



**Environmental
Notification Form**

For Office Use Only
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
EOEA No.: **13130**
MEPA Analyst: **LEANDREA DAMES**
Phone: 617-626-**1028**

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: Station # 385 – Harborwalk and Station Modifications		
Street: 500 East First Street		
Municipality: Boston	Watershed: Boston Harbor	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 4689392N, 332006E (Zone 19 North)	Latitude: 42°20'19" N Longitude: 71°02'21" W	
Estimated commencement date: June, 2003	Estimated completion date: September '04	
Approximate cost: \$14,000,000	Status of project design: 100%	%complete
Proponent: Boston Edison Co. (d/b/a NSTAR)		
Street: 1 NSTAR Way SW 300		
Municipality: Westwood	State: MA	Zip Code: 02090
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Ken Fields or Greg Sampson		
Firm/Agency: BSC Group	Street: 15 Elkins Street	
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02127
Phone: 617-896-4300	Fax: 617-896-4301	E-mail: gsampson@bscgroup.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. _____) 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):
The project does not involve any financial assistance or land transfer from an agency of the Commonwealth.

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

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals:
**Federal – Construction General Permit (EPA - NPDES Program),
Programmatic General Permit – Category 1 (EPA – 404/Section 10 Program)
Local – Interim Planning Overlay District Permit (Boston Zoning Board of Appeals), Site Plan Approval (Inspectional Services Division), Order of Conditions (Boston Conservation Commission)**

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

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input 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 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
LAND				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Other Permits <i>(including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:</i>
Total site acreage	13.8 acres			
New acres of land altered		5.9 acres		
Acres of impervious area	0.71 acres	0.29 acres	1.0 acres	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0 s.f.		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		1420 s.f.		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0 acres		
STRUCTURES				
Gross square footage				
Number of housing units	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Maximum height (in feet)				
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day				
Parking spaces				
WATER/WASTEWATER				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use				
GPD water withdrawal				
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment				
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	N/A	N/A	N/A	

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 (Specify _____) 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 (Specify _____) 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.)

Boston Edison Company, d/b/a NSTAR Electric and Gas (NSTAR) has undertaken an expansion to their existing electrical substation (Station # 385) located at 500 East First Street in South Boston. This Environmental Notification Form (ENF) is being submitted pursuant to 301 CMR 11.03 (3)(b)1.a., for alterations to the coastal bank associated with the construction of a partially pile supported harborwalk, and pursuant to 301 CMR 11.03 (3)(b)5., for the modification of existing Nonwater Dependant structures (less than one acre). No EIR thresholds have been met or exceeded by the proposed project.

The construction of the station expansion commenced in June of 2003. A Minor Modification to Waterways License No. 4636 authorized the construction pursuant to the procedures set forth in 310 CMR 9.22 (3) (refer to Attachment D, Project Plans, for copies of the Minor Modification plans). Since that time, the electrical equipment layout has changed, and through Article 27P of the City of Boston Zoning Code process, the addition of a publicly accessible harborwalk was required.

A portion of the harborwalk is proposed to be located above 2,952 square feet of the coastal bank, supported by piles with an actual impact of 20 square feet. The coastal bank in this location is composed of urban fill, and runs along a tidally influenced seldom-used combined sewer overflow (BOS 078) channel connecting to the Reserve Channel. The harborwalk design has been approved through the Boston Redevelopment Authority design review and City of Boston site plan approval processes. The harborwalk was included as part of the project in accordance with input from community meetings, local zoning requirements, and Chapter 91 regulations.

Following the commencement of construction, new information was uncovered through the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Chapter 91 Mapping Project with respect to the Historic Mean High Water (HMHW) line, which modified the location of the HMHW on the project site. Based upon the revised limit of HMHW, several of the recently added substation structures are now identified as located on historically filled tidelands. In order to properly cover these structures through Chapter 91, NSTAR is seeking a new license to address the modification of the existing substation structure on historically filled tidelands. The expanded Non-Water Dependent structures will occupy approximately nine thousand six hundred (9,600) square feet of historically filled tidelands.

Previous Waterways authorization includes: Chapter 222 of the Act of 1850 and Waterways License No. 4636 both authorized the extent of fill on the site. While Waterways License No. 2008 authorized the placement of submarine electric transmission lines, Sheet 2 of 14 indicates that the existing Outdoor Electric Switching Station has existed on this site prior to the issuance of this license. This existing use as referenced on the plans associated with Waterways License No. 2008 does not required a license under 310 CMR 9.05(3)(b), since it has been a continuing use since January 1, 1984.

- (a) The proposed project will be constructed on an approximately 13.8 acre site owned by NSTAR and located at 500 East First Street in South Boston. The site is bordered by K Street to the east, East First Street to the south, a truck storage facility located to the northwest of the site, and the Reserve Channel to the west and north of the site. The existing electrical substation is located on a portion of this site, along the K Street side. The remainder of the site is separated from the existing substation by a bituminous concrete access road that extends through the middle of the site and provides right-of-way access to the trucking facility and the northern portion of the site. The unutilized portion of the site is mostly composed of gravel base material with very little vegetation except along the edge of the Reserve Channel.
- (b) No off-site alternatives were examined as the project involves expanding the existing transmission station located on the site and expansion to an off-site location was not feasible. Alternative on-site layouts for the proposed substation expansion were examined. The location of the harborwalk over the coastal bank at this location, as currently proposed, provides the best available alternative in order to comply with station specifications for safety and security in and around the substation equipment, and also provides the greatest setback from the Reserved Channel in order to comply with local zoning requirements.
- (c) NSTAR has worked with the City of Boston and members of the community to ensure that the project design provides a benefit to the community. A landscaped buffer along East First Street and a public access harborwalk along the Reserved Channel have been incorporated into the project design.