Pre-filed Direct Testimony of John C. Case

# COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS ENERGY FACILITIES SITING BOARD

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Western Massachusetts Electric Company

) EFSB 08-2/D.P.U. 08-105/D.P.U. 08-106

### PRE-FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF JOHN C. CASE

1	Q.	Please state your name, position and business address.
2	A.	My name is John Case. I am the Project Manager of Engineering for the New England East-
3		West Solution ("NEEWS") projects for Northeast Utilities Service Company ("NUSCO") in
4		Berlin, Connecticut. My business address is Northeast Utilities Service Company, P.O. Box
5		270, Hartford, Connecticut 06141-0270. In my capacity as Project Manager of Engineering,
6		I manage and supervise the engineering effort for the NEEWS projects for Northeast
7		Utilities' Operating Subsidiaries, The Connecticut Light & Power Company ("CL&P"), and
8		Western Massachusetts Electric Company ("WMECO").
9		
10	Q.	On whose behalf are you testifying?
11	A.	I am testifying on behalf of Western Massachusetts Electric Company in this proceeding.
12		
13	Q.	Please summarize your professional and educational background.
14	A.	I have been working for NUSCO for 19 years in various capacities in the Transmission
15		organization. I spent the first 13 years of my career in the Transmission Line Engineering
16		Department working on various transmission line projects in Connecticut and Massachusetts.
17		My responsibilities in that department ranged from transmission line design, structural
18		analysis, project estimating and budget oversight, to drafting siting and other regulatory
19		documents. I was ultimately the Lead Transmission Line Project Engineer on the Bethel-
20		Norwalk Project through siting approval, before I took a position as a Construction
21		Representative and Construction Manager during the 3-year construction phase on that same
22		project. My responsibilities then included oversight of the civil and line construction at the

1		Norwalk Substation expansion; installation of a gas-insulated substation ("GIS") at Plumtree
2		Substation; Construction Manager for the 345-kV overhead line construction; and the
3		Archers Lane, Hoyts Hill and Norwalk Junction transition stations.
4		
5		Upon completion of the Bethel - Norwalk Project, I took a position as Project Manager in the
6		Transmission Projects group for one year, working on various projects with overall project
7		manager responsibilities before accepting the position as Project Manager for Engineering on
8		the NEEWS projects where I have been for the last two years.
9		
10		Responsibilities in my current position include the coordination of the Planning and
11		Engineering functions during scope development of the NEEWS projects, oversight and
12		management of the project estimates, coordination of in-house and consulting engineers, and
13		oversight and management of the preliminary and detailed engineering effort on NEEWS.
14		
15		I received a B. S. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Clarkson University,
16		Potsdam, New York in 1990. I also received an M.B.A. from The University of Connecticut
17		in 1998. A copy of my resume is attached as Exhibit WMECO-JCC-2.
18		
19	Q.	Please identify any regulatory proceedings in which you have testified.
20	A.	I have not testified in any previous regulatory proceedings.
21		
22	Q.	What is your involvement and responsibility with respect to WMECO's proposed
23		Greater Springfield Reliability Project ("GSRP" or "Project")?
24	A.	For the Project, my responsibilities are the same as those outlined earlier in my role as
25		Project Manager of NEEWS Engineering. I have worked with the Transmission Planning
26		Department and Engineering functions to help establish the scope of the Project,
27		management of the Project estimate and alternative estimates and coordination and
28		management of the preliminary and detailed engineering phases of the Project as well as
29		ensuring coordination with the NEEWS interfaces of this Project.
20		

30

1	Q.	For what portions of WMECO's GSRP Petition and for what information responses of
2		WMECO in this proceeding are you responsible?
3	A.	With regard to the Petition for Approval to Construct 345-kV Transmission Lines, Re-Build
4		115-kV Transmission Lines, and Build and Upgrade Ancillary Facilities (the "Petition"), I
5		am responsible for the Project description in Section 1, the cost estimates for the Project and
6		the alternatives in Section 3, and the descriptions of the layout and engineering details for the
7		Project set forth in Section 5 and Section 7. I am also responsible for various information
8		requests in this proceeding which cover the same topics, all of which are listed with my
9		name, alone or with another, as the responsible witness.
10		
11	Q.	Were the materials referenced above prepared by you or under your supervision and
12		control?
13	A.	The materials above for which I am responsible were prepared by others under my
14		supervision or by me personally.
15		
16	Q.	What is the purpose of this pre-filed testimony?
17	A.	I have prepared this pre-filed testimony to update, correct and revise, as needed, the portions
18		of the Petition for which I am responsible.
19		
20	Q.	Please explain how those changes to the Project arose?
21	A.	Engineering and planning for the Project have continued to make progress since the Petition
22		was filed and have now developed to a more detailed level in comparison to the earlier level
23		that existed at the time the Petition was filed. As a result, engineering and scope changes
24		have occurred in seven principal areas and the EFSB should be informed of those changes in
25		the Project.
26		
27	Q.	What are the principal engineering and scope changes to the Project since the Petition
28		was filed?
29	A.	The principal engineering and scope changes to the Project which have occurred since the
30		Petition was filed are summarized in the following list and explained in more detail later:

1	1.	Change of Conductor Type – NUSCO is proposing to standardize on a newer
2		overhead conductor design, Aluminum Conductor, Steel Supported ("ACSS") that is
3		capable of operating at higher temperatures, and lower sags than the previously
4		proposed Aluminum Conductor, Steel Reinforced ("ACSR").
5	2.	Re-use of Towers: After the use of high-temperature, low sag ACSS conductors
6		was explored, it was determined that the existing monopole steel structures carrying
7		circuits 1481 and 1552 and 1426 from the Ludlow Substation to the Shawinigan
8		Switching Station can be re-used, at a cost savings to the Project of approximately
9		\$14 million. See: Exhibit WMECO-JCC-3, explained further below.
10	3.	Agawam Substation Changes: The layout and the location of the modifications to
11		the substation have changed as discussed in Response EFSB-LU-021. See: Exhibit
12		WMECO-JCC-4, explained further below.
13	4.	Agawam Line Entry Changes: With the general shift of the station arrangement,
14		line entry at the Agawam Substation was given further study and detailed design.
15		See: Exhibit WMECO-JCC-4, explained further below.
16	5.	Shawinigan Switching Station Scope Changes: After additional analyses of the
17		equipment electrical loadings on the ring bus at Shawinigan Switching Station, the
18		scope of replacements required at the station to meet the anticipated loads was
19		increased. See: Exhibit WMECO-JCC-5, explained further below.
20	6.	Fairmont Switching Station Changes: Based on an agreement in principle with
21		Holyoke Gas & Electric Company, NUSCO continues to plan to acquire the location
22		where a new Fairmont Switching Station will be built at Alternative Site 1, located
23		northeast of and across Prospect Street from the present location, as originally
24		described at page 7-163 and following of the Petition. See: Exhibit WMECO-JCC-6,
25		explained further below.
26	7.	Chicopee Substation Breaker Replacements: Chicopee Substation will require
27		replacement of two circuit breakers to meet the anticipated increase in circuit loads.
28		

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#### 1 Q. Please describe the change in conductor type in greater detail.

A. The Company is moving towards standardizing all new conductors to be an ACSS, rather
than the originally proposed ACSR conductor. While it looks identical to an ACSR
conductor, the ACSS conductor allows for greater current-carrying capability than a similarly
sized ACSR conductor. ACSS would be proposed for all lines on GSRP. This conductor
change has resulted in several circuits being able to be reduced in conductor size, and has
also resulted in some towers being able to be reused, with new conductors, as opposed to
completely rebuilt.

9

ACSS conductor was developed in the 1970's and is of the same material composition as the 10 ACSR and would have nearly exactly the same diameter and weight as its similarly sized and 11 stranded ACSR conductor. The difference is that ACSS utilizes pre-annealed outer 12 aluminum strands, which allows for the conductor to operate at higher temperatures, with no 13 concern for annealing or loss of strength, in the outside conductive aluminum strands. 14 Whereas ACSR weight is carried by both the steel and aluminum strands (since the 15 aluminum still has "strength"), the weight of an ACSS conductor is carried by the steel core. 16 WMECO will operate ACSS conductor up to 180°C under emergency conditions compared 17 to 140°C for ACSR conductors, and realize approximately a 20% increase in ampacity of the 18 cable with similar or less sag for a similar sized conductor. For the GSRP, this allows 19 several circuits to utilize a smaller conductor, reducing conductor costs, structure loads 20 (therefore structure and foundation costs) and in the case of several circuits, has allowed for 21 the re-use of existing structures. The table below identifies the new ACSS conductor size for 22 23 each circuit on GSRP, along with the originally proposed ACSR conductor.

- 24
- 25

PROJECT					
		ORIGINALLY PROPOSED CONDUCTOR	REVISED PROPOSAL FOR CONDUCTOR		
Line #	Line Segment	ACSR (KCMIL)	ACSS (KCMIL)		
1230	Piper – Agawam	1590	1272		
1314	Chicopee – Agawam	1272	1272		
1426	Orchard – Cadwell	1272	1272		
1481	Ludlow – Cadwell	2 x 795	1590		
1552	Ludlow – Orchard	1590	1272		
1601	Fairmont - Piper (old 1723 NS)	1590	1272		
1602	Fairmont - Chicopee (old 1254 NS)	1272	1272		
1603	Cadwell - ESJ - Fairmt (old 1723 EW)	2 x 1272	2 x 1272		
1604	Shawin-ESJ - Fairmt (old 1254 EW)	2 x 1590	2 x 1272		
1768	Southwick - South Agawam (old 1768, 1821, 1836)	exist'g / 1272	exist'g / 1272		
1781	South Agawam - Agawam	1272	1272		
1782	South Agawam - Agawam	1272	1272		
1821	North Bloomfield-So Agawam	exist'g to remain	exist'g to remain		
1836	North Bloomfield-So Agawam	exist'g to remain	exist'g to remain		
1845	Ludlow - Shawinigan	2 x 1272	2 x 1272		
3196	Ludlow - Agawam 345-kV line	2 x 1590	2 x 1590		
3216	Agawam - CT/MA border 345-kV line North Bloomfield - CT/MA border 345-kV	2 x 1590	2 x 1590		
	Norui Dioonnieu - CT/MA Doruei 545-KV				
3216	line	2 x 1590	2 x 1590		
3216 5001		2 x 1590 exist'g to remain	2 x 1590 exist'g to remain		

#### PROPOSED CONDUCTOR CHANGES FOR THE GREATER SPRINGFIELD RELIABILITY PROJECT

Conductors sizes are listed in kcmil.

ACSR Aluminum Conductor, Steel Reinforced conductor

ACSS Aluminum Conductor, Steel Supported conductor

Yellow highlighted rows indicate changes to the conductor size to a smaller size allowed by ACSS 1768 line conductors will be new on shared structures with the 345-kV line in MA, and no change to existing conductors in CT.

