

*For Office Use Only*  
*Executive Office of Environmental Affairs*  
 EOE No.: 14236  
 MEPA Analyst: Beriony Angus  
 Phone: 617-626-1029

# 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: SHELD Electrical Utility Expansion		
Street: Brainerd Road to the Pine Street Substation		
Municipality: South Hadley	Watershed: Connecticut	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 4679847, 699302	Latitude: 42.14.41 N	Longitude: 72.34.56 W
Estimated commencement date: October 2008	Estimated completion date: April 2009	
Approximate cost: \$500,000	Status of project design: 80	%complete
Proponent: Wayne Doerpholz, Manager, South Hadley Electric Light Department		
Street: 85 Main Street		
Municipality: South Hadley	State: MA	Zip Code: 07075
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Frank Postma		
Firm/Agency: LFR, Inc	Street: 300 Metro Center Blvd, Suite 250	
Municipality: Warwick	State: RI	Zip Code: 02886
Phone: (401) 738-3887	Fax: (401) 732-1686	E-mail: frank.postma@lfr.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 301 CMR 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): None

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?

Yes (Specify US Army Corps of Engineers and Mass DEP)  No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: Cons Com NOI – pending; US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Individual Permit – pending; MassDEP 410 Water Quality Certification – Waiver Requester

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

- |                                 |  |  |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land   | <input checked="" 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
<b>LAND</b>				<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>  <u>US Army Corps of Engineers Individual Permit</u>
Total site acreage	6.28			
New acres of land altered		3.23		
Acres of impervious area	.000505	0.000183	.000688	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		58,858		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		5,700		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0		
<b>STRUCTURES</b>				
Gross square footage	22	8	30	
Number of housing units	0	0	0	
Maximum height (in feet)	46	20	66	
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>				
Vehicle trips per day	0	0	0	
Parking spaces	0	0	0	
<b>WATER/WASTEWATER</b>				
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: Estimated Habitat of Rare Species)     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 project will expand the existing electrical right of way to a consistent width of 100 feet and upgrade the existing electrical transmission line in response to the increasing demand for power from residential commercial and industrial clients and decreasing reliability of the current single electrical transmission line. The current right of way begins at Brainerd Street near the intersection with Route 116 and runs northwest within the flood plain of Stony Brook. The right of way turns west until its terminus at the Pine Shed Substation. The new wetland and estimated habitat area to be disturbed is 1.16 acres. The impacts to the area would be the conversion of approximately 1.16 acres of red maple swamp to a shrub and herbaceous wetland. SHELD is proposing to mitigate the impacts of the red maple swamp conversion by the removal of invasive species (multiflora rose and oriental bittersweet) and re-establishment of native plant communities throughout the 3.2 acres of wetland within the utility right of way.

The alternative examined included: the continued use of the existing utility line configuration; relocation of the utility line directly from Route 116 directly west to the Pine Shed Sub Station; and installing the utility lines in new or existing underground conduit banks along Pine Street. The status quo alternative would not accommodate the existing or projected expansion of power needs for the area but would cause no impact to the area. No mitigation measures would be needed for this alternative.

Relocation of the utility line would require the installation of an additional underground conduit bank from Brainerd Street to the proposed new right of way at a cost of approximately \$1.1 million, and disturbing approximately 39,000 sq. ft. of estimated priority habitat and wetland more than the selected alternative. The USACE requires a minimum 4:1 replication of maple swamp disturbance which would require the purchase of approximately 4.4 acres of land elsewhere in South Hadley and securing a conservation easement for that land.

The installation of additional utility lines within the existing conduit bank that runs from Brainerd Street to the Pine Shed Substation would place all of the areas electrical service within one conduit bank making the system extremely susceptible to a complete shut down in the event of a manhole fire or other catastrophic event along the underground conduits. The construction of a new electrical conduit bank to parallel the existing conduit bank is space constrained by the existing conduit bank, a sewer main, a water main and a proposed high pressure natural gas line. Additionally, the cost of the new conduit bank was estimated by SHELD at approximately \$2 million. However, there would be no impacts to the resource area or estimated priority habitat by employing this alternative.

Please see the attached Expanded Environmental Notification proposal for additional information.