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December 12, 2007

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CERTIFICATE OF THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
 ON THE  
 NOTICE OF PROJECT CHANGE

PROJECT NAME : MGP Property Remediation Project at Collins Cove  
 PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : 20 Pierce Avenue – Salem  
 PROJECT WATERSHED : North Shore  
 EOE A NUMBER : 13541  
 PROJECT PROPONENT : Massachusetts Electric Co. d/b/a National Grid  
 DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : November 12, 2007

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (G. L. c. 30, ss. 61-62H) and Section 11.10 of the MEPA regulations (301 CMR 11.00), I have reviewed the Notice of Project Change (NPC) submitted for this project and determine that it **does not require** the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

The project originally consisted of the installation of a multi-layer cap that included the placement of a geotextile material over the existing beach fill materials and the placement of a riprap layer over the geotextile layer. This capping would restrict the transport of surface material from the beach, isolating the contaminated sediment and debris from the waters of Collins Cove. The riprap layer would stabilize the beach area, protect the geotextile material from wave action, and prevent erosion by providing improved armor for the coastal beach. All work would be conducted at the lower end of the tide-cycle to minimize impacts to water quality. The cap would extend from the toe of the coastal beach to the top of the coastal bank. The cap would be 100 feet wide at the southern end and extend about 940 feet north along the beach. The cap size would vary in width depending on the beach width. The project site is approximately 20.7 acres. On June 24, 2005, the Secretary determined that the proposed project did not require an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

On April 18, 2006, the proponent submitted an NPC. The project consisted of reducing the size of the proposed containment cap to 47,500 sf, and incorporating additional remedial actions including dredging the removal of approximately 7,800 cubic yards of sediment containing non-aqueous phase liquid (NAPL) from 70,300 sf of tidal flats, and dredging an

additional 700 cubic yards for a trench at the toe of the beach cap to accommodate absorbent material for collecting NAPL. The purpose of the project is to eliminate NAPL, which is a substantial hazard under the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP) from the upper one-foot of the intertidal flat sediment. The installation of an engineered cap on the coastal beach, dredging and offsite disposal of the tidal flat sediment comprise the selected Comprehensive Remedial Action (CRA) for the marine portion of the project site. The implementation of the selected CRA will result in a Temporary Solution (Response Action Outcome C (RAO-C)) for the coastal beach and a Permanent Solution (RAO-A) for the tidal sediment. On May 26, 2006, the Secretary determined that the changes to the project did not require the preparation of an EIR.

The proponent submitted an NPC on October 31, 2007. It is proposing to remove approximately 100 cubic yards of additional sediment material from the tidal flats. This sediment contains residual oil/tar discovered during the remediation activities from the 2006 NPC. The additional sediment is being removed because small sheens have been observed on the surface of the sediment during the post-construction period. The small sheens have been observed to appear sporadically in a localized area near the northern end of the remediated coastal beach area. The proponent is proposing to access the work area via temporary timber mats placed along 150-200 feet of the shoreline and a temporary stone construction ramp will be constructed to connect the work areas to the existing access roadway. The dredged material will be placed in dewatering roll-off boxes and then transported offsite to a thermal desorption facility or landfill. The dredged area will be backfilled with clean fill to restore the bathymetric contours. All work will be completed near the time of low tide. No work will be performed while the area is submerged. The dredged area will be backfilled before the incoming tide submerges the area each day.

The proponent is seeking amendments or updates to the following permits: Order of Conditions; Chapter 91 Waterways License No. 10899; an Army Core of Engineers (ACOE) NAE-2005-2431 Programmatic General Permit; and the 401 Water Quality Certificate Transmittal No. W078058 from the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP).

According to the proponent, the project change would affect the following wetland resource areas: approximately 16 linear feet of Coastal Bank, 4,500 sf Coastal Beach (tidal flats) by dredging, and 3,580 sf of Coastal Beach by access fill. The proposed impacts are temporary in nature and will result in an environmental benefit by removing undesirable material from the Intertidal sediment. The work would commence in mid or late December of 2007. The dredging and backfilling are expected to be completed within two to three days.

The project's impacts to wetland resource areas can be adequately addressed during the MassDEP and other permitting processes. Based on a review of the information provided by the proponent and after consultation with relevant public agencies, I find that the potential impacts

of this project change do not warrant the preparation of an EIR and can be properly addressed in the federal, state, and local permitting processes.

December 12, 2007  
Date



Ian A. Bowles

No comments received:

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