1

# 2 Q. Please describe the re-use of the towers in greater detail?

A. The double circuit steel poles from Ludlow – Orchard Jct. – Shawinigan carrying the 1426,

4 1552 and 1481 lines were originally installed in the 1970's and designed for a 1272 ACSR

5 conductor. The anticipated loads on those circuits required a bundled 795 conductor or

6 single 1590 ACSR. These conductors were larger than the structures were designed for, and

1 the bundled conductor in particular would have introduced loads onto the structures that would have required a complete rebuild of the circuit under the original proposal. The 2 3 consideration of ACSS conductor, with its greater current-carrying capacity allowed a 1272 ACSS conductor to be installed which has sufficient capacity for the loads anticipated on the 4 5 1426 and 1552 circuits. For the higher loads on the 1481 line, a 1590 ACSS conductor was considered. Although the margin of conductor capacity to forecast loads was less than would 6 7 normally be required for a rebuild, it was determined to have sufficient margin to consider its use on these structures to see if a reconductor was feasible. The structures were analyzed for 8 9 the new conductor loads and anticipated sags and were determined to be suitable for a reconductor, with minimal structure modifications. The modifications include primarily side 10 guys to be installed on most structures (for which they were originally designed), and several 11 structure replacements (6 structures in this section, representing approximately 10% of the 12 structures). The Table below lists the expected structure modifications required to 13 accommodate the reconductoring from Ludlow Substation to Shawinigan Substation. 14

	Summary					
Total Structures	Structures Replaced	Strain Conversions	Other Modifications (e.g. side guys)			
55	6	18	34			
%	10.9%	32.7%	61.8%			

15

A map of the area that will be reconductored, and revised cross sections are attached as Exhibits WMECO-JCC-3. The ability to reconductor as compared to rebuild results in a savings of over \$14 million on these circuits, as shown in the following table:

19

Construction	Opinion of Probable Cost (all-in)
Rebuild	\$35,044,748
Reconductor	\$20,877,358
Savings	\$14,167,390

# Q. Please describe the changes in layout and line entry at the Agawam Substation in greater detail.

3 A. Soil borings from the site and civil analysis revealed a concern with the ability for the soil conditions to support the planned retaining wall on the north side of the site, resulting in a 4 5 redesign of the layout of the station to provide a general shift of the equipment in the southerly and easterly direction. This drove a need to redesign the station, shifting the 6 7 transformers and adding gas-insulated transmission line ("GITL") lengths and relocating the 115-kV capacitor banks to the far southern end of the yard, outside of the existing fenced 8 9 area. The property that the capacitor banks will be located on is currently owned by WMECO and has an abandoned house on it that will be removed. This change causes the 10 345-kV additions at Agawam Substation to be located predominantly within the existing 11 fenced area, and farther away from the residential areas to the north and west of the station. 12 See: Exhibit WMECO-JCC-4, attached. 13

14

As a result of the general shifting of the equipment, it was determined that the overall design 15 16 of the lines should be re-examined. It was found that overall line entry design would be more reliable, as well as easier to construct and maintain, if circuit 1412 were to be constructed 17 underground for a short distance as its "getaway" from the substation. Reliability was 18 improved since a failure of the shield wire, as the new 345-kV circuit crossed over the 115-19 20 kV lines 1412 and 1311, could not cause an outage of the underground line 1412. With one line underground in this short segment, more distance between the overhead circuits was 21 possible, contributing to both the ease of construction and maintenance during operations. 22 With the undergrounding, the separation of the overhead circuits did not satisfy NU 23 Standards for clearance between circuits. By taking the 1412 line underground along the 24 north end of the substation (see Exhibit WMECO-JCC-4, attached), in addition to foregoing 25 26 benefits, the amount of tree clearing was reduced to the north of the substation. The combination of the undergrounding of the 1412 circuit and the shift in the substation 27 arrangement described above allows several existing 115-kV structures to be re-used and 28 minimizes impacts to residents around the substation. The 1412 line proposed for 29

- undergrounding is part of the Agawam to West Springfield Circuit Separation Project
   currently pending before the Department of Public Utilities in D.P.U. 09-24/D.P.U. 09-25.
- 3

# 4 Q. Please describe the changes at the Shawinigan Switching Station in greater detail?

A. The scope of work proposed at the Shawinigan Switching Station has increased from that 5 originally proposed in the Project. The increased scope at Shawinigan requires the 6 7 replacement of two breakers and two disconnect switches. The changes are all one-for-one replacements to increase the electrical ratings of the equipment and do not enlarge the 8 9 footprint of the station. Originally, the 4T and 6T breakers (and associated terminal equipment) were proposed for replacement. After analyzing the load flows around the ring 10 bus under various breaker-out scenarios, and considering the winter and summer output for 11 the MASSPower generators, it was determined that an additional two breakers would require 12 replacement (1T and 2T) along with associated terminal equipment. See: Exhibit WMECO-13 JCC-5, attached, which shows the original and the revised scope of work for Shawinigan 14 Switching Station. 15

16

#### 17 Q. Please describe the changes to the Fairmont Switching Station in greater detail?

A. As described earlier, an agreement in principal for the sale of the property proposed for the
new Fairmont Switching Station has been reached by the current landowner, Holyoke Gas
and Electric. The design of the station remains primarily as it was proposed in the Petition;
however, the latest plan is attached to show the status of the design. Requirements have been
further refined to show the civil work required at the site. This drawing is attached as Exhibit
WMECO-JCC-6.

24

# 25 Q. Please describe the changes at Chicopee Substation in greater detail?

A. The 1T and 2T breakers at Chicopee Substation were determined to require replacement,
after additional detail analysis into the thermal ratings of the existing equipment was
completed.

29

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# 1 Q. Does this complete your pre-filed testimony?

