Western Massachusetts Reliability Project

Springfield City Council

Sustainability and Environment Committee

10/12/2021

Presentation Topics

1. Project Need
2. Project Scope
3. Routing Analysis
4. Potential Routes
5. Longmeadow POD
6. Alternatives Considered
7. Regulatory Approval Process
8. Additional Project Approvals
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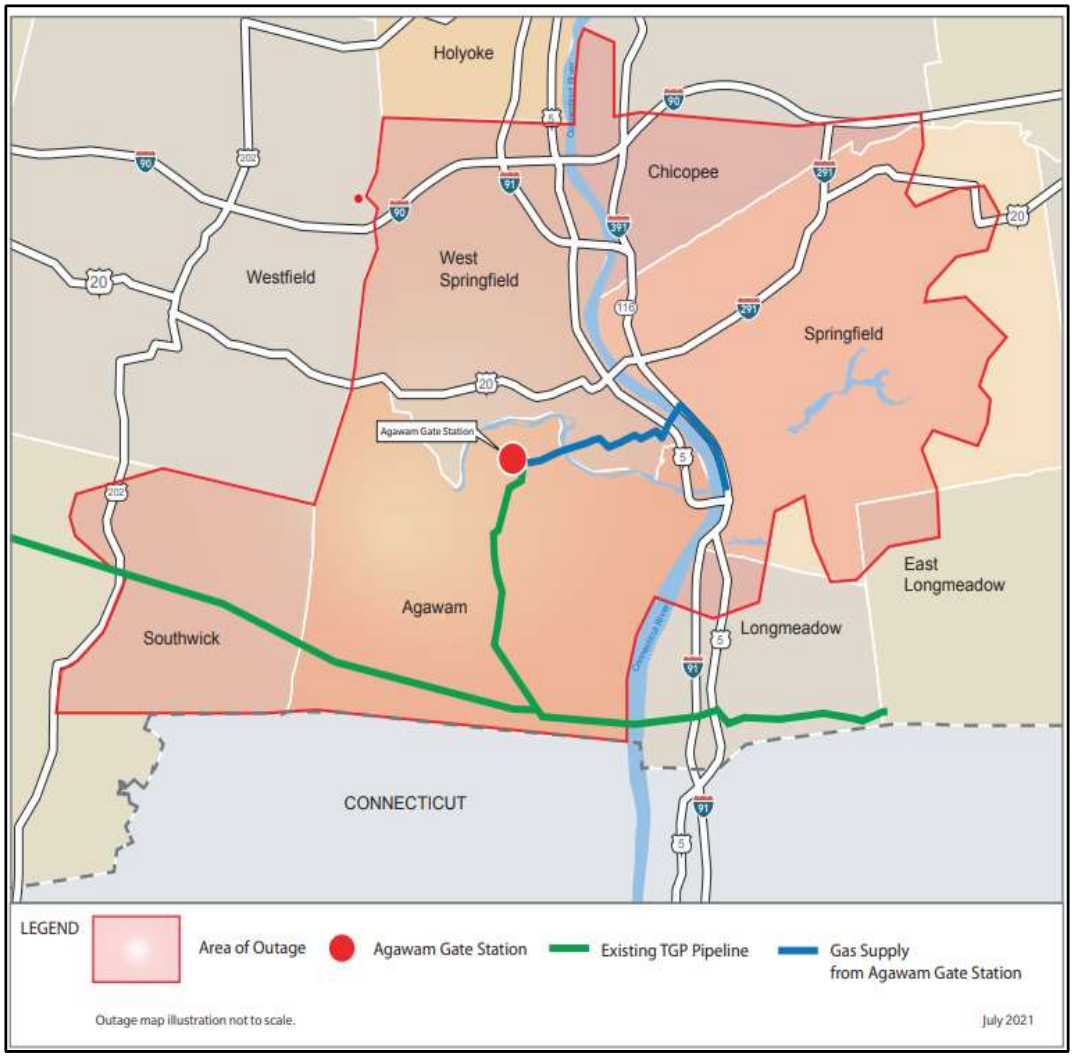
Project Need



Why is Eversource proposing this project?

