

# Central to Western Massachusetts Energy Improvement Project

Virtual Consultation Session and Site Tour

February 12, 2025

nationalgrid



# Team Introduction



## National Grid

Mike Tyrrell

## BSC Group

Theresa Portante

Julie Goldberg

Priyanka Shrestha

# Agenda



- **Project Overview**
- **Project Permitting Overview (Federal, State, Local)**
- **Environmental Justice and Community Engagement**
- **Anticipated Schedule Overview**
- **Virtual Site Tour**

# Project Overview

## *History and Location*



### History

- E5/F6 Lines originally constructed in 1900s, original lattice structures remain along majority of line
- Lines were refurbished in 2001

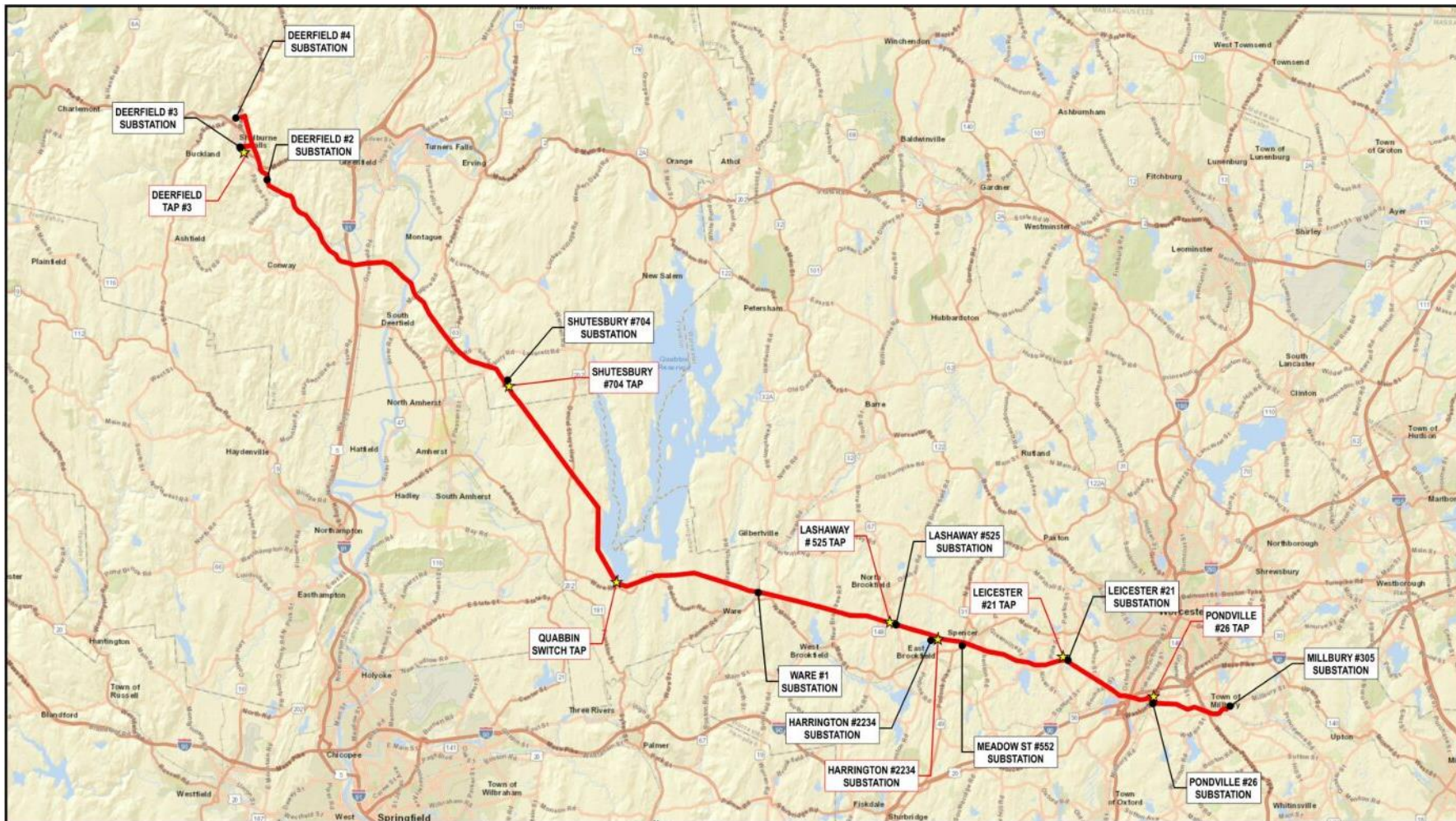
### Location

- Within Existing Right Of Way (ROW), 67 miles
- Deerfield #4 Substation, Shelburne to Millbury #305 Substation, Millbury
- There are seven existing Tap Lines within the Existing ROW, three of which will be reconstructed as part of this Project: the Quabbin Switch Tap Line, the Shutesbury #704 Tap Line, and the Deerfield #3 Tap Line
- Municipalities:

- |               |              |              |              |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| • Auburn      | • East       | • North      | • Spencer    |
| • Belchertown | • Brookfield | • Brookfield | • Sunderland |
| • Conway      | • Leicester  | • Pelham     | • Ware       |
| • Deerfield   | • Leverett   | • Shelburne  | • West       |
|               | • Millbury   | • Shutesbury | • Brookfield |

