

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

ENERGY FACILITIES SITING BOARD
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF ADJUDICATION AND PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING

EFSB 22-05/D.P.U. 22-69

Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 69J and G.L. c. 40A, § 3, Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource” or “Company”), located at 800 Boylston Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02109, has filed two related petitions with the Energy Facilities Siting Board (“Siting Board”) and the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) in connection with the Company’s proposal to construct, operate and maintain a new Point of Delivery (“POD”) in Longmeadow, and a new natural gas pipeline from the proposed POD in Longmeadow to the Company’s Bliss Street Regulator Station in Springfield, Massachusetts. The Company’s proposed Project includes: (1) installation of POD equipment at and adjacent to the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C. (“TGP”) meter station to be constructed in Longmeadow; (2) installation of approximately 5.3 miles of new 16-inch pipeline with a normal operating pressure of approximately 200 pounds per square inch gauge (“psig”), in Longmeadow and Springfield; and (3) upgrades at the existing Bliss Street Regulator Station to connect the Project to the existing distribution system serving the Greater Springfield Area. This work is collectively referred to as the Western Massachusetts Gas Reliability Project, or the “Project.” The Company asserts that the Project is needed to enhance the reliability of the natural gas distribution system to approximately 58,000 customers in the Greater Springfield Area.


The Siting Board will conduct a remote public comment hearing regarding the Project using Zoom videoconferencing on Wednesday, December 14, 2022, at 6:00 pm. Attendees can join by clicking (or entering) the following link <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84781554962> from a computer, smartphone, or tablet. No prior software download is required. For audio-only participation, attendees can dial in at **1 646 558 8656 (not toll free)** and then enter the Webinar ID: **847-8155-4962**.

If you anticipate providing comments via Zoom during the public comment hearing, please send an email to geneen.bartley@mass.gov with your name, email address, and mailing address by **December 13, 2022**. If you anticipate commenting by telephone, please leave a voicemail message at (617) 305-3529 with your name, telephone number, and mailing address by **December 13, 2022**. Additional commenters may be allowed during the public comment hearing, at the discretion of the Presiding Officer.

The Siting Board will accept written comments on the Project. Written comments will be most useful to the Siting Board if submitted by **Monday, January 2, 2023**. Persons or groups who wish to be involved in the Siting Board proceeding beyond providing comments at the public comment hearing or submitting written comments may seek either to intervene as a party or to participate as a limited participant. A petition to intervene or participate must be filed with the Siting Board in electronic format, by email or email attachment, to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and to andre.gibeau@mass.gov no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Monday, January 2, 2023**.

Public Comment Hearing

At the public comment hearing, Eversource will present an overview of the Project. Public officials and members of the public will then have an opportunity to ask questions and make comments about the proposed Project. The public comment hearing will be recorded by a court reporter. A recording of the public comment hearing will be posted to the Department's YouTube channel after the public comment hearing, at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkIPj6xxSKww-Kr26IEZVTA>.

Simultaneous English-to-Spanish interpretation will be provided on Zoom. All attendees should select their preferred language to hear the Interpreter translate into that language. Press the globe icon  and then choose the desired language.

Intervention and Participation

Persons or groups who wish to be involved in the Siting Board proceeding beyond providing comments at the public comment hearing or submitting written comments may seek either to intervene as a party or to participate as a limited participant. Intervention as a party allows the person or group to participate fully in the evidentiary phase of the proceeding, including the right to participate in evidentiary hearings and to appeal a final decision. A limited participant would receive documents in the proceeding and may file a brief as well as file written comments and/or present oral comments regarding the Tentative Decision to the Siting Board.

Any person wishing to intervene as a party or to participate as a limited participant in this proceeding must file a written petition with the Presiding Officer (see Filing Instructions below). A petition to intervene or be a limited participant must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 980 CMR 1.00, the Siting Board's procedural rules, which can be found on the Siting Board's website at: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/980-cmr-1-rules-for-the-conduct-of-adjudicatory-proceedings/download>. To be allowed, a petition to intervene filed pursuant to 980 CMR 1.05 must demonstrate that the petitioner may be substantially and specifically affected by this proceeding.

Filing Instructions

Written comments on the Project, or a petition to intervene or participate as a limited participant in this proceeding, must be filed in two places:

First, the petition to intervene or participate, and comments, must be filed with the Siting Board in electronic format, by email or email attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov; and to andre.gibeau@mass.gov no later than the close of business on **Monday, January 2, 2023**. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (EFSB 22-05/D.P.U. 22-69); (2) the name of the person or entity submitting the filing; and (3) a brief description of the document. The electronic filing should also include the name, title, and telephone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. Second, the petition or comments must be sent electronically to counsel for the Company, David S. Rosenzweig, Esq., Keegan Werlin LLP, 99 High Street, Suite 2900, Boston, MA 02110, drosen@keeganwerlin.com.

Siting Board Jurisdiction

Under G.L. c. 164, §§ 69H, 69J, the Siting Board will review the Company's filing to determine whether the Project would provide a reliable energy supply with a minimum impact on the environment at the lowest possible cost. Under G.L. c. 40A, § 3, the Siting Board will determine

whether zoning exemptions are required for the Project and whether the present or proposed use of the land or structure is reasonably necessary for the convenience or welfare of the public.

