

August 17, 2017

Leverett Conservation Commission  
P.O. Box 300  
Leverett, MA 01054

**RE: Utility Maintenance Notification  
Eversource Energy Right-of-Way (ROW) Line 1044**

Dear Commission Members,

Please accept this utility maintenance notification letter for upcoming maintenance work proposed along Eversource's existing right-of-way (ROW) Line 1044 in Leverett, Massachusetts. Eversource intends to install lightning arresters on one structure which is within jurisdiction of the Leverett Conservation Commission. This work is necessary for continued reliable service of the existing electric utility.

The proposed lightning arrester installation work and associated activities are planned in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and its implementing regulations, which provide an exemption for utility maintenance activities of existing electric structures within a maintained electric ROW under WPA M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, and 310CMR 10.02(2)(a)(2):

*"activities conducted to maintain, repair or replace, but not substantially change or enlarge an existing and lawfully located structure or facility used in the service of the public and used to provide electric, gas, water, sewer, telephone, telegraph and other communication services, provided said work utilizes the best practical measures to avoid or minimize impacts to wetland resource areas outside the footprint of said structure or facility."*

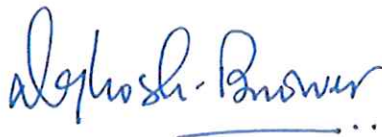
Eversource anticipates starting this work in August 2017. Prior to the start of work, sediment control barriers will be placed as warranted between the proposed work areas and downgradient wetland resource areas, which were previously delineated and mapped. Appropriate sediment controls will consist of hay or straw bales, silt fence, or other approved alternatives. Access to the structures will be through existing ROW access roads, where available. Appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented where work is proposed and where existing access roads cross delineated wetland resource areas.

Included with this Maintenance Notification are the following attachments:

1. Project Narrative
2. Proposed Work Plan (Mapsheet 10)

We are submitting this notification letter so that the Conservation Commission is aware of the scheduled maintenance work and to express Eversource's commitment to properly protecting wetland resource areas. The maintenance work practices including the installation of sediment controls are designed to minimize impacts to wetland resource areas. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at (860) 665-5033 or [Devleena.Ghosh-Brower@eversource.com](mailto:Devleena.Ghosh-Brower@eversource.com) or contact Katy Wilkins (Tighe & Bond) at (413) 875-1305/ [KLWilkins@tighebond.com](mailto:KLWilkins@tighebond.com).

Respectfully,



Devleena Ghosh-Brower, PWS, CPESC  
Environmental Affairs

**PROJECT NARRATIVE  
LINE 1044 LIGHTNING ARRESTER INSTALLATION  
LEVERETT, MA**

**Proposed Project**

Eversource is proposing to install lightning arresters on one structure along the existing Line 1044 right-of-way (ROW). This work is necessary for continued reliable service of the existing electric utility.

**Location**

Lightning arresters will be installed along ROW Line 1044 for STR 10084. The structure will be accessed via the proposed access road off Log Plain Road in Leverett, Massachusetts. Attached with this submittal is the work plan showing the limits of work within the Town of Leverett.

**Project Description**

**Lightning Arrester Installation:**

- The structure will be climbed to perform the installation activity.
- New lightning arresters will be installed at the structure.

**Access Roads:**

- Existing access roads will be rehabilitated using gravel, stone or both, if necessary.
- New access roads will be created, if necessary.
- Where access roads are through maintained lawn and areas used for agricultural activities, Best Management Practices consisting of wooden timber mats will be used to obtain access.
- Where access roads cross delineated wetland resource areas, timber mats will be installed to minimize impacts to these jurisdictional resource areas.
- Where access roads cross stream channels, appropriate watercourse crossing techniques will be implemented as detailed in the Eversource BMP Manual.
- A flex track vehicle (low ground pressure) may be used to access the site and is a standard BMP for access to structures through wetlands.

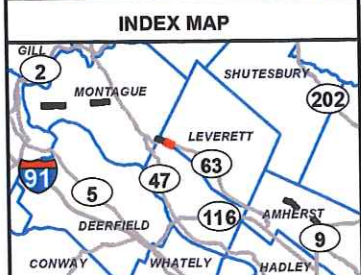
**Existing Environmental Conditions**

Identifying existing conditions included a review for wetland resource areas, Priority and Estimated Habitat Areas, as well as Certified and Potential Vernal Pools. Areas were identified using GIS mapping with data supplied from Mass GIS, as well as field verification.

Wetland Resource Areas

Wetland resource areas were identified during project evaluation of the entire Line 1044 ROW. Delineated wetlands were not located within the project area in the Town of Leverett.





Legend	
● Existing Structure	⌘ Fence
● Lightning Arrester Structure	- - - 10 ft Contours
● Culvert	- - - Intermittent Stream
☀ MassGIS NHESP Potential Vernal Pool (MassGIS)	— Perennial Stream
— Approximate ROW	— Mean High Water
— Railroad (MassGIS)	— 100 Ft Wetland Buffer
— Existing Access	— 200 Ft Riverfront Area Buffer
— Proposed Access	— 100 Year Flood (Bordering Land Subject to Flooding)
— Alternate Access	
— Tighe & Bond Delineated Wetland Boundary	— Eversource NHESP 2016 Rare Species Data
— Wetland Area	— Approximate Parcel Boundary (MassGIS)
— Wetland Matting	— Town Boundary
— Upland Matting	
— Work Pad (60 ft x 30 ft)	
— Existing Gravel Work Pad Work Pad (60 ft x 30 ft)	
— Delineated Species Colony	

**Map Notes:**  
 \*\*FEMA's available Q3 data represents a subset of digital data from FEMA's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM). The digital data does not replace the official paper FIRMs and should not be used to determine absolute delineations of flood boundaries. Digital FEMA data is not available for Franklin County, which includes the Towns of Leverett, Sunderland, and Montague. Updated DFIRM data is not available for the project Towns. Refer to FEMA's website for more information.

MassGIS Datalayers obtained from Mass.gov  
 Aerial Base Map Source: MassGIS 2014 Color Orthophotograph

0 25 50 100 Feet  
 1 inch = 100 feet

**Line 1044**  
**Lightning Arrester Project**  
**Montague/Sunderland, Massachusetts**  
**Mapsheet 10 of 16**

**EVERSOURCE ENERGY**  
**Tighe & Bond**  
 Engineers | Environmental Specialists  
 August 2017