



**Environmental
 Notification Form**

For Office Use Only
 Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
 EOEA No.: 14271
 MEPA Analyst: BRIONY ANGUS
 Phone: 617-626-
 X 1029

The information requested on this form must be completed to begin MEPA Review in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, 301 CMR 11.00.

Project Name: Greater Springfield Reliability Project (GSRP)		
Street: Multiple public ways and existing electric transmission rights-of-way. Refer to Supplemental Report.		
Municipality: Springfield, W. Springfield, Agawam, Chicopee, and Ludlow (Preferred Routes)	Watershed: Connecticut; Chicopee; Westfield	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: Multiple sites. See Supplemental Report.	Latitude: Multiple sites. See Supplemental Report. Longitude: Multiple sites. See Supplemental Report.	
Estimated commencement date: 1st Qtr. 2010	Estimated completion date: 4th Qtr. 2013	
Approximate cost: \$714,000,000	Status of project design: 10 %complete	
Proponent: Western Massachusetts Electric Company (WMECO)		
Street: One Federal Street, 111-4		
Municipality: Springfield	State: MA	Zip Code: 01105
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Mr. Jerry Fan		
Firm/Agency: Burns & McDonnell	Street: 35 Thorpe Avenue	
Municipality: Wallingford	State: CT	Zip Code: 06492
Phone: 203.284.8590	Fax: 203.741.1054	E-mail: jfan@burnsmcd.com

Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)?
 Yes No

Has this project been filed with MEPA before?
 Yes (EOEA No. _____) No

Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before?
 Yes (EOEA No. **14148**) No

Is this an Expanded ENF (see 301 CMR 11.05(7)) requesting:
 a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8)) Yes No
 a Special Review Procedure? (see 301CMR 11.09) Yes No
 a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11) Yes No
 a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11) Yes No

Identify any financial assistance or land transfer from an agency of the Commonwealth, including the agency name and the amount of funding or land area (in acres): **N/A**

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?
 Yes (Specify _____) No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: See Section 1.6 of the Supplemental Report for a complete list of local and federal permits and/or approvals required.

Which ENF or EIR review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03):

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare Species | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Air | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid & Hazardous Waste |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACEC | <input type="checkbox"/> Regulations | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical & Archaeological Resources |

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total	State Permits & Approvals
Total site acreage	536.5			<input type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 401 Water Quality Certification <input type="checkbox"/> MHD or MDC Access Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Water Management Act Permit <input type="checkbox"/> New Source Approval <input type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/ Extension Permit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Permits <i>(including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:</i> See Section 1.6 of the Supplemental Report: EFSB, DPU, DOT, MHD, MTA
New acres of land altered		148.2		
Acres of impervious area	N/A	4.8 *	N/A	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		598,101**		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		535,257***		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0		
Gross square footage	27,537 (poles)	209,088	236,626	
Number of housing units	0	0	0	
Maximum height (in feet)	90 (poles)	40 (poles)	130 (poles)	
Vehicle trips per day	N/A	0	N/A	
Parking spaces	N/A	0	N/A	
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	0	0	0	
GPD water withdrawal	0	0	0	
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	0	0	0	
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	0	0	0	

* includes foundations of net structures + total of new impervious areas at substations and switching stations.

** includes combined total of bordering and isolated vegetated wetlands.

*** includes combined total of Bordering Land Subject to Flooding and Riverfront Area.

CONSERVATION LAND: Will the project involve the conversion of public parkland or other Article 97 public natural resources to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97?

Yes (Specify _____) No

Will it involve the release of any conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction, or watershed preservation restriction?

Yes (Specify _____) No

RARE SPECIES: Does the project site include Estimated Habitat of Rare Species, Vernal Pools, Priority Sites of Rare Species, or Exemplary Natural Communities?

Yes (Refer to Section 6.2 of Supplemental Report) No

HISTORICAL /ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Does the project site include any structure, site or district listed in the State Register of Historic Place or the inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth?

Yes (Refer to Section 6.6 of Supplemental Report) No

If yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources?

Yes (Specify _____) No

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN: Is the project in or adjacent to an Area of Critical Environmental Concern?

Yes (Specify _____) No

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project description should include (a) a description of the project site, (b) a description of both on-site and off-site alternatives and the impacts associated with each alternative, and (c) potential on-site and off-site mitigation measures for each alternative (You may attach one additional page, if necessary.)

Summary of Project

The GSRP involves improvements to the WMECO electric transmission system in the Greater Springfield Area. The improvements are needed to provide safe, reliable, and economic transmission service throughout the Greater Springfield geographic area, and in north central Connecticut, and to assure that the Greater Springfield portion of the transmission system will comply with mandatory federal and regional reliability standards. At the same time, the GSRP improvements will advance a comprehensive longer-term regional plan for improving electric transmission in New England, through extensive coordinated improvements in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. This comprehensive plan is known as the New England East – West Solution (“NEEWS”).

The existing transmission system serving the Springfield geographical area consists largely of 115-kilovolt (kV) lines originally constructed in the 1940s through the early 1970s, and does not meet current national and regional mandatory reliability criteria. Under conditions existing today, the system can become overloaded during normal conditions with all lines in-service. These overloads are currently prevented by contracting (pursuant to “Reliability Agreements”) for local generating plants to guarantee availability or run “out of merit order” (when the plants’ costs to run exceed the market price of power). These contracts increase the cost of electric power to consumers in order to maintain continuity of service in the Greater Springfield geographical area.

To alleviate these problems, WMECO is proposing an extensive reconstruction of the 115-kV system in the Springfield area, and The Connecticut Light & Power Company (CL&P) and WMECO propose to construct new 345-kV transmission lines to complete a 345-kV “loop” through north-central Connecticut and western Massachusetts. The 345-kV lines needed to complete a loop would be built between WMECO’s Ludlow Substation in Ludlow, Massachusetts and its Agawam Substation in Agawam Massachusetts, and between the Agawam Substation and CL&P’s North Bloomfield Substation in Connecticut. These new lines would form a loop back to Ludlow Substation via an existing 345-kV line from North Bloomfield Substation, to CL&P’s Barbour Hill Substation, to Ludlow Substation. The preferred route within Massachusetts for the Project would entirely be along existing rights-of-way (“ROWs”), with some widening.

The complete 345-kV “loop” around Springfield and north-central Connecticut will relieve congestion on the 115-kV system and increase the power-transfer capacity between Massachusetts and Connecticut. The construction of this high capacity electrical loop will serve a function analogous to that of a multi-lane circumferential highway constructed around an urban area where previously all highways had terminated at the edges of the city, requiring that traffic traverse congested city streets to gain access to the next section of multi-lane highway.