Public Review of the Company's Petitions

The petition to construct the Project includes the following information: (1) a description of the Project; (2) an analysis of the need for the Project; (3) a description of the alternatives to the Project; (4) a description of the route selection process and of the proposed route (Proposed Route), the alternative route (Noticed Alternative Route), and two design variations (Noticed Variations); (5) a description of the environmental impacts of the Project and a comparison of the routes; and (6) a description of the Project's consistency with policies of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Copies of the Company's petitions, including all attachments, are available for public inspection in hard-copy format at the following locations:

- Energy Facilities Siting Board, One South Station, 5th floor, Boston, MA 02110
- Forest Park Branch Library, 380 Belmont Avenue, Springfield, MA 01108
- East Forest Park Branch Library, 136 Surrey Road, Springfield, MA 01118
- Springfield Central Library, 220 State Street, Springfield, MA 01103
- Hispanic-American Library, 55 Frank B. Murray Street, Springfield, MA 01103
- Richard Salter Storrs Library, 693 Longmeadow Street, Longmeadow, MA 01106
- Springfield City Clerk's Office, City Hall Room 123, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA 01103
- Longmeadow Town Clerk Office, 20 Williams Street, Longmeadow MA 01106

In addition, the Company's petitions, including all attachments are electronically available via the Department of Public Utilities' website at:

<https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber/EFSB22-05>. To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, or audio format) contact the Siting Board's ADA coordinator at Melixza.Esenyie2@mass.gov or 617-626-1282. The Siting Board has created a special information webpage for this proceeding and will update it during the course of the proceeding <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/western-ma-gas-project>. The Company's information is also available on the Company's website at the following address: <https://www.eversource.com/content/wma/residential/about/transmission-distribution/projects/western-massachusetts-natural-gas-reliability-project>.

Accommodation Requests

Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Include a complete description of the accommodation you will need and a way we can contact you if we need more information. Please provide as much advance notice as possible. Please allow at least two weeks (14 days) advance notice. Last minute requests will be accepted, but we may be unable to fulfill the request. Please send your requests to: Melixza G. Esenyie, ADA and Diversity Manager at the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs at Melixza.Esenyie2@mass.gov or call 617-626-1282 no later than **Wednesday, December 7, 2022**.

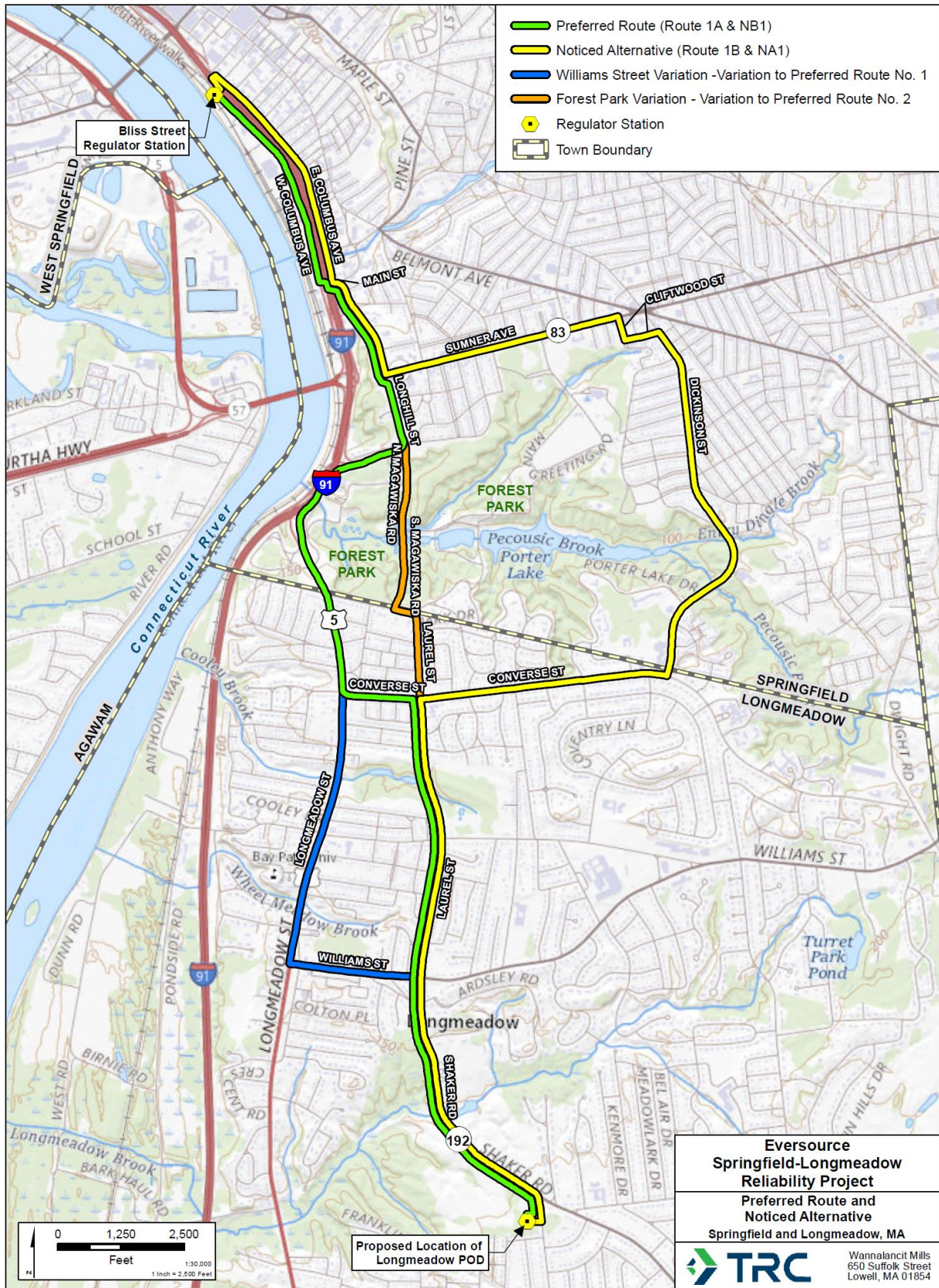
Simultaneous English-to-Spanish interpretation will be provided. Interpretation services in other languages for those with limited English language proficiency are available upon request. Include in

