

For Office Use Only
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

EOEA No.: 12795
 MEPA Analyst: ANDREA DAMES
 Phone: 617-626-1028

ENF Environmental Notification Form

The information requested on this form must be completed to begin MEPA Review in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, 301 CMR 11.00.

| | | |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| Project Name: Algonquin Gas Transmission Co., Sharon Q-2-8" Lateral and Meter Station | | |
| Street: Canton Street | | |
| Municipality: Sharon | Watershed: Boston Harbor | |
| Universal Tranverse Mercator Coordinates: UTM 19 320642E 4667197N | Latitude: N 42°08'18" Longitude: W 71°10'13" | |
| Estimated commencement date: 8-5-02 | Estimated completion date: 9-5-02 | |
| Approximate cost: | Status of project design: 100 %complete | |
| Proponent: Terry Doyle, Algonquin Gas Transmission Co. | | |
| Street: 1284 Soldiers Field Road | | |
| Municipality: Boston | State: MA | Zip Code: 02135 |
| Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Walter M. Bakowski | | |
| Firm/Agency: Killam Associates Inc. | Street: 8 Goffe Street – PO Box 778 | |
| Municipality: Hadley | State: MA | Zip Code: 01035 |
| Phone: (413) 586-4074 | Fax: (413) 586-6643 | E-mail: wbakowski@killam.com |

- Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)?
 Yes No
- Has this project been filed with MEPA before?
 Yes (EOEA No. _____) No
- Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before?
 Yes (EOEA No. _____) No
- Is this an Expanded ENF (see 301 CMR 11.05(7)) requesting:
- a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8)) Yes No
 - a Special Review Procedure? (see 301CMR 11.09) Yes No
 - a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11) Yes No
 - a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11) Yes No

Identify any financial assistance or land transfer from an agency of the Commonwealth, including the agency name and the amount of funding or land area (in acres): N/A

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?
 Yes (Specify _____) No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals:

- Town of Sharon Conservation Commission – Notice of Intent
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Programmatic General Permit, Category II
- Section 401 Water Quality Certification (MADEP Category BRP WW 10)

Which ENF or EIR review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03):

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare Species | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Air | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid & Hazardous Waste |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACEC | <input type="checkbox"/> Regulations | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical & Archaeological Resources |

| Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts | Existing | Change | Total | State Permits & Approvals |
|--|-----------------|----------------|-------------|--|
| LAND | | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 401 Water Quality Certification <input type="checkbox"/> MHD or MDC Access Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Water Management Act Permit <input type="checkbox"/> New Source Approval <input type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/Extension Permit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Permits <i>(including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharon Wetlands Protection By-law • Sharon Road Crossing Permit |
| Total site acreage | 0.751 acres | | | |
| New acres of land altered | | 0.751 acres | | |
| Acres of impervious area | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration | | 22,636 sq. ft. | | |
| Square feet of new other wetland alteration | | 0 | | |
| Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways | | 0 | | |
| STRUCTURES | | | | |
| Gross square footage [Meter Stn.] | 0 | 0.017 acres | 0.017 acres | |
| Number of housing units | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Maximum height (in feet) | 0 | 9'-10" | 9'-10" | |
| TRANSPORTATION | | | | |
| Vehicle trips per day | 0 [no facility] | <1 | <1 | |
| Parking spaces | 0 [no facility] | 2 | 2 | |
| WATER/WASTEWATER | | | | |
| Gallons/day (GPD) of water use | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| GPD water withdrawal | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| GPD wastewater generation/treatment | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Length of water/sewer mains (in miles) | 0 | 0 | 0 | |

CONSERVATION LAND: Will the project involve the conversion of public parkland or other Article 97 public natural resources to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97?

- Yes (Specify _____) No

Will it involve the release of any conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction, or watershed preservation restriction?

Yes (Specify _____) No

RARE SPECIES: Does the project site include Estimated Habitat of Rare Species, Vernal Pools, Priority Sites of Rare Species, or Exemplary Natural Communities?

