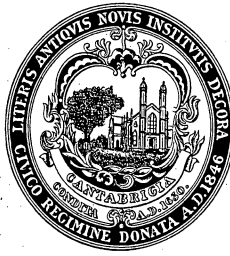


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CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Office of the City Solicitor
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

TO: Robert W. Healy, City Manager

FROM: Russell B. Higley, City Solicitor

DATE: March 28, 2001

RE: Response to Consent Communication #5, dated 2/26/01, re: Communication from Denise Desautels, Hearing Officer, Energy Facilities Siting Board, on public hearing regarding the petition of Comm. Gas. Co. for approval to construct a new underground natural gas pipeline in Cambridge, and

Response to Consent Communication #7, dated 2/5/01 re:
Report on Electric Transmission Power Source proposed by NStar

1. In response to the above referenced communication regarding the underground natural gas pipeline proposed by Commonwealth Gas Company to serve the Kendall Square electric generating station, I report the following:

The Commonwealth Gas Company (d/b/a "Nstar Gas") filed with the Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB) a petition to construct and operate a new 2.2 mile long, 16-inch, 433 psig underground natural gas pipeline within the cities of Somerville and Cambridge.

EFSB Public Hearing

The notice regarding the March 5, 2001 public hearing was for the second public hearing held by the EFSB. The second hearing was scheduled to allow additional public comment because the notification to abutters for the first public hearing was not fully provided. The March 5, 2001 hearing was cancelled due to a snow emergency, and a new notice of a public hearing to be held on March 22, 2001 was issued.

The original public hearing was held on January 4, 2001 at the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center on Broadway (the "Volpe Center"). It was attended by various members of the public, including representatives of the East Cambridge Planning Team, as well as representatives of MIT, Southern Energy, and the Cambridge

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Redevelopment Authority. Attending on behalf of the City were John Bolduc of the Community Development Department and legal counsel.

The second public hearing was held on March 22, 2001, also at the Volpe Center. Southern Energy and Nstar gave their presentation to the Board. Four members of the public attended, and none had any comments. Legal counsel for the City attended the hearing.

City Petitioned to Intervene

Under the EFSB process, the City and other interested parties may petition to become "Intervenors" or "Interested parties". The City submitted a petition requesting Intervenor status on January 17, 2001. Typically, the EFSB hearing officer notifies petitioners regarding the disposition of their requests to intervene after the initial public hearing process is concluded.

Granting of Intervenor status will give the City the right to participate fully in the evidentiary hearings to be held by the EFSB. The EFSB is tentatively scheduled to begin the evidentiary hearings either the week of May 21 or June 11, 2001. Typically, these hearings span several weeks.

2. In response to the above referenced communication regarding the 115 kV electric transmission power source proposed by NStar to serve the Kendall Square electric generating station, I report the following:

The Cambridge Electric Light Company ("CELCO"), which is a part of Nstar, filed with the EFSB a petition requesting approval to construct and operate a new 2.6 mile long, 115 kilovolt ("kV") underground transmission line within the City of Cambridge. CELCO also filed with the Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("DTE") a Petition for a Determination that the Proposed Transmission Line is Necessary and Will Serve Public Convenience and be Consistent with the Public Interest and a Petition under the provisions of M.G.L. c. 40A, section 3 for Exemption of a Proposed Transmission Line from Zoning By-Laws of the City of Cambridge. These cases were consolidated and will be heard by the EFSB.

EFSB Public Hearing

A public hearing was held by the EFSB on January 17, 2001 at the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center on Broadway (the "Volpe Center"). It was attended by various members of the public, including representatives of the East Cambridge Planning Team, as well as representatives of MIT, Southern Energy, and the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority. Attending on behalf of the City were John Bolduc of the Community Development Department and legal counsel.

City Petitioned to Intervene

Under the EFSB process, the City and other interested parties may petition to become “Intervenors” or “Interested parties”. The City submitted a petition requesting Intervenor status, which was granted by the EFSB on February 21, 2001. Typically, the EFSB hearing officer notifies petitioners regarding the disposition of their requests to intervene after the initial public hearing process is concluded.

Granting of Intervenor status will give the City the right to participate fully in the evidentiary hearings to be held by the EFSB. The EFSB is tentatively scheduled to begin the evidentiary hearings the week of June 11, 2001. Typically, these hearings span several weeks.



3.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Robert W. Healy, City Manager Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager

April 2, 2001

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 01-152, regarding a report on the Electric Transmission power source provided by NSTAR, received from City Solicitor Russell Higley.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
Attachment



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Consent Agenda #3

Awaiting Report Item Number
01-152, regarding a report on the
Electric Transmission power
source provided by NSTAR.

In City Council April 2, 2001

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