2 A. Yes, it does.

# JOHN C. CASE PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

#### **Project Manager – NEEWS Engineering**

2007 - Present

Northeast Utilities Service Company - Hartford, CT

Responsibility for oversight and management of all aspects of engineering on the New England East West family of projects. These projects involve significant reliability upgrades in the Southern New England area, totaling an estimated \$1.49 billion. This position involves the coordination of the System Planning and Engineering functions to establish the most cost-effective solutions for the project needs, establishing the base estimate for all projects, review of all siting and engineering documents, management and coordination of the engineering effort between in-house and external engineering resources; transmission business and engineering responsibilities in the procurement effort and final design oversight responsibility.

#### **Project Manager – Transmission Projects**

2006 - 2007

Northeast Utilities Service Company - Hartford, CT

Overall management responsibility over all aspects of assigned transmission projects, including engineering, risk analysis and mitigation, siting and permitting, budget, contracting and closeout. Projects ranged in magnitude from \$500,000 substation upgrades to \$5,000,000 transmission line projects.

#### **Construction Manager – Transmission Construction Test and Maintenance**

2003 - 2006

Connecticut Light and Power Company - Hartford, CT

Responsibility for Owner's oversight and management of the construction effort on portions of the Bethel – Norwalk project including contractor coordination, site safety, compliance to specifications and contracts, outage clearance tag holder and change order negotiation. This was a \$350,000,000 project to construct a 20+ mile transmission line in Southwest Connecticut. This project involved 345-kV and 115-kV XLPE underground cable, 345-kV HPFF cable, 3 intermediate 345-kV transition stations and two significant 345-kV GIS substation expansions. Segments under my direct responsibility included the following:

- Norwalk S/S Civil site work and 115-kV transmission line relocations
- Norwalk S/S upgrade replacements to 115-kV substation yard
- Plumtree S/S Civil and Electrical construction of a 345-kV GIS substation and 345-kV XLPE line terminals.
- Hoyts Hill, Archers Lane and Norwalk Jct transition stations Civil and Electrical construction of 345-kV XLPE and HPFF transition stations.
- Plumtree Norwalk 345-kV line All aspects of 345-kV and 115-kV overhead transmission line construction.

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# **JOHN C. CASE**

#### **Project Engineer**

#### 1990 - 2003

Northeast Utilities Service Company - Hartford, CT

Project Engineer on a variety of construction projects involving all tasks associated with engineering, design, estimating, securing regulatory approvals, and drafting construction specifications.

Major projects include:

- Bethel Norwalk 345-kV line Lead Project Engineer responsible for all aspects of engineering through project siting approval.
  - Edision Electrical Institute Award
- NEON / NU Fiber optic backbone system Lead Project Engineer in CT and MA for 245 miles of fiber optic cable installation, up to 122 fibers
  - Chairman's Award Nominee
- North Bloomfield Agawam Reconductor 18 miles of 115-kV double-circuit transmission line on an emergency basis
  - President's Award Winner
- Devon Station Generation Connect emergency gas turbine generators to system

• World Construction Record

- Developed pole-top extension to cost-effectively uprate 345-kV structures
  - Spot Recognition Award

Committees and Responsibilities held:

- Qualified Clearance Holder
- Transmission Standards Committees Structures and Ratings Committees
- Dynamic Thermal Ratings Committee
- Develop structural alternatives to reduce magnetic fields
- Computer analyses (ETADS) of towers and design modifications

#### **EDUCATION**

#### **Master of Business Administration**

#### May, 1998

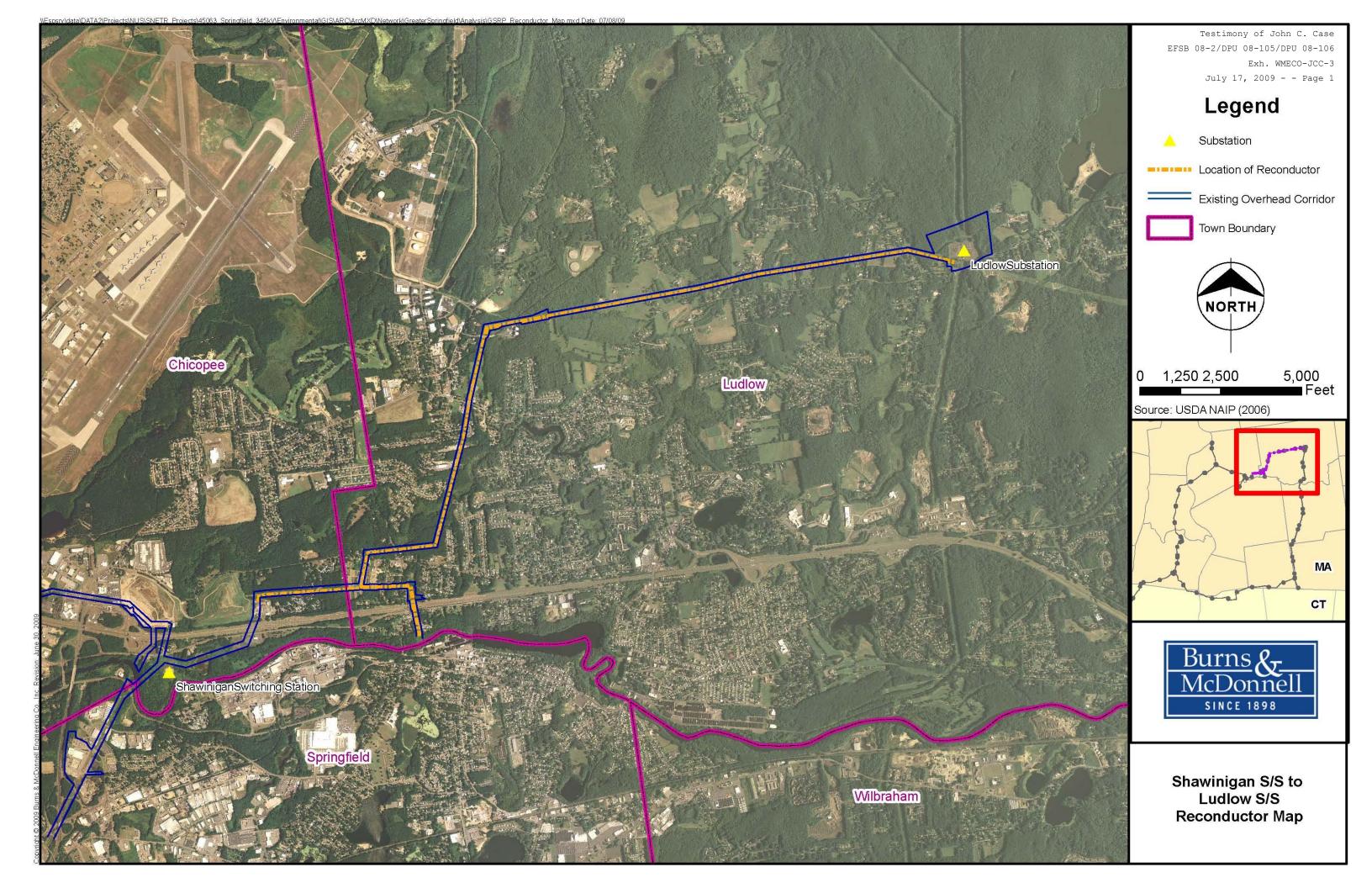
University of Connecticut - West Hartford, CT Bachelor of Science degree in Civil/Environmental Engineering

