

ENF Environmental Notification Form

For Office Use Only
 Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
 EOEA No.: 14299
 MEPA Analyst: Aisling Eglinton
 Phone: 617-626-1024

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: Lower Riverside Park		
Street: Main Street		
Municipality: South Hadley	Watershed: Connecticut	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:	Latitude: 42° 12' 52.41" Longitude: 72° 36' 0.70"	
Estimated commencement date: 10/01/08	Estimated completion date: 12/01/08	
Approximate cost: \$250,000	Status of project design: 90 %complete	
Proponent: Holyoke Gas & Electric Department		
Street: 99 Suffolk Street		
Municipality: Holyoke	State: MA	Zip Code: 01040
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Michael R. Gagnon, P.E.		
Firm/Agency: Fuss & O'Neill, Inc.	Street: 78 Interstate Drive	
Municipality: West Springfield	State: MA	Zip Code: 01089
Phone: (413) 452-0445	Fax: (413) 846-0497	E-mail: mgagnon@fando.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): N/A

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

Yes (Specify _____) No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: Notice of Intent – Order of Conditions, Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Review, MA Historical Commission Review

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

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land | <input 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
LAND				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License <input 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 (including Legislative Approvals) – Specify: <u>MA Dept of Agricultural Resources VMP/YOP</u> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Total site acreage	8.4			
New acres of land altered		1.5		
Acres of impervious area	0	+0.1	0.1	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		65,700 (Riverfront Area)		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0		
STRUCTURES				
Gross square footage	N/A			
Number of housing units	N/A			
Maximum height (in feet)	N/A			
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day	N/A			
Parking spaces	0	+2 (ADA)	2	
WASTEWATER				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	N/A			
GPD water withdrawal	N/A			
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	N/A			
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	N/A			

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 (SEE ATTACHMENT F) 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 (SEE ATTACHMENT G) 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.)

A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Holyoke Gas & Electric (HG&E) intends to construct a recreational park on a site located along the Connecticut River in the Town of South Hadley just below the Holyoke Dam. The site is bordered by the former Texon building site to the west and the Route 116 Bridge to the east. A site locus map is provided in Attachment A. The site is located behind the South Hadley municipal parking lot on Main Street. A single gravel drive provides access into the site from the north and crosses over a culvert that drains the historic canal area to Buttery Brook to the east. The high point of the site is located just beyond the entrance. From here, topography slopes down to the river and towards the west. A steep embankment runs along the river with a stone masonry retaining wall at the river's edge to the tailrace at the southwest corner of the site. Several existing gravel paths meander through the site and down to the river. Much of the site is overgrown with vegetation with remnants of brick and other building debris scattered about the site. An existing conditions plan of the site is included in Attachment B.

During the 1800's, the site contained an industrial complex which was demolished after a fire sometime during the early 1900's. The site also includes the historic South Hadley canal system constructed during the 1700's to navigate boat traffic around South Hadley Falls. Remains of the canal walls are still clearly visible and a viewing platform is proposed as part of this project to allow visitors to view the former canal area. Correspondence by Massachusetts Historical Commission is provided in Attachment G.

The proposed project includes improvements to the access drive into the site. A bituminous concrete access drive will follow the existing gravel drive from the municipal parking area to the park entrance with two ADA parking spaces. A gate and fencing will be constructed at the entrance to control access and for security purposes. Three stone dust paths will be constructed and generally be aligned along the alignment of the existing gravel paths leading to the canal viewing platform, picnic areas and riverfront area. The easterly path will be constructed with a turnaround at the end for access by municipal public safety vehicles. Ornamental fencing will be placed along the existing stone masonry wall adjacent to the Connecticut River to the historic tailrace area. Other improvements will include the

construction of the canal viewing platform as previously mentioned herein and interpretive signage.

Extensive landscaping improvements are proposed not only for aesthetical reasons but to restore many of the open areas currently barren of topsoil and vegetation in the areas of post development. A comprehensive vegetation management plan is included to eradicate invasive plant species and promote growth of native plants. The park will be included in the HG&E Yearly Operational Plan (YOP) for the ongoing maintenance of invasive plant species. Landscaping drawings and the vegetation management plan is included in Attachment C.

B. ALTERNATIVES

The overall project master plan includes Lower Riverside Park, Gatehouse Park and the former Texon Building site. However, the current phase under consideration only includes the improvements associated with Lower Riverside Park, given the uncertainty of the disposition of the Texon Building site. The current Order of Conditions only addresses this phase of the overall project.

To date, this project has undergone extensive review by the Town of South Hadley and other State Agencies as referenced herein. The Town of South Hadley Intervener Status Committee provided input on the alternatives and concepts considered during the design process. Otherwise, no other alternatives were considered given the environmental constraints associated with this project generally limit the improvements shown.

C. MITIGATION MEASURES

Mitigation measures associated with this project include the following:

- Erosion and sedimentation control measures will be required during construction as shown on the project drawings.
- Pursuant to the NHESP Order of Conditions, a certified biologist must be available to insure protection of endangered species habitat during construction of the park.
- Invasive plant species will be eradicated in several areas as shown on the landscape drawings. Ongoing maintenance of invasive plant species in public areas will be address by the ongoing vegetation management plan in the YOP.
- Other conditions associated with this project include the requirements contained in HG&E's FERC License (FERC Lic. Proj. No. 2004) and DEP's 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) conditions under the Buffer Zone and Riparian Management Plan. This WQC is not directly related to Lower Riverside Park improvements but is part of the overall FERC Licensing requirements.