# Project Overview

## Overview Map



# Project Overview

## *Need, Benefits, and Scope*

### Need and Benefits

- Address immediate reliability concerns
- Improve reliability and efficiency
- Support integration of renewable energy resources

### Scope

- Work on mainline and three taps:
  - Replacement of existing lattice structures with monopoles
  - Construction of new and/or improvement of existing access
  - Reconductoring both circuits with 795 Aluminum Conductor Steel Supported for reliability and future operation at 115 kV
  - Replacement of the existing shield wire with two Optical Ground Wires (OPGWs)
  - Vegetation management for safe access and clearance requirements, including tree removals (estimated 241 acres across 67 miles) and mowing

# Project Overview

## *Existing Conditions*

- Total Land Area (include Tap Lines): approximately 1,147 acres
- Open Space Area: 33%
- Wetland Resources include: Riverfront Area, Bordering Land Subject to Flooding, Isolated Vegetated Wetlands
- Delineated Wetland Count (including off-ROW): 315
- Stream Count (including off-ROW): 350
  - Perennial Streams Count: 69
  - Intermittent Streams Count: 281
- Delineated Vernal Pool Count (including off-ROW): 21 (10 are CVPs)
- NHESP Priority Habitat Area of Total Area: 19%
  - Reptile Species Area: ~9%
  - Plant Species Area: ~5%
  - Bird Species Area: ~4%
  - Amphibian Species Area: ~1%
  - Dragonfly / Damselfly Area: <1%
  - Fish Species Area: <1%
  - Aquatic Invertebrate Species Area: <1%