- This Project is needed to provide necessary system reliability to approximately 58,000 customers in the Greater Springfield Area
- This area is currently served by single source of supply that is 70 years old and located within the Memorial Bridge

Project Need & Community Benefits

- **This Project is designed to:**
  - Update and strengthen the backbone gas system
  - Reduce the risk of gas service interruption due to an unexpected disruption to the single supply line
- **Risk:**
  - Interruption of supply along this pathway could result in customers being out of service for the duration of interruption
  - Particularly problematic during a cold winter period
  - Depending on cause and impact of interruption, restoration efforts could be time consuming

Proposed Solution

- **Proposed Project Scope Includes**:
  - Construction of a new Point-of-Delivery (POD) Station in Longmeadow
  - Installation of a new 16-inch pipeline and upgrade of existing pipeline segments
    - **From:** The new POD in Longmeadow
    - **To**: The existing Bliss Street Regulator Station in Springfield
  - Upgrading and replacement of pipe in some areas
  - Regulator station upgrades

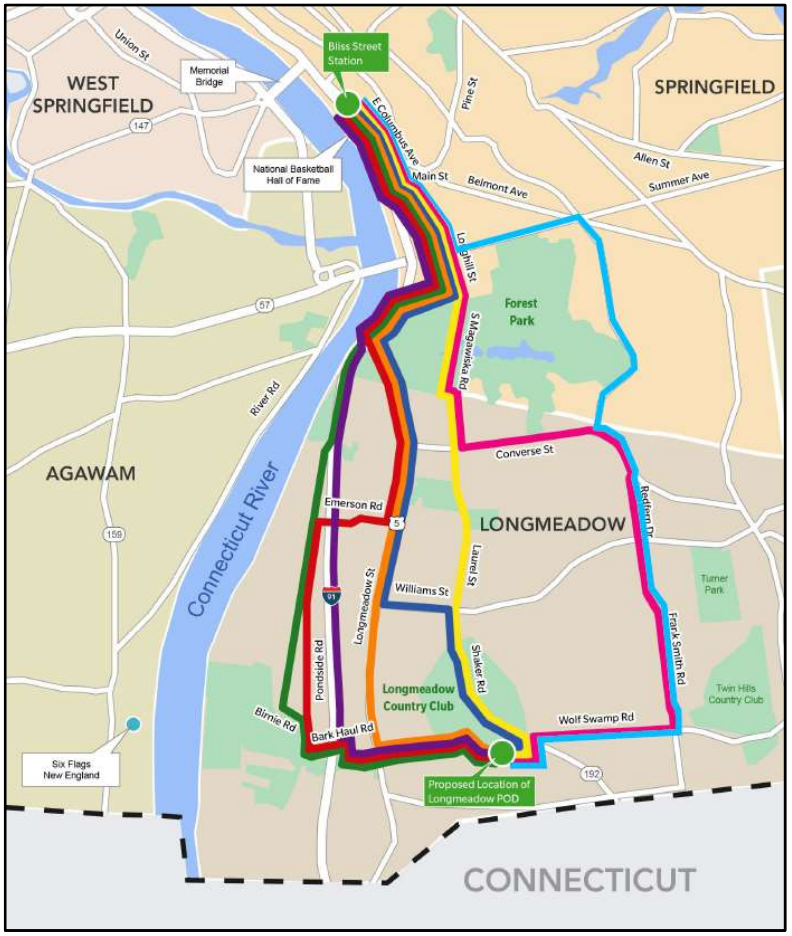
Routing Analysis

- Eversource has identified several potential alternatives for locating pipelines between Longmeadow POD and Bliss Street Station

- Route options were analyzed based on extensive regulatory precedent **balancing consideration of reliability, environmental and community impacts, and cost.**

- This exercise included detailed, quantitative analysis of natural environmental considerations (such as wetlands, endangered species, tree clearing) and human environmental conditions (such as traffic, land use, and other community impacts).

- Eversource continues to seek additional community, property owner, business owner and other stakeholder feedback on the routing options.



