



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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February 22, 2007

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

PROJECT NAME : Q-169 Transmission Line Refurbishment Project
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Saugus, Revere, and Lynn
PROJECT WATERSHED : Saugus River
EOEA NUMBER : 13900
PROJECT PROPONENT : National Grid
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : October 25, 2006

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 hereby determine that this project **does not require** the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). On November 2, 2006, the proponent requested a Full Waiver from its mandatory EIR review threshold. The Certificate on the ENF is contingent upon the granting of a Full Waiver in the Final Record of Decision (FROD). If a Full Waiver is not granted in the FROD, then the Secretary will reissue the Certificate on the ENF with an EIR scope.

According to the Environmental Notification Form (ENF), the proposed project consists of the refurbishment of the 115 kilovolt (kV) electric line along the existing power line right-of-way (ROW) for a distance of approximately 6.5 miles. The project would be constructed between the Golden Hills Substation in Saugus to the Substation #21 in Lynn. It includes the replacement of the power wires (conductors) and wood pole structures at select locations, and crossarms and hardware as needed. All existing steel poles and towers would be reused. The ROW is approximately 200 feet wide and contains about 160 acres. A portion of the proposed work occurs within the Rumney Marshes Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

The project requires a mandatory EIR pursuant to Sections 11.03(3)(a)(1)(a) of the MEPA regulations because it alters one or more acres of salt marsh. It will require Access Permits from the Massachusetts Highway Department (MassHighway) for crossing Routes 99, 1, and 107. The project will also require Access Permits from the Department of Conservation and Recreation


(DCR) for crossing the Lynn Fells Parkway, the Lynnway, and DCR property (transmission line easement). It may require a crossing approval from the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority. The project may require a Post-Closure Use Permit-Major (BWP SW 36)(for work in RESCO landfill) and a modification to an existing Chapter 91 Waterways License from the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). It may require a Section 10 Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The project will require review for historical/archaeological impacts with the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC). It may require an Order of Conditions from the Saugus Conservation Commission for impacts to wetland resource areas (salt marsh restoration). The project is exempt from filing a Notice of Intent with the Conservation Commissions, MassDEP, and Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) review because it is a replacing an existing electrical transmission line. MEPA jurisdiction is limited to those aspects of the project within the subject matter of state permits and that may have significant environmental impacts (wetlands (salt marsh restoration), waterways, stormwater, traffic, historical/ archaeological issues, and energy).

The project would have affected approximately 11,505 square feet (sf) of Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW) (temporary), but this impacted area has been reduced to about 2,980 sf since the filing of the ENF. The project will also impact approximately 97,445 sf of salt marsh (temporary), and 800 sf of salt marsh (permanent impacts). The proponent is proposing to use swamp mats in wetland resource areas to reduce the impacts from the project. It will provide a salt marsh replication area of approximately 880 sf for permanent impacts to salt marsh. The proponent has committed to contribute \$50,000 to the DCR Conservation Trust for salt marsh restoration in the Rumney Marsh in consideration of the Access Permits to be granted by DCR as well as the temporary use of staging areas on DCR-controlled lands.

The proponent should provide the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) with an Archaeological Site Avoidance and Protection Plan (ASAPP) for the area between poles #37, 38, and 39. This information will assist the proponent in adopting feasible construction techniques to avoid or minimize impacts to the ground surface areas with identified and significant archaeological resources. The proponent should avoid in-water, silt-producing activities in the Saugus River from February 15th through June 30th of any year to protect the passage, spawning, and juvenile development of anadromous fish species.

Based on a review of the information provided by the proponent, a review of the comment letters, and after consultation with the relevant public agencies, I find that the potential impacts of this project do not warrant the preparation of an EIR.

February 22, 2006
Date


Ian A. Bowles

EOEA #13900

ENF Certificate

February 22, 2007

cc: Nancy Baker, MassDEP/NERO

Comments received:

DCR, 10/31/06
VHB, 11/2/06
EOEA, 11/7/06
MHC, 11/8/06
MA Div. of Marine Fisheries, 11/14/06
EOT, 11/17/06
VHB, 11/20/06
VHB, 12/1/06
VHB, 12/6/06
DCR, 12/12/06
VHB, 12/12/06
MassDEP/NERO, 12/12/06
National Grid, 12/15/06
National Grid, 12/18/06
VHB, 12/19/06
National Grid, 1/11/07
MHC, 1/11/07
DCR, 1/23/07
National Grid, 1/26/07
National Grid, 1/26/07
National Grid, 1/26/07
DCR, 1/26/07
VHB, 2/9/07
National Grid, 2/13/07
DCR, 2/12/07
MassDEP/NERO, 2/12/07

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