



THE GENERAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

May 31, 2012

Thomas May
NSTAR Chief Executive Officer
One NSTAR Way
Westwood, MA 02090

Dear Mr. May,

On Wednesday, May 31, 2012, Mark Reed, NSTAR Director of Government Affairs, and Brian McDevitt, Project Manager, met at the State House with us in regards to NSTAR's vegetation maintenance activities within the NSTAR easements in several neighborhoods in Framingham, Wayland, and Sudbury. We are writing to document our concerns about these activities and the manner in which they have been conducted, and to respectfully request that NSTAR take steps in the short and long term to redress the situation, particularly with homeowners.

Our concerns and requests are as follows:

- **Notification:** should include elected officials in the future, particularly selectmen/women;
- Notification should detail how and why any vegetation maintenance activities would be substantially different from previous maintenance efforts;
- Notification should include clarity on (a) what risks are being mitigated by this activity and whether such risks have led to lost power in Massachusetts in the past; (b) the impetus behind the new, more robust vegetation maintenance plan, (c) why the maintenance is being done on transmission lines and not distribution wires, where tree damage is most prevalent, as we all witnessed during 2011; and, (d) what Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regulation has changed?
- The depth and breadth of what we believe this notification should include, as described above, may merit more than a written notification left on a door handle, or even a potential conversation with an NSTAR representative — which we acknowledge NSTAR has done — and could include instead a prior public meeting to which town officials and homeowners are invited.
- **Flexibility & Restoration:** to discuss with and accommodate the specific concerns and requests of homeowners by property and by neighborhood on what is cut, such that the maintenance fits within the definition, as found in the 1950 easement, of "reasonably necessary", and that restoration commitments be made by NSTAR in the event substantial clearing is deemed "reasonably

necessary." We request that NSTAR develop, with the planning boards of the affected communities, a native plant, sustainable landscape program for the continuing use and maintenance of the ROW that meets the requirements of the electrical easement without the necessity for using chemical defoliants. With regard to Reardon Park and Lake Road in Framingham, we respectfully request that NSTAR plant height-appropriate plantings in the place of trees that have been removed down to the stump.

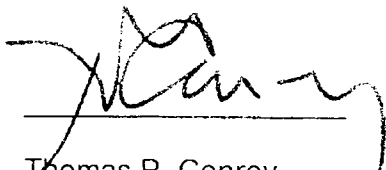
- **Liability:** Homeowners whose property extends into the NSTAR easement areas should be held harmless for third party liability in the event of accidents stemming from the removal of trees and the residual tree stumps that remain. It is possible that walkers, runners, snowmobilers, motorbikers, and others could be harmed by the stumps that remain after NSTAR's vegetation maintenance activities are completed. As an alternative, NSTAR could grind stumps in a "reasonably necessary" manner.

It is our intention to ensure that our constituents' voices are heard on this matter. We are hopeful that Framingham, Sudbury, and Wayland residents' quality of life and home will be maintained and that the esthetic and value of their properties will not be substantially altered where possible. We also believe that all environmental and liability concerns of the towns and their residents should be heard and addressed before tree removal activities continue.

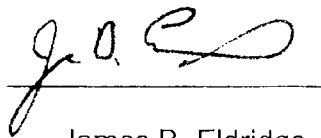
We request that NStar institute a moratorium on further substantial vegetative maintenance until all property owners' concerns are clearly heard, adequately addressed and, where possible, accommodated, on a property by property basis. We look forward to receiving a response to the concerns outlined above, as well as updates regarding accommodations that have been made for individual homeowners.

We appreciate the time and attention that both Mr. Reed and Mr. McDevitt gave to us to hear our concerns. Please know that we understand the risks and requirements that NSTAR must consider when managing vegetation along transmission lines and we look forward to continuing to communicate with you so that your customers and our constituents are appropriately heard and accommodated during this vegetation maintenance exercise.

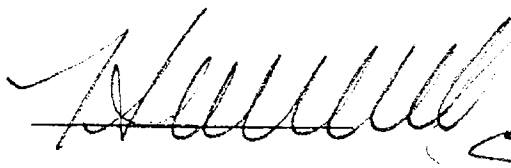
Respectfully,



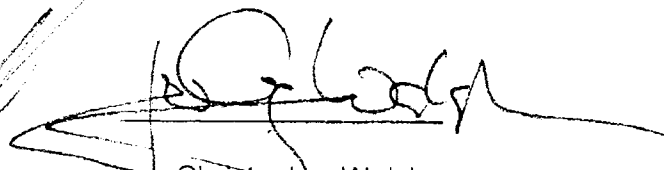
Thomas P. Conroy



James B. Eldridge



Thomas Sannicandro



Christopher Walsh