



Town of Sudbury

Historical Commission

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June 17, 2020

Denise Bartone
Eversource
247 Station Drive, SE270
Westwood, MA 02090

RE: Sudbury-Hudson Transmission Reliability Project: Sudbury, Marlborough, Stow, and Hudson, MA
MHC #RC.62384, EEA #15703

Dear Ms. Bartone,

The Sudbury Historical Commission appreciates receipt of certain information the Commission requested during its meeting with Eversource representatives on September 17, 2019. The Commission looks forward to receiving other information it had requested at that time as well as information and documents listed below in order to proceed with its continuing review of the above cited project under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

As was explained during the September meeting, the Commission is concerned about avoidance and protection - during and after installation of the transmission line - of all of the features of the Central Massachusetts Railroad in Sudbury identified in the CHG Reconnaissance Surveys. This is the reason the Commission requested Eversource provide sheet plans (plan set/renderings) that show where all of the railroad features are located, identify each, and describe specifically how each will be avoided, protected and, if moved during construction of the transmission line, where moved and whether or not the feature will be returned to its original location or relocated, and if relocated to what location.

The November 14, 2019 VHB letter to the US ACOE states that the Historical Commission was provided the railroad features plan set, but it was not included in information emailed to the Sudbury Director of Planning and Community Development on October 24, 2019.

The Commission also requested information about the below ground archaeological field work conducted by Commonwealth Heritage Group to understand the exact locations of each individual test pit site. We requested a map or rendering which marks each test pit location, and correlates and identifies each test pit with the information and citations in the *Archaeological Intensive (Locational) Survey* to the extent that can be legally made public.

As you know, the Historical Commission did not have the redacted copy of the *Archaeological Intensive (Locational) Survey* to read and analyze prior to or at the time we last met with Eversource.

After reviewing documents and information the Historical Commission has received, the Commission requests the following information and written answers to our questions:

1. Provide (a) photographic documentation to identify each railroad feature in its present condition listed in the "Railroad Features in Sudbury" document provided as an attachment to the November 14, 2019, VHB letter to the US Army Corps of Engineers, (b) correlate each railroad feature with the plan set we previously requested, when providing the railroad features plan set to the Commission, and (c) detailed photos of various parts of the bridges including the abutments.
2. Provide the plan set for Wayside Inn Station showing revised design for avoidance.
3. Provide the plan set for East Sudbury Station showing revised design for avoidance.
4. Provide copy of *the Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey for the Sudbury-Hudson Transmission Reliability Project, Towns of Sudbury, Hudson, Marlborough and Stow, Middlesex County, MA* sent to MHC by CHG on February 23, 2018.
5. Provide copy of *Proposed Massachusetts Central Rail Trail: Cultural Assessment* by VHB June 30, 2012.
6. Provide the copies sent February 23, 2018 by Richard Meyer, Commonwealth Heritage Group, to Jonathan Patton, Massachusetts Historical Commission, of the "...five sheets of engineering plans associated with the referenced (transmission line) project...These plans represent 50% Design for the four bridges crossings within the project area: Chestnut Street Culvert, Bridge 130 (Fort Meadow Brook), Bridge 128 (Hop Brook), and Bridge 127 (Hop Brook)."
7. Provide copies of correspondence (after September 17, 2019) pertaining to the historical and archaeological resources concerning the transmission line project between Eversource, VHB, Inc., Epsilon Associates, Commonwealth Heritage Group and the Massachusetts Historical Commission.
8. Provide copies of correspondence pertaining to the historical and archaeological resources concerning the transmission line project between Eversource, and its consultants, including VHB, and the US Army Corps of Engineers, including the VHB Memorandum dated October 23, 2019 that MHC references in its December 18, 2019 letter to Barbara Newman, US Army Corps of Engineers.
9. Provide copies of correspondence pertaining to the historical and archaeological resources concerning the transmission line project between Eversource, CHG, or other Eversource consultants and the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) and the Narragansett Tribe and/or their representatives.
10. Provide the names and contact information of the tribal-appointed representatives of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head and the Narragansett Tribe that Eversource, CHG or Eversource representatives have consulted with regarding the Eversource project and the *Reconnaissance-Level Historic Properties Survey, the Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey and/or Archaeological Intensive (Locational) Survey*.
11. Has a hard copy of the CHG *Archaeological Intensive (Locational) Reconnaissance Survey* been provided to the appropriate tribal authorities of each of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) and the Narragansett Tribe, and if so, when and to whom. If not a hard copy, how have the three tribal authorities been informed about the contents of the survey?
12. Provide a list of bridges that are plate girder bridges or bridges of other construction methods that are listed on the Massachusetts Historical Commission MACRIS listing that Eversource and DCR has either replaced/removed or rehabilitated.
13. Provide updated plan drawings/renderings and detailed description of the change in the Project design since the FEIR that shifts southward the project to "avoid the Boston and Maine Railroad Section Tool House (SUD.282), and the avoidance and protection plan during construction.

14. Provide clarification about "Bridge 217" – where it is located and what bridge it is - as referenced in October 23, 2019 VHB Memorandum to the Sudbury Historical Commission Re: Sudbury-Hudson Transmission Reliability Project Design Changes since FEIR Submission.
15. Provide copy of the avoidance and protection plan for significant historic and archaeological resources, including the George Pitt Tavern Historic District (SUD.P), the Boston and Maine Railroad Section Tool House (SUD.282) and significant archaeological resources.
16. Provide copy of the avoidance/protection/mitigation plan for all railroad features including design specifications and details for the proposed removal and resetting of railroad features, including whistle posts, rail rests, auto highway flashers, block signals, and mile markers, etc. to avoid adverse effects to the historic railroad features, and specifications and details for railroad feature removal and re-setting, including protection during removal and short term storage.
17. Provide copy of mitigation plan for the Massachusetts Central Railroad historic district, including Bridge 128 and 127 on Hop Brook in Sudbury.
18. Provide the (effective) date of the post FEIR revised "proposed design at the Boston and Maine Section Tool House, with notes identifying proposed components and the distance to the existing building" sent as an attachment to the October 24, 2019 email from Eversource to the Sudbury Director of Planning and Community Development, Adam Duchesneau. Is the "proposed design" the final design?
19. The Historical Commission received a copy of the *Reconnaissance-Level Historic Properties Survey* dated October 2017, yet notes that the Commonwealth Heritage Group 12-27-2017 FedEx Transmittal to Jonathan Patton at Massachusetts Historical Commission indicates the bound copy provided to the MHC of the *Reconnaissance-level Historic Properties Survey* was dated December 2017. The Historical Commission requests a copy of the updated December 2017 Survey or the latest version of the survey, if a later date.

The Historical Commission looks forward to prompt receipt of the requested information and answers to our questions in order to continue its Section 106 consultation review.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Christopher Hagger
Chair
Sudbury Historical Commission



Diana Warren
Vice Chair
Sudbury Historical Commission

CC:

Barbara Newman, US Army Corps of Engineers - NED
Brona Simon, Massachusetts Historical Commission
Henry Hayes, Sudbury Town Manager
Sudbury Town Counsel