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July 13, 2021

Walpole Conservation Commission Walpole Town Hall 135 School Street, Room 212 Walpole, MA 02081 Via Email to: <u>Lhershey@walpole-ma.gov</u>

Re: Notice of Exempt Utility Maintenance Activities Eversource Line 456-522 Structure Replacement Walpole and Medfield, Massachusetts

Dear Commission Members:

On behalf of Eversource Energy (Eversource), SWCA Environmental (SWCA) is notifying you of a proposed electrical utility line structure replacement project for Line 456-522 (the Project) spanning approximately from the West Walpole Substation on Main Street (Route 1A) in Walpole to County Street (Route 109) in Walpole. A portion of the proposed Project also crosses through the southeast corner of the Town of Medfield. These utility structures have surpassed their design life and replacement will improve the electrical reliability to the areas this line serves. The proposed work includes the replacement of 25 structures in total; 20 are in the Town of Walpole and five (5) are in the Town of Medfield. Of the 20 structures to be replaced in Walpole, two (2) are located within jurisdictional wetland resource areas and six (6) are located within buffer zone.

The work is exempt from the Wetlands Protection Act and implementing regulations in accordance with 310 CMR 10.02(2)(a)(2) as it consists of "activities conducted to maintain, repair or replace, bit not substantially change or enlarge an existing and lawfully-located structure used in the service of the public and used to provide electronic services, provided said work utilizes the best practical measures to avoid or minimize impacts to wetland resource areas outside the footprint of said structure."

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

The proposed work will entail the replacement of eight (8) wooden utility structures with new steel poles within Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW) or their 100-foot buffer zone. At these structure replacement locations, it is assumed that 100-foot by 100-foot work pad (maximum) will generally be necessary. Within BVW or other sensitive areas (e.g., areas of moderate-high cultural sensitivity), work will be conducted from temporary wooden construction mat platforms to minimize ground disturbance and impacts to vegetation. Where work is located within buffer zone, the work pad area may include temporary re-grading or ground disturbance to achieve a level surface for safe equipment operation.

There are existing established access roads throughout the majority of the right-of-way (ROW), as well as roadways that cross the ROW which provide suitable access points., Appropriate erosion controls will be





installed prior to the commencement of work. The existing access routes and locations of the work pads are depicted on the attached drawings.

PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Ground disturbance associated with the structure replacements will occur within wetland resource areas and within the associated 100-foot buffer zone. The area of disturbance was calculated by assuming the maximum potential amount of work area required for access and work pad locations. Each structure replacement will require a work area of approximately 10,000 square feet (sf) (100-ft x 100-ft) to allow for the set-up and staging of work vehicles and materials and to provide for safe and stable access. In addition, all access roads through wetlands, whether existing or not, will be matted. In Walpole, a total of approximately 41,040 sf of temporary matting associated with the pole replacements will occur within BVW.

Erosion and sedimentation controls will be used adjacent to the wetland areas if warranted. Following the completion of construction activities, disturbed upland areas will be re-graded and mulched with straw as required. A USGS index map of the area and aerial photographs depicting proposed work areas are attached.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at (413) 658-2027 or via email at <u>Rebecca.weissman@swca.com</u>.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Weissman, PWS, NHCWS Natural Resources Team Lead

Enclosures

Copy: Matthew Waldrip - Eversource Energy

2021 - 456 522 Line Structure Replacement Project

WALPOLE, MEDFIELD, & DOVER, MA **Environmental Resources Map** Final Map Set Date: July 13, 2021