Potential Routes
Preferred and Noticed Alternatives/Variations

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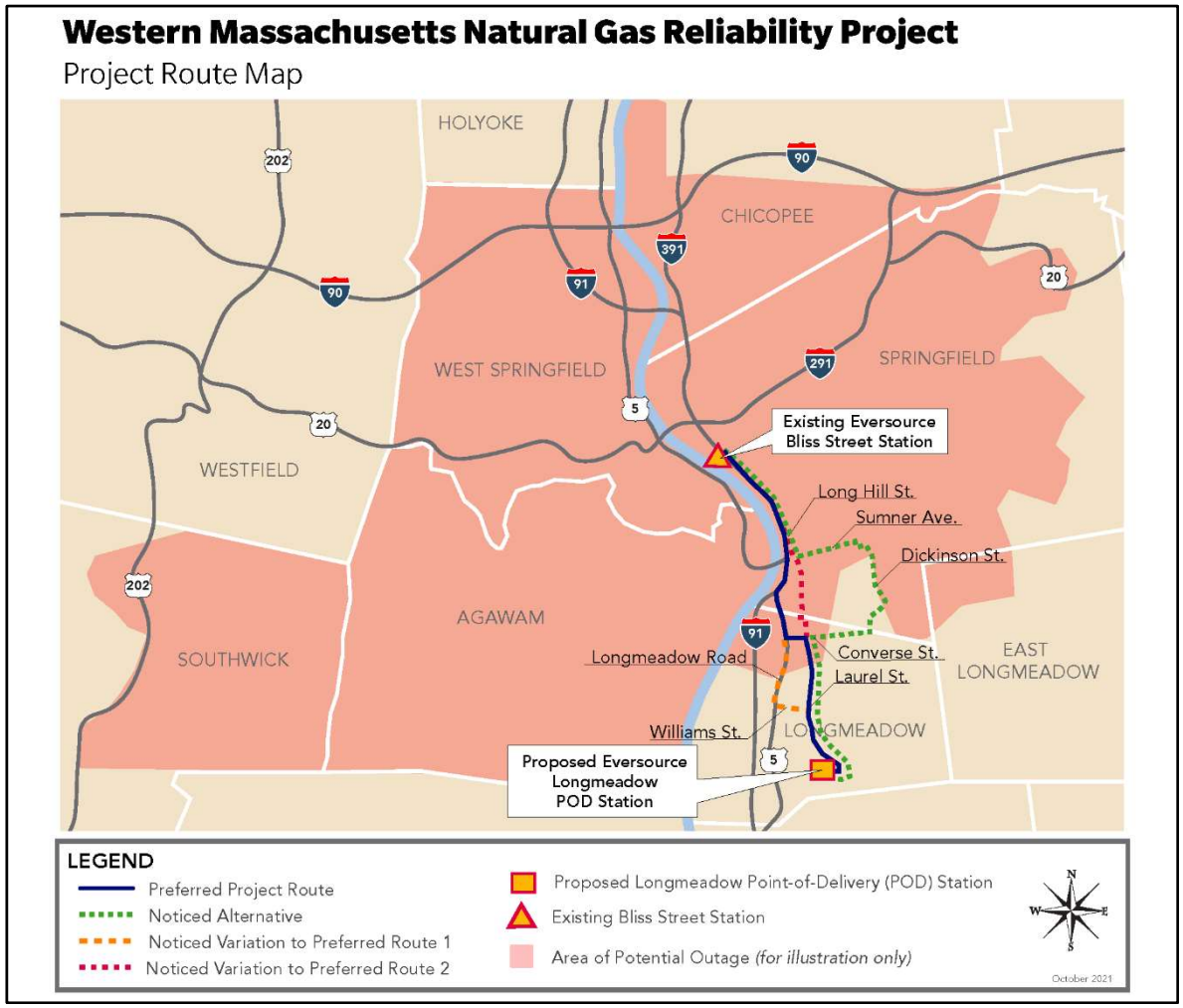

- **Preferred Route**
  - (solid purple)
  - I-91 (MassDOT)
  - Approximately 5.4 miles
  - Approximately 986 abutters
- **Noticed Variation 1 to Preferred Route**
  - (dotted orange)
  - Approximately 5.4 miles
  - Approximately 895 abutters
- **Noticed Variation 2 to Preferred Route**
  - (dotted red)
  - Forest Park
  - Approximately 5.0 miles
  - Approximately 896 abutters
- **Noticed Alternative**
  - (dotted green)
  - Approximately 7.2 miles
  - Approximately 1904 abutters

