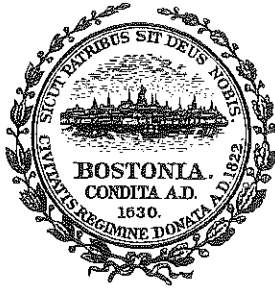


Offered by City Councilor Lydia Edwards



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING ENERGY DISTRIBUTION IN EAST BOSTON AND THE LOCATION, NEED, AND SAFETY OF A PROPOSED SUBSTATION IN THE EAGLE HILL NEIGHBORHOOD

- WHEREAS:* Electricity is a basic public utility and the responsible provision of affordable and resilient utility service is critical for Boston residents;
- WHEREAS:* Eversource Energy intends to build an electrical substation in the Eagle Hill neighborhood of East Boston arguing that East Boston's electrical utility infrastructure is not sufficient;
- WHEREAS:* Many residents of East Boston question the need and safety of the substation being located in the middle of a densely populated neighborhood; and
- WHEREAS:* The proposed substation on the East Eagle parcel directly abuts Chelsea Creek, and as part of the Project Change Notification, Eversource recognizes the site's susceptibility to flooding and the need to reconsider its infrastructure relative to changes in sea level rise; and
- WHEREAS:* During the winter of 2018, the substation parcel and surrounding streets of Condor and East Eagle experienced storm surge flooding three times within three months; and
- WHEREAS:* The level of flooding seen on the substantial parcel is categorized by FEMA flood maps as a 100-year event, and the Project Change Notification report does not reference or indicate these types of storm surges as a potential threat to the integrity of the substation and safety of residents; and
- WHEREAS:* During public hearings on the proposed substation, the Energy Facilities Siting Board clearly violated the Language Access Policy and Guidelines published by the Executive Office for Administration and Finance as Bulletin 16 and failed to implement the Commonwealth's Environmental Justice Executive Order 552 and EJ policy; and

WHEREAS: At a recent public meeting Eversource hosted in East Boston, Eversource refused to answer questions from the public regarding electrical capacity needs and climate resiliency, instead directing residents towards the Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB) filing; and

WHEREAS: Eversource has not explained the need for the substation and has not sufficiently explored alternative solutions to meeting any perceived energy demand; and

WHEREAS: The Union of Concerned Scientists has presented alternative solutions involving solar and energy storage to meet energy need while providing benefits to ratepayers; and

WHEREAS: Massport is investing \$17 million dollars in building an additional Eversource substation in East Boston less than one half mile away from the proposed Eagle Hill location; and

WHEREAS: The residents of East Boston, along with other Eversource ratepayers in Greater Boston, will pay for new electricity infrastructure, including the Eagle Hill substation, through charges included on their electric bill; and

WHEREAS: Eversource has not answered questions with regards for the need of two substations in East Boston and whether the location on Massport property could expand to serve the neighborhood and the airport; *THEREFORE*

BE IT ORDERED,

That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss the safety and need for the substation in East Boston, the location of the substation, the ability to use a distributed and sustainable network, the cost to ratepayers and the capacity of the planned second substation to supply the neighborhood of East Boston and that Eversource, Massport, representatives of the Walsh administration and other interested parties be invited to testify.

Filed in City Council: Wednesday, January 29, 2020