



MASSWILDLIFE

DIVISION OF FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

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Section 61 Findings Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Gas pipeline looping project – Tennessee Gas Pipeline (TGP) 261B
Conservation and Management Permit 020-357.DFW (321 CMR 10.23)
EEA No. 15879

A Conservation and Management Plan for the above-listed project has been prepared in consultation with the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP), in compliance with applicable performance standards of the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) and implementing regulations. Although the project will result in a Take of the Eastern Box Turtle (*Terrapene carolina*) and Eastern Wormsnake (*Carphophis amoenus*), the project meets the standards for issuance of a Conservation & Management Permit, pursuant to MESA (321 CMR 10.23), and the applicant has taken all feasible measures to avoid and minimize damage to endangered species and their habitat.

The components of the Conservation and Management Permit as drafted in consultation with NHESP staff include:

- (a) protect approximately ± 6.3 acres of the “Dean Property” in perpetuity as open space and State-listed species habitat through an Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs-Division of Conservation Services (“EEA-DCS”) approved Conservation Restriction;
- (b) protect approximately ± 9.1 acres of the “Rear 1000 Suffield Street Property” in perpetuity through an EEA-DCS approved Conservation Restriction. In order to avoid and minimize impacts associated with the Project, the Permit Holder has proposed, by way of the Permit Application, to:
 - (c) have a qualified biologist conduct visual sweeps of work areas according to a Division-approved Rare Species Protection Plan; and
 - (d) construction staff shall be provided information and materials about the likely presence of State-listed species and appropriate responses to any sightings.

Everose Schlüter, Ph.D.
Assistant Director

Date: June 30, 2020

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