# Project Overview

## *Mainline Structure Example*



*Typical E5/F6 lattice tower structure*

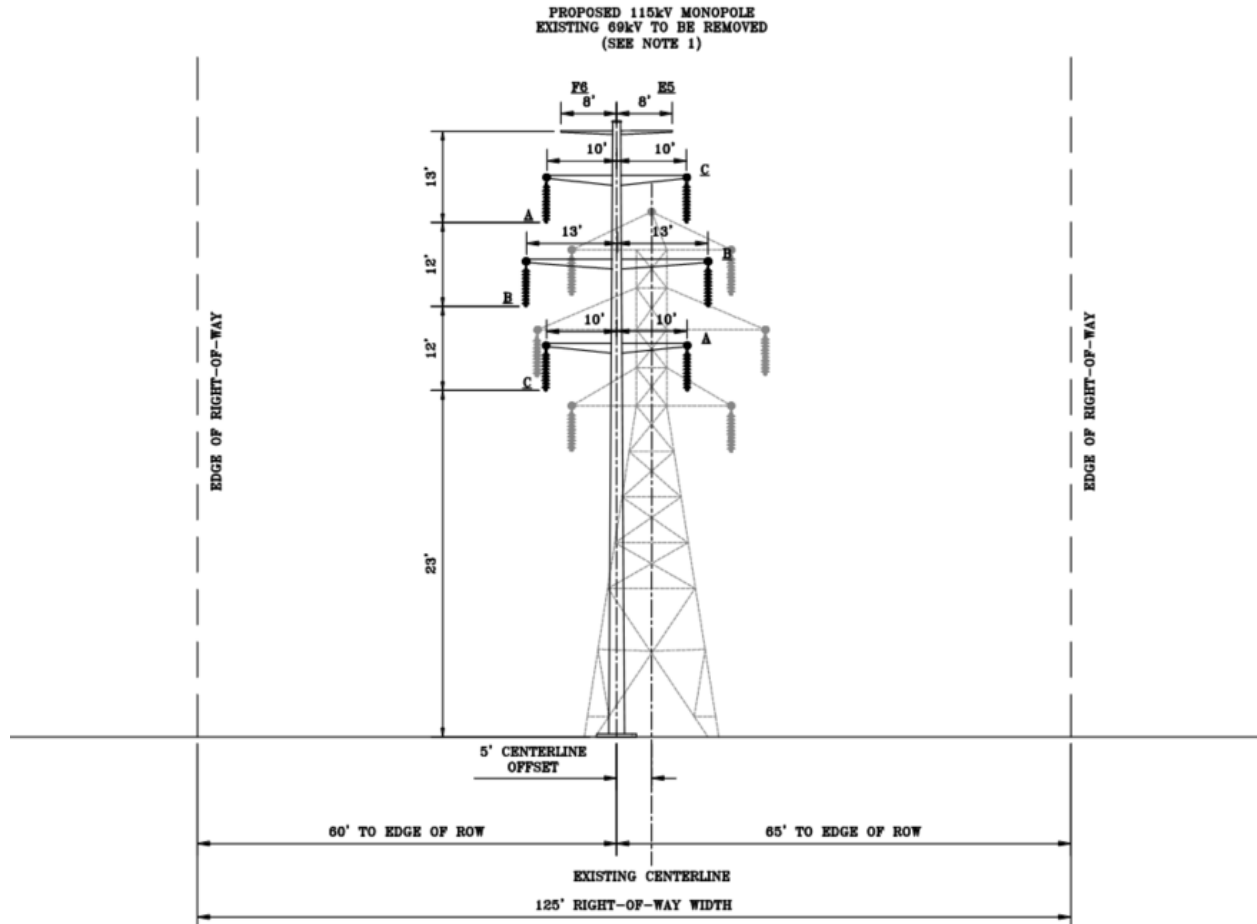


*Example of double circuit structure*



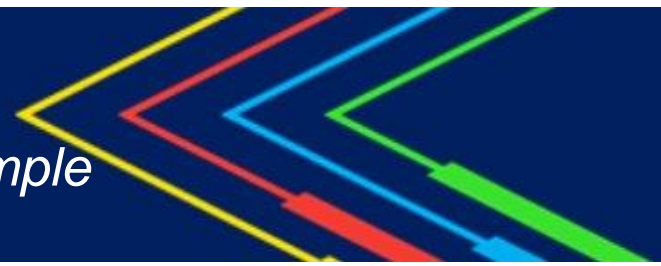
# Project Overview

## Mainline Cross-Section



# Project Overview

## *Deerfield and Quabbin Tap Lines Structure Example*



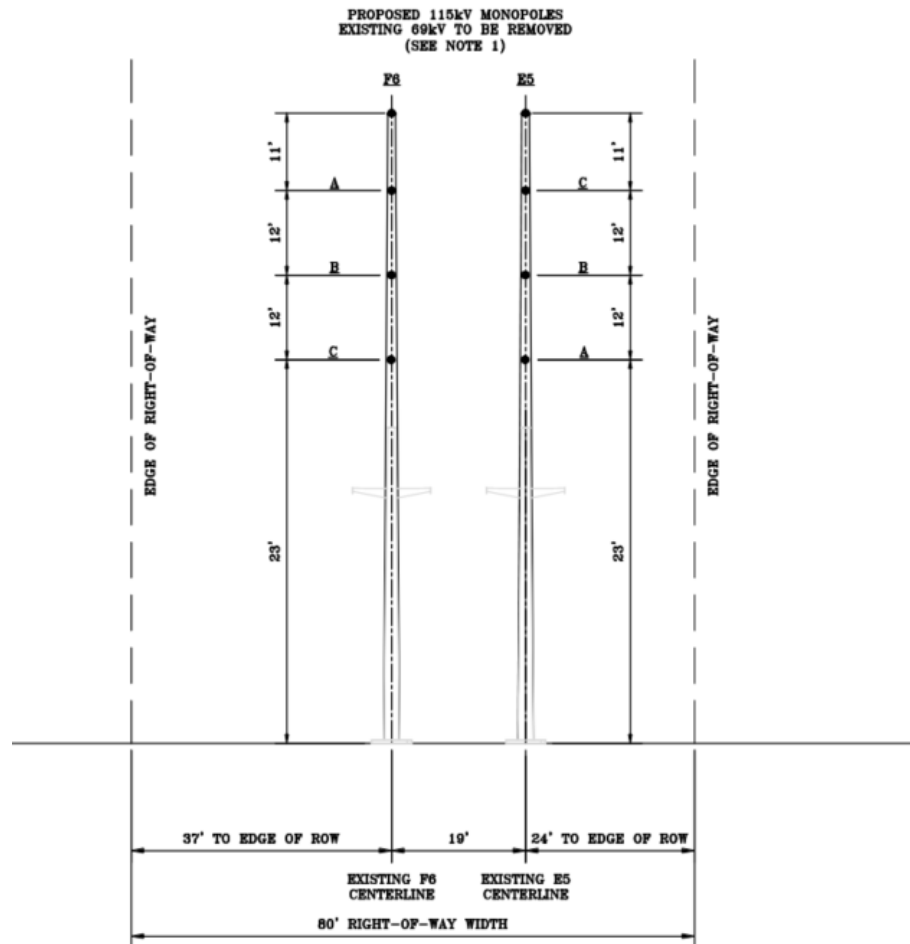
*Example of Tap Line Structures.*



*Example of proposed tap structures*

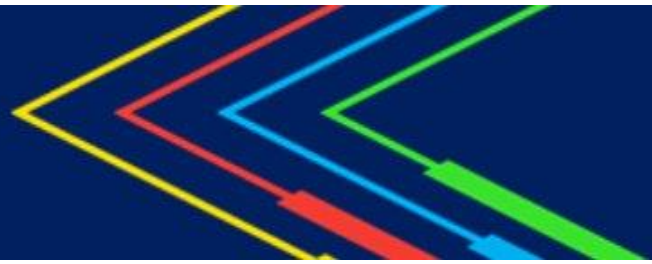
# Project Overview

## Deerfield #3 Tap Line Cross-Section



# Project Permitting Overview

## *Federal*



### **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)**

- Authorization under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act
- Pre-construction Notification Permit
- Consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

### **United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Stormwater Discharges and Construction Dewatering Activities
  - Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)

# Project Permitting Overview

## State



### Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB)

- Petition

### Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)

- MA Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Review and Secretary's Certificate

### MA Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP)

- Section 401 Individual Water Quality Certificate and Variance
- Notice of Intent (NOI)
- Waterways Program – Ch. 91 Minor Modification

### MA Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP)

- MA Endangered Species Act – Project Review Checklist
- Conservation and Management Permit

### Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR-W and S)

- Watershed Protection Act (WsPA) Permit
- Construction Access Permits (Separate permits from DCR-W and DCR-S)

# Project Permitting Overview

*State (cont.) and Local*

## Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT)

- Highway Crossing and Traffic Management Permit

## Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC)

- Project review under Massachusetts General Law [M.G.L.] c. 9 § 27C

## MA State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

- Phase I and II Archeological Review

## Conservation Commissions within the Towns of Auburn, Belchertown, Conway, Deerfield, East Brookfield, Leicester, Leverett, Millbury, North Brookfield, Pelham, Shelburne, Shutesbury, Spencer, Sunderland, Ware, and West Brookfield

