



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
ENERGY FACILITIES SITING BOARD
ONE SOUTH STATION
BOSTON, MA 02110
(617) 305-3525

ARGEO PAUL CELLUCCI
GOVERNOR

JANE SWIFT
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

MEMORANDUM

To: All Interested Persons

From: Denise L. Desautels, Hearing Officer

Date: February 21, 2001

Re: Commonwealth Gas Company, EFSB 00-2, Public Hearing on the Petition of
Commonwealth Gas Company for Approval of the Construction of a New
Underground Natural Gas Pipeline in Cambridge, Massachusetts

2001 FEB 22 A 10:48
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

The Energy Facilities Siting Board ("Siting Board") will conduct a second public hearing on the petition of Commonwealth Gas Company (d/b/a NSTAR Gas) for approval to construct a new underground natural gas pipeline in Cambridge, Massachusetts. NSTAR Gas' petition was the subject of a public hearing held on January 4, 2001. However, some of the abutters to the routes and route segments who are required to receive notice of the hearing did not receive such notice. The second public hearing is being held to cure the defect in the notice. In addition, NSTAR Gas no longer intends to offer for approval a previously noticed variation to the proposed preferred route, as described below.

The public hearing will take place on Monday, March 5, 2001, beginning at 7:00 p.m., at the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center, 55 Broadway, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

In addition to providing notice of the public hearing, this Memorandum is intended to provide interested persons with some background on the Siting Board process.

The Siting Board is an administrative agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Siting Board has nine members. The Chairman is the Chairman of the Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("Department"). The Siting Board's membership also includes two additional Commissioners of the Department, the Director of the Department of Economic Development, the Secretary of Environmental Affairs, the Commissioner of the Division of Energy Resources, and three public members appointed by the Governor.

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One of the principal functions of the Siting Board is to review proposals for the construction of energy facilities such as the gas pipeline proposed by NSTAR Gas. Before the Siting Board can reach a decision regarding the construction of an energy facility, it must determine that the facility will provide a reliable energy supply for the Commonwealth with a minimum impact on the environment at the lowest possible cost. G.L. c. 164, § 69H. The Siting Board's approval is required before construction permits may be issued by other state authorities.

The Siting Board's regulations require it to hold a public hearing in the locality of a proposed energy facility in order to provide the public with information regarding the proposed facilities, and to afford parties the opportunity to comment on the proposal. The enclosed Notice was forwarded to the Company for publication in the Boston Globe, the Boston Herald, the Somerville Journal, and the Cambridge Chronicle, and for mailing and posting prior to the public hearing. The Notice contains more detailed information on the location of the proposed facility and its proposed site.

Following the public hearing, the Siting Board will proceed with a comprehensive adjudication process before issuing a decision regarding the NSTAR Gas petition. Any person may file a petition to intervene as a party or to participate as an interested person in this proceeding. To be allowed, a petition to intervene in the proceeding must satisfy the standing requirements of G.L. c. 30A, § 10, i.e., it must show how the petitioner may be substantially and specifically affected by the proceeding.

The Siting Board is committed to a full public discussion of the NSTAR Gas petition and will be happy to receive written comments at the address below.

Denise L. Desautels, Hearing Officer
Energy Facilities Siting Board
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110
(617) 305-3525

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
ENERGY FACILITIES SITING BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND ADJUDICATION

EFSB 00-2

COMMONWEALTH GAS COMPANY

Notice is hereby given that Commonwealth Gas Company (d/b/a "NSTAR Gas"), 800 Boylston Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02199, has filed with the Energy Facilities Siting Board ("Siting Board") a Petition for Approval of the Construction of a New, Underground Natural Gas Pipeline ("Petition"), requesting approval of its proposal to construct and operate a new 2.2 mile long, 16-inch, 433 psig underground natural gas pipeline in the cities of Somerville and Cambridge. NSTAR Gas has proposed alternative routes and route segments for the proposed pipeline. *NSTAR Gas' petition was the subject of a public hearing held on January 4, 2001. However, some of the abutters to the routes and route segments who are required to receive notice of the hearing did not receive such notice. This second public hearing is being held to cure the defect in the notice. In addition, NSTAR Gas no longer intends to offer for approval a previously noticed variation to the proposed preferred route, as described below.*

The Siting Board will review NSTAR Gas' filing to determine whether its proposed pipeline is necessary to provide natural gas service "with a minimum impact on the environment at the lowest possible cost." G.L. c. 164, § 69H.

