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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE READ

2001 MAR -1 A 11: 08

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Commonwealth Gas Company (d/b/a "NSTAR Gas") is proposing 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. The attached legal notice describes the proposed pipeline and its proposed location in more detail, and explains the opportunities for the public participation in the review process. **Please read this notice carefully.**

The Energy Facilities Siting Board is a state agency that will determine whether the pipeline can be constructed. As a first step in its review, the Siting Board will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 5, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. at the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center. The Siting Board held a previous public hearing on this proposed project on January 4, 2001. However, due to defects in the notice of the earlier hearing and due to the elimination of an alternative route segment, a second public hearing is being held. At the March 5, 2001 public hearing, the Company will present information on the new pipeline and the Siting Board will present information on its review process and receive comments and questions from members of the community. The public hearing is an important opportunity for the community to learn about the proposed pipeline and the Siting Board review process, and for the Siting Board to hear questions and concerns from the community. All comments are important to the Siting Board; anyone with an interest in the pipeline is encouraged to attend.

Individuals and groups who wish to be involved in the Siting Board review may request to participate as either intervenors or interested persons. Such requests must meet the criteria outlined in the attached legal notice. **The deadline to make such a request is 5:00 p.m. on March 15, 2001.** The process for making a request to participate is explained in the legal notice. Questions concerning participation also will be answered at the public hearing.

Copies of the Company's proposal are on file at NSTAR Gas' office at 800 Boylston Street, 17th Floor, Boston, MA; 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.

If you have any questions about the Siting Board's review process, please feel free to call the Hearing Officer, Denise Desautels, at (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 #3

A communication was received from Denise L. Desautels, Hearing Officer, Energy Facilities Siting Board, transmitting notice of a public hearing on 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 (D/B/A "NSTAR Gas") is proposing 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.

3-21-01
copy
sent
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In City Council March 5, 2001

Meeting Cancelled
due to snowstorm
In City Council
March 19, 2001
Referred to City Manager
for report back to City
Council on what gas
installation entails and
Hark Pole and Conduit
Commission.