

Open Letter to the Town of Durham

April 28, 2016

Dear Mr. Selig,

On April 12, we achieved a major milestone for the Seacoast Reliability Project (“Project”) as we filed our application for a Certificate of Site and Facility with the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee. I would like to thank you and the Durham town officials and residents who provided constructive feedback on the design of the Project as we developed our application.

Over the past year, we’ve discussed Project details at nearly 30 meetings with Durham town officials and the University of New Hampshire (UNH), conducted an Open House and Public Information Session, participated in a question and answer session with residents, held a bus tour, filmed a video touring the line route through Durham, and conducted numerous site visits and meetings with nearby property owners. Durham’s efforts to facilitate this outreach have helped shape our Project design to reflect the feedback we received from the town and the public.

As you know, this new transmission line connecting the Madbury and Portsmouth substations is an integral component of the Seacoast Solution, which consists of a number of projects designed to meet the growing energy needs of the Seacoast area. These upgrades are needed to support the reliable delivery of electric power to meet the region’s current demand and to support future economic growth. This project is critical to the continued reliability of the electric system and its importance is emphasized in the letters of support shared with the Site Evaluation Committee from the Town of Madbury, the Cities of Dover and Somersworth, UNH, the Dover Chamber of Commerce, and the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce. The recent filing of this Project application with the Site Evaluation Committee further emphasizes the importance of making these proposed changes a reality in the near term.

In late 2013, our Project team began meeting with Durham town officials to provide a preliminary introduction to the Project. Our team then spent the majority of 2014 conducting an in-depth analysis to determine the best overall route. When analyzing routing alternatives, Eversource balances three basic principles:

- Reliability, including timeframe to meet the identified system reliability need;
- Cost, including constructability and availability of existing rights-of-way; and
- Environmental and community impacts.

As mentioned above, in 2015, we held numerous working group meetings and other community events to proactively solicit input from the Durham community. These communications and interactions allowed the team to obtain valuable feedback from the Town that has provided us with the opportunity to make beneficial adjustments to the proposed Project design, including;

- Revising the original overhead design to an underground design across Main Street from the UNH parking lot A, north of Main Street, to the intersection of Colovos Road and Waterworks Road, south of Main Street;

- Contracting to acquire an additional easement between Madbury Road and Route 4 to eliminate structures and reduce structure heights;
- Relocating some structures and altering the line design to reduce visibility at road crossings, from adjacent properties and in the neighborhoods that are located east of Route 108;
- Contracting to acquire an additional easement to avoid a construction road crossing over the Oyster River; and
- Relocating the transition structure on the western side of Little Bay from the edge of the water to a location further inland.

Some local roadside distribution lines in Durham will also be upgraded, including the installation of automation devices to enhance reliability for residents in the area. The upgrade is necessary to maintain electric service to residents during construction of the new transmission line. Portions of the existing roadside distribution lines along Durham Point Road, Longmarsh Road, and some additional cross roads will be upgraded to a covered wire that is more resistant to tree and other contacts and has a larger capacity than the current line. These upgrades will provide another “feed” or “back-up” into the neighborhood where there is currently only a single feed today.

Over the next 14 months, the public will have additional opportunities to participate in the siting process for the Project. Our post-application Public Information Sessions will be held this summer, followed by Joint Agency hearings hosted by the Site Evaluation Committee late in the summer.

We appreciate your time and efforts over the past two years to work with Eversource towards the goal of improving the reliability of our energy supply in the Seacoast area and we look forward to your continued involvement as we make this important project a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William J. Quinlan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William J. Quinlan
President, NH Electric Operations

cc: Eric Fiegenbaum, Madbury Selectmen’s Administrative Assistant
Denis Hebert, Newington Planning Board Chairman
John Bohenko, Portsmouth City Manager