

COM Electric

Cambridge Electric Light Company
2421 Cranberry Highway
Wareham, Massachusetts 02571
Telephone (617) 291-0950

January 11, 1984

Energy Facilities Siting Council
Room 1506
100 Cambridge Street
Boston, MA 02202

Attn: James G. White, Jr., Hearing Officer

Re: EFSC No. 83-4(a) Petition of Cambridge Electric
Light Company ("Cambridge Electric") for Approval
of 115 KV Transmission Line and Substation

Gentlemen:

In response to your Procedural Order of January 5, 1984 in respect of the above cited proceeding, Cambridge Electric hereby provides the Siting Council with an updating of the evolutions with relevant government agencies and with other interested persons.

As was discussed at the information hearing held in Cambridge, Cambridge Electric has proposed the establishment of a 115 KV Transmission Line to connect the Alewife Substation with its Blackstone Facility. At that public hearing and at other public conferences, a number of objections were raised by interested persons (who are now, by and large, parties to this proceeding).

These objections related primarily to (i) concern over potential damage to the Sycamore trees situated along Memorial Drive, which was included as part of the proposed route, and (ii) objections by tenants in residential apartments owned by Cambridge Electric situated on the site which is proposed to be cleared for use for the proposed substation.

In response to these objections, Cambridge Electric re-reviewed its proposals. Also, coincidentally with the foregoing, Cambridge Electric was directed by the Secretary of Environmental Affairs to initiate and complete an Environmental Impact Report. In the course of conducting such environmental study, Cambridge Electric is considering the prospective environmental impact of the proposed Transmission Line by considering several routing options (in addition to the routing initially proposed). These alternatives can be summarized as having four options: (i) the route originally proposed, (ii) the route originally proposed modified so as to avoid the Sycamore trees (by crossing to the embankment on the opposite side of the Charles River), (iii) a route which will avoid Memorial Drive and be essentially within the streets of the City of Cambridge, and (iv) a route which follows the railroad right-of-way emanating from the Alewife area. Accordingly, an intensive review is underway as to both the feasibility and the environmental impact of various alternative routes.

In regard to the alternative involving the crossing of the Charles River, Cambridge Electric has been reviewing the details thereof with officials of the Metropolitan District Commission ("MDC"). In the course of this review it has been made clear that the MDC desires that the routing of the Transmission Line avoid the Sycamore trees. Also, Cambridge Electric has been in communication with officials of the City of Cambridge as to the potential alternate routes through the streets of Cambridge.

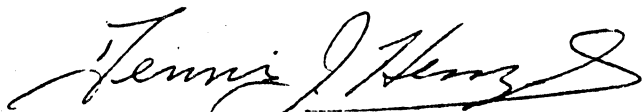
In respect to the proposed site for the substation at the Blackstone Facility, Cambridge Electric has been in extensive discussions with the subject tenants. It had been initially contemplated that Cambridge Electric would move the residential properties to available sites in the vicinity and then sell these properties to a non-profit agency who, in turn, would rent the units to the public and in so doing would accord priority to the current tenants. We participated in one meeting with the tenants at the office of the Secretary of Consumer Affairs through the good offices of the Secretary; (at that meeting the tenants began to be represented by counsel). Cambridge Electric reviewed its plans with those in attendance. It was asked whether it would consider the tenants as a prospective buyer, to which Cambridge Electric replied in the affirmative. At a subsequent meeting with the tenants, the tenants replied to various proposals by indicating that, as a group, they wished only to discuss the prospect of a purchase of the building as located at a site to be selected. Cambridge Electric responded by agreeing to pursue the prospect of tenant purchase as its prime alternative provided the tenants can bring in a neutral party, such as Homeowners Rehab Inc., which has experience and reputation in enabling and facilitating tenant acquisition and ownership in Cambridge. The tenants, in turn, agreed to review this prospect, did so, and brought Homeowners Rehab to the last meeting. All sides are now reviewing the cost elements. Cambridge Electric has agreed to set forth a specific proposal of subsidization of purchase, once the costs have been scoped out by Homeowners Rehab. Cambridge Electric will continue to pursue the prospect of sale of the properties, after relocation to a new site, as its prime alternative, such sale to be made to an entity to be formed by the tenants and by Homeowners Rehab.

We would also like to address one aspect of the question of need for the Transmission Line. Questions have been raised from time to time as to whether Boston Edison Company can be the source of a preferred solution. As reported to the Siting Council and as reported generally, Cambridge Electric believes it has exhausted the possibilities of developing a preferred alternative involving interconnection with Boston Edison at some facility other than the Alewife Substation. Cambridge Electric and Boston Edison had initially conducted an extensive review of possible alternatives prior to the filings with the Siting Council. We believe every possible alternative has been inquired into by Cambridge Electric and, in every case, Boston Edison has reviewed same and found such alternative unavailable. The primary outstanding matter to be resolved with Boston Edison is the need of Cambridge Electric to secure legal rights to hold-over at Boston Edison's Brighton Substation after the termination date under the current agreement: i.e., after June 1, 1985. It had been our hope that the regulatory review could have been completed within the time frame contemplated by

the regulations (viz., six months). It now appears that regulatory review will take well over one year. In view of this delay, we believe that Cambridge Electric is behooved to request express rights from Boston Edison to hold-over, possibly into 1987. We are in the process of initiating such request.

We would be pleased to amplify upon any of the foregoing matters as you may desire.

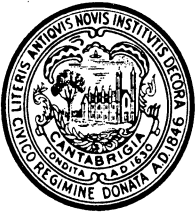
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dennis J. Henzel".

Dennis J. Henzel
System Planning Representative

DJH:mam

cc: Michael F. Donlan, Esquire
Parties on Service List



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Tel. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

January 23, 1984

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Enclosed please find copy of a letter from Commonwealth Electric Company, dated January 11, 1984, to the Energy Facilities Siting Council relative to the 115 KV Transmission Line from the Alewife Substation to the Blackstone Facility.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mbf
Enc.

Agenda Item # 3 *46*

Comm. from Commonwealth Electric Co.
to the Energy Facilities Siting Council
re: 115 KV Transmission Line from the
Alewife Substation to the Blackstone
Facility.

In City Council,

January 23, 1984

- *1/23/1984* -

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