Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Office

Environmental Notification Form

For Office Use Only
EEA#: 16273
MEPA Analyst: Anne Canaday

The information requested on this form must be completed in order to submit a document electronically for review under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, 301 CMR 11.00.

Project Name: *Hoosic River Bank Stabilization and Erosion Control Project*		
Street Address: *East of 2 Zylonite Station Road*		
Municipality: *Adams*	Watershed: Major Basin*: Hudson* HUC12 - *Hoosic mainstem- Dry Brook to North Branch*	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: *UTM 18*	Latitude: 42.654179 Longitude: 73.104357	
Estimated commencement date: September 2021	Estimated completion date: March 2022 (STR 1B relocation: September 2021 – November 2021 Sheet pile and biostabilization: September 2021 – March 2022)	
Project Type: *Riverbank Stabilization/Restoration*	Status of project design: 70%complete	
Proponent: *New England Power Company d/b/a National Grid (NEP), Dawn Travalini*		
Street Address: *40 Sylvan Road*		
Municipality: *Waltham*	State: *MA*	Zip Code: *02451*
Name of Contact Person: *Katherine Wilkins*		
Firm/Agency: *Tighe & Bond, Inc.*	Street Address: *53 Southampton Road*	
Municipality: *Westfield*	State: *MA*	Zip Code: *01085*
Phone: *(413) 875-1305*	Fax: *(413) 562-5317*	E-mail: *klwilkins@tighebond.com*

Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)?
☒Yes ☐No

If this is an Expanded Environmental Notification Form (ENF) (see 301 CMR 11.05(7)) or a Notice of Project Change (NPC), are you requesting: Expanded ENF

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

(Note: Greenhouse Gas Emissions analysis must be included in the Expanded ENF.)

Which MEPA review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03)?

301 CMR 11.03(2)(b):2. Greater than two acres of disturbance of designated priority habitat, as defined in 321 CMR 10.02, that results in a take of state-listed endangered or threatened species or species of special concern

301 CMR 11.03(3)(a):1.a. - alteration of one or more acres of salt marsh or bordering vegetating wetlands

301 CMR 11.03 (3)(b): 1.b. – *alteration of 500 or more linear feet of bank along a fish run or inland bank*

301 CMR 11.03 (3)(b): 1.d. alteration of 5,000 or more sf of bordering or isolated vegetated wetlands

301 CMR 11.03(3)(b): 1.e. New fill or structure within regulatory floodway

Which State Agency Permits will the project require?

Individual 401 Water Quality Certification
Conservation and Management Permit
Chapter 91 Dredge Permit

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:

None

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	**Existing**	**Change**	**Total**
LAND			
Total site acreage	4.75 acres - limit of disturbance		
New acres of land altered		2.63 ac (temporary) (including 104,200 sf of construction matting and approximately 10,450 sf for turbidity curtain) 0.11 ac (permanent) (includes 100 sf for Structure 1B and 4,850 sf for crib wall in LUW)	
Acres of impervious area	None	None	None
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		69,250 sf (temporary) 100 sf (permanent)	

Square feet of new other wetland alteration		100,750 sf (temporary) 4,950 sf (permanent)**	
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		None	
STRUCTURES			
Gross square footage	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of housing units	N/A	N/A	N/A
Maximum height (feet)	N/A	N/A	N/A
TRANSPORTATION			
Vehicle trips per day	N/A	N/A	N/A
Parking spaces	N/A	N/A	N/A
WASTEWATER			
Water Use (Gallons per day)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Water withdrawal (GPD)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wastewater generation/treatment (GPD)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Length of water mains (miles)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Length of sewer mains (miles)	N/A	N/A	N/A

Has this project been filed with MEPA before?
☐ Yes (EEA #_____) ☒No

Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before?
☒ Yes (EEA # 15675 _____) ☐No

** Please refer to Section 5.1 of the accompanying ENF narrative for more details.

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION – all proponents must fill out this section

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Describe the existing conditions and land uses on the project site:

The Project Site (i.e. limit of work) consists of an approximately 4.75-acre area located primarily east of 2 Zylonite Station Road in Adams, MA. The majority of the Site is located within the NEP right-of-way (ROW) and a NEP-owned parcel east of the Adams 21 Substation (Substation) off of Zylonite Station Road. The Project is located within two parcels (Parcel 004/227.0-0000-0007.0 and 004/224.0-0000-0009.0) which make up the 80.4-acre Project Locus.

Land uses within the Site include electric utility facilities and agriculture, with vegetated wetlands adjacent to the Hoosic River east of the Substation. The Hoosic River is sinuous at this location and generally flows to the north. Three NEP electric transmission lines (J10, Q117, and E131) run in east-west alignments and connect to the Substation. There are 13 structures (STRs) and poles within 100 feet of the Hoosic River at this location, five of which are susceptible to damage due to their proximity to the river. Four of these structures / poles are located on the west and south side of the river, and one is located on the northeast side of the river as shown in Figure 5 in Appendix A.

Agricultural land borders the Site to the north, east, and south. The Substation and railroad tracks border the Site to the west. West of the Substation, land use includes industrial and residential properties, and transportation corridors. Industrial, residential, and agricultural land use primarily make up the surrounding area. Please see attached narrative for a full description of the existing conditions.

Describe the proposed project and its programmatic and physical elements:

The Hoosic River banks exhibit severe signs of erosion within the Site, including bank undercutting and failure, putting multiple electric transmission line structures and poles at risk of damage or failure. The banks continue to deteriorate, and significant work is required to address bank erosion to protect existing electric infrastructure.

The proposed project has been developed as a safety measure to stabilize the bank for the existing electric transmission infrastructure along the Hoosic River. The bank stabilization involves the installation of biostabilization measures (log crib walls) along the banks at four locations to protect STR 1B, STR 86 / STR P6, STR 85, and STR 179. The use of log structures will not only stabilize the banks and protect structure anchors, but also will provide wildlife and fish habitat as further described in the accompanying narrative Section 3.1.1. In addition to biostabilization, linear sheet piles will be installed to protect STR 86 / P6 and STR 85, and one structure, STR 1B, will be relocated farther away from the river's bank. Please see attached narrative for a full Project description.

In addition, in order to minimize temporary impacts in the Project area, the Project team will conduct maintenance activities on the structures at the same time as the Project. This routine maintenance will include inspections of structural footers and (as needed) maintenance repairs at five steel structures. This routine maintenance work is exempt from MEPA review (301 CMR 11.02) and is described in this EENF for informational purposes only.

NOTE: The project description should summarize both the project's direct and indirect impacts (including construction period impacts) in terms of their magnitude, geographic extent, duration and frequency, and reversibility, as applicable. It should also discuss the infrastructure requirements of the project and the capacity of the municipal and/or regional infrastructure to sustain these requirements into the future.