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Department of Energy  
Grid Deployment Office  
Attn: Gretchen Kershaw  
VIA EMAIL: [nietc@hq.doe.gov](mailto:nietc@hq.doe.gov)

June 24, 2024

RE: National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors (NIETC) Designation  
New York-New England potential NIETC

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) welcomes the opportunity to submit comments and provide additional information about the potential New York-New England National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor (NIETC) Designation. It is our understanding that the Department of Energy (DOE) has established a goal to facilitate electric transmission development by setting forth a nonbinding process that DOE plans to follow to designate NIETCs pursuant to section 216(a) of the Federal Power Act (FPA), as amended by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Within Berkshire County, the New York-New England corridor traverses the Towns of Hancock, Lanesborough, Cheshire, Dalton, Hinsdale, Windsor, and Peru.

The information provided within the attached town summaries is intended to assist the DOE in fulfilling its statutory requirements for NIETC designation under the FPA and ensure a well thought out, planned corridor that meets the region's energy goals while minimizing and mitigating impacts. In part, the attached summaries are intended to aid DOE in conducting a study of environmental impacts pursuant to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other federal statutes, as efficiently and effectively as possible. To the maximum extent practicable, the town summaries are organized consistent with the required resource reports to include the following:

- General description of geographic boundaries,
- Water use and quality,
- Fish, wildlife, and vegetation,
- Cultural resources,
- Socioeconomics,
- Communities of interest,
- Geological resources
- Soils, and
- Land use recreation, and aesthetics.

Within each summary BRPC has highlighted and mapped specific areas that should be avoided to the maximum extent practicable by adjusting the width of the corridor or limiting the corridor to the existing transmission right-of-way. In addition, BRPC also calls to attention notable areas of interest within the corridor which should be given special consideration.

Area of Interest	Municipality	Landowner
Pittsfield State Forest	Hancock and Lanesborough	Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)
Constitution Hill and Farnhams Hill	Lanesborough	Berkshire Natural Resources Council (BNRC)
Farmland	Lanesborough	BNRC / Agricultural Preservation Restrictions (APRs) from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR)
Chalet Wildlife Management Area	Cheshire, Dalton	MassWildlife
Appalachian Trail	Dalton	National Park Service / DCR
Holiday Brook Farm	Dalton	Crane Family BNRC holds Conservation Restriction (CR), DAR holds APR
Wahconah Falls State Park	Dalton, Windsor	DCR
Dalton Watershed	Hinsdale, Peru	MassWildlife holds CR
Pittsfield Watershed	Hinsdale	City of Pittsfield
Peru Wildlife Management Area	Peru, Windsor	Dalton Water District MassWildlife holds CR
Notchview	Windsor	Trustees of Reservations
Westfield River Access	Windsor	MassWildlife

We appreciate that each NIETC is a geographic area where DOE has identified present or expected transmission capacity constraints or congestion that adversely affects consumers based on its triennial National Transmission Needs Study (Needs Study) or other relevant information. The high cost of electricity is a detriment to the residents and businesses in Berkshire County. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), in Massachusetts the average commercial electricity rate is 17.46 ¢/kWh (36% higher than the national average) while the average residential electricity rate is 23.64 ¢/kWh (41% higher than the national average). The 2023-2027 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Berkshire County approved by the U.S. Economic Development Administration, states “The high cost of utilities, most notably electricity, remains a threat to the growth of our Manufacturing sector” as one of the greatest threats to the Berkshire economy. ([2023-2027-Berkshire-County-CEDS.pdf \(berkshireplanning.org\)](#)) As identified by 1Berkshire, the official Regional Economic Development Organization and Regional Tourism Council of Berkshire County in their Berkshire Blueprint 2.0 and Five Year Benchmark report, the cluster of advanced manufacturing and digital enterprise cluster is one of the largest contributors of GDP to the regional economy. This report also stresses the need to reduce energy costs. [Blueprint 2.0|The Future of Berkshire County|1Berkshire](#) Current electricity rates have significant impacts to the socioeconomic within Berkshire County. While there is the potential that new transmission would allow load in high-priced markets to draw energy from a larger set of generators and lower electricity costs in high-priced regions, the need to balance the benefits and the impacts should not be lost and it is critical that benefits of any new transmission be realized within Berkshire County.

The Berkshire County economy is heavily dependent upon our natural resources and outdoor recreation. Again, the Berkshire Blueprint Five Year Benchmark report identifies the Outdoor Recreation

sector as a quickly growing and evolving regional driver. Significant public and private investments have been made recently, especially following the pandemic when use of outdoor recreational facilities soared. Reducing electric burdens and increasing reliability has the potential to unlock new economic opportunities but the outdoor economy that Berkshire County currently relies on should not suffer detrimental effects in the process. The Town of Windsor serves as the headwaters of the congressionally designated Wild and Scenic Westfield River. The Appalachian National Scenic Trail is in the towns of Hinsdale, Dalton and Cheshire. Impacts to these two nationally significant outdoor recreational assets must be minimized.

The majority of land within the proposed corridor is forested. The towns of Peru, Windsor and Cheshire are members of the Woodlands Partnership of Northwest Massachusetts, [ABOUT MOHAWK TRAIL WOODLANDS PARTNERSHIP \(mohawktrailwoodlandspartnership.org\)](http://mohawktrailwoodlandspartnership.org). Authorized by the Massachusetts legislature and recognized by the U.S. Forest Service the Woodlands Partnership is a public body that exists to conserve the forests in the region and enhance the region's rural, land based economy. A large largely clear cut corridor would be contrary to those goals. Further, it is important to acknowledge that the Healey-Driscoll Administration recently pursued the *Forests as Climate Solutions Initiative*, [Forests as Climate Solutions | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/forests-as-climate-solutions), due to the critical role forests play in addressing climate change. Conservation and effective management of forest land, based on the latest science, are an essential element to ensuring crucial carbon storage and advancing climate change resilience and should be given due consideration.

Phase 3 of the NIETC designation process is described as the public engagement phase, which includes refining geographic boundaries of potential NIETCs and conducting community engagement. It will be of the utmost importance that DOE works with each town if the designation advances toward Phase 3. As a Home Rule state, self-governance in Massachusetts is important to take into consideration and each Select Board must be engaged with ample notice as the designation process progresses. When initiating Phase 3, BRPC encourages DOE to engage in a robust public outreach process, including the following:

- In-person meetings with each Select Board
- A minimum of one regional convening
- Extended public comment periods on public review documents (minimum 60-90 days)
- The preparation of a draft NEPA filing for public review and comment
- Press releases and announcements as appropriate
- Individual information mailings to each property owner
- Consultation with the Berkshire Natural Resources Council, MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (MassWildlife), MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, MA Department of Agricultural Resources, National Park Service, US Forest Service, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Trustees of Reservations, and the Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT)

In summary, BRPC recommends that if the New York-New England potential National Interest Energy Transmission Corridor moves to Phase 3 the following items be addressed:

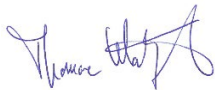
- A clear explanation why the existing Eversource Right of Way corridor is not adequate to accommodate additional transmission capacity
- A clear explanation and rationale for expanding the corridor beyond the existing Eversource Right of Way
- If the existing Eversource Right of Way is not deemed adequate and the corridor needs to be expanded the corridor should be narrowed to include the minimum width necessary and not include those areas in the attached maps labeled "Avoidance Areas"

- A clear description of the economic benefits the residents of Berkshire County would realize through an expanded corridor.

Finally, The National Transmission Needs Study – Final 2023.12.1 identifies variable energy resource (VER) generation (solar, wind) as causing unique grid reliability concerns and specifically calls out ISO-NE as being impacted, leading to the initial designation of the New York-New England NIETC. Massachusetts is at the forefront of developing and utilizing VER generation to accomplish ambitious Greenhouse Gas Emission reduction goals. If the corridor needs to be expanded to accommodate additional transmission, that energy should be generated by non-fossil fuel sources.

The BRPC Executive Committee endorsed these comments at their meeting on June 20, 2024.

Sincerely,



Thomas Matuszko  
Executive Director

Cc. Congressman Richard Neal  
Senator Elizabeth Warren  
Senator Edward Markey  
Governor Maura Healey  
Secretary Rebecca Tepper, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
Melissa Hoffer, Climate Chief, Massachusetts Office of Climate Innovation and Resilience  
Select Boards, Towns of Peru, Windsor, Dalton, Hinsdale, Cheshire, Lanesborough, Hancock

Attachments:

- Town Summaries
- Maps
- Data Tables

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## **National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors (NIETC) Designation**

### **New York-New England Potential NIETC**

#### **Berkshire Regional Planning Commission Summary of Town Resources**

It is BRPC's understanding that DOE intends to conduct a study of impacts on resources, as appropriate, as part of DOE's designation of a NIETC. To assist DOE in assessing the impacts of a potential NIETC designation, BRPC provides the following Phase 2 information submission. The intent is to provide descriptions of any known or potential environmental and cumulative effects resulting from a potential NIETC designation, including visual, historic, cultural, economic, social, or health effects thereof. BRPC has organized the information with town-by-town summaries including resources consistent with those described on pages 48-54 of the Guidance on Implementing Section 216(a) of the Federal Power Act to Designate National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors. In addition, BRPC has provided town-by-town maps of suggested avoidance areas where DOE is encouraged to reduce the width of the corridor or limit the corridor to the existing transmission line right-of-way to avoid impacts to natural resources, significant features or densely developed neighborhoods. A detailed series of town maps and supporting data are included as Appendix A.

#### **Town of Cheshire, Massachusetts**

The Town of Cheshire is a rural northern Berkshire County community with 3,258 residents. Nestled in the valley of the South Branch Hoosic River, most of the center of Town is built around this river and its tributaries. Mount Greylock rises to the west of town which contains parts of Mount Greylock State Reservation. To the southeast the Appalachian Trail crosses through North Mountain of the Hoosac Range and continues the center of town toward Mount Greylock. The Cobbles, Ashuwillticook Trail, and Appalachian Trail offer scenic hiking and viewing opportunities within the town. Cheshire is one of roughly 40 towns designated as an Appalachian Trail community, with 6 miles of trail running through the town that can take northbound explorers to Mount Greylock's summit. The 418-acre Cheshire Reservoir provides additional outdoor activities.

#### *Resource Report 1—General description of geographic boundaries*

The Town of Cheshire has a population of 3,258 based on the 2020 US Census. The total town area is 17,610.64 acres with 957.17 acres located within the proposed 1 mile corridor. While the area is primarily forested there are 64 parcels and 69 buildings located within the proposed corridor.

#### *Resource Report 2—Water use and quality*

Within the 1 mile corridor there are 34.04 acres of Interim Wellhead Protection Area / Zone II and two public water supplies.<sup>1</sup> These water supplies should be avoided to the maximum extent practicable reducing the width of the corridor to minimize potential impacts to drinking water supplies.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: MassGIS Public Water Supplies (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massgis-data-public-water-supplies>)

### *Resource Report 3—Fish, wildlife, and vegetation*

There are 2.39 miles of cold water fisheries and 16.94 acres of state listed endangered species habitat according to the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program.<sup>2</sup> In addition, over 49% of the corridor is considered BioMap 2 Core Habitat (410.82 acres) and BioMap 2 Critical Natural Landscapes (471.35 acres). Within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, BioMap identifies areas that are most critical for biodiversity conservation at multiple spatial scales. Core Habitats are areas that are critical for the long-term survival of rare species, natural communities, and ecosystems. They include habitats for a variety of species, such as mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, invertebrates, and plants. Core habitats also include high-quality wetlands, vernal pools, aquatic habitats, coastal habitats, and intact forest ecosystems. Critical Natural Landscape identifies large landscape blocks that are minimally impacted by development, as well as buffers to core habitats which enhance connectivity and resilience. Endangered species habitat should be avoided to the maximum extent practicable reducing the width of the corridor to minimize impacts to habitat, including limiting the corridor to the existing transmission line right-of-way where feasible.

