









Business 

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## Business

# NStar upgrades aim to avert Allston outages

By **Matt Rocheleau** | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT    AUGUST 17, 2012

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NStar is installing new equipment that company officials said will allow it to meet electricity demand in a section of Allston where recent outages have frustrated residents and business owners and led the utility to deem that service reliability in the area was substandard.

The effort involves installing more than 10,000 feet of new cable, about 2,100 feet of new conduit, five new transformers, and an enhanced detection system.

The project will increase the area's electrical capacity and will double the number of independent power sources that serve that area, said NStar spokesman Michael Durand.

NStar expects to complete all digging work by next week.

The entire project is scheduled to finish by the end of September.

Durand said that the company has taken measures to prevent the upgrade work from causing customers to lose power.

Durand said the new infrastructure is needed because the number of customers and the demand for power in that section of Allston has increased significantly in recent years.

NStar came under sharp criticism from city officials over two major outages earlier this year.

In March, an electrical substation caught fire, cutting power for two days to a broad swath of the city.

An outage in May in the Back Bay affected about 12,500 customers, though it lasted less than an hour.

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Mature trees flank 57 Louder Lane in Jamaica Plain Jamaica Plain, which is in the Moss Hill neighborhood near the Arnold Arboretum.

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The stock market finished one of the worst weeks of the year Friday, pushing Washington to work out a deal to avoid tax increases and spending cuts set to take effect Jan. 1.

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Weight Watchers International posted net income of \$67.4 million, or \$1.20 per share, compared with \$80.7 million, or \$1.09 per share, a year earlier.

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