- NOIs
- Order of Conditions (OOCs)

# MEPA Review Thresholds



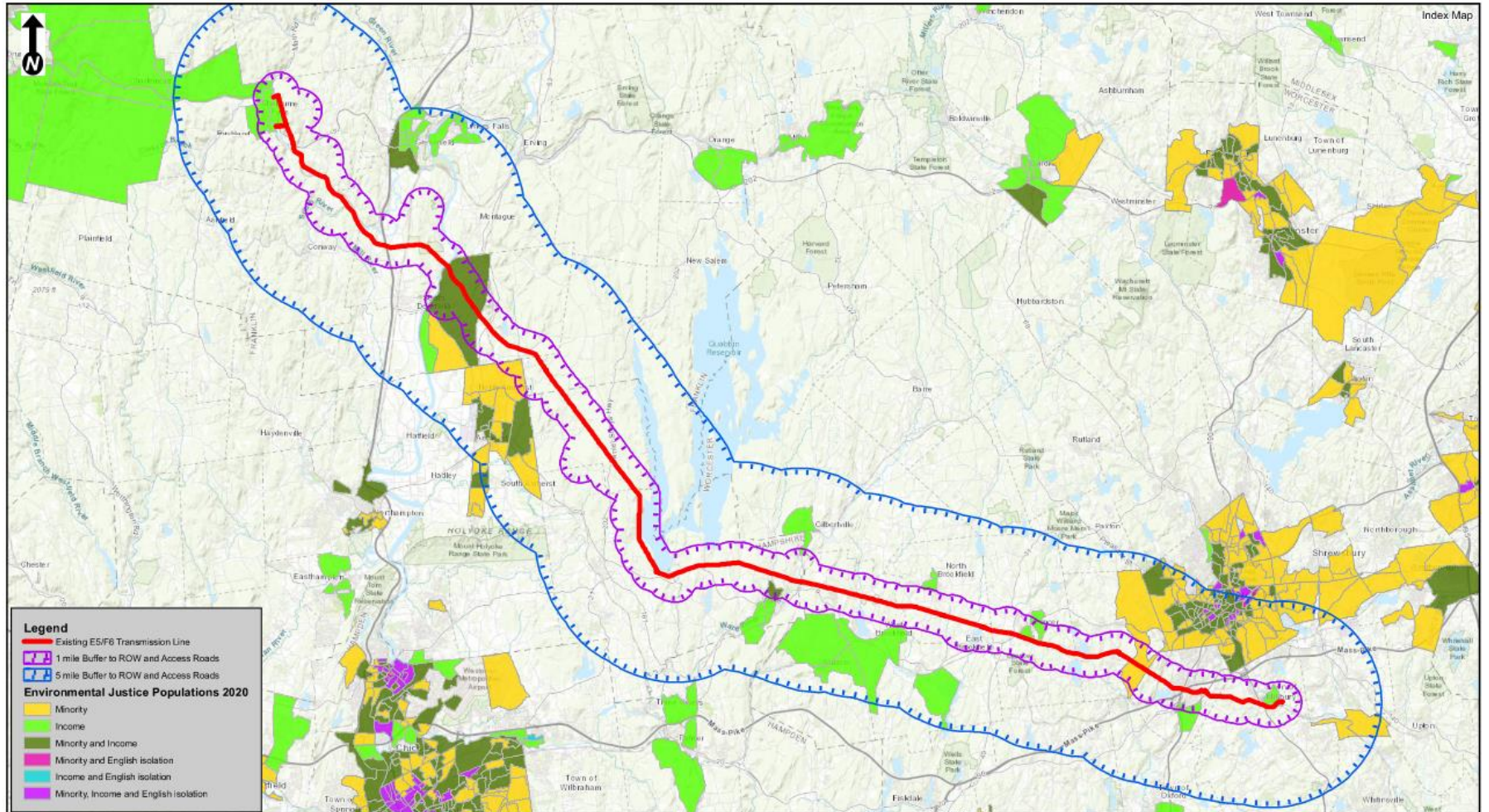
## ENF Review

- Wetlands, Waterways and Tidelands:
  - Alteration of ½ or more acres of any other wetlands
  - Alteration of 10 or more acres of any other wetlands.
  - Alteration of 500 or more linear feet of bank along a fish run or inland bank
- Rare Species (potential – consultation with NHESP ongoing): Taking of an endangered or threatened species or species of special concern, provided that the Project site is two or more acres and includes an area mapped as a Priority Site of Rare Species Habitats and Exemplary Natural Communities