### *Resource Report 7—Communities of interest*

As a rural community that could be affected by a NIETC designation, the Town of Cheshire is considered a community of interest.

### *Resource Report 8—Geological resources*

Nearly 36% of the land within the corridor is Carbonite Karst Geology (343.29 acres). Karst landscapes feature caves, underground streams and sinkholes on the surface. Karst terrain poses potential geological hazards and areas of nonroutine geotechnical concern. Karst terrain should be avoided to the maximum extent practicable reducing the width of the corridor to minimize potential hazards, including limiting the corridor to the existing transmission line right-of-way where feasible.

### *Resource Report 9—Soils<sup>3</sup>*

Prime agricultural soils (240.5 acres) and unique soils (29.09 acres) make up 28% of the corridor. Unique soils are defined as soils confined to mucks, peats, and coarse sands.

### *Resource Report 10—Land use, recreation, and aesthetics*

There are 343.88 acres of protected land, which make up nearly 36% of the corridor. The majority of the protected lands are state protected lands (338 acres) with 5.88 acres protected by land trusts. The corridor is primarily forest, however, densely developed areas can be found within the corridor along Brough Road and Route 8.<sup>4</sup> Densely developed areas should be avoided to the maximum extent practicable reducing the width of the corridor to minimize impacts to both residential and commercial areas, including limiting the corridor to the existing transmission line right-of-way.

The Chalet Wildlife Management Area (Chalet WMA) is owned and managed by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) and is within the Towns of Cheshire, Dalton,

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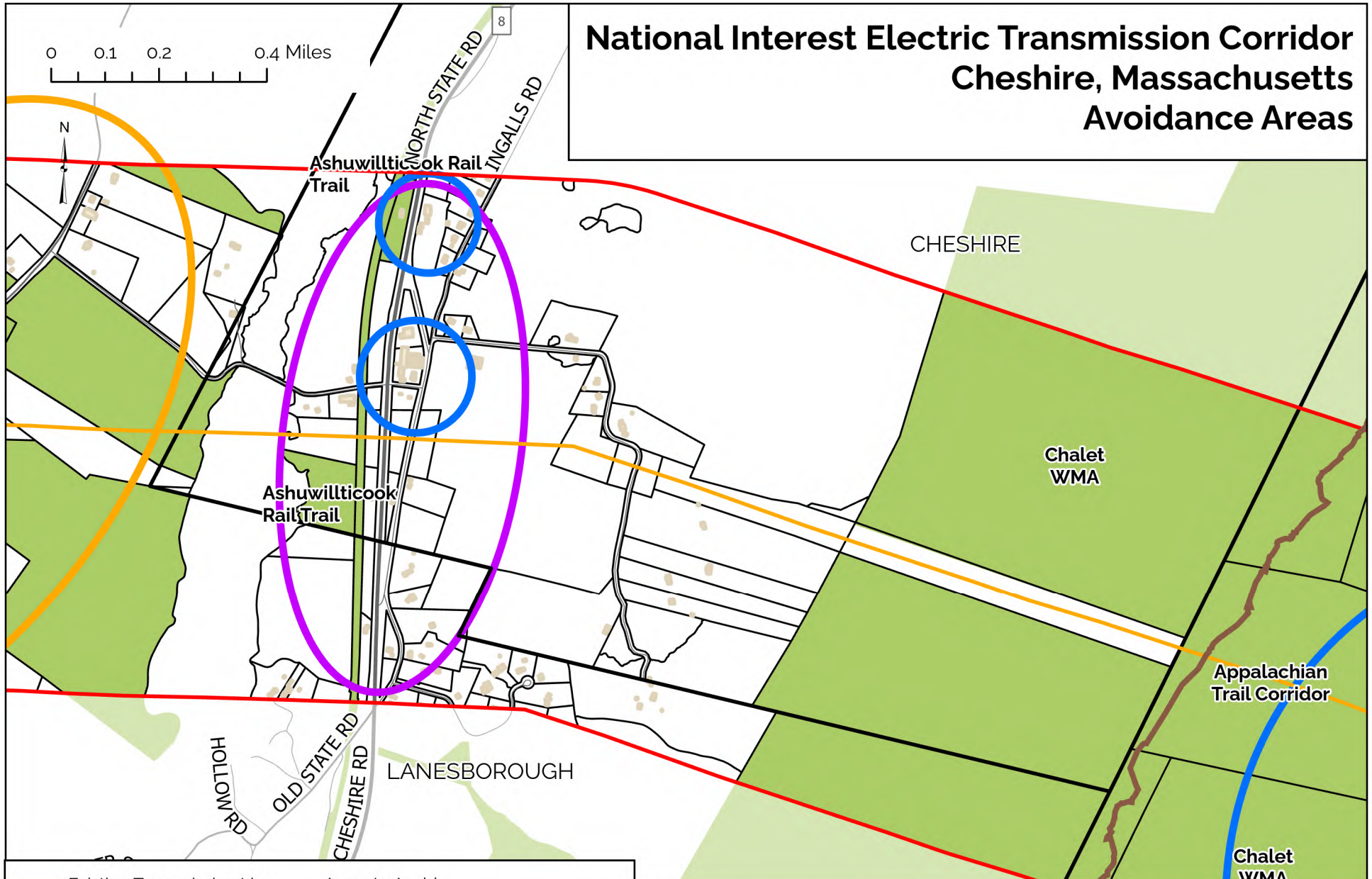
<sup>2</sup> Source: MassGIS NHESP Priority Habitats of Rare Species (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massgis-data-nhesp-priority-habitats-of-rare-species>)

<sup>3</sup> Source: MassGIS Soils SSURGO-Certified NRCS (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massgis-data-soils-ssurgo-certified-nrcs>)

<sup>4</sup> Source: MassGIS 2016 Land Use

Lanesborough, and Windsor. MassWildlife owns and manages over 220,000 acres of land to conserve fish and wildlife habitats and provide access for outdoor recreation. All WMAs are open to hunting, fishing, trapping, and other outdoor recreation activities. WMAs are intentionally wild and while public access is allowed at the Chalet WMA visitors will find natural landscapes rather than maintained trails. Several fields along the northern part of the parcel are managed under license agreement for agricultural use. These fields are kept open through haying to provide habitat for ground-nesting bird species. The Chalet WMA includes a large area of forest which provides a variety of opportunities to see wildlife. Moose inhabit the area. The Appalachian Trail runs through the western part of the management area. At the headwaters of Tyler Brook, on the Dalton/Windsor line, is a red spruce swamp, an uncommon type of forested wetland.

# National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor Cheshire, Massachusetts Avoidance Areas



- |                            |                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Existing Transmission Line | Areas to Avoid    |
| NIETC 1-Mile Wide Corridor | Dense Development |
| Parcels                    | Water Supply      |
| Buildings                  | Aesthetic         |
| Protected land             | Appalachian Trail |



This map was created by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and is intended for general planning purposes only. This map shall not be used for engineering, survey, legal, or regulatory purposes. MassGIS, MassDOT, or BRPC may have supplied portions of this data.



## **Town of Dalton, Massachusetts**

The Town of Dalton is a mill town located in central Berkshire County with a population of approximately 6,330. Due to Dalton's topography and rich milling history, many residents live near the Housatonic River's East Branch. Dalton's mix of urban centers, suburban neighborhoods, and rural surroundings gives the town its identity as a "transition town" between the urban and rural spheres of the Berkshires. This mix is best encapsulated by Dalton's official designation as an Appalachian Trail Town, as the trail bisects Dalton, and hikers take advantage of the town's restaurants, laundry facilities, stores, and other services. Dalton has a diverse natural environment with extensive wetlands and over 5,000 acres of "core habitat," as the town contains watersheds of both the Housatonic and Hoosic Rivers. The Town's wetlands offer extensive ecosystem services to Dalton and neighboring communities, such as servicing Pittsfield's drinking water supply and providing flood storage and control.

### *Resource Report 1—General description of geographic boundaries*

The Town of Dalton has a population of 6,330 based on the 2020 US Census. The total town area is 13,996.15 acres with 2,170.56 acres located within the proposed 1 mile corridor. While the area is primarily forested there are 88 parcels and 122 buildings located within the proposed corridor.

### *Resource Report 2—Water use and quality*

Within the 1 mile corridor there are 828.16 acres of surface water supplies which supply drinking water to the Town of Dalton and the City of Pittsfield.<sup>1</sup> Over 38.2% of the proposed corridor is made up of lands that serve surface water supplies. There are 1,737.75 acres of protected land, which make up 80% of the corridor.<sup>2</sup> The majority of the protected land is state protected lands (1,036.46 acres), with 36.64 acres of federally protected land and 71.18 acres of municipally owned land protected for surface water supplies. An additional 593.47 acres is privately owned, deed restricted protected land. Surface water supply watersheds should be avoided to the maximum extent practicable reducing the width of the corridor to exclude the surface water supply watersheds from the corridor and minimize potential impacts to drinking water supplies. Federally protected lands associated with the Appalachian Trail should be avoided and the corridor narrowed or restricted to the existing transmission right-of-way.

### *Resource Report 3—Fish, wildlife, and vegetation*

There are 4.44 miles of cold water fisheries and 43.18 acres of state listed endangered species habitat according to the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program.<sup>3</sup> In addition, over 64% of the corridor is considered BioMap 2 Core Habitat (1,267.57 acres) and Critical Natural Landscapes (1,398.01 acres).<sup>4</sup> Within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, BioMap identifies areas that are most critical for biodiversity conservation at multiple spatial scales. Core Habitats are areas that are critical for the long-term survival of rare species, natural communities, and ecosystems. They include habitats for a variety of species, such as mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, invertebrates, and plants. Core

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<sup>1</sup> Source: MassGIS Public Water Supplies (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massgis-data-public-water-supplies>)

<sup>2</sup> Source: BRPC Open Space GIS layer

<sup>3</sup> Source: MassGIS NHESP Priority Habitats of Rare Species (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massgis-data-nhesp-priority-habitats-of-rare-species>)

<sup>4</sup> Source: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massgis-biomap2>

habitats also include high-quality wetlands, vernal pools, aquatic habitats, coastal habitats, and intact forest ecosystems. Critical Natural Landscape identifies large landscape blocks that are minimally impacted by development, as well as buffers to core habitats which enhance connectivity and resilience. Endangered species habitat should be avoided to the maximum extent practicable reducing the width of the corridor to minimize impacts to habitat, including limiting the corridor to the existing transmission line right-of-way where feasible.

#### *Resource Report 4—Cultural resources*

There are 6 historic buildings/sites within the Town. These include the Dalton District #5 Schoolhouse (aka North Street School), Flintstone Farm, Sweet Water, and the Alvan Cleveland House and Farm. Additional sites include 240 Cleveland Rd and 1097-1099 North St. The significance of these sites include agriculture, architecture, community planning, education, and industry. Architectural styles include Greek Revival, Italianate, and Federal.

#### *Resource Report 7—Communities of interest*

As a rural community that could be affected by a NIETC designation, the Town of Dalton is considered a community of interest. In addition, portions of the Town have been identified as environmental justice areas by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

#### *Resource Report 9—Soils<sup>5</sup>*

Both prime agricultural soils (242.94) make up 11% of land within the corridor.

