

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**Executive Office of Environmental Affairs ■ MEPA Office**  
**ENF Environmental Notification Form**

<i>For Office Use Only</i> <i>Executive Office of Environmental Affairs</i>	
EOEA No.:	14148
MEPA Analyst:	BRIONY ANGLIS
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: <b>Springfield Cables Project</b>		
Street: See Volume 1, Sections 3 and Volume 2 of the Supplemental Report for detailed description and environmental maps of the routes		
Municipality: <b>Springfield</b>	Watershed: <b>Connecticut River/Chicopee River</b>	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: <b>See ENF Form Attachment 1</b>	Latitude: <b>See ENF Form Attachment 1</b>	Longitude: <b>See ENF Form Attachment 1</b>
Estimated commencement date: <b>Mar. 2009</b>	Estimated completion date: <b>September 2011</b>	
Approximate cost: \$350 Million	Status of project design: 10 %complete	
Proponent: <b>Western Massachusetts Electric Company (WMECO)</b>		
Street: <b>One Federal Street, 111-4</b>		
Municipality: <b>Springfield</b>	State: <b>MA</b>	Zip Code: <b>01105</b>
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: <b>Ms. Mia Samsel</b>		
Firm/Agency: <b>Burns &amp; McDonnell</b>	Street: <b>35 Thorpe Avenue</b>	
Municipality: <b>Wallingford</b>	State: <b>CT</b>	Zip Code: <b>06492</b>
Phone: <b>(203) 284-8590</b>	Fax: <b>(203) 741-1054</b>	E-mail: <b>msamsel@burnsmcd.com</b>

- 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): **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:**

**Federal:**

- Coverage under U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Programmatic General Permit
- Coverage under U.S. EPA General Permit for Storm Water Discharges for Construction Activities
- Coverage under U.S. EPA General Permit for Construction Dewatering Activities

**Local:**

- Order of Conditions from Springfield Conservation Commission
- Approval of Noise Mitigation Plan by Springfield Board of Health
- Street Opening Permit and Storm Water Permit from Springfield Department of Public Works

See Attachment 2 for a full list of potentially applicable permits and approvals.

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 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
<b>LAND</b>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 <input type="checkbox"/> 401 Water Quality Certification <input checked="" 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 (including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:  See ENF Form Attachment 2-Project Permit Summary
Total site acreage	16.5 <sup>(1)</sup>			
New acres of land altered		0.70 <sup>(2)</sup>		
Acres of impervious area	15.8 <sup>(3)</sup>	0.5 <sup>(4)</sup>	16.3	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		N/A		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		N/A		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		N/A		
<b>STRUCTURES</b>				
Gross square footage	8.712	2.250	10.962	
Number of housing units	N/A	N/A	N/A	

Maximum height (in feet)	102	105 Max. /90 Avg. (Pole Structure)	NA
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>			
Vehicle trips per day	0.3	0	0.3
Parking spaces	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>WATER/WASTEWATER</b>			
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	N/A	N/A	N/A
GPD water withdrawal	N/A	N/A	N/A
GPD wastewater generation/treatment	N/A	N/A	N/A
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	N/A	N/A	N/A

- (1) Includes 3 acres of underground transmission alignment and 13 acres of total substation/switching station work areas.
- (2) Includes 0.2 acres of areas where underground transmission alignment is expected to be located outside of existing paved areas and 0.5 acres for access drive and expansion areas at the new Cadwell Switching station (see project description below).
- (3) Includes 2.8 acres of transmission alignment within existing paved roadways and 13 acres within substation yards, paved parking lots and paved material yards.
- (4) Includes new access driveway and areas of expansion for parking and material storage at the new Cadwell Switching station.

**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 (for preferred alternatives)

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: PH-669 is crossed by the Breckwood to East Springfield Route; however, there are no impacts on this area since the crossing is contained within the public roadway ROW-See Section 6.2 of the 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 (Specify: See Section 6.4 of the Supplemental Report for a discussion of Historic and Archaeological resources)  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.)

*The Springfield Cables Project (the "Project") consists of six components: 1) Retirement of an existing underground 115-kV high-pressure fluid-filled (HPFF) pipe-type cable circuit between Western Massachusetts Electric Company's ("WMECO") Breckwood and East Springfield substations 2) construction of a new underground 115-kV transmission line from the existing Clinton Substation to the existing East Springfield Substation, 3) construction of a new underground 115-kV transmission line from the existing Breckwood Substation to the existing East Springfield Substation, 4) modifications to the existing Clinton, East Springfield, and Breckwood Substations, 4) construction of a new switching station (the "Cadwell Switching Station") at WMECO's existing East Springfield Work Center on Cadwell Drive, and 6) reconstruction of the existing 115-kV overhead transmission lines between the East Springfield Substation and the proposed Cadwell Switching Station.*

*The Project is needed to begin the upgrades to Greater Springfield's electric transmission system to bring it into compliance with electric reliability standards set by the following regional and national organizations: the North American Reliability Council (NERC), the Northeast Power Coordinating Council (NPCC), New England Power Pool (NEPOOL), and the Independent System Operator – New England (ISO-NE). Reliability standards now require that transmission systems have the extra flexibility needed to withstand emergencies, such as when power lines fall, without exposing customers to heightened risks of having their service interrupted. In addressing this need, the Project will provide the following benefits:*

- Improves reliability during emergencies on the transmission system by relieving the severe overloading of electric lines and cables that result as the rest of the transmission system immediately adjusts to the emergencies;*
- Reduces the need for additional generating facilities which could impose extra reliability payments on area customers as the cost of solving the same emergencies; and*
- Meets existing electric demands under severe emergency conditions and future demands under both normal and emergency conditions.*

*WMECO has conducted extensive system evaluations to determine the optimal approach to mitigate transmission system reliability concerns. When constructed, the Project will improve the reliability and will assist in rectifying the severe thermal violations in Springfield, while minimizing the impacts to the environment.*

### **Existing Cable Retirement**

*The existing underground 115-kV high-pressure fluid-filled (HPFF) pipe-type cable circuit between WMECO's Breckwood and East Springfield substations which is will be retired from service. This cable, which is over 50 years old, has exceeded its useful life and is currently over-burdened by current load demands in the Springfield area. The cable is approximately 2.8 miles in length and is generally buried within public road rights of way ("ROW") along Roosevelt Avenue, Bay Street, and Breckwood Boulevard. The retirement involves the removal and lawful disposal of existing cable insulating fluid, the cable itself, and its associated accessories. The existing cable conduit (pipe) and associated splice vaults will left in place in order to minimize impacts to the existing roadways and to accommodate future use if a need arises.*