your request the language required, and a way to contact you if we need more information. Please provide as much advance notice as possible, by **Wednesday, December 7, 2022**, if possible. Last-minute requests will be accepted but may not be able to be accommodated. Contact the Presiding Officer (contact information below).

Any person desiring further information regarding this Notice, including information about intervention or participation in the proceeding may also contact the Presiding Officer at the address or telephone number below:

Andre H. Gibeau, Presiding Officer
Energy Facilities Siting Board
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110
Andre.Gibeau@mass.gov
(617) 794-6388

Figure 1: Western Massachusetts Gas Reliability Project



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The Company's Proposed Pipeline Route

The Company's Proposed Route is 5.3 miles long, begins at the proposed Longmeadow POD off Hazardville Road and extends north and west within streets in Longmeadow – north on Shaker Road and Laurel Street, west on Converse Street, and then north on Longmeadow Street (U.S. Route 5) into Springfield. The Proposed Route then extends around the western side of Forest Park within the Interstate-91 right-of-way. After passing west of Forest Park, this route goes east and north following Longhill Street, west under Route I-91 on Main Street, and then north on Hall of Fame Avenue (formerly West Columbus Avenue) to the Company's existing Bliss Street Regulator Station.

The Company is providing notice of two possible variations to its Proposed Route. The first is the Williams Street Variation to the Proposed Route, which follows the path of the Proposed Route from the proposed Longmeadow POD, north on Shaker Road and Laurel Street, then diverges west on to Williams Street and then extends north on Longmeadow Street until it rejoins the Proposed Route again at Converse Street. With this variation, the route is 5.5 miles long. The second variation is the Forest Park Variation to the Proposed Route, which follows the Proposed Route from the proposed Longmeadow POD north on Shaker Road and Laurel Street but continues north past Converse Street to Forest Glen Road. This route then extends a short distance west along Forest Glen Road and turns north on South Magawiska and North Magawiska Roads through Forest Park in Springfield, rejoining the Proposed Route at Longhill Street. With this variation, the route is 4.8 miles long.

The Company's Noticed Alternative Route

The Noticed Alternative Route begins at the Longmeadow POD, heads north along Shaker Road and Laurel Street, and turns east on Converse Street. The route then turns north into Springfield on Dickenson Street and follows Cliftwood Street west and north to detour around "The X" in the Forest Park neighborhood. The route then follows Sumner Avenue to the west, then Longhill Street and East Columbus Avenue north to State Street, turns west under Route I-91 and then south on Hall of Fame Avenue (formerly West Columbus Avenue) to the Bliss Street Regulator Station. The Noticed Alternative Route is 7.2 miles long.

The New Point of Delivery

The proposed POD in Longmeadow would be built with TGP for the distribution of natural gas from TGP's interstate gas transmission system to this area of western Massachusetts. TGP has an exclusive easement for the property upon which the POD will be located at the Longmeadow Country Club, and will be constructing its portions of the POD pursuant to its blanket construction certificate issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Tennessee Gas Pipeline Co., 20 FERC ¶ 62,409 (1982). Eversource facilities at the POD in Longmeadow would include pressure and temperature control and gas odorant injection equipment. Eversource's petitions before the Siting Board are being submitted for the portion of the POD facilities that it would separately build, own, and operate, as well as the gas pipeline from the Longmeadow POD to the Bliss Street Regulator Station in Springfield.

Bliss Street Regulator Station Modifications

The Project includes proposed modifications at the Company's existing Bliss Street Regulator Station in Springfield. The Bliss Street Regulator Station is a large district regulator station that supports multiple distribution pressure systems in the area and is the terminus of the existing single source of supply. Modifications to this station would include installing new regulators and tie-in of the new 16-inch steel line; all upgrades will be located within the existing station property.