#### *Resource Report 10—Land use, recreation, and aesthetics*

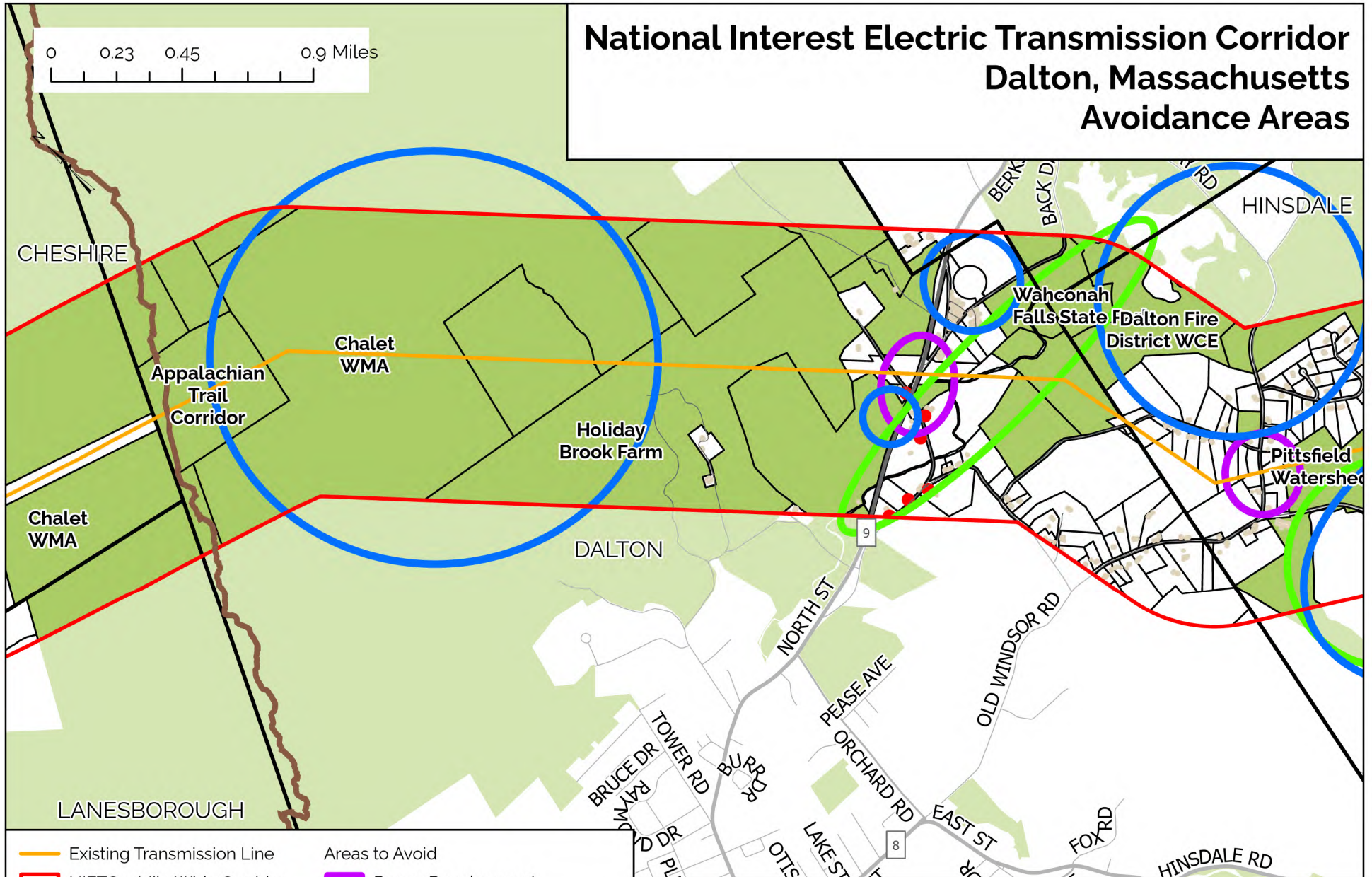
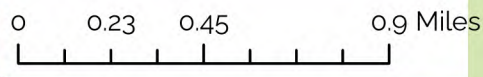
The corridor is primarily forest, however, densely developed residential areas can be found within the corridor along Mobile Terrace, Johnson Road, and Old Windsor Road.<sup>6</sup> Densely developed residential areas should be avoided to the maximum extent practicable reducing the width of the corridor to minimize impacts to residential areas, including limiting the corridor to the existing transmission line right-of-way.

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<sup>5</sup> Source: MassGIS Soils SSURGO-Certified NRCS (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massgis-data-soils-ssurgo-certified-nrcs>)

<sup>6</sup> Source: MassGIS 2016 Land Use

# National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor Dalton, Massachusetts Avoidance Areas



- |                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Existing Transmission Line | <b>Areas to Avoid</b> |
| NIETC 1-Mile Wide Corridor | Dense Development     |
| Parcels                    | Endangered Species    |
| Buildings                  | Water Supply          |
| Protected land             | Historic Buildings    |
|                            | Appalachian Trail     |



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## **Town of Hancock, Massachusetts**

The Town of Hancock is a quiet, peaceful town about twenty miles long and three miles wide, bordered on the east by the famous Berkshire hills, and on the west by the rugged Taconic range. Hancock is the longest and narrowest town in Berkshire County. The northern portion of the town is separated from the southern portion by a mountain. One has to drive through a couple of towns to the east or drive west into New York to get from one end to the other. The town's small population is supplemented by many second-home owners, many of whom are located in and around Jiminy Peak Mountain resort. The ski mountain, Jiminy Peak, is also the most prominent local economic provider, contributing significantly to the town's annual tax income. The second largest economic driver in town is Ioka Valley Farm, a family-run farming business which has diversified to offer both local and tourist attractions year-round. Ioka Valley Farm brings in tourists from across the county for car shows, pumpkin and berry picking, corn mazes, hay rides, and being a large local producer of maple syrup.

### *Resource Report 1—General description of geographic boundaries*

The Town of Hancock has a population of 757 based on the 2020 US Census. The total town area is 22,873.64 acres with 1,591.84 acres located within the proposed 1 mile corridor. While the area is primarily forested there are 117 parcels and 162 buildings located within the proposed corridor.

### *Resource Report 2—Water use and quality*

Within the 1 mile corridor there is one public water supply and 12.82 acres of Interim Wellhead Protection Area / Zone II.<sup>1</sup> There are 290.05 acres of protected land, all of which are owned by the state.<sup>2</sup> Public water supplies should be avoided to the maximum extent practicable reducing the width of the corridor to exclude the surface water supply watersheds from the corridor and minimize potential impacts to drinking water supplies.

### *Resource Report 3—Fish, wildlife, and vegetation*

Over 70% of the corridor is considered BioMap 2 Core Habitat (373.5 acres) and BioMap 2 Critical Natural Landscapes (1,085.09 acres). Within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, BioMap identifies areas that are most critical for biodiversity conservation at multiple spatial scales. Core Habitats are areas that are critical for the long-term survival of rare species, natural communities, and ecosystems. They include habitats for a variety of species, such as mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, invertebrates, and plants. Core habitats also include high-quality wetlands, vernal pools, aquatic habitats, coastal habitats, and intact forest ecosystems. Critical Natural Landscape identifies large landscape blocks that are minimally impacted by development, as well as buffers to core habitats which enhance connectivity and resilience.

### *Resource Report 4—Cultural resources*

There are 33 historic buildings one historic site (Babcock Barn Museum) within the Town. The significance of these sites include agriculture, architecture, community planning, education, commerce, religion, politics government and industry. Architectural styles include Greek Revival, Italianate, Victorian

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<sup>1</sup> Source: MassGIS Public Water Supplies (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massgis-data-public-water-supplies>)

<sup>2</sup> Source: BRPC Open Space GIS layer

Eclectic, Second Empire, Colonial, Shingle Style, Georgian, Craftsman and Federal. A complete list of historic resources can be found in the appendix.

*Resource Report 7—Communities of interest*

As a rural community that could be affected by a NIETC designation, the Town of Hancock is considered a community of interest.

*Resource Report 8—Geological resources*

Nearly 50% of the land within the corridor is Carbonite Karst Geology (779.25 acres). Karst landscapes feature caves, underground streams and sinkholes on the surface. Karst terrain poses potential geological hazards and areas of nonroutine geotechnical concern. Karst terrain should be avoided to the maximum extent practicable reducing the width of the corridor to minimize potential hazards, including limiting the corridor to the existing transmission line right-of-way where feasible.

*Resource Report 9—Soils<sup>3</sup>*

Approximately 35% of the corridor is prime agricultural soils (554.95 acres). Over 50% of the corridor is excessively drained and/or highly erodible soils, 795.81 and 250.72 acres respectively. Prime agricultural soils should be avoided to the maximum extent practicable reducing the width of the corridor to minimize impacts to farmland, including limiting the corridor to the existing transmission line right-of-way where feasible.

*Resource Report 10—Land use, recreation, and aesthetics*

The corridor is primarily forest, however, densely developed residential areas can be found within the corridor along Main Street and Potter Mountain Road.<sup>4</sup> The proposed corridor also runs along the main access to the Taconic crest trail which links Hancock to both the New York portion of the trail and the section crossing through Pittsfield State Forest into Lanesborough. Densely developed residential areas should be avoided to the maximum extent practicable reducing the width of the corridor to minimize impacts to residential areas, including limiting the corridor to the existing transmission line right-of-way.

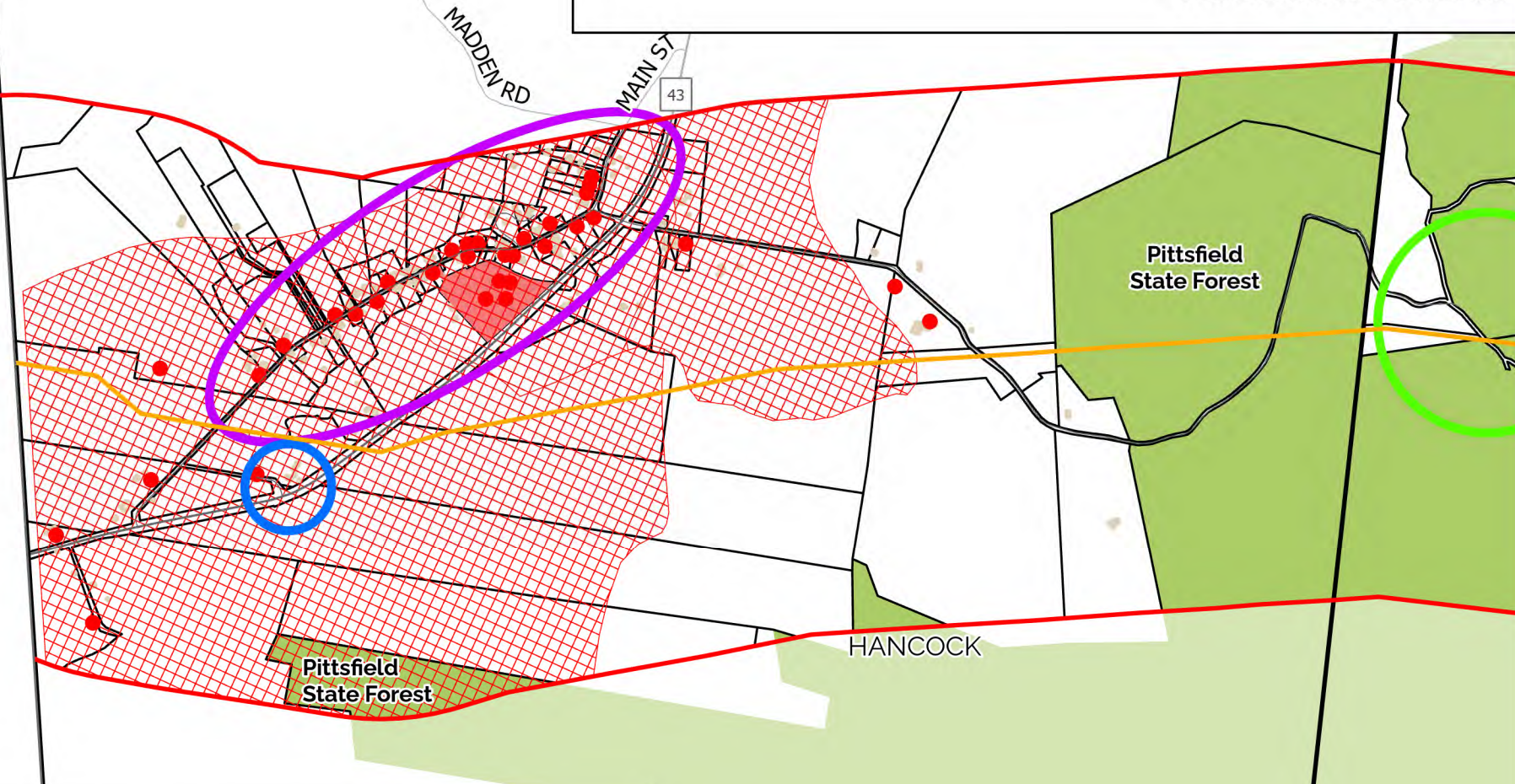
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<sup>3</sup> Source: MassGIS Soils SSURGO-Certified NRCS (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massgis-data-soils-ssurgo-certified-nrcs>)

