

# MEYER, CONNOLLY, SIMONS & KEUTHEN LLP

MICHAEL B. MEYER  
JOHN M. CONNOLLY  
RODERICK L. MACDONALD  
LEONARD M. SIMONS  
CATHERINE J. KEUTHEN

ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
12 POST OFFICE SQUARE  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109  
(617) 423-2254  
FAX (617) 426-4687

ckeuthen@meyerconnolly.com

SUSAN F. SCHWARTZ  
Of Counsel

## *Hand Delivered*

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary  
Department of Public Utilities  
One South Station  
Boston, MA 02110

October 27, 2008

RE: Western Massachusetts Electric Company  
Petition for Exemptions from Zoning Ordinances and By-Laws Pursuant to  
G.L. c. 40A §3 and Request for Consolidation, DPU 08-[ ]  
Petition for Approval to Construct and Operate Transmission Lines and  
Ancillary Facilities Pursuant to G.L. c. 164 §72 and Request for  
Consolidation, DPU 08-[ ]

Dear Ms. Cottrell:

With this letter, pursuant to G.L. c. 40A §3 and G.L. c. 164 §72, Western Massachusetts Electric Company ("WMECO"), a subsidiary of Northeast Utilities, submits to the Department of Public Utilities (the "Department") an original and five (5) copies of:

- (1) Petition for Approval to Construct and Operate Transmission Lines and Ancillary Facilities and Request for Consolidation ("Section 72 Petition"); and
- (2) Petition for Exemption from Zoning Ordinances and By-Laws and Request for Consolidation ("Zoning Exemption Petition").

Both Petitions are in connection with the construction and operation of new overhead 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission facilities and two new 115-kV switching stations, the modification of existing switching stations and substations, and the re-conductoring and/or re-building of certain existing overhead 115-kV transmission lines in the Massachusetts municipalities of Agawam, Chicopee, Ludlow, Springfield and West Springfield (collectively, "Greater Springfield") as part of what is known as the Greater Springfield Reliability Project (inclusive of portions of the project in Connecticut, the

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“GSRP”). The Zoning Exemption Petition also extends to the Massachusetts municipalities of East Longmeadow, Hampden, Longmeadow and Wilbraham, where the alternative route for the 345-kV transmission facilities is located.

We have also enclosed the filing fee of \$200.00, i.e., \$100.00 for each Petition. As required, we are also enclosing a signed and completed Checklist for Filing Zoning Exemption Petitions and a signed and completed Checklist for Requesting Authorization to Construct an Electric Transmission Line Pursuant to G.L. c. 164 §72. Due to their size, we have included only two copies of Appendices 1 through 9 of the Zoning Petition (the municipalities’ zoning by-laws and ordinances).

On this date, pursuant to G.L. c.164 §69J, WMECO filed with the Energy Facilities Siting Board (the “Siting Board”) a Petition for Approval to Construct 345-kV Transmission Lines, Re-Build 115-kV Transmission Lines and Build and Upgrade Ancillary Facilities (the “Siting Board Petition”). The Siting Board Petition demonstrates that, consistent with G.L. c. 164 §72, the Massachusetts portion of the Greater Springfield Reliability Project is needed, will serve the public convenience, and is consistent with the public interest. Furthermore, the Siting Board Petition demonstrates that, consistent with G.L. c. 40A §3, the GSRP is reasonably necessary for the convenience and welfare of the public.

WMECO requests that both the Zoning Exemption Petition and the Section 72 Petition be consolidated for review with the Siting Board Petition. Consistent with G.L. c. 25 §4 and G.L. c. 164 §69H(2), WMECO hereby requests that the Chairman of the Department refer to the Siting Board the Zoning Exemption Petition and Section 72 Petition and that the Siting Board accept for review the Zoning Exemption Petition and Section 72 Petition and consolidate the review of all three petitions.

As part of its Siting Board Petition, WMECO provided a Draft Notice of Adjudication and Public Hearing (“Draft Notice”). Consistent with WMECO’s request for consolidation, the Draft Notice submitted to the Siting Board is premised on the expectation that the Zoning Exemption Petition, Section 72 Petition, and Siting Board Petition will be consolidated.

Please note that the Zoning Exemption Petition and the Section 72 Petition will be filed electronically by e-mail attachment to [dpu.efiling@state.ma.us](mailto:dpu.efiling@state.ma.us) and [mary.cottrel@state.ma.us](mailto:mary.cottrel@state.ma.us) for your attention.

Please date stamp a copy of this letter and return it to the messenger for our files.

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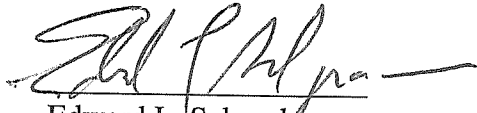
Please include on the service list and direct any inquiries or correspondence concerning the Petition to either of the following co-counsel:

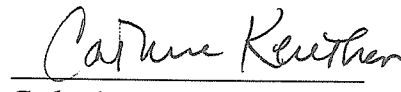
Edward L. Selgrade  
Law Offices of Edward L. Selgrade, Esq.  
71 Leicester Road  
Belmont, Massachusetts 02478  
Tel: (617) 489-2400  
Fax: (617) 484 7613

Catherine J. Keuthen  
Meyer, Connolly, Simons & Keuthen LLP  
12 Post Office Square  
Boston, Massachusetts 02109  
Tel: (617) 423-2254  
Fax: (617) 426-4687

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

  
Edward L. Selgrade

  
Catherine J. Keuthen

cc: Yvette Begue, Deputy General Counsel, Department of Public Utilities (w/o  
enclosures)  
Jolette A. Westbrook, Executive Director of the Energy Facilities Siting Board (w/o  
enclosures)

Encl.