Proposed Longmeadow Point of Delivery (POD) Station POD

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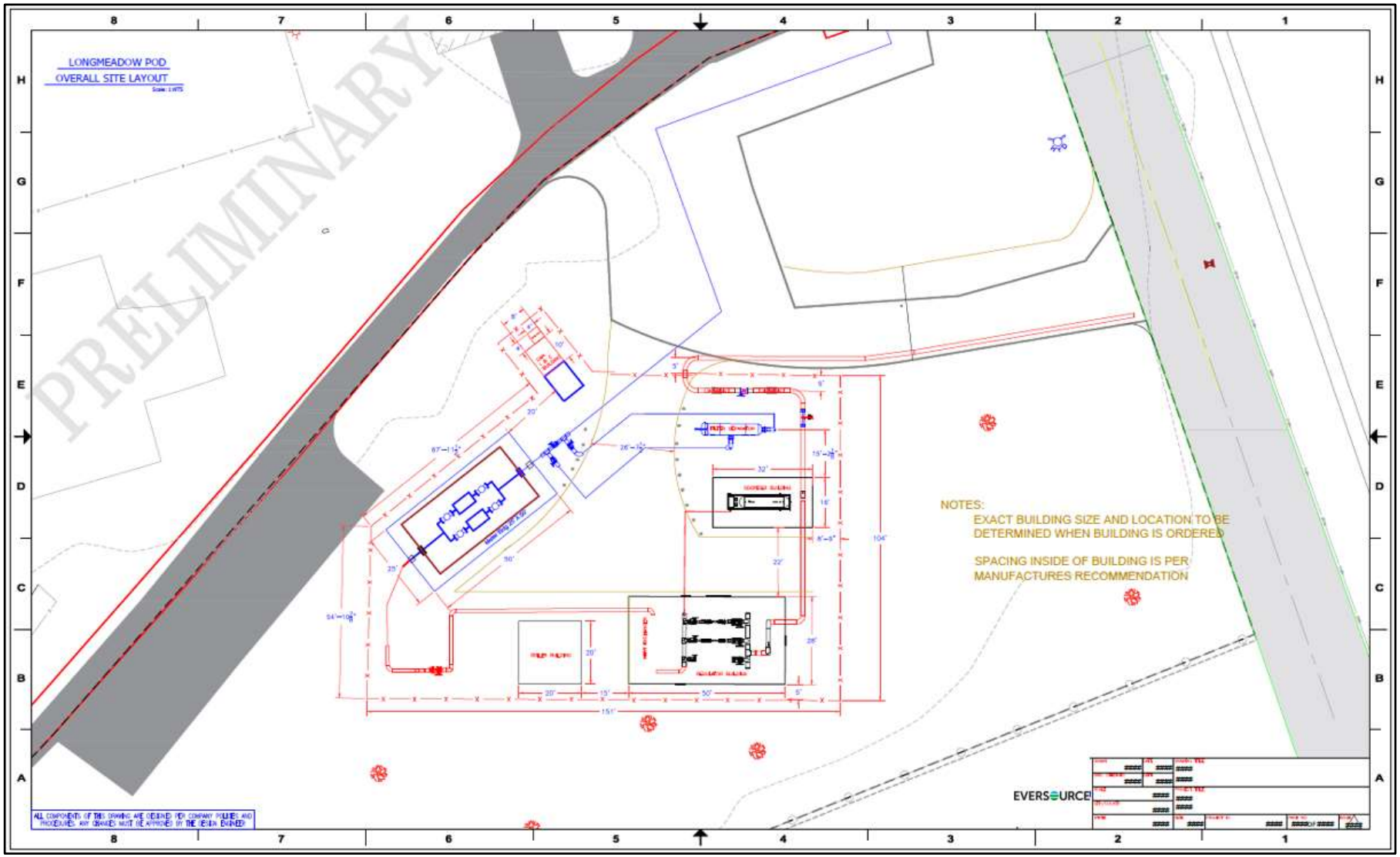
- A POD is a site where natural gas is transferred from the interstate transmission supplier -Tennessee Gas Pipeline (TGP) – and then prepared for delivery to our customers.

- POD buildings are being designed to match existing structures in the area and will be constructed with noise-reducing technology.

- These buildings will house controls and instrumentation, allowing 24/7 monitoring of gas operations at the site. Alarms will notify personnel immediately if unexpected operating conditions arise.