<sup>4</sup> Source: MassGIS 2016 Land Use

# National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor Hancock, Massachusetts Avoidance Areas

0 0.13 0.25 0.5 Miles



- |                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Existing Transmission Line | <b>Areas to Avoid</b> |
| NIETC 1-Mile Wide Corridor | Dense Development     |
| Parcels                    | Endangered Species    |
| Buildings                  | Water Supply          |
| Protected land             | Carbonate Karst       |
|                            | Historic Buildings    |
|                            | Historic Sites        |



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## **Town of Hinsdale, Massachusetts**

Hinsdale is a rural town tucked away in the “Hilltowns” region of Western Massachusetts. The town prides itself on supporting a robust local economy with many public services that rural towns often lack. Hinsdale is a beacon for outdoor recreation as its numerous recreational assets are carefully stewarded by the town and partner organizations. Many residents are employed in Pittsfield and surrounding towns. Hinsdale is best known for its several summer camps, attracting families from across the northeast and beyond. These camps have transformed Hinsdale into a charming bedroom community with a population that swells in the summer as lakeside homes and woodland cabins are filled by seasonal residents, vacationers, and families seeking a restorative outdoor retreat. Water is one of Hinsdale’s greatest assets, as most of the town is within the Hinsdale Flats Watershed ACEC. This watershed provides Hinsdale and nearby communities with clean drinking water and harbors outstanding wildlife diversity and recreational opportunities, as numerous rivers, brooks, and lakes are scattered across town.

### *Resource Report 1—General description of geographic boundaries*

The Town of Hinsdale has a population of 1,919 based on the 2020 US Census. The total town area is 13,883.8 acres with 1,816.42 acres located within the proposed 1 mile corridor. While the area is primarily forested there are 81 parcels and 77 buildings located within the proposed corridor.

### *Resource Report 2—Water use and quality*

Within the 1 mile corridor there are 421.76 acres of surface water supplies which supply drinking water to the Town of Dalton and the City of Pittsfield.<sup>1</sup> Over 23% of the proposed corridor is made up of lands that serve surface water supplies. In addition, there are 251.97 acres of wetlands which make up nearly 14% of the proposed corridor.<sup>2</sup> There are 1,202.03 acres of protected land, which make up over 66% of the corridor.<sup>3</sup> State protected lands include 18.78 acres, while the majority of the protected land is municipally owned land protected for surface water supplies. Surface water supply watersheds should be avoided to the maximum extent practicable reducing the width of the corridor to exclude the surface water supply watersheds from the corridor and minimize potential impacts to drinking water supplies.

### *Resource Report 3—Fish, wildlife, and vegetation*

There are 4.09 miles of cold water fisheries and 221.35 acres of state listed endangered species habitat according to the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program.<sup>4</sup> In addition, over 51% (940.96 acres) of the corridor is considered BioMap 2 Critical Natural Landscapes.<sup>5</sup> Within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, BioMap identifies areas that are most critical for biodiversity conservation at multiple spatial scales. Critical Natural Landscape identifies large landscape blocks that are minimally impacted by development, as well as buffers to core habitats which enhance connectivity and resilience. Endangered species habitat should be avoided to the maximum extent practicable

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<sup>1</sup> Source: MassGIS Public Water Supplies (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massgis-data-public-water-supplies>)

<sup>2</sup> Source: National Wetland Inventory

<sup>3</sup> Source: BRPC Open Space GIS layer

<sup>4</sup> Source: MassGIS NHESP Priority Habitats of Rare Species (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massgis-data-nhesp-priority-habitats-of-rare-species>)

<sup>5</sup> Source: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massgis-biomap2>

reducing the width of the corridor to minimize impacts to habitat, including limiting the corridor to the existing transmission line right-of-way where feasible.

*Resource Report 7—Communities of interest*

As a rural community that could be affected by a NIETC designation, the Town of Hinsdale is considered a community of interest. In addition, portions of the Town have been identified as environmental justice areas by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

*Resource Report 9—Soils<sup>6</sup>*

Both prime agricultural soils (21.66 acres) and unique soils (47.19 acres) are located within the corridor. Unique soils are defined as soils confined to mucks, peats, and coarse sands.

*Resource Report 10—Land use, recreation, and aesthetics*

The corridor is primarily forest, however, densely developed residential areas can be found within the corridor along Forest Hill, Adams Road, and Old Windsor Road.<sup>7</sup> Densely developed residential areas should be avoided to the maximum extent practicable reducing the width of the corridor to minimize impacts to residential areas, including limiting the corridor to the existing transmission line right-of-way.

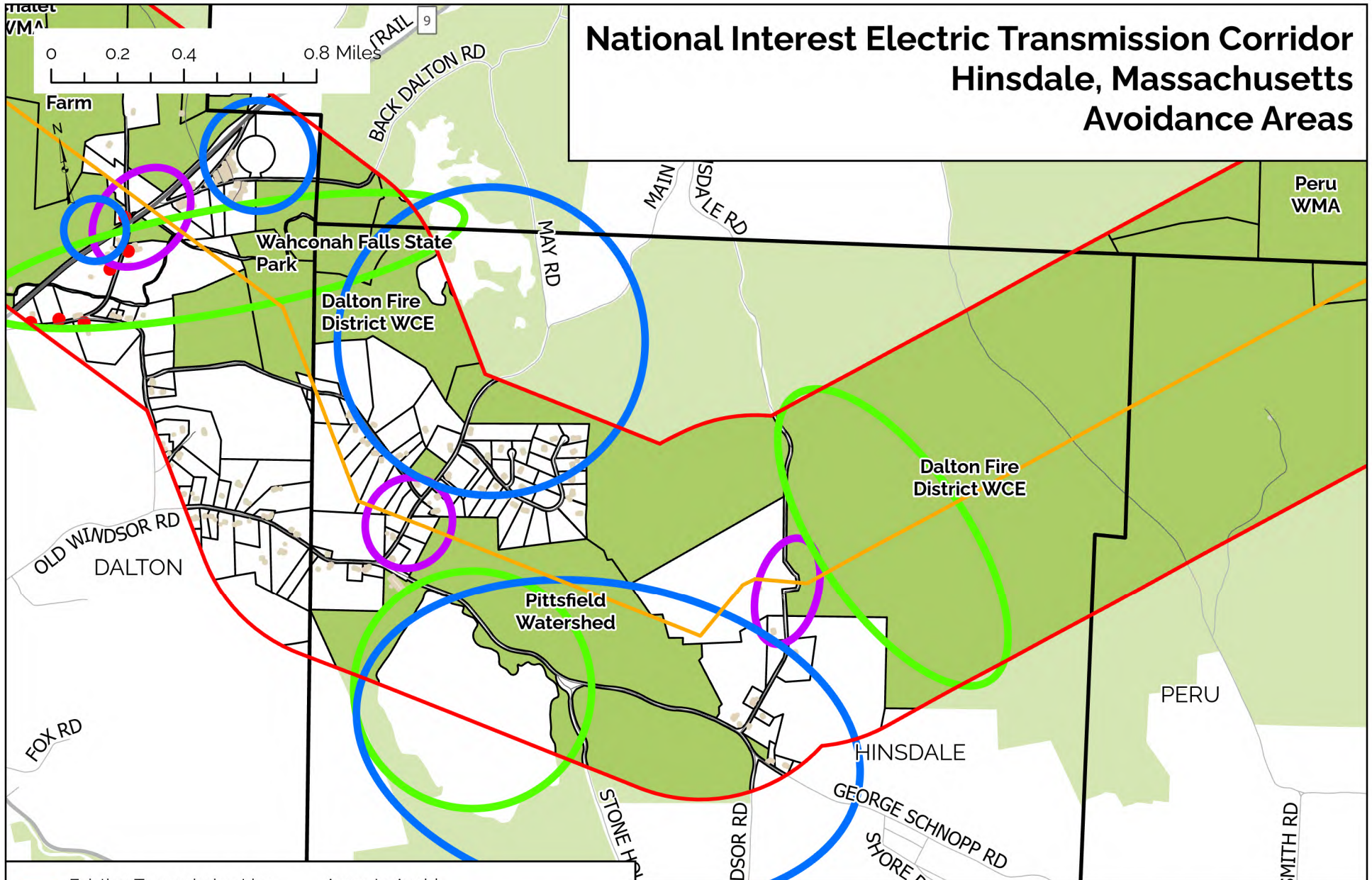
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<sup>6</sup> Source: MassGIS Soils SSURGO-Certified NRCS (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massgis-data-soils-ssurgo-certified-nrcs>)

<sup>7</sup> Source: MassGIS 2016 Land Use



# National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor Hinsdale, Massachusetts Avoidance Areas



- |                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Existing Transmission Line | <b>Areas to Avoid</b> |
| NIETC 1-Mile Wide Corridor | Dense Development     |
| Parcels                    | Endangered Species    |
| Buildings                  | Water Supply          |
| Protected land             | Historic Buildings    |



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## **Town of Lanesborough, Massachusetts**

The Town of Lanesborough is centrally located in Berkshire County. Rich in history and culture, Berkshire County is home to artist colonies, retirement communities, small cities, and rural towns. Lanesborough is located north of the City of Pittsfield with the Taconic Mountain Range to the west and the Hoosic Mountain Range to the east. These mountains have historically limited development to the flat land of the valley where mill industries arose along the Hoosic River to the northeast and the Housatonic River to the south. The Town of Lanesborough has several outdoor attractions, including the southern entrance to Mount Greylock, which has the highest elevation in Massachusetts. Balance Rock of the Pittsfield State Forest, the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail, and Pontoosuc Lake are also noteworthy sights and spaces to experience. Additionally, over 2.5 miles of the Appalachian Trail run through Lanesborough.

### *Resource Report 1—General description of geographic boundaries*

The Town of Lanesborough has a population of 3,038 based on the 2020 US Census. The total town area is 18,934.19 acres with 3,496.82 acres located within the proposed 1 mile corridor. While the area is primarily forested there are 321 parcels and 323 buildings located within the proposed corridor.

### *Resource Report 2—Water use and quality*

Within the 1 mile corridor there are 218.52 acres of wetlands which make up 6% of the proposed corridor.<sup>1</sup> Within the corridor there is 163.08 acres of Interim Wellhead Protection Area / Zone II and one public water supply. These areas should be avoided to the maximum extent practicable reducing the width of the corridor to minimize impacts to drinking water supplies, including limiting the corridor to the existing transmission line right-of-way where feasible.

### *Resource Report 3—Fish, wildlife, and vegetation*

There are 4.14 miles of cold water fisheries and 255.87 acres of state listed endangered species habitat according to the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program.<sup>2</sup> In addition, over 68% of the corridor is considered BioMap 2 Core Habitat (262.84 acres) and BioMap 2 Critical Natural Landscapes (2,126.98 acres).<sup>3</sup> Within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, BioMap identifies areas that are most critical for biodiversity conservation at multiple spatial scales. Core Habitats are areas that are critical for the long-term survival of rare species, natural communities, and ecosystems. They include habitats for a variety of species, such as mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, invertebrates, and plants. Core habitats also include high-quality wetlands, vernal pools, aquatic habitats, coastal habitats, and intact forest ecosystems. Critical Natural Landscape identifies large landscape blocks that are minimally impacted by development, as well as buffers to core habitats which enhance connectivity and resilience. Endangered species habitat should be avoided to the maximum extent practicable reducing the width of the corridor to minimize impacts to habitat, including limiting the corridor to the existing transmission line right-of-way where feasible.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: National Wetland Inventory

<sup>2</sup> Source: MassGIS NHESP Priority Habitats of Rare Species (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massgis-data-nhesp-priority-habitats-of-rare-species>)

<sup>3</sup> Source: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massgis-biomap2>

#### *Resource Report 7—Communities of interest*

As a rural community that could be affected by a NIETC designation, the Town of Lanesborough is considered a community of interest. In addition, portions of the Town have been identified as environmental justice areas by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

#### *Resource Report 8—Geological resources*

Nearly 60% of the land within the corridor is Carbonite Karst Geology (2,070.25 acres). Karst landscapes feature caves, underground streams and sinkholes on the surface. Karst terrain poses potential geological hazards and areas of nonroutine geotechnical concern. Karst terrain should be avoided to the maximum extent practicable reducing the width of the corridor to minimize potential hazards, including limiting the corridor to the existing transmission line right-of-way where feasible.