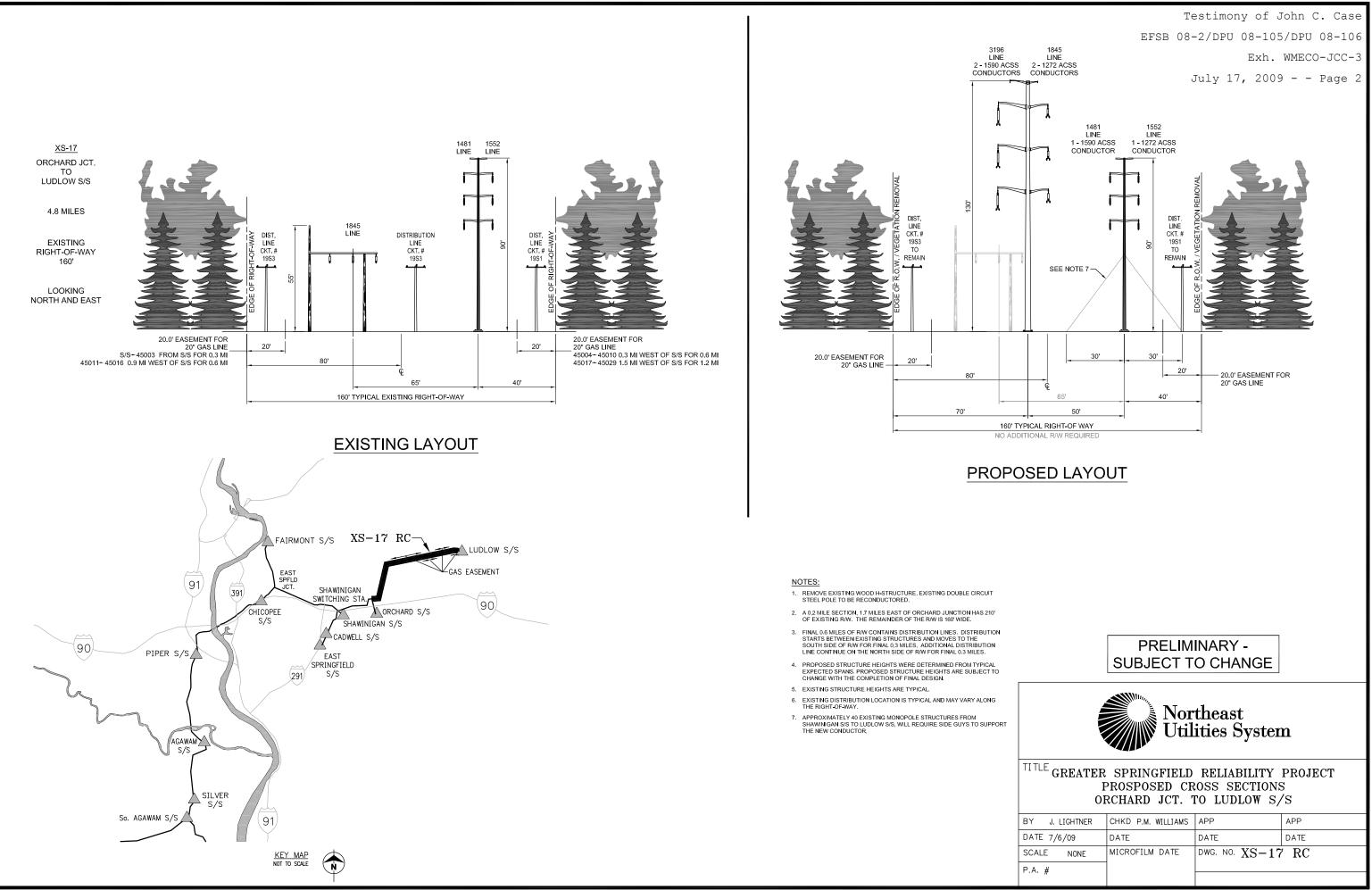
May, 1990

Clarkson University - Potsdam, NY

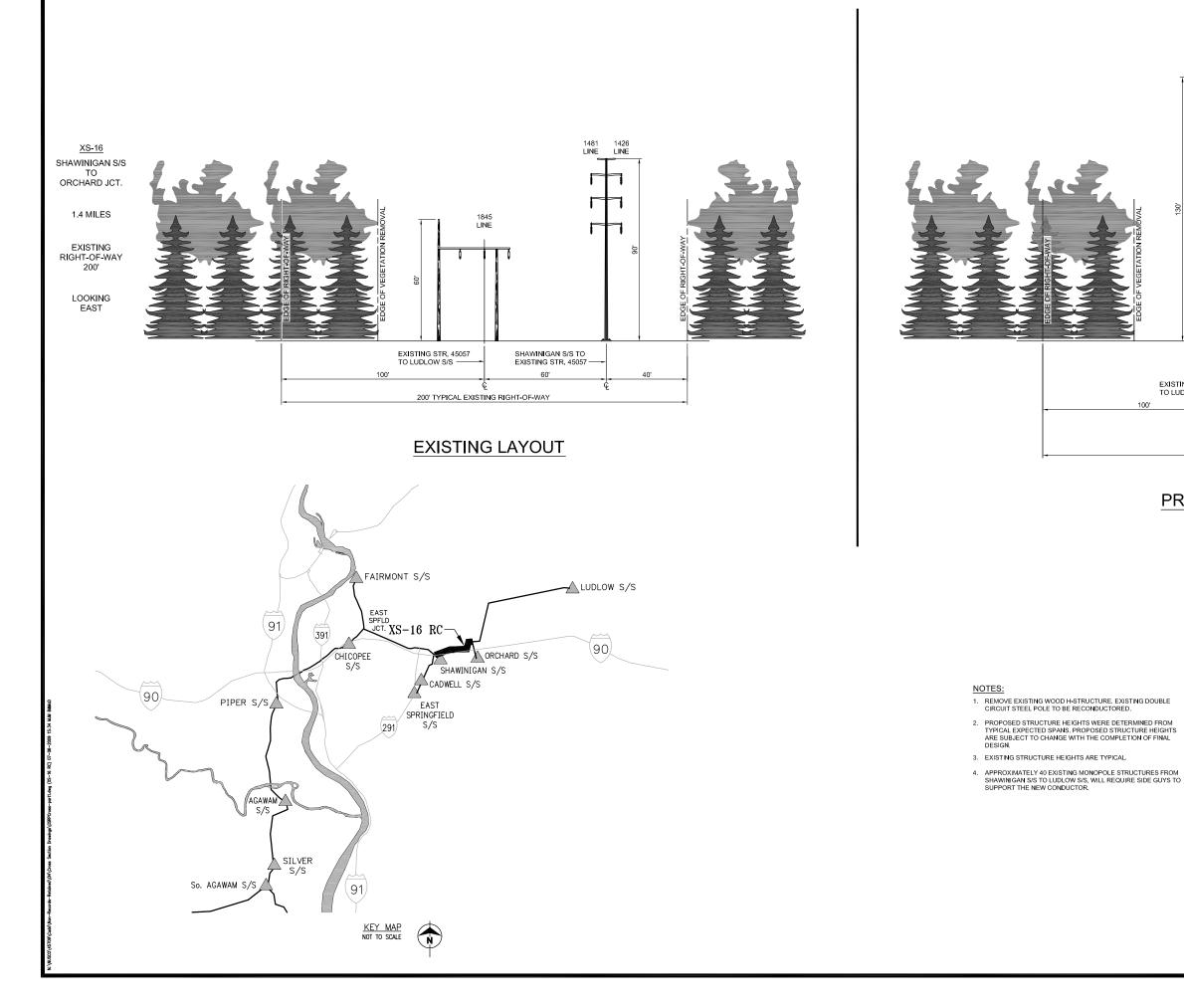
#### HONORS AND ACTIVITIES

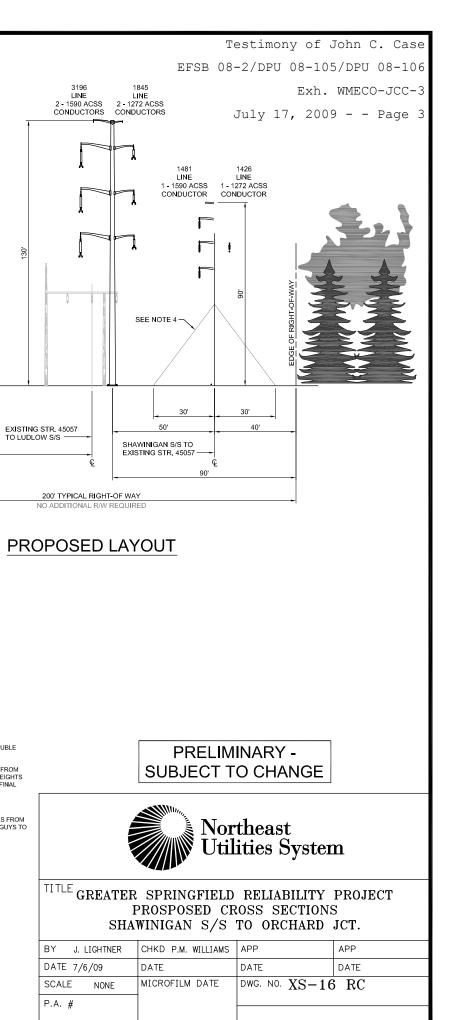
- Certified Engineer-in-Training in Connecticut
- Northeast Utilities Retail Business Group President's Award, 1998
- NU SPOT Recognition Awards 1993 and 1998
- Delta Sigma Phi National Fraternity

