything.  
11 You are alive today and tomorrow we don't know. I  
12 think COVID 19 has really taught us a lesson. I  
13 hope it has taught us a lesson. Think a little bit  
14 about us. Thank you so much.

15 MS. SHARKEY: Thank you.

16 Mr. Wang, is there anyone else who is  
17 waiting to speak?

18 MR. WANG: Someone had their hand raised  
19 but they put it down. So I'm not sure if they still  
20 want to speak.

21 MS. SHARKEY: If there is anyone here  
22 who was waiting or wants to speak, please let us  
23 know now.

24 MR. WANG: I don't see anyone right now.

1 MS. SHARKEY: In that case, thank you to  
2 everyone who has attended and offered comments  
3 tonight.

4 The notice that you have seen for this  
5 public comment hearing include other important dates  
6 that are related to this case. If you decide that  
7 your spoken comments tonight were not fully  
8 expressed, you should file written comments by April  
9 19. Your written comments help inform the Siting  
10 Board about public concerns regarding the  
11 certificate request and other issues under review in  
12 this proceeding. Please email those comments to me  
13 at D o n n a dot S h a r k e y@mass.gov. And to the  
14 company legal's representatives at d r o s e n@K e e  
15 g a n w e r l i n.com.

16 Intervenors and limited participants in  
17 the initial proceeding or in the project change  
18 proceeding are automatically granted the same status  
19 in this proceeding without the need for a new  
20 petition. If you decide that you wish to  
21 participate as either an intervenor or a limited  
22 participant, you need to file those requests by  
23 April 19 as well. Our Siting Board website  
24 describes the requirements necessary to petition for

1 status as an intervenor or for status as a limited  
2 participant. There is a specific page on our  
3 website which provides information on filing these  
4 requests. The web address is [www.mass.gov/how-to/  
5 file-a-petition-to-intervene-in-an-EFSB-or-DPU-  
6 siting-case](http://www.mass.gov/how-to/file-a-petition-to-intervene-in-an-EFSB-or-DPU-siting-case). You can always use the links that are  
7 written in the notice you received of tonight's  
8 public comment hearing in order to file any  
9 information either with me or with the Siting Board.

10 On Tuesday, May 17, 2022 the Siting  
11 Board will conduct an initial remote adjudicatory  
12 hearing to review Eversource's certificate request  
13 beginning at 10:00 a.m. using Zoom. Information on  
14 viewing that hearing will be posted on the Siting  
15 Board's information web page before the hearing.  
16 That address is also included in the notice that you  
17 received of the public hearing tonight.

18 I would like to thank everyone for  
19 attending this public comment hearing and for your  
20 patience with us tonight. Good night.

21 Off the record.

22 (8:47 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, David A. Arsenault, Registered Professional Reporter, and Certified Reporter in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, #100693, do hereby certify that the foregoing record is a true and accurate transcript of my stenographic notes taken on March 30, 2022 in the above-captioned matter.

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David A. Arsenault, RPR



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