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Alex Strysky
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Submitted via MEPA Portal

February 11, 2022

Dear Alex Strysky,

On behalf of the Charles River Conservancy (CRC), thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Notification Form (ENF) for Eversource's Energy Program, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) No./Project ID 16497. The CRC strives to make the Charles River and its parks a well-maintained network of natural urban places that invite and engage all in their use and stewardship. As such, we are invested in engaging in meaningful dialogue and submitting recommendations on any projects that affect the Charles River and its parks. We appreciate the project team's efforts to date to balance the regional power needs with climate resilience while minimizing community impacts. We submit the following for consideration in project planning:

- **Protect and improve the parkland:** We are pleased that the use of horizontal directional drilling (HDD) will minimize impacts to the Charles Riverbed, riverbank, wetlands and Paul Dudley White Path. However, trenching along the Memorial Drive Parkway still qualifies as impacting parkland and should be mitigated accordingly and in coordination with DCR's in-progress plans to improve active mobility along Memorial Drive. In addition to the use of HDD technology, all other construction-related impacts - such as the laydown space for materials and contractor parking - should be planned to minimize impact on the riverfront park and avoid conflict with Memorial Drive improvements.
- **Mitigate impacts to Magazine Beach Park:** As the second largest park in Cambridge, Magazine Beach Park is an invaluable public resource used by many to recreate, meet, and engage in healthy outdoor activities. We partner with Magazine Beach Partners in Magazine Beach Park and want to ensure that the park and river will endure minimal impacts during and after construction. As Magazine Beach Partners expressed in their comment letter, Eversource should leave the park better than they found

it and prioritize communication with Magazine Beach Partners and DCR regarding potential mitigation measures beneficial to Magazine Beach Park.

- **Clearly post and communicate project updates:** Even though Eversource plans to schedule construction off-season, there are visitors to the park year-round who rely on access to that space. Effective notification to the public will be very important to make sure constituents know about disruptions to access, and Eversource should minimize and clearly communicate any construction impacts to access and safety. The final condition and design of the park should prioritize safety for people using the park, as well as during construction and excavation.
- **Coordinate with and adapt to the I-90 Multimodal At-Grade design:** As design and plans for the I-90 Allston Multimodal Project evolve, so should construction schedules and plans for the Eversource Energy Program transmission system. Communication and coordination with the I-90 Task Force and other stakeholders must continue as Eversource goes through the approval and construction process, and future design for the transmission system in Allston should follow the lead of this essential infrastructure redesign.

We encourage Eversource to continue to present on and solicit public input throughout the design and approval process for the Eversource Energy Program. Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on such an important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Jasinski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Laura" being more prominent than the last name "Jasinski".

Laura Jasinski, Executive Director
Charles River Conservancy