December 13, 2021

Ashfield Conservation Commission
PO Box 560
Ashfield, MA
01330-0560

Subject: Notice of Exempt Activity
Lines 1231 and 1242 Reconductor and Structure Replacement Project
Geotechnical Boring Program – Ashfield, MA

Dear Commissioners:

This notification letter is being submitted by NSTAR Electric Company dba Eversource Energy ("Eversource") to notify the Commission of geotechnical borings associated with the Lines 1231 and 1242 Reconductor and Structure Replacement Project ("the Project") in Ashfield, Massachusetts. Eversource is planning to advance geotechnical borings to facilitate foundation design for a subset of the replacement structures. Borings will be conducted in accordance with the utility maintenance provisions of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act regulations (310 CMR 10.02(2)(a)2), which allow for "maintaining, repairing, or replacing, but not substantially changing or enlarging existing and lawfully located structures or facilities used in the service of the public to provide electric service..." without the filing of a Notice of Intent.

Please note that this notification letter pertains solely to the geotechnical boring work required to support Project design. Eversource will submit a separate Notice of Intent for portions of the Project that may not qualify as exempt maintenance activities under the WPA in advance of structure replacements.

Summary of Work

The overall Project, while still in the engineering design phase, will involve the replacement of 60 transmission structures within the Town of Ashfield. Of these, 8 structures require geotechnical borings to support foundation design within areas subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission. Borings will be completed using a small tracked rig with an approximately 8-inch diameter auger. Work will be completed in accordance with Eversource’s Best Management Practices Manual, including the use of temporary construction mats and sediment control barriers as appropriate. The attached USGS Site Location map illustrates the planned geotechnical boring locations in Ashfield.

Two borings (SB-28 and SB-33) will occur within Bordering Vegetated Wetland
("BVW"). Three of the borings (SB-29, SB-35, and SB-38) will occur within the 200-foot Riverfront Area associated with the South River and Bear River. The remaining three borings (SB-27, SB-30, and SB-40) will be located within the 100-foot buffer zone to BVW. Seven additional borings (SB-26, SB-31, SB-32, SB-34, SB-36, SB-37, and SB-39) are located outside of areas subject to jurisdiction of the Wetland Protection Act ("WPA").

The geotechnical borings will be temporary in nature and will not impair resource areas. Selective removal of vegetation and placement of construction matting will be conducted as warranted to provide necessary access. Following completion of the boring at a given location, soil cuttings will be replaced in the borehole, construction mats and sediment control barriers will be removed, and any temporarily disturbed areas will be stabilized and restored.

This work is scheduled to begin in January 2022. We expect to complete approximately one boring per day. If you have any questions or would like more information regarding this notification, please do not hesitate to contact me at 860-665-6327 or by email at jonathan.roberge@eversource.com otherwise the work will be completed as presented herein.

Respectfully,

Jonathan Roberge
Senior Environmental Specialist

Enclosed

USGS Site Location Map

CC: Matt Kelly, Epsilon Associates, Inc.
Legend
- Boring Location
- Eversource Owned Property
- Eversource Right-of-Way
- Town Boundary
inch = 1.000 feel

0  250  500  1,000

Lines 1231 and 1242 Recondor and Structure Replacement Project – Geotechnical Boring Program
ASHFIELD, MA MAP SHEET 3 of 3
Date: December 10, 2021 FIGURE 1
USGS LOCUS MAP