Yes (Specify _____) No

HISTORICAL /ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Does the project site include any structure, site or district listed in the State Register of Historic Place or the inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth?

Yes (Specify _____) No

If yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources?

Yes (Specify _____) No

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN: Is the project in or adjacent to an Area of Critical Environmental Concern?

Yes (Specify _____) No

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project description should include (a) a description of the project site, (b) a description of both on-site and off-site alternatives and the impacts associated with each alternative, and (c) potential on-site and off-site mitigation measures for each alternative (*You may attach one additional page, if necessary.*)

The meter station and part of the pipeline will be built in uplands within and outside of the buffer zone (BZ) associated with wetland resource areas traversed by the proposed new pipeline. Short-term, ecologically insignificant impacts to wetland areas, all of which will be minimized during construction and mitigated by full landscape restoration and regeneration of wetland vegetation, will include:

Bank – Disturbance of 1,280 feet (both banks) then 100% revegetation with wetland species

Land Under Water Bodies and Waterways (LUWW) – Disturbance then full topographic, hydrologic, and organic substrate (sediment) restoration of 1,280 s.f. [2 foot wide channel] of low gradient, intermittent and perennial streams

Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW) – Disturbance without filling of 22,636 s.f. of marsh, scrub/shrub, and wooded wetlands, then restoration of topography, hydrology, and soil profile to allow 100% regeneration of wetland vegetation, via unchecked regrowth of flush-cut woody species within 20 feet (width) of the 30 foot wide ROW and segregation/replacement of the wetland topsoil [seed bank] to restore the original native wetland herbaceous flora (marsh) within the central 10 foot ROW corridor

Riverfront Area (RA) – Temporary disturbance will be mitigated by full restoration of 18,045 s.f. of the Inner RA (inclusive of BVW) and 5,420 s.f. of the Outer RA (3.6% of total zone at the site; includes upland and BZ habitats)

There will be no destruction, filling, nor permanent loss of any of the affected wetland resource areas or buffer zone. A small, 10-foot wide portion of the forested wetland within the proposed ROW will be altered floristically, due to the removal of woody vegetation and permanent maintenance as an herbaceous wetland community, which are required for safety reasons to maintain access to and integrity of the pipeline. Despite the temporary, ground-level [flush] cutting of woody vegetation and the permanent conversion to a purely herbaceous wetland plant community within the central one-third (10 foot width) of the new ROW, there will be no net loss of any wetland resource areas and the existing woody and herbaceous vegetation will be allowed to fully regenerate within the remaining two-thirds of the proposed ROW.

There are no feasible alternatives to consider for the siting of the proposed meter station in an upland area adjacent to a railroad and utility corridor that will shield and screen the nearest residential neighborhood from the meter station. The only alternatives that could be considered were the routing of the new 8-inch pipeline from the existing gas pipeline and valve site (located in a wetland) to the meter station site. In addition to the proposed pipeline route, 4 alternative routes were considered, including one that was quickly ruled out due to conflicting land uses (i.e., across developed Temple Sinai property). Proposed Route. This proposed design is the most direct route to connect the meter station to the existing pipeline, offers the highest margin of public safety by avoiding residential neighborhood and other existing utilities that may be a cause for future excavation in proximity to the high pressure gas pipeline. Key considerations that render this the most practicable routing alternative, after applying these criteria to all alternatives discussed at length in the NOI, are that it:

Utilizes an existing valve site in a wetland (to tap into existing pipeline) and minimizes the need for wetlands fill since no additional access roads are required, whereas other 3 options require a new tap site (2 also in wetlands) and new or improved access roads

Minimizes construction and maintenance disturbances to landowners, local traffic (simplest road crossing), and uses the corridor construction concept, thus not hampering future commercial or residential construction in the neighborhood

Does not require a ROW on MBTA property nor directional boring through the railroad embankment [precluded by MBTA policy]

Requires one simple, perpendicular crossing of Canton Street, without requiring that Canton Street be closed completely

As explained in the NOI, all onsite impacts are unavoidable, but have been minimized in the project design and will be fully mitigated.