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September 21, 2007

CERTIFICATE OF THE SECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
ON THE
ENVIRONMENTAL NOTIFICATION FORM

PROJECT NAME : Natural Gas Pipeline Maintenance Cathodic Groundbed
Protection System
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Westport
PROJECT WATERSHED : Buzzards Bay
EOEA NUMBER : 14094
PROJECT PROPONENT : Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : August 22, 2007

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (G. L., c. 30, ss. 61-62H) and Section 11.06 of the MEPA regulations (301 CMR 11.00), I determine that this project **does not require** the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Project Description

As described in the Environmental Notification Form (ENF), the proposed project entails the installation of an approximately 1,094-linear foot cathodic protection ground bed system adjacent to an existing underground natural gas pipeline system located off Sanford Road in Westport. The proposed ground bed system will include a utility pole, an electric current rectifier mounted on the utility pole, buried cables and a series of anodes connected to the cables. The proposed ground bed system is to be located within and perpendicular to Algonquin's existing permanent easement and connected to Algonquin's existing pipeline system.

MEPA Jurisdiction and Permitting Requirements

The project is undergoing review pursuant to 301 C.M.R. 11.03 (3)(b)(1)(d) of the MEPA regulations, because it will result in temporary impacts to more than 5,000 square feet of Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVWs). The project will require a 401 Water Quality Certification from the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and an Order of Conditions from the Westport Conservation Commission (and hence a Superseding Order from MassDEP if the local Order is appealed). The project will also require a Programmatic General Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE). The proponent is not seeking state funding or financial assistance for the proposed project. MEPA jurisdiction therefore is limited to those aspects of the project within the subject matter of any required or potentially required state permits that have the potential to result in damage to the environment, in this case wetlands.

Review of the ENF


The proponent has filed a Notice of Intent with the Westport Conservation Commission, which has not yet issued its Order of Conditions. In its comments, MassDEP recommends that the proponent provide a project-specific construction sequence, outlining at a minimum, staging areas, linear feet of cable and/or pipeline to be laid in a day, dewatering locations, and the restoration phase, as part of its review of the proponent’s application for a 401 Water Quality Certification.

Conclusion

Based on the information provided by the proponent and consultation with relevant public agencies, I conclude that no further MEPA review is required. The review of the ENF has served adequately to disclose potential impacts and mitigation, and to demonstrate that project impacts do not warrant the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report. The proponent can resolve any remaining issues during the permitting processes.

September 21, 2007

Date



Ian A. Bowles

Comments received:

09/11/07 **Department of Environmental Protection Southeastern Regional Office**

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