The Siting Board will conduct a public hearing to receive public comment on the proposed pipeline. The public hearing will be held on Monday, March 5, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. at the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center, 55 Broadway, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Preferred Route

The proposed route for the pipeline originates at the NSTAR Gas J-22 valve interconnection with the facilities of Algonquin Gas Transmission Company located on McGrath Highway near the intersection with Medford Street in Somerville, and proceeds through city streets in Somerville and Cambridge to NSTAR Gas' existing Third Street Gate Station. The route proceeds along McGrath Highway to the intersection with Somerville Avenue and Medford Street. NSTAR Gas originally noticed a variation to this segment that began at the intersection of McGrath Highway, Medford Street and Greenville Street and proceeded along Greenville Street to Boston Street, following Boston Street across Washington Street to Mansfield Street. The route followed Mansfield Street, turned left on Somerville Avenue and proceeded to the intersection with Somerville Avenue and Medford Street. NSTAR Gas no longer wishes to propose this variation of the preferred route for approval.

The route continues on Medford Street underneath the MBTA railroad tracks to the Cambridge city line where the street name changes to Gore Street. The route turns left onto Rufo Road, travels through the Twin City Plaza parking lot to the O'Brien Highway, and then follows O'Brien Highway to the intersection with Cambridge Street. The route turns right onto Cambridge Street and then left onto First Street. A variation to this segment turns right off O'Brien Highway earlier onto Gore Street, makes an immediate left onto Second Street, and turns left onto Cambridge Street, following Cambridge Street to First Street.

The route follows First Street to Linsky Way where it turns right. From Linsky Way, the route turns left onto Third Street and terminates at NSTAR Gas' Third Street Gate Station located on Third Street.

Alternate Route

An alternate route for the pipeline originates at the NSTAR Gas J-22 valve located on McGrath Highway near the intersection with Medford Street in Somerville, and is identical to the preferred route to the intersection of Medford Street, Rufo Road and Gore Street in Cambridge. At this intersection, the alternate route travels east on Gore Street, turns right on Fifth Street, and continues on Fifth Street to Binney Street. The alternate route turns left onto Binney Street, right onto Third Street, and terminates at NSTAR Gas' Third Street Gate Station located on Third Street.

Copies of NSTAR Gas' Petition are available for public inspection at the Siting Board's office at the address below; at NSTAR Gas' office; at the Cambridge City Clerk's office at 795 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge; at the Somerville City Clerk's office at 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville; at the Cambridge Public Library, 449 Broadway, Cambridge; and at the Somerville Public Library, 79 Highland Avenue, Somerville.

Any person interested in intervening as a party or participating as an interested person in this proceeding must file a written petition with the Hearing Officer on or before March 15, 2001. Petitions should be filed in accordance with 980 Code of Massachusetts Regulations section 1.05 and must be received by the Hearing Officer on or before the March 15, 2001 intervention deadline. A copy of such written petition must also be sent to Mary E. Grover, Senior Counsel, NSTAR Services Company, 800 Boylston Street, P170, Boston, Massachusetts 02199.

Any person desiring further information regarding this Notice may contact the Hearing Officer at the address below.

Denise L. Desautels, Hearing Officer
Energy Facilities Siting Board
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110
(617) 305-3525

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Consent Communication #5

A communication was received from Denise L. Desautels, Hearing Officer, Energy Facilities Siting Board, transmitting notice of a public hearing on Monday, March 5, 2001, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center, 55 Broadway, Cambridge, regarding the petition of Commonwealth Gas Company for approval to construct a new underground natural gas pipeline in Cambridge.

In City Council February 26, 2001

Referred to the City Manager