

Public Notice

Pursuant to 33 USC 1251, MGL c. 21, ss 43 and 314 CMR 9.05, notice is given of a 401 Water Quality Certification Application for work proposed by Maritimes & Northeast Operating Company, LLC , 890 Winter Street, Suite 300, Waltham, MA 02451, for their Phase III Pipeline Alternating Current (“AC”) Mitigation Maintenance Project (“Project”) traversing Bordering Vegetated Wetlands and/or Outstanding Resource Waters (“ORWs”) in Haverhill, Boxford, Middleton, and Danvers, Massachusetts.

The Project will consist of installing AC Mitigation along a portion of the existing Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline Phase III System (“Phase III”) in sections of Haverhill, Boxford, Middleton, and Danvers, Massachusetts. The Phase III pipeline system was constructed in 2001 and 2002, and is approximately 24 miles in length extending from Methuen, Massachusetts and terminating in Salem, Massachusetts. A majority of the Phase III pipeline system shares the utility Right-Of-Way (“ROW”) with New England Power Company’s (National Grid) B-154/C-155 overhead electrical transmission line. In order to maintain the pipeline integrity, additional AC Mitigation must be installed underground and immediately adjacent to the existing pipeline to augment the system already in place. In this case, AC Mitigation consists of installing a buried copper wire and ancillary facilities, including electrical decoupling devices and ground rods, along the Phase III Mainline parallel to the National Grid electric transmission utility line. All work associated with the AC Mitigation will be within the existing maintained, Phase III pipeline 50-foot permanent ROW. As a result, all construction impacts will be temporary; no permanent impacts to these resource areas are anticipated.

The project is subject to the 401 Water Quality Certification Regulations 314 CMR 9.00 as temporary wetland alteration exceeds 5,000 square feet, additionally; one wetland within the Middleton Pond ORW will be temporarily affected by the project. The project is located more than 400-feet from the public water supply source so a variance under 314 CMR 9.06 is not required. No streams or direct tributaries to the ORW areas will be crossed. No certified vernal pools will be directly affected as a result of the Project; the closest certified vernal pool is approximately 75-feet from the pipeline centerline (Danvers) and not within the permanent easement.

Individuals wishing to comment on the above-referenced application are requested to submit comments to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Northeast Region, Wetlands & Waterways Department, 205B Lowell Street, Wilmington, MA 01887, Tel (978) 694-3200 within 21 days of this notice. Any ten persons of the Commonwealth, any aggrieved person, or any governmental body or private organization with a mandate to protect the environment that has submitted written comments may also appeal the Department’s certification. Failure to submit written comments before the end of the public comment period may result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing. All comments provided as relevant information shall be considered. Additional information may be obtained from Kelly Kippenberger, TRC Environmental Corporation, 650 Suffolk Street, Lowell, MA 01854 (978) 656-3582.