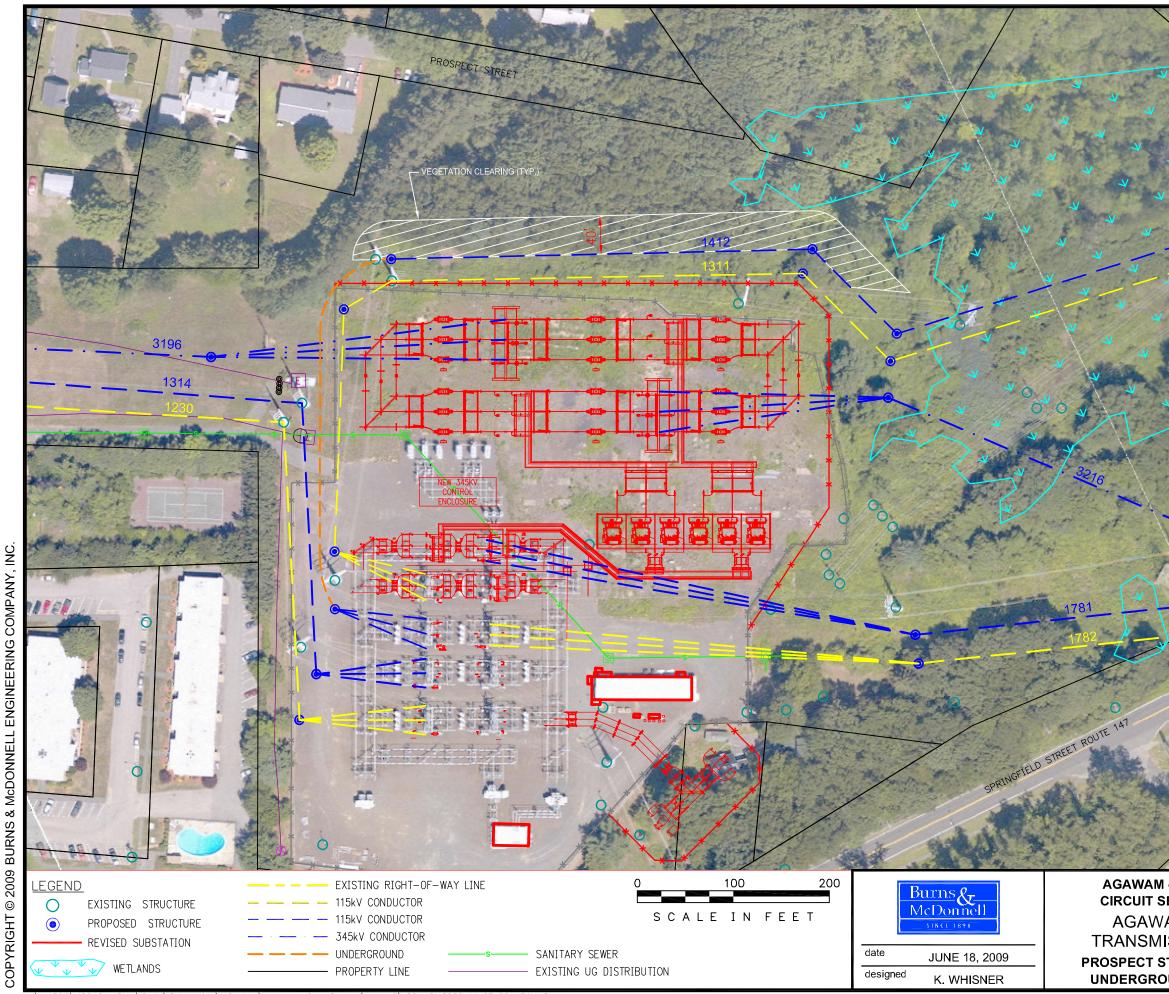




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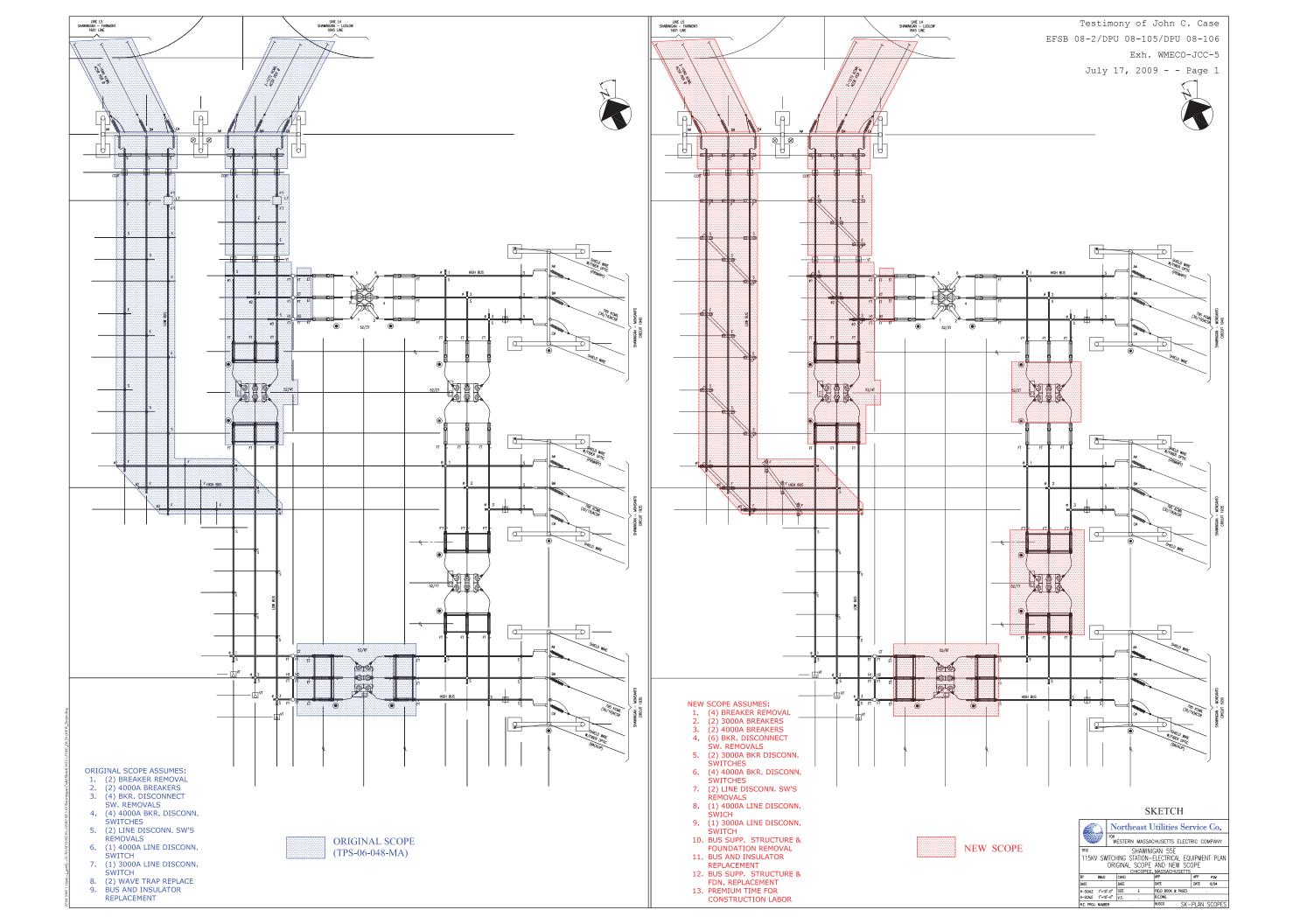