## ENF and Mandatory EIR

- EJ: The Secretary shall require an EIR for any Project that is located within a Designated Geographic Area around an EJ Population
- Land: Direct alteration of 50 or more acres of land, unless the Project is consistent with an approved conservation farm plan or forest cutting plan or other similar
- Wetlands, Waterways and Tidelands: Alteration of one or more acres of bordering vegetated wetlands (BVW)

# Environmental Justice Overview Map





# Community Engagement

## *Public Involvement Plan*



### Contacts

- EJ Reference List (obtained on [9/03/2024](#))
- Municipality Administrators

### Key Items of the Public Involvement Plan

- Project website: <https://www.cmatowmaenergy.com/>
- Municipality open houses and Select Board presentations ([12/4/2023](#) to [9/17/2024](#))
- Advanced Notification
  - EJ Screening Form emailed to MEPA and EJ Reference List ([11/26/2024](#))
- Virtual Community Meeting (scheduled for [12/19/2024](#))
  - Meeting ad published in newspapers: Worcester T&G ([11/27/2024](#)), Greenfield Recorder ([11/27/2024](#)), and the Republican/MassLive ([11/29/2024](#))
  - Meeting invitation shared with MEPA and contacts ([11/27/2024](#))
- Consultation Session and Virtual Site Tour ([2/12/2025](#))
- Extended comment period for the MEPA ENF ([1/24/2025](#) to [2/27/2025](#))
- Project video will be created and shared to the Project website post-ENF filing

# Community Engagement

## *Municipal and Community Meetings*



<b>Date</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Meeting Type/Location Held</b>
September 17, 2024	Millbury, Auburn, and Leicester Open House	In person – Millbury
July 17, 2024	West Brookfield, East Brookfield, North Brookfield, and Spencer Open House	In person – West Brookfield
June 26, 2024	Belchertown, Shutesbury, Pelham, and Ware Open House	In person – Belchertown
June 11, 2024	Shelburne and Conway Open House	In person – Shelburne
June 5, 2024	Sunderland, Leverett, and Deerfield Open House	In person – Sunderland
April 1, 2024	Leicester Select Board Presentation	In person
March 26, 2024	Millbury Select Board Presentation	Virtual
March 25, 2024	Auburn Select Board Presentation	In Person
March 19, 2024	Ware Select Board Presentation	Virtual
March 4, 2024	West Brookfield Select Board Presentation	In Person
March 3, 2024	Belchertown Select Board Presentation	Virtual
February 26, 2024	Spencer Select Board Presentation	In Person
February 13, 2024	Shutesbury Select Board Presentation	Virtual
December 18, 2023	Conway and Pelham Select Board Presentation	Virtual
December 11, 2023	Sunderland Select Board	Virtual
December 5, 2023	Leverett Select Board Presentation	In person
December 4, 2023	Shelburne Select Board Presentation	Virtual

# Anticipated Schedule Overview



## Field Assessments: 2022 to 2025

- Construction reviews, access reviews, land surveys, environmental field work, wetland delineations, resource testing, geotechnical soil borings

