

Sheila Page, Town Planner
Town of Ashland
101 Main Street
Ashland, MA 01721

September 27, 2017

Dear Ms. Page,

Eversource has been working with Ameresco on the newest proposed interconnection location for the Howe Street Landfill Solar PV project in Ashland. This location appears to be the only remaining feasible location for interconnection based on feedback from all parties involved including Eversource Engineering, Town of Ashland Planning Board and Board of Health, abutting property owners and Ameresco.

After reviewing the land available for the interconnection via the Big Indian Reservation parcel, the Eversource engineering group has determined that an Overhead interconnection is the only feasible option. Pad mounting equipment and underground conduit is not an option due to several restrictions and concerns on the location as follows:

- Concerns about proximal migrating methane gas from the landfill getting into confined spaces where electrical arcing is common
 - Explosive hazard
 - Safety concerns for neighbors
 - Safety of crew and maintenance equipment
- Geotechnical concerns
 - Presence of ledge, rock, and other natural obstructions
 - Safety of crew and maintenance equipment accessing equipment
- Topography Concerns
 - Proposed easement slopes dramatically to adjacent wetlands
 - Inability to stabilize the equipment location within the constraints of the property lines and wetland
 - Safety of crew and maintenance equipment accessing equipment

Based on the presence of these issues, the only feasible solution is to utilize an overhead connection which will eliminate the concerns posed by site restrictions. This is a common approach to mitigating risks such as these for Eversource and will result in a safer installation not only for Eversource personnel but anyone who needs to access the property or has any reason to be in the vicinity of the equipment.

Further, Eversource has reviewed the height and class of the poles and has confirmed that 50' tall Class 2 poles with 43' above grade are correct. The height of the poles is required to allow for connection to the existing poles in the street, which are the same height. The pole class is required due to the equipment being mounted on the poles. Finally, there are no poles in the street that could be used as an interconnection pole as they all either have equipment on them currently or are slated to receive equipment at a point in the near future.

Eversource is committed to meeting the needs of its customers while providing a safe environment for all, and for this project, proposed pole configuration is the only path to achieve this.

Regards,



Melanie Khedérian
Account Executive – Distribution Generation
Eversource