

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

100 Cambridge Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02202

MICHAEL S. DUKAKIS
GOVERNOR

JAMES S. HOYTE
SECRETARY

CERTIFICATE OF THE SECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

ON

ENVIRONMENTAL NOTIFICATION FORM

PROJECT NAME: ALEWIFE/BLACKSTONE 115 KV LINE

PROJECT LOCATION: CAMBRIDGE

EOEA NUMBER: 4844

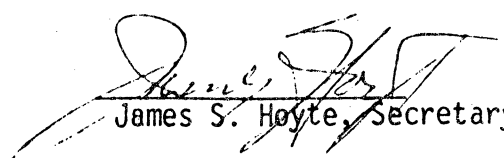
PROJECT PROPONENT: COMMONWEALTH ELECTRIC

DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR: August 5, 1983

Pursuant to M.G.L., Chapter 30, Section 62A and Sections 10.04(1) and 10.04(9) of the Regulations Governing the Implementation of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, I hereby determine that the above referenced project does require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report.

See attached Scope

September 26, 1983
Date


James S. Hoyte, Secretary

SCOPE

This project has prompted considerable comment in Cambridge, particularly with regard to potential damage to the London Plane trees along Memorial Drive and the demolition of several housing units on Putnam Street and Western Avenue.

The proposed project involves the construction of an underground 115 KV transmission line from the existing Alewife Substation to a proposed substation at Putnam Street and Western Avenue. Several alternative routes were discussed at the scoping meeting and three of these alternatives will be discussed in detail in this EIR, as will the alternative of an alternate location for the substation.

The EIR shall follow the outline contained in 301 CMR 10.00, MEPA Regulations and shall address the following issues:

General

The EIR shall describe why the project is needed, including events leading to the need for the project and shall assess the ability of the proposal to fulfill the need.

The EIR shall discuss in detail, the construction-period and long-term impacts of each alternative, including, but not limited to traffic disruption, interruption of services, duration and methods of construction, costs, effects on historic districts and/or structures, and on vegetation. Specific issues relating to particular alternatives will be identified under the discussion of each alternative, and these general requirements apply to all alternatives.

The alternatives to be addressed are as follows:

1. The route proposed in the ENF
2. A route that is the same as the proposed but that will cross the Charles River at Willard Street, parallel the river on the Boston side and cross the river to Hingham Street and thence to Putnam and Western Avenue
3. The so-called Railroad Route or Rindge Avenue route
4. An alternative selected by Com Electric that will use city streets, other than Memorial Drive

In addition, the Railroad alternative should include a discussion of the use of the Kendall substation rather than the Western Avenue proposal and there should be an evaluation of an alternative site for the proposed substation such as River Street.

The construction of the Western Avenue substation will require demolition of two residential buildings. The proponent shall identify how it proposes to comply with the requirements of the Cambridge Rent Control Board and shall present a relocation assistance scheme for review.

Alternative 1 - Proposed Route

The specific issues, other than those identified in the General section, to be addressed for this alternative, include an assessment of the potential for damage to the London Plane trees by trenching and compaction by machinery and any and all means of minimizing the potential for damage to the trees.

Alternative 2 - River Crossing

The discussion of this alternative shall include sediment testing on the crossing routes adequate for Water Quality Certification and shall include discussion of a disposal site for dredged sediments in addition to the general requirements.

Both 1 and 2 should discuss the MDC's views on the appropriateness of each alternative, and discuss compliance with Article 97.

Alternative 3

This alternative is considerably longer and therefore more expensive but would have the least potential for environmental impact. The discussion should include an evaluation of the use of or expansion of the Kendall Substation to satisfy the power needs without construction of a new substation.

Alternative 4

Com Electric shall define a route using city streets and shall assess this alternative in terms of the general requirements.

The EIR should assess the possibility of relocating the proposed substation at Western Avenue and Putnam Street in order to eliminate the demolition/relocation problems. A brief discussion at the scoping meeting indicated that there may be a site on River Street that could serve that purpose.

If during the development of the DEIR the preferred alternative should change, the new preferred alternative should be identified.

Distribution of the EIR shall conform to the list in the MEPA Regulations and, in addition, shall include 3 copies to be available for public review, perhaps at Cambridge City Hall or Public Library. The Cambridge Conservation Commission, the Cambridge City Council, the Mayor, and one copy to the tenants of the buildings to be demolished (care of Julia Merrel) and a copy to Senator George Bachrach and to Representative Sandra Graham, should be provided.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Tel. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

October 17, 1983

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Enclosed please find copy of a communication from the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts which states that the Alewife/Blackstone 115 kv line project does require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mbf
Enc.

S-572

Re: enclosing a copy of a communication from the Exec. Office of Environmental Affairs of the Comm. of Mass. stating that the Alewife Blackstone 115 kv line project does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report.

In City Council,

October 17, 1983

10/17/83

- Placed
on
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