

KEEGAN WERLIN LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
99 HIGH STREET, SUITE 2900
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02110-3113

(617) 951-1400

DAVID S. ROSENZWEIG
E-mail: drosen@keeganwerlin.com

November 18, 2022

Donna Sharkey, Esq.
Energy Facilities Siting Board
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110

Re: NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, EFSB 22-01

Dear Ms. Sharkey:

NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource” or the “Company”) has reviewed the Tentative Decision issued on November 9, 2022, in the above-referenced proceeding. The Tentative Decision recommends that the Energy Facilities Siting Board (the “Siting Board”) grant the Company’s Initial Petition and Application for a Certificate of Environmental Impact and Public Interest pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 69K-69O to construct a new electric substation on a Company-owned lot in East Boston, Massachusetts (the “East Eagle Substation” or the “Substation”). The Certificate would be an approval that is the equivalent of 14 state and local permits and approvals needed to construct the Substation. Eversource appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Tentative Decision and the diligence and effort by the Siting Board staff that went into its preparation.

Eversource strongly supports the issuance of a Certificate in this proceeding, consistent with the detailed and thorough analysis and findings contained in the Tentative Decision, in accordance with the Siting Board’s extensive statutory authority and relevant precedent, including the recent decision of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court in GreenRoots, Inc. v Energy Facilities Siting Board, 490 Mass. 797 (November 4, 2022). Based on the comprehensive evidentiary record developed in this proceeding, the Tentative Decision thoroughly addresses each aspect of the Siting Board’s statutory mandate for Certificate proceedings with factual findings that are appropriate and well supported. The Certificate proceeding included eight days of evidentiary hearings with testimony from witnesses for Eversource as well as on behalf of, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, the Conservation Law Foundation/GreenRoots, Inc., and the Boston Resident Group (collectively, the “Intervenors”). The evidentiary record includes over 500 exhibits consisting of the Company’s Initial Petition and Application and related attachments, the pre-filed testimony of the Intervenors’ witnesses, and responses to information and record requests by the Company, the Intervenors, and certain City of Boston boards, commissions and departments. The participation of the Intervenors contributed to the development of the robust and substantial evidentiary record in this Certificate proceeding.

With the Certificate, the Company will now be in a position to reinforce its transmission and distribution system serving the East Boston and Chelsea load pocket with a new substation. The East Eagle Substation will be a state-of-the-art facility that complies with all regulatory and environmental standards and will bring much-needed capacity to reliably serve customers in East Boston and Chelsea. As the Tentative Decision finds, this area of the Company's system is rapidly growing and new infrastructure is critically needed in the immediate time frame to ensure reliable service and to facilitate state and local climate change and electrification objectives. For these reasons, approving Eversource's Initial Petition and Application and the issuance of the Certificate is in full compliance with the Siting Board's standards and policies as enumerated in G.L. c. 164, §§ 69H-69O.

Eversource thanks the Siting Board for the opportunity to submit these written comments on the Tentative Decision and looks forward to presenting oral comments at the Siting Board meeting on November 29, 2022. Eversource requests that the Siting Board adopt the Tentative Decision approving the Project's Certificate as its Final Decision and Certificate in this proceeding.

Respectfully Submitted,

**NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY d/b/a
EVERSOURCE ENERGY**

By its attorneys,



David S. Rosenzweig, Esq.
Catherine J. Keuthen, Esq.
Cheryl A. Blaine, Esq
Keegan Werlin LLP
99 High Street, Suite 2900
Boston, MA 02110
(617) 951-1400

cc: Service List
Andrew Greene, Director, Energy Facilities Siting Board
Joan Foster Evans, General Counsel, Energy Facilities Siting Board