Proposed Longmeadow POD Layout



Proposed Longmeadow POD Buildings

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ELEVATIONS -16' x 32' ODORIZER INJECTION BUILDING

1 EAST ELEVATION

2 NORTH ELEVATION

3 SOUTH ELEVATION

4 WEST ELEVATION

PRELIMINARY KMI LINE 261B UPGRADE
LONGMEADOW, MA
FEBRUARY 13, 2019 • 18C6717

BL Companies
Architecture
Engineering
Environmental
Land Surveying

Non-Pipeline Alternatives Considered

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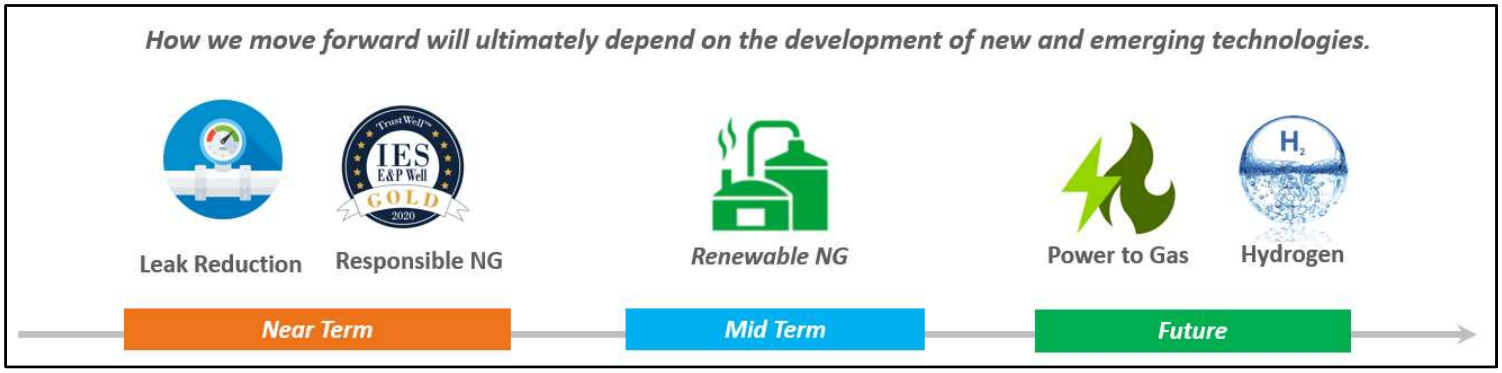
- Non-Pipeline Options
  - Energy Efficiency
  - Demand Response
  - Electrification
  - Geothermal
  - Renewable & Differentiated Supply



Eversource has set an industry-leading goal to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030

Regulatory Approval Process

- Eversource will submit a proposal to the Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB) in late 2021
- This opens two-year regulatory proceeding before that agency
- EFSB reviews major energy facility projects and is charged with ensuring a reliable and safe energy supply with minimum impact on local community at lowest possible cost
- EFSB provides opportunity for community and interested persons to participate in siting process.

Project Approvals*

- Local Street Opening Permits
- Building Permits (for POD-Meter Station)
- Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Certificate, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
- Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and local bylaws
- Park Land Permitting
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit
- MassDOT Permitting – Highway Access Permit
- National Historic Preservation Act Consultation via the Massachusetts Historical Commission
- Massachusetts DPU Zoning Exemption in Longmeadow
- US Fish and Wildlife Endangered Species Consultation

**Additional Permits not listed may be needed*

Municipal and Community Outreach

- **Stakeholders**
  - Municipal officials - Springfield, Longmeadow, Southwick, West Springfield, Agawam, Chicopee, East Longmeadow
  - Property owners & residents
  - State and federal elected officials, regulators, and agencies
  - Businesses
  - Community groups

- **Project Communications for Municipalities**
  - Briefings & Presentations
  - E-mail updates

- **Project Communication for the Public**
  - Letters, Door to door outreach, including door hangers
  - Virtual Open Houses – November 9 and 10, 2021
  - Press Releases and Media Advisories

Project Contact Information

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For More Information:

1-800-793-2202

ProjectInfo@eversource.com

www.eversource.com/wma-gas-reliability

You can also keep up-to-date on happenings in your community by providing your contact information via phone, email or by scanning the QR code with your smart device.

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