#### *Resource Report 9—Soils<sup>4</sup>*

Over 41% of the corridor is prime agricultural soils (1,442.09 acres). Nearly 30% of the corridor is excessively drained and/or highly erodible soils, 849.91 and 159.5 acres respectively. Prime agricultural soils should be avoided to the maximum extent practicable reducing the width of the corridor to minimize impacts to farmland, including limiting the corridor to the existing transmission line right-of-way where feasible.

#### *Resource Report 10—Land use, recreation, and aesthetics*

There are 1,419.21 acres of protected land, which make up over 40.6% of the corridor. State protected lands include 666.7 acres with 20.8 acres of municipally owned land protected. However, the majority of the protected lands are protected by land trusts (300.82 acres) and privately protected deed restricted lands (430.91 acres). The corridor is primarily forest, however, densely developed residential areas can be found within the corridor in along portions of Route 7, Prospect Street, and Bridge Street.<sup>5</sup> Densely developed residential areas should be avoided to the maximum extent practicable reducing the width of the corridor to minimize impacts to residential areas, including limiting the corridor to the existing transmission line right-of-way.

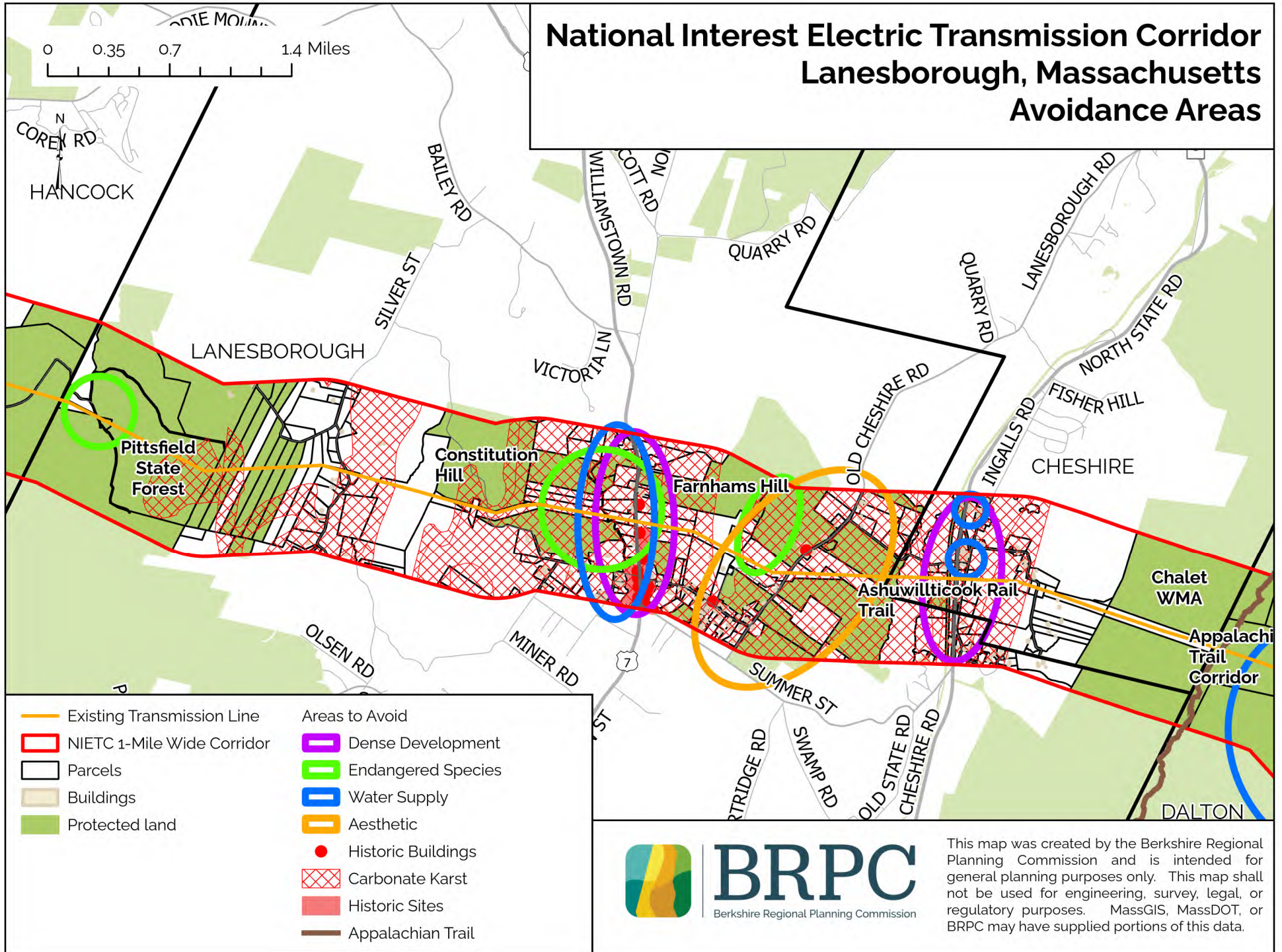
The Berkshire Natural Resources Council (BNRC) High Road is a trail system which is being developed that links town centers to trails throughout the Berkshires. This includes linkages between Constitution Hill, Farnhams Hill and an agricultural preservation restriction on Square Roots Farm in Cheshire that will link to the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail. These areas along with several farms in Lanesborough with Agricultural Preservation Restrictions (APR) held by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) should be avoided to the maximum extent practicable reducing the width of the corridor to minimize impacts to historic, cultural, recreational, agricultural and scenic lands including limiting the corridor to the existing transmission line right-of-way.

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<sup>4</sup> Source: MassGIS Soils SSURGO-Certified NRCS (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massgis-data-soils-ssurgo-certified-nrcs>)

<sup>5</sup> Source: MassGIS 2016 Land Use

# National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor Lanesborough, Massachusetts Avoidance Areas



**BRPC**  
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

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## **Town of Peru, Massachusetts**

Peru is a rural bedroom community on the eastern edge of the Berkshires that supports both the Pittsfield and Springfield metropolitan areas. The town has one of the lowest populations and population densities in the commonwealth with 814 residents. The town's minimal development allows it to boast an impressive number of outdoor recreational spaces, as most of Peru consists of forested public land. The town's geography earned it the name "Peru" in reference to the mountainous, high-elevation South American country. Peru is known for having the highest town center in Massachusetts at just over 2,000 feet—it is also the highest in any New England state other than Vermont. Peru is highly forested, with the Peru Wildlife Management Area and Peru State Forest alone taking up almost half of the town's total land area. The town's high elevation means there is very little standing water, though Tracy Pond offers a beautiful setting for warm water fishing or paddling. This pond is part of the greater Hinsdale Flats Watershed ACEC, which rests on Peru's western edge with additional bodies of water consisting of Bilodeau, Kilburn, Tracy, and Tracy Brooks.

### *Resource Report 1—General description of geographic boundaries*

The Town of Peru has a population of 814 based on the 2020 US Census. The total town area is 16,663.08 acres with 592.22 acres located within the proposed 1 mile corridor. The area is primarily forested with 7 parcels and 1 building located within the proposed corridor.

### *Resource Report 2—Water use and quality*

Within the 1 mile corridor there are 83.28 acres of surface water supply in the Town of Peru that serve the Town of Dalton.<sup>1</sup> There are 585.26 acres of protected land, which make up nearly 99% of the corridor.<sup>2</sup> State protected lands include 168.04 acres, while the majority of the protected land (417.22 acres) is municipally owned land protected for surface water supplies. Surface water supply watersheds should be avoided to the maximum extent practicable reducing the width of the corridor to exclude the surface water supply watersheds from the corridor and minimize potential impacts to drinking water supplies.

### *Resource Report 3—Fish, wildlife, and vegetation*

The entirety of the corridor (100%) is considered BioMap 2 Core Habitat (558.19 acres) and BioMap 2 Critical Natural Landscapes (592.23 acres). Within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, BioMap identifies areas that are most critical for biodiversity conservation at multiple spatial scales. Core Habitats are areas that are critical for the long-term survival of rare species, natural communities, and ecosystems. They include habitats for a variety of species, such as mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, invertebrates, and plants. Core habitats also include high-quality wetlands, vernal pools, aquatic habitats, coastal habitats, and intact forest ecosystems. Critical Natural Landscape identifies large landscape blocks that are minimally impacted by development, as well as buffers to core habitats which enhance connectivity and resilience.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: MassGIS Public Water Supplies (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massgis-data-public-water-supplies>)

<sup>2</sup> Source: BRPC Open Space GIS layer

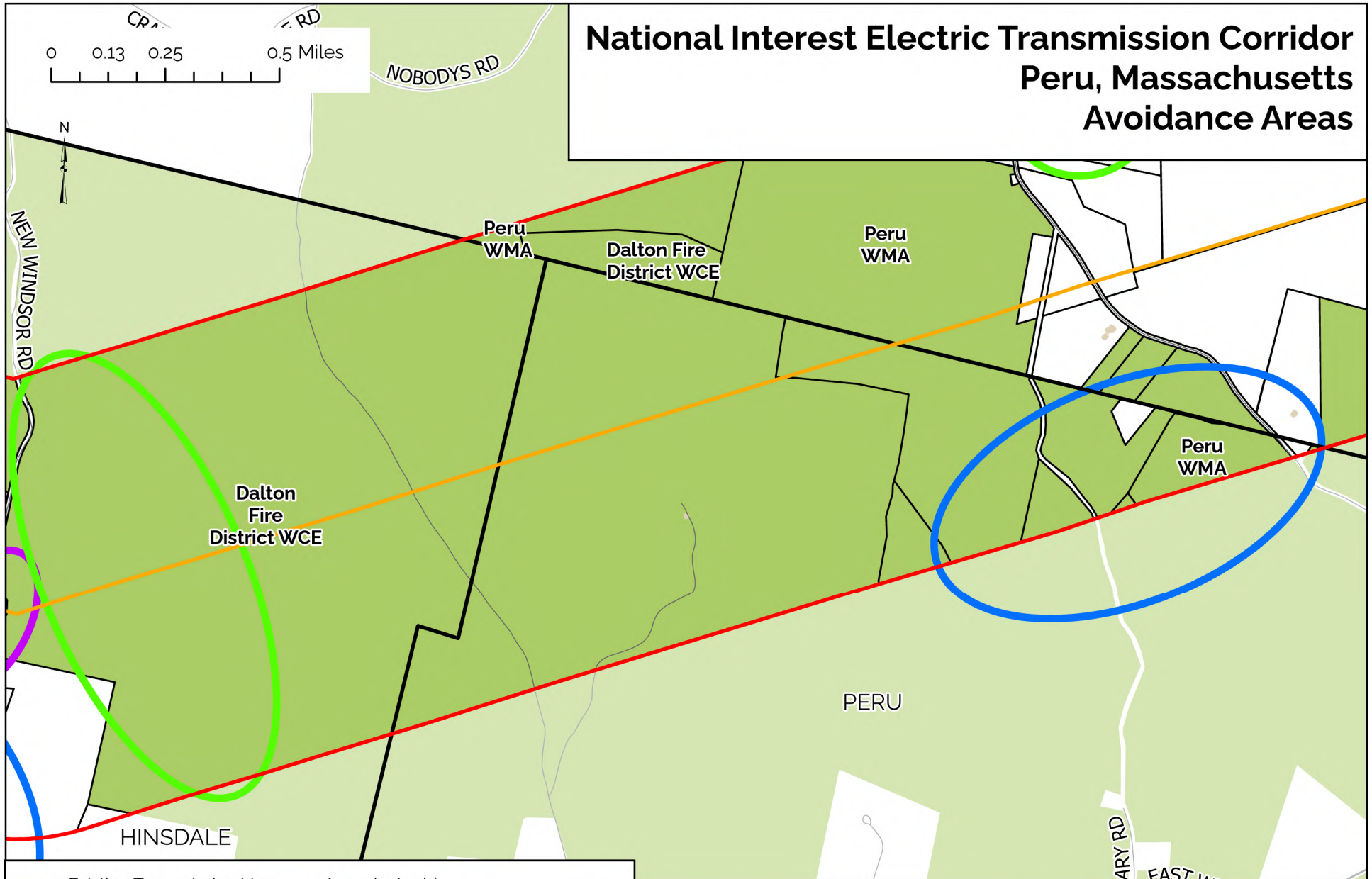
*Resource Report 7—Communities of interest*









As a rural community that could be affected by a NIETC designation, the Town of Peru is considered a community of interest.

