

From: **Stephen Kaiser**

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Subject: S.Kaiser COMMENT on Eversource Energy Program, ENF 16497 January 12, 2022

To: <alexander.stryisky@mass.gov>

COMMENT on Eversource Energy Program, ENF 16497 January 12, 2022

On December 28, 2021 I sent an email to Michael Howard at Epsilon requesting a copy of the energy forecast for Kendall Square, as prepared by Eversource for their project at Kendall Square. He replied ninety minutes later : "I have forwarded your request to Eversource, and I expect they will follow up directly with you." I have received nothing since.

It is reasonable to expect that such a forecast would be required by the Department of Public Utilities in their public review of this project. This information is relevant to understanding whether proper planning has been done to assure adequate electrical capacity for the Cambridge area in a future when gas heating is being phased out and all-electric buildings are proposed, including retrofitting of older buildings. A further factor is the increased use of electric vehicles and the charging loads that will be added to the local grid.

I have previously written to Eversource requesting a copy of the forecast, with no success. The conclusion I have reached is that as a citizen I am selectively being stonewalled on Kendall power forecasts.

This situation is exacerbated by the experience of the past two years when a transformer capacity shortage was projected for Kendall Square, with the need for expanded facilities to avoid brownouts. I have been unable to discover any Cambridge officials who could discuss power issues with the necessary technical knowledge. Both city officials and citizens were totally dependent on the planning and forecasting skills of Eversource. There was no one else.

Late last year I heard that Eversource has made a new energy demand forecast for Kendall Square. I requested a copy but was unsuccessful in my efforts, except to find out that the forecast extended for twenty years, somewhat further out than is normal for such forecasts. Nevertheless, all forecasts entail uncertainties, and forecasts for other projects -- such as for roadways -- usually involve 20-year forecasts.

I believe that energy forecasts should also take account of energy conservation as a factor in reducing the impacts of increased energy use through energy conservation. We should be cognizant of undue dependence on power lines through Maine and Canada, as well as compliance with climate change goals. I am hoping to see a program of energy conservation in the forecasts, although I have no assurances that energy efficiency will be included. MEPA should be interested in similar issues, so I hope that

you can persuade Eversource to make their forecasts available to your office, as well as the general public.

The skill-set of Cambridge officials to deal with such complex issues is insufficient for the task at hand, and I request that MEPA request the forecast to be made available ASAP and if the proponent is unwilling to do so, a full EIR should be required for this project to obtain the necessary information.

Stephen H. Kaiser
191 Hamilton Street
Cambridge, Mass. 02139
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