## Agency and Stakeholder Engagement: 2023 to 2025

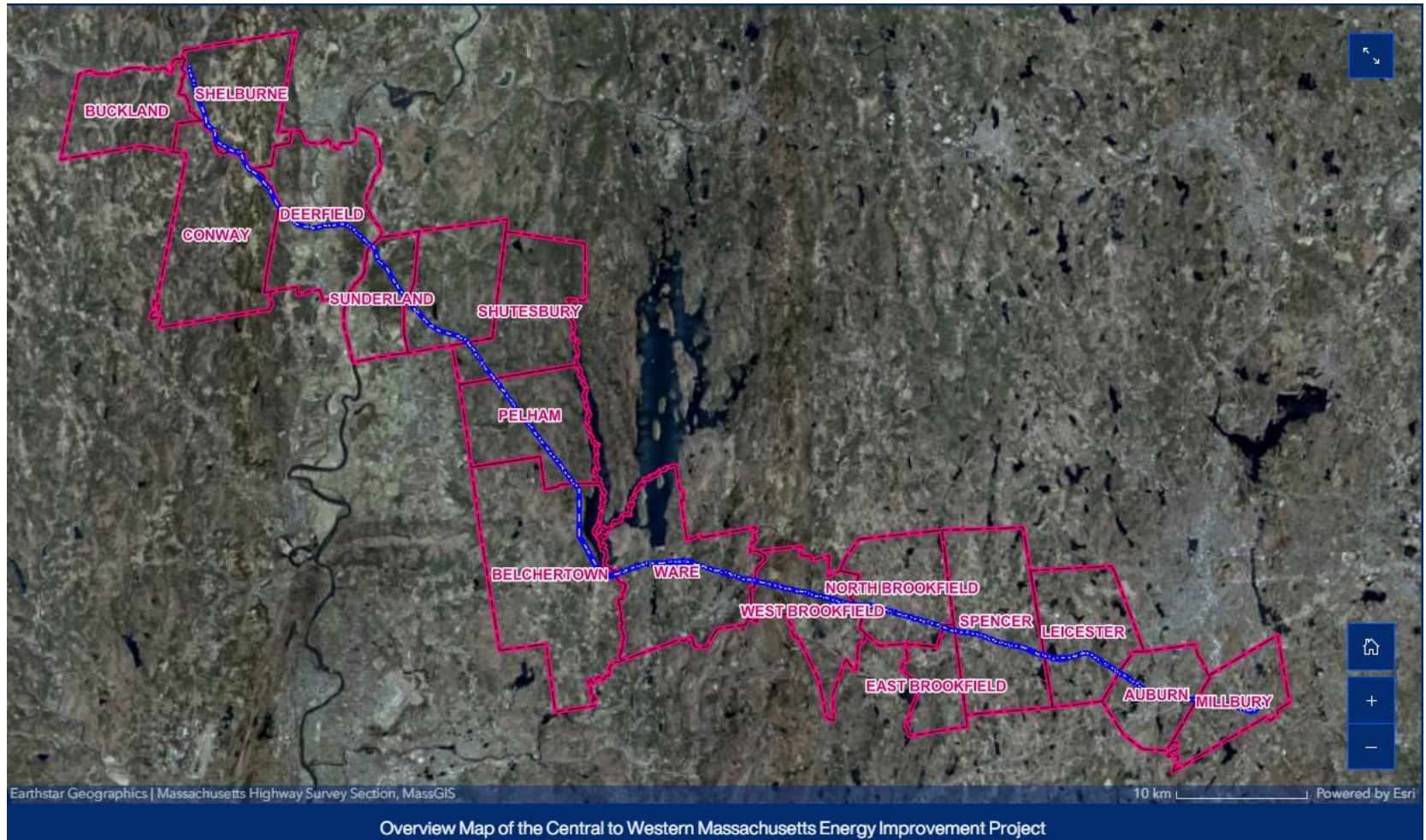
- Mailed notifications, open houses, local meetings with municipalities and landowners, dedicated project hotline, project website
- Consultations were held with all agencies prior to ENF Filing
- Consultations will continue through the permitting process

## MEPA and Siting: 2024 to 2027

- Advanced Notification – EJ Screening Form 11/26/2024
- Environmental Notification Form (ENF) filing 01/15/2025
- EFSB Petition February/March 2025

## Construction: Spring 2029 to Spring 2035

# Virtual Site Tour



# Thank You



For more information, please visit or reach our Public Outreach team at:

Dedicated Project Hotline: **888-431-3536**

Email: [info@CMAtoWMAenergy.com](mailto:info@CMAtoWMAenergy.com)

Website: [www.CMAtoWMAenergy.com](http://www.CMAtoWMAenergy.com)