*Resource Report 10—Land use, recreation, and aesthetics*

The Peru Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is owned and managed by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife). MassWildlife owns and manages over 220,000 acres of land to conserve fish and wildlife habitats and provide access for outdoor recreation. All WMAs are open to hunting, fishing, trapping, and other outdoor recreation activities. The Peru WMA is a large management area consisting of multiple parcels totaling over 4,800 acres spread across the towns of Windsor and Peru. The property is comprised of northern hardwoods, primarily maples, birches, white ash, black cherry and American beech, along with considerable red spruce, hemlock, and some white pine. Remnants of old apple orchards, beaver ponds, and meadows are scattered throughout the property. Trout Brook and Fuller Brook run through the property. WMAs are intentionally wild and while public access is allowed at the Peru WMA visitors will find natural landscapes rather than maintained trails. Small fields are maintained off of Peru Road in Windsor to create pheasant cover and habitat for ground-nesting birds. Native brook trout can be found in Trout Brook and Fuller Brook. These streams are also stocked with trout by MassWildlife. The large area and varied habitat of this WMA provide excellent wildlife viewing opportunities. Moose can be found on the property as well as various songbird species. It is a great area for snowshoeing in the winter.

# National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor Peru, Massachusetts Avoidance Areas



 Existing Transmission Line	<b>Areas to Avoid</b>
 NIETC 1-Mile Wide Corridor	 Dense Development
 Parcels	 Endangered Species
 Buildings	 Water Supply
 Protected land	



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## **Town of Windsor, Massachusetts**

The Town of Windsor is a rural community with a population just over 800, located on Berkshire County's eastern border with Hampshire County. MA Route 9 runs through the heart of Windsor, connecting Berkshire County with the Pioneer Valley and making Windsor a commonly traveled town. The Town's pristine wilderness and rich history attract residents who seek an escape into the country but value a tightly-knit community with opportunities for local events and active participation in the community. The Town is nestled atop an expansive plateau at approximately 2,000 feet, containing multiple wildlife preserves and undeveloped forests that boast impressive biological diversity and offer numerous recreational opportunities. The Town of Windsor serves as the headwaters of the congressionally designated Wild and Scenic Westfield River. Notchview Reservation, a Trustees of Reservations property, is Windsor's most popular recreational asset as it attracts snowsports enthusiasts from across the region for its outstanding cross-country skiing. The Windsor State Forest contains Windsor Jamb's, a beautiful waterfall cascading through granite cliffs.

### *Resource Report 1—General description of geographic boundaries*

The Town of Windsor has a population of 831 based on the 2020 US Census. The total town area is 22,503.50 acres with 2,922.20 acres located within the proposed 1 mile corridor. While the area is primarily forested there are 154 parcels and 151 buildings located within the proposed corridor.

### *Resource Report 2—Water use and quality*

Within the 1 mile corridor there are 15.24 acres of surface water supplies which serve as part of the water supply for the City of Springfield.<sup>1</sup> There are 858.23 acres of protected land, which make up 29.4% of the corridor.<sup>2</sup> State protected lands include 599.65 acres, with 34.04 acres of municipal protected lands, 136.01 acres of land trust protected lands, and 88.53 acres of privately owned deed-restricted protected lands. Surface water supply watersheds should be avoided to the maximum extent practicable reducing the width of the corridor to exclude the surface water supply watersheds from the corridor and minimize potential impacts to drinking water supplies.

### *Resource Report 3—Fish, wildlife, and vegetation*

There are 6.77 miles of cold water fisheries and 170.37 acres of state listed endangered species habitat according to the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program.<sup>3</sup> In addition, over 50% of the corridor is considered BioMap 2 Core Habitat (312.83 acres) and Critical Natural Landscapes (1248.75 acres).<sup>4</sup> Within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, BioMap identifies areas that are most critical for biodiversity conservation at multiple spatial scales. Core Habitats are areas that are critical for the long-term survival of rare species, natural communities, and ecosystems. They include habitats for a variety of species, such as mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, invertebrates, and plants. Core habitats also include high-quality wetlands, vernal pools, aquatic habitats, coastal habitats, and intact forest ecosystems. Critical Natural Landscape identifies large landscape blocks that are minimally

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<sup>1</sup> Source: MassGIS Public Water Supplies (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massgis-data-public-water-supplies>)

<sup>2</sup> Source: BRPC Open Space GIS layer

<sup>3</sup> Source: MassGIS NHESP Priority Habitats of Rare Species (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massgis-data-nhesp-priority-habitats-of-rare-species>)

<sup>4</sup> Source: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massgis-biomap2>



impacted by development, as well as buffers to core habitats which enhance connectivity and resilience. Endangered species habitat should be avoided to the maximum extent practicable reducing the width of the corridor to minimize impacts to habitat, including limiting the corridor to the existing transmission line right-of-way where feasible.

*Resource Report 7—Communities of interest*

As a rural community that could be affected by a NIETC designation, the Town of Windsor is considered a community of interest.

*Resource Report 9—Soils<sup>5</sup>*

Prime agricultural soils (91.18 acres) are located within the corridor, along with excessively drained soils (447.57 acres), highly erodible soils (69.08 acres) and hydric soils (421.55 acres).

*Resource Report 10—Land use, recreation, and aesthetics*

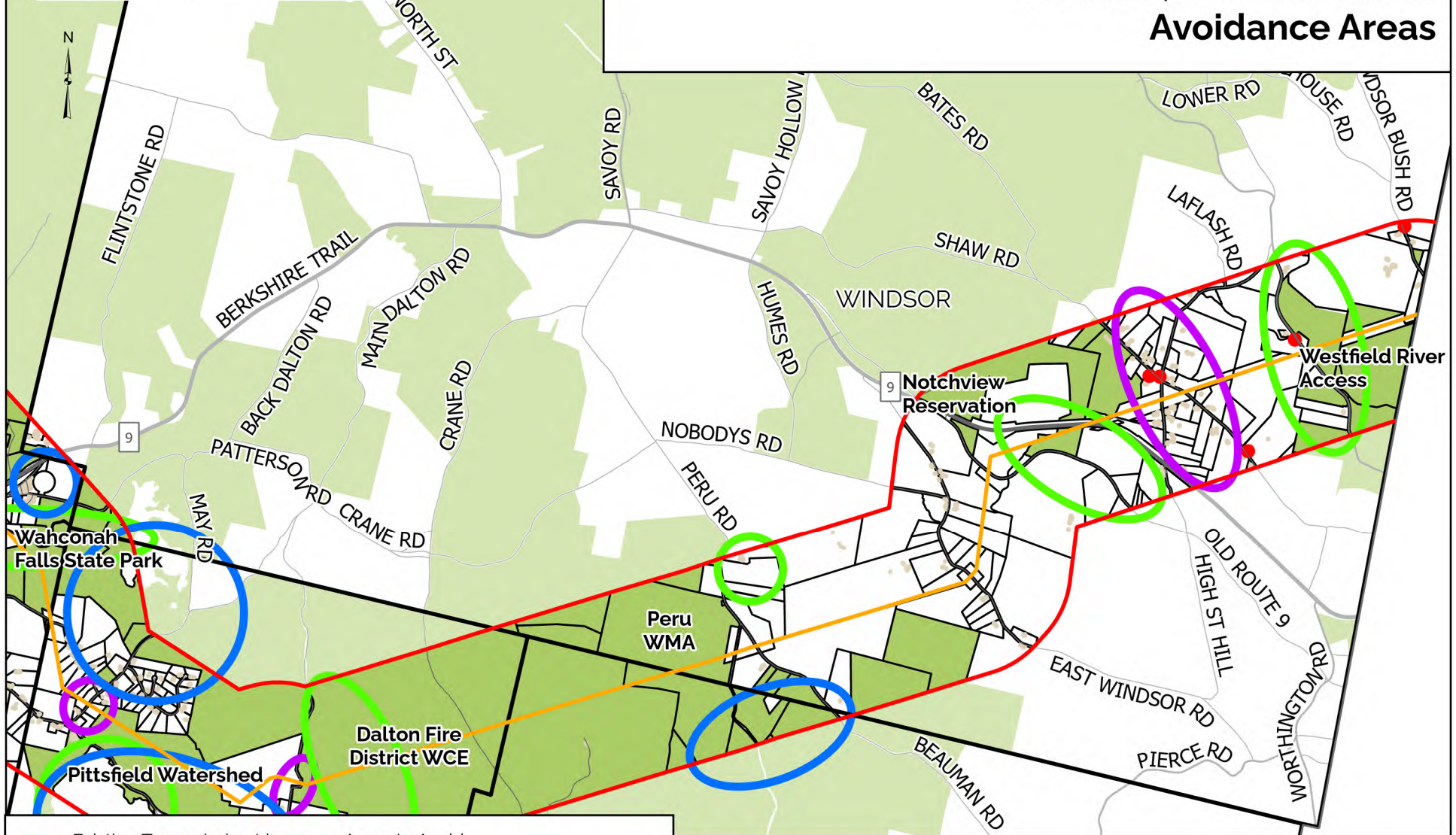
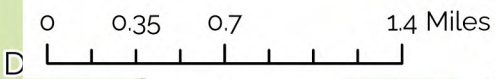
The corridor is primarily forest, however, densely developed residential areas can be found within the corridor along Old Windsor Road, Shaw Road and High Street Hill, and East Windsor Road.<sup>6</sup> Densely developed residential areas should be avoided to the maximum extent practicable reducing the width of the corridor and limiting the corridor to the existing transmission line right-of-way where it intersects with densely developed areas.