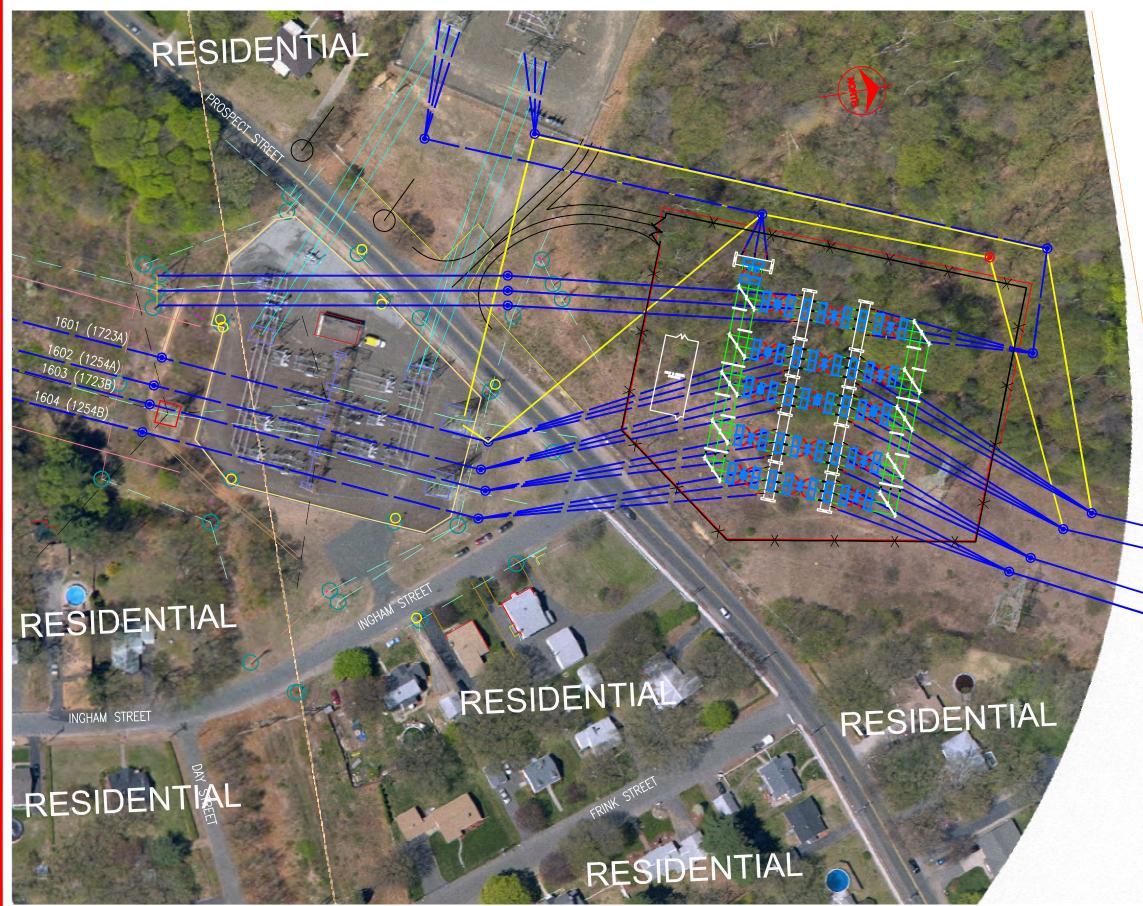




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# LEGEND WITHIN S/S FENCE:

BLUE	BREAKERS, SWITCHES
WHITE	BUS SUPPORTS, DEADEND
	STR'S, CTRL ENCLOSURE
GREEN	BUS WORK

# LEGEND TRANSMISSION LINE:

BLUE	PERMANENT LINES
YELLOW	<b>TEMPORARY LINES</b>

	No	rthe	ast U	tilities Se	rvice Co.
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