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**Subject:** Martha's Vineyard Reliability Project, Falmouth and Oak Bluffs, MA/Dual Expanded Environmental Notification Form / Proposed EIR/NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a/ Eversource Energy – Proponent  
**Date:** Monday, May 16, 2022 11:07:00 AM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Secretary Card,

**Disregard the email notification sent on Friday 5/13/2022, and please accept this submission of the dual EENF/PEIR submission.**

On behalf of NSTAR Electric Company, d/b/a Eversource Energy, with this email Epsilon Associates, Inc. submits the enclosed dual Expanded Environmental Notification Form / Proposed Environmental Impact Report (“EENF/PEIR”) for the proposed Martha’s Vineyard Reliability Project. Presently Martha’s Vineyard is supplied by four submarine electric distribution cables. The year-round population on Martha’s Vineyard swells during the summer months. As such, electric consumption surges in the summer and the four existing submarine cables cannot reliably meet the Island’s peak demand. When demand exceeds the capacity of the existing submarine cables, Eversource relies on five diesel generators located in Oak Bluffs and Vineyard Haven. The proposed Project involves laying a fifth submarine distribution cable from Falmouth to Oak Bluffs to: (1) meet current and future electrical demand, and (2) increase the reliability of the grid-based electrical service on the Island.

We respectfully request review of this Project as a Rollover EIR. The proposed Project meets the ENF review threshold for alteration of ½-acre or more of “other” wetlands [301 CMR 11.03(3)(b)1.f.]. Review of this Project as an EIR is required pursuant to 301 CMR 11.06(7) because it is located within 1-mile of Environmental Justice Populations. Whereas proximity to EJ Populations is the sole EIR trigger, we respectfully request MEPA review this as a dual ENF/PEIR in lieu of the traditional ENF and EIR review process.

Consistent with the *MEPA Public Involvement Protocol for Environmental Justice Populations*, an Environmental Justice Screening Form was distributed to the EEA-provided distribution list on March 31, 2022. The Proponent has initiated public outreach as described in the attached dual EENF/PEIR. The dual EENF/PEIR provides a comprehensive review of nearby Environmental Justice Populations consistent with the MEPA EJ Analysis Protocol.

**The EENF can be downloaded using this link: <https://epsilon.sharefile.com/d-sd72fce722be64ea0ab42984bd3e9d903>**

The Proponent expects that the dual EENF/PEIR will be noticed in the *Environmental Monitor* on the MEPA Web site <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-environmental-policy-act-office> on May 25, 2022 and that **comments will be due by June 24, 2022.**

If you wish to submit comments on the filing, they should be addressed to:

Elizabeth Card, Secretary

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900

Boston, MA 02114

You may also comment directly online at the MEPA's Web site:

<https://eeasonline.eea.state.ma.us/EEA/PublicComment/UI/searchcomment>

If you would like a paper copy of the document, please e-mail Corinne Snowdon at:

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Please let me know if there is any issue with the link or PDF.

Thank you,  
Corinne

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