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<sup>5</sup> Source: MassGIS Soils SSURGO-Certified NRCS (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massgis-data-soils-ssurgo-certified-nrcs>)

<sup>6</sup> Source: MassGIS 2016 Land Use

# National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor Windsor, Massachusetts Avoidance Areas



Existing Transmission Line	Dense Development
NIETC 1-Mile Wide Corridor	Endangered Species
Parcels	Water Supply
Buildings	Historic Buildings
Protected land	



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## Town of Cheshire Massachusetts

### General Town Information

2020 Population	3,258
Median Household Income (2018-2022 ACS)	\$72,485
Total Land Area (acres)	17,610.64
1-mile Wide NIETC Corridor (acres)	957.17
Number of Parcels within the Corridor	64
Number of Buildings within the Corridor	69

<i>Resources</i>	<i>Acres/Miles</i>	<i>Percent of Corridor</i>
Aquifers (acres)	6.54	0.7%
Public Water Supplies (count)	2	
Interim Wellhead Protection Area / Zone II (Acres)	34.04	3.6%
Surface Water Supply Watershed (acres)	0	0.0%
BioMap 2 Core Habitat (acres)	410.82	42.9%
BioMap 2 Critical Natural Landscapes (acres)	471.35	49.2%
Certified Vernal Pools (count)	0	0.0%
Cold Water Fisheries (miles)	2.39	0.2%
Endangered Species Habitat (acres)	16.94	1.8%
Living Waters Core Habitat (acres)	48.49	5.1%
Carbonite Karst Geology (acres)	343.29	35.9%
Excessively Drained Soils (acres)	316.03	33.0%
Highly Erodible Soils (acres)	106.04	11.1%
Hydric Soils (acres)	34.16	3.6%
Prime Agricultural Soils (acres)	240.5	25.1%
Unique Soils (acres)	29.09	3.0%
Historic Buildings/Sites (count)	2	
Protected Land (total acres)	343.88	35.9%
Federal Protected Land(acres)	0	0.0%
State Protected Land (acres)	338	35.3%
Municipal Protected Land (acres)	0	0.0%
Land Trust Protected Land (acres)	5.88	0.6%
Private Protected Land (deed restriction) (acres)	0	0.0%
Streams (miles)	4.22	0.4%
Wetlands Total (acres)	98.68	10.3%
Freshwater Emergent Wetland (acres)	8.31	0.9%
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland (acres)	30.74	3.2%
Freshwater Pond (acres)	2.82	0.3%

Lake (acres)	49.34	5.2%
Riverine (acres)	7.47	0.8%

<i>Land Use</i>	<i>Acres/Miles</i>	<i>Percent of Corridor</i>
Agriculture (acres)	2.53	0.3%
Bare Land (acres)	6.85	0.7%
Commercial (acres)	1.05	0.1%
Cultivated (acres)	41.83	4.4%
Deciduous Forest (acres)	525.72	54.9%
Developed Open Space (acres)	26.60	2.8%
Evergreen Forest (acres)	165.54	17.3%
Forest (acres)	0.00	0.0%
Grassland (acres)	39.64	4.1%
Industrial (acres)	0.09	0.0%
Mixed Use, other (acres)	2.58	0.3%
Mixed Use, Residential (acres)	0.00	0.0%
Open Land (acres)	0.24	0.0%
Palustrine Aquatic Bed (acres)	43.87	4.6%
Palustrine Emergent Wetland (acres)	5.65	0.6%
Palustrine Forested Wetland (acres)	21.47	2.2%
Palustrine Scrub/Shrub Wetland (acres)	3.63	0.4%
Pasture/Hay (acres)	40.72	4.3%
Residential - Multi-family (acres)	0.37	0.0%
Residential - Other (acres)	1.75	0.2%
Residential - single family (acres)	2.35	0.2%
Right-of-way (acres)	10.47	1.1%
Scrub/Shrub (acres)	4.88	0.5%
Tax Exempt (acres)	0.22	0.0%
Unknown (acres)	0.00	0.0%
Water (acres)	9.12	1.0%

*Percent of Corridor is the percentage of any item within the 1-mile corridor in the town. Items may overlap, so percentages are not to be combined.*

## Town of Dalton Massachusetts

### General Town Information

2020 Population	6330
Median Household Income (2018-2022 ACS)	\$76,198
Total Land Area (acres)	13996.15
1-mile Wide NIETC Corridor (acres)	2170.56
Parcels	88
Buildings	122

<i>Resources</i>	<i>Acres/Miles</i>	<i>Percent of Corridor</i>
Aquifers (acres)	37.37	1.7%
Public Water Supplies (count)	2	
Interim Wellhead Protection Area / Zone II (Acres)	70.53	3.2%
Surface Water Supply Watershed (acres)	828.16	38.2%
BioMap 2 Core Habitat (acres)	1267.57	58.4%
BioMap 2 Critical Natural Landscapes (acres)	1398.01	64.4%
Certified Vernal Pools (count)	9	0.4%
Cold Water Fisheries (miles)	4.44	0.2%
Endangered Species Habitat (acres)	43.18	2.0%
Living Waters Core Habitat (acres)	1.37	0.1%
Carbonite Karst Geology (acres)	0	0.0%
Excessively Drained Soils (acres)	819.52	37.8%
Highly Erodible Soils (acres)	80.38	3.7%
Hydric Soils (acres)	55.08	2.5%
Prime Agricultural Soils (acres)	242.94	11.2%
Unique Soils (acres)	4.81	0.2%
Historic Buildings/Sites (count)	6	
Protected Land (total acres)	1737.75	80.1%
Federal Protected Land(acres)	36.64	1.7%
State Protected Land (acres)	1036.46	47.8%
Municipal Protected Land (acres)	71.18	3.3%
Land Trust Protected Land (acres)	0	0.0%
Private Protected Land (deed restriction) (acres)	593.47	27.3%
Streams (miles)	14.62	0.7%
Wetlands Total (acres)	73.43	3.4%
Freshwater Emergent Wetland (acres)	12.91	0.6%
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland (acres)	37.27	1.7%
Freshwater Pond (acres)	5.41	0.2%

Lake (acres)	0	0.0%
Riverine (acres)	17.84	0.8%
<i>Land Use</i>		
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Percent of Corridor</i>
Agriculture (acres)	0.05	0.0%
Bare Land (acres)	8.29	0.4%
Commercial (acres)	0.14	0.0%
Cultivated (acres)	0.04	0.0%
Deciduous Forest (acres)	1041.05	48.0%
Developed Open Space (acres)	33.66	1.6%
Evergreen Forest (acres)	754.97	34.8%
Forest (acres)	1.83	0.1%
Grassland (acres)	79.37	3.7%
Industrial (acres)	0.21	0.0%
Mixed Use, other (acres)	0	0.0%
Mixed Use, Residential (acres)	0.01	0.0%
Open Land (acres)	1.38	0.1%
Palustrine Aquatic Bed (acres)	0.01	0.0%
Palustrine Emergent Wetland (acres)	10.26	0.5%
Palustrine Forested Wetland (acres)	36.27	1.7%
Palustrine Scrub/Shrub Wetland (acres)	0.45	0.0%
Pasture/Hay (acres)	154.61	7.1%
Residential - Multi-family (acres)	4.02	0.2%
Residential - Other (acres)	0.33	0.0%
Residential - single family (acres)	4.36	0.2%
Right-of-way (acres)	14.21	0.7%
Scrub/Shrub (acres)	13.01	0.6%
Tax Exempt (acres)	4.34	0.2%
Unknown (acres)	0	0.0%
Water (acres)	7.69	0.4%

*Percent of Corridor is the percentage of any item within the 1-mile corridor in the town. Items may*

## Town of Hancock Massachusetts

### General Town Information

2020 Population	757
Median Household Income (2018-2022 ACS)	\$88,889
Total Land Area (acres)	22873.64
1-mile Wide NIETC Corridor (acres)	1591.84
Parcels	117
Buildings	162

<i>Resources</i>	<i>Acres/Miles</i>	<i>Percent of Corridor</i>
Aquifers (acres)	0	0.0%
Public Water Supplies (count)	1	
Interim Wellhead Protection Area / Zone II (Acres)	12.82	0.8%
Surface Water Supply Watershed (acres)	0	0.0%
BioMap 2 Core Habitat (acres)	373.5	23.5%
BioMap 2 Critical Natural Landscapes (acres)	1085.09	68.2%
Certified Vernal Pools (count)	0	0.0%
Cold Water Fisheries (miles)	1.78	0.1%
Endangered Species Habitat (acres)	0	0.0%
Living Waters Core Habitat (acres)	0	0.0%
Carbonite Karst Geology (acres)	779.25	49.0%
Excessively Drained Soils (acres)	795.81	50.0%
Highly Erodible Soils (acres)	250.72	15.8%
Hydric Soils (acres)	29.71	1.9%
Prime Agricultural Soils (acres)	554.95	34.9%
Unique Soils (acres)	0	0.0%
Historic Buildings/Sites (count)	34	
Protected Land (total acres)	290.05	18.2%
Federal Protected Land(acres)	0	0.0%
State Protected Land (acres)	290.05	18.2%
Municipal Protected Land (acres)	0	0.0%
Land Trust Protected Land (acres)	0	0.0%
Private Protected Land (deed restriction) (acres)	0	0.0%
Streams (miles)	10.71	0.7%
Wetlands Total (acres)	39.46	2.5%
Freshwater Emergent Wetland (acres)	9.14	0.6%
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland (acres)	20.35	1.3%
Freshwater Pond (acres)	0	0.0%

Lake (acres)	0	0.0%
Riverine (acres)	9.97	0.6%
<i>Land Use</i>		
	<i>Acres/Miles</i>	<i>Percent of Corridor</i>
Agriculture (acres)	0	0.0%
Bare Land (acres)	3.76	0.2%
Commercial (acres)	0	0.0%
Cultivated (acres)	13.69	0.9%
Deciduous Forest (acres)	1138.8	71.5%
Developed Open Space (acres)	34.99	2.2%
Evergreen Forest (acres)	77.66	4.9%
Forest (acres)	0	0.0%
Grassland (acres)	50.59	3.2%
Industrial (acres)	0.39	0.0%
Mixed Use, other (acres)	0	0.0%
Mixed Use, Residential (acres)	0.13	0.0%
Open Land (acres)	0.75	0.0%
Palustrine Aquatic Bed (acres)	0	0.0%
Palustrine Emergent Wetland (acres)	0.86	0.1%
Palustrine Forested Wetland (acres)	5.31	0.3%
Palustrine Scrub/Shrub Wetland (acres)	10.85	0.7%
Pasture/Hay (acres)	193.67	12.2%
Residential - Multi-family (acres)	2.86	0.2%
Residential - Other (acres)	0	0.0%
Residential - single family (acres)	7.54	0.5%
Right-of-way (acres)	16.2	1.0%
Scrub/Shrub (acres)	33.26	2.1%
Tax Exempt (acres)	0.4	0.0%
Unknown (acres)	0.05	0.0%
Water (acres)	0.08	0.0%

*Percent of Corridor is the percentage of any item within the 1-mile corridor in the town. Items may overlap, so percentages are not to be combined.*



## Town of Hinsdale Massachusetts

### General Town Information

2020 Population	1919
Median Household Income (2018-2022 ACS)	\$70,234
Total Land Area (acres)	13883.89
1-mile Wide NIETC Corridor (acres)	1816.42
Parcels	81
Buildings	77

<i>Resources</i>	<i>Acres/Miles</i>	<i>Percent of Corridor</i>
Aquifers (acres)	0	0.0%
Public Water Supplies (count)	0	
Interim Wellhead Protection Area / Zone II (Acres)	0	0.0%
Surface Water Supply Watershed (acres)	421.76	23.2%
BioMap 2 Core Habitat (acres)	287.44	15.8%
BioMap 2 Critical Natural Landscapes (acres)	940.96	51.8%
Certified Vernal Pools (count)	6	0.3%
Cold Water Fisheries (miles)	4.09	0.2%
Endangered Species Habitat (acres)	221.35	12.2%
Living Waters Core Habitat (acres)	0	0.0%
Carbonite Karst Geology (acres)	0	0.0%
Excessively Drained Soils (acres)	359.74	19.8%
Highly Erodible Soils (acres)	60.79	3.3%
Hydric Soils (acres)	367.81	20.2%
Prime Agricultural Soils (acres)	21.66	1.2%
Unique Soils (acres)	47.19	2.6%
Historic Buildings/Sites (count)	0	
Protected Land (total acres)	1202.03	66.2%
Federal Protected Land(acres)	0	0.0%
State Protected Land (acres)	18.78	1.0%
Municipal Protected Land (acres)	1183.25	65.1%
Land Trust Protected Land (acres)	0	0.0%
Private Protected Land (deed restriction) (acres)	0	0.0%
Streams (miles)	7.37	0.4%
Wetlands Total (acres)	251.97	13.9%
Freshwater Emergent Wetland (acres)	52.03	2.9%
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland (acres)	111.22	6.1%

Freshwater Pond (acres)	0.58	0.0%
Lake (acres)	85.36	4.7%
Riverine (acres)	2.78	0.2%
<i>Land Use</i>	<i>Acres/Miles</i>	<i>Percent of Corridor</i>
Agriculture (acres)	0	0.0%
Bare Land (acres)	2.21	0.1%
Commercial (acres)	0	0.0%
Cultivated (acres)	0	0.0%
Deciduous Forest (acres)	785.01	43.2%
Developed Open Space (acres)	33.49	1.8%
Evergreen Forest (acres)	623.54	34.3%
Forest (acres)	0	0.0%
Grassland (acres)	50.46	2.8%
Industrial (acres)	6.87	0.4%
Mixed Use, other (acres)	0.08	0.0%
Mixed Use, Residential (acres)	0.18	0.0%
Open Land (acres)	0.07	0.0%
Palustrine Aquatic Bed (acres)	0.36	0.0%
Palustrine Emergent Wetland (acres)	34.78	1.9%
Palustrine Forested Wetland (acres)	113.31	6.2%
Palustrine Scrub/Shrub Wetland (acres)	17.37	1.0%
Pasture/Hay (acres)	4.22	0.2%
Residential - Multi-family (acres)	0.19	0.0%
Residential - Other (acres)	0	0.0%
Residential - single family (acres)	6.82	0.4%
Right-of-way (acres)	13.73	0.8%
Scrub/Shrub (acres)	15.03	0.8%
Tax Exempt (acres)	11.88	0.7%
Unknown (acres)	0	0.0%
Water (acres)	96.82	5.3%

*Percent of Corridor is the percentage of any item within the 1-mile corridor in the town. Items may overlap, so percentages are not to be combined.*

## Town of Lanesborough Massachusetts

### General Town Information

2020 Population	3038
Median Household Income (2018-2022 ACS)	\$87,159
Total Land Area (acres)	18934.19
1-mile Wide NIETC Corridor (acres)	3496.82
Parcels	321
Buildings	323

<i>Resources</i>	<i>Acres/Miles</i>	<i>Percent of Corridor</i>
Aquifers (acres)	102.61	2.9%
Public Water Supplies (count)	1	
Interim Wellhead Protection Area / Zone II (Acres)	163.08	4.7%
Surface Water Supply Watershed (acres)	0	0.0%
BioMap 2 Core Habitat (acres)	262.84	7.5%
BioMap 2 Critical Natural Landscapes (acres)	2126.98	60.8%
Certified Vernal Pools (count)	4	0.1%
Cold Water Fisheries (miles)	4.14	0.1%
Endangered Species Habitat (acres)	255.87	7.3%
Living Waters Core Habitat (acres)	46.5	1.3%
Carbonite Karst Geology (acres)	2070.25	59.2%
Excessively Drained Soils (acres)	849.91	24.3%
Highly Erodible Soils (acres)	159.5	4.6%
Hydric Soils (acres)	270.74	7.7%
Prime Agricultural Soils (acres)	1442.09	41.2%
Unique Soils (acres)	22.74	0.7%
Historic Buildings/Sites (count)	17	
Protected Land (total acres)	1419.21	40.6%
Federal Protected Land(acres)	0	0.0%
State Protected Land (acres)	666.7	19.1%
Municipal Protected Land (acres)	20.78	0.6%
Land Trust Protected Land (acres)	300.82	8.6%
Private Protected Land (deed restriction) (acres)	430.91	12.3%
Streams (miles)	18.05	0.5%
Wetlands Total (acres)	218.52	6.2%
Freshwater Emergent Wetland (acres)	38.54	1.1%
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland (acres)	112.96	3.2%

Freshwater Pond (acres)	1.52	0.0%
Lake (acres)	48.43	1.4%
Riverine (acres)	17.07	0.5%
<i>Land Use</i>	<i>Acres/Miles</i>	<i>Percent of Corridor</i>
Agriculture (acres)	1.34	0.0%
Bare Land (acres)	90.09	2.6%
Commercial (acres)	2.59	0.1%
Cultivated (acres)	70.24	2.0%
Deciduous Forest (acres)	2175.96	62.2%
Developed Open Space (acres)	121.24	3.5%
Evergreen Forest (acres)	293.75	8.4%
Forest (acres)	0.02	0.0%
Grassland (acres)	126.73	3.6%
Industrial (acres)	0.89	0.0%
Mixed Use, other (acres)	1.69	0.0%
Mixed Use, Residential (acres)	2.58	0.1%
Open Land (acres)	1.18	0.0%
Palustrine Aquatic Bed (acres)	47.69	1.4%
Palustrine Emergent Wetland (acres)	40.53	1.2%
Palustrine Forested Wetland (acres)	64.37	1.8%
Palustrine Scrub/Shrub Wetland (acres)	38.49	1.1%
Pasture/Hay (acres)	299.3	8.6%
Residential - Multi-family (acres)	2.35	0.1%
Residential - Other (acres)	0	0.0%
Residential - single family (acres)	17.14	0.5%
Right-of-way (acres)	25.94	0.7%
Scrub/Shrub (acres)	56.5	1.6%
Tax Exempt (acres)	6.39	0.2%
Unknown (acres)	0.06	0.0%
Water (acres)	9.76	0.3%

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## Town of Peru Massachusetts

### General Town Information

2020 Population	814
Median Household Income (2018-2022 ACS)	\$78,500
Total Land Area (acres)	16663.08
1-mile Wide NIETC Corridor (acres)	592.22
Parcels	7
Buildings	1

<i>Resources</i>	<i>Acres/Miles</i>	<i>Percent of Corridor</i>
Aquifers (acres)	0	0.0%
Public Water Supplies (count)	0	
Interim Wellhead Protection Area / Zone II (Acres)	0	0.0%
Surface Water Supply Watershed (acres)	83.28	14.1%
BioMap 2 Core Habitat (acres)	558.19	94.3%
BioMap 2 Critical Natural Landscapes (acres)	592.23	100.0%
Certified Vernal Pools (count)	2	0.3%
Cold Water Fisheries (miles)	1.4	0.2%
Endangered Species Habitat (acres)	0	0.0%
Living Waters Core Habitat (acres)	0	0.0%
Carbonite Karst Geology (acres)	0	0.0%
Excessively Drained Soils (acres)	70.7	11.9%
Highly Erodible Soils (acres)	0	0.0%
Hydric Soils (acres)	286.66	48.4%
Prime Agricultural Soils (acres)	0	0.0%
Unique Soils (acres)	0	0.0%
Historic Buildings/Sites (count)	0	
Protected Land (total acres)	585.26	98.8%
Federal Protected Land(acres)	0	0.0%
State Protected Land (acres)	168.04	28.4%
Municipal Protected Land (acres)	417.22	70.5%
Land Trust Protected Land (acres)	0	0.0%
Private Protected Land (deed restriction) (acres)	0	0.0%
Streams (miles)	2.72	0.5%
Wetlands Total (acres)	60.79	10.3%
Freshwater Emergent Wetland (acres)	22.65	3.8%
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland (acres)	37.5	6.3%

Freshwater Pond (acres)	0	0.0%
Lake (acres)	0	0.0%
Riverine (acres)	0.64	0.1%
<i>Land Use</i>	<i>Acres/Miles</i>	<i>Percent of Corridor</i>
Agriculture (acres)	0.00	0.0%
Bare Land (acres)	0.20	0.0%
Commercial (acres)	0.00	0.0%
Cultivated (acres)	0.00	0.0%
Deciduous Forest (acres)	121.95	20.6%
Developed Open Space (acres)	0.00	0.0%
Evergreen Forest (acres)	378.10	63.8%
Forest (acres)	0.00	0.0%
Grassland (acres)	9.57	1.6%
Industrial (acres)	0.00	0.0%
Mixed Use, other (acres)	0.00	0.0%
Mixed Use, Residential (acres)	0.00	0.0%
Open Land (acres)	0.00	0.0%
Palustrine Aquatic Bed (acres)	0.07	0.0%
Palustrine Emergent Wetland (acres)	26.57	4.5%
Palustrine Forested Wetland (acres)	15.85	2.7%
Palustrine Scrub/Shrub Wetland (acres)	23.40	4.0%
Pasture/Hay (acres)	0.00	0.0%
Residential - Multi-family (acres)	0.00	0.0%
Residential - Other (acres)	0.00	0.0%
Residential - single family (acres)	0.00	0.0%
Right-of-way (acres)	0.14	0.0%
Scrub/Shrub (acres)	13.76	2.3%
Tax Exempt (acres)	0.01	0.0%
Unknown (acres)	0.00	0.0%
Water (acres)	2.60	0.4%

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## Town of Windsor Massachusetts

### General Town Information

2020 Population	831
Median Household Income (2018-2022 ACS)	\$102,639
Total Land Area (acres)	22503.50
1-mile Wide NIETC Corridor (acres)	2922.20
Parcels	154
Buildings	151

<i>Resources</i>	<i>Acres/Miles</i>	<i>Percent of Corridor</i>
Aquifers (acres)	0	0.0%
Public Water Supplies (count)	0	
Interim Wellhead Protection Area / Zone II (Acres)	3.25	0.1%
Surface Water Supply Watershed (acres)	15.24	0.5%
BioMap 2 Core Habitat (acres)	312.83	10.7%
BioMap 2 Critical Natural Landscapes (acres)	1248.75	42.7%
Certified Vernal Pools (count)	0	0.0%
Cold Water Fisheries (miles)	6.77	0.2%
Endangered Species Habitat (acres)	170.37	5.8%
Living Waters Core Habitat (acres)	25.7	0.9%
Carbonite Karst Geology (acres)	0	0.0%
Excessively Drained Soils (acres)	447.57	15.3%
Highly Erodible Soils (acres)	69.08	2.4%
Hydric Soils (acres)	421.55	14.4%
Prime Agricultural Soils (acres)	91.18	3.1%
Unique Soils (acres)	0	0.0%
Historic Buildings/Sites (count)	5	
Protected Land (total acres)	858.23	29.4%
Federal Protected Land(acres)	0	0.0%
State Protected Land (acres)	599.65	20.5%
Municipal Protected Land (acres)	34.04	1.2%
Land Trust Protected Land (acres)	136.01	4.7%
Private Protected Land (deed restriction) (acres)	88.53	3.0%
Streams (miles)	16.79	0.6%
Wetlands Total (acres)	117.26	4.0%
Freshwater Emergent Wetland (acres)	24.02	0.8%
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland (acres)	69.06	2.4%
Freshwater Pond (acres)	1.27	0.0%

Lake (acres)	0	0.0%
Riverine (acres)	22.91	0.8%
<i>Land Use</i>		
	<i>Acres/Miles</i>	<i>Percent of Corridor</i>
Agriculture (acres)	0.09	0.0%
Bare Land (acres)	33.94	1.2%
Commercial (acres)	0.44	0.0%
Cultivated (acres)	54.70	1.9%
Deciduous Forest (acres)	1173.57	40.2%
Developed Open Space (acres)	55.63	1.9%
Evergreen Forest (acres)	1275.37	43.6%
Forest (acres)	0.00	0.0%
Grassland (acres)	141.97	4.9%
Industrial (acres)	0.96	0.0%
Mixed Use, other (acres)	0.00	0.0%
Mixed Use, Residential (acres)	3.13	0.1%
Open Land (acres)	0.16	0.0%
Palustrine Aquatic Bed (acres)	0.04	0.0%
Palustrine Emergent Wetland (acres)	16.52	0.6%
Palustrine Forested Wetland (acres)	49.74	1.7%
Palustrine Scrub/Shrub Wetland (acres)	11.00	0.4%
Pasture/Hay (acres)	95.98	3.3%
Residential - Multi-family (acres)	0.42	0.0%
Residential - Other (acres)	0.00	0.0%
Residential - single family (acres)	7.83	0.3%
Right-of-way (acres)	37.79	1.3%
Scrub/Shrub (acres)	21.16	0.7%
Tax Exempt (acres)	0.20	0.0%
Unknown (acres)	0.52	0.0%
Water (acres)	11.04	0.4%

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