



CAPE COD COMMISSION

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Date: December 19, 1991

To: ~~Algonquin Gas Transmission Company~~
1284 soldiers Field Road
Boston, Massachusetts 02135

From: Cape Cod Commission

Re: Development of Regional Impact Exemption

Project #: TR91077

Project: G-8 System 5.5 Mile Natural Gas Replacement Loop

Decision of the Cape Cod Commission

Summary

The Cape Cod Commission (Commission) hereby approves the application of the Algonquin Gas Transmission company for a Development of Regional Impact (DRI) exemption under section 12 (k) of the Cape Cod Commission Act (Act), c. 716 of the Acts of 1989, as amended, for the construction of natural gas pipeline replacement loop with approximately 2,275 linear feet located in Bourne, Ma. The decision is rendered pursuant to the vote of the Commission on December 19, 1991.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project consists of a 5.5 mile natural gas transmission pipeline passing through the towns of Plymouth, Wareham, and Bourne. Approximately 2,275 linear feet of 6" pipe will be removed from the Bourne section of the line and 1,750 linear feet of 20" pipeline will be installed adjacent to a right of way (row) currently used by Commonwealth Electric. The 20" pipe will be installed at a depth of 3' below grade with construction equipment operating entirely within a temporary 20' workspace and existing row. The entire project is expected to take approximately 10 weeks to complete with the Bourne section of pipe construction taking between 1 week to 10 days.

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The purpose of the new pipeline will be to increase capacity and reduce repetitive sections of the line. Essentially, the applicant states that this pipeline upgrade will enhance gas supplies to the area.

The final EIR for this project has been certified by the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs as complete and in compliance with the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). Staff's examination of the information submitted by the applicant has not indicated any adverse impacts to the area within the Commission's jurisdiction.

Procedural History/Jurisdiction

This project required Cape Cod Commission review pursuant to section 12 (i) and 13 (b) of the Cape Cod Commission Act. Under the Act, only that section of the pipe relocation that lay within Barnstable County was reviewed. The Cape Cod Commission subcommittee held a public hearing on October 23, 1991, at 2:30 p.m., at the Bourne Town Hall, in Bourne, Ma. for the Development of Regional Impact (DRI) Algonquin Natural Gas Pipeline G-8 Replacement. The purpose of this hearing was to open and continue the hearing process to a later date, without taking public testimony. A second hearing was held on November 18, 1991, at 2:30 p.m. at the Bourne Town Hall and again, the hearing was continued without testimony. On November 19, 1991 the subcommittee reviewing the project continued the hearing at 2:30 p.m. at the Bourne Town Hall, with the applicant and Cape Cod Commission staff present to offer testimony considering the project for a DRI Exemption. The final hearing was held on December 5, 1991 at the Cape Cod Commission Offices in Barnstable, Ma., where both the hearing and the record were closed.

Materials Submitted for the Record

Applicant's submittals

1. Algonquin Gas Public Relations and Safety Packet, November 15, 1991
2. Development of Regional Impact Exemption Application, October 22, 1991
3. Bourne Order of Conditions, October 22, 1991
4. Bourne Notice of Intent, HMM Associates, October 22, 1991
5. Letter from Algonquin Gas Transmission Co. submission of DRI application, October 22, 1991
6. Final Environmental Impact Report, HMM Associates, Inc., July 31, 1991

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Plan Submittals

1. Color Topographic map showing the pipeline route, received in hand, November 19, 1991

Staff Reports/Correspondence

1. Letter designating the project as a DRI, September 27, 1991
2. Hearing Notice, October 6, 1991
3. Hearing Notice, November 2, 1991
4. Letter to Algonquin Gas Co. discussing legal notice, November 15, 1991
5. Staff Report, November 15, 1991
6. Subcommittee Report, December 11, 1991

Findings

The Commission has considered the application of the Algonquin Gas Transmission Co., for the proposed Natural Gas G-8 System Replacement Loop, DRI Exemption and based on consideration of such application and upon the information presented at the public hearings and meetings makes the following findings pursuant to section 12 and 13 of the Act:

1. The area of pipeline construction within the jurisdiction of the Cape Cod Commission comprises approximately 6 acres in total, and a linear distance of approximately 1/4 mile.
2. The proposed project has received an extensive and thorough review by the MEPA unit and has been issued a certificate of compliance for the final EIR.
3. The limit of construction within Commission jurisdiction lies entirely within the town of Bourne.
4. The applicant has minimized the impact to sensitive environmental areas including a wetland area in Bourne by diverting the pipeline route to avoid direct contact with the wetland and buffer area.
5. The applicant is using reasonable caution and approved erosion control and sedimentation control techniques to minimize impacts to surrounding areas during construction phases.
6. The applicant is using approved revegetation techniques to restore the construction area during the post construction phase.
7. Total construction time for the Bourne section of the project will take

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between 1 week and 10 days.

8. The project as proposed will increase the capacity and efficiency of the natural gas supplies to Cape Cod.

9. An Order of Conditions from the Bourne Conservation Commission has been issued and the applicant will be in full compliance with this order.

10. There are no rare or endangered species, or significant archaeological sites in the area of construction.

11. Algonquin Gas Transmission Co. will have an environmental inspector on the project site, during construction and gas line replacement, with the authority to stop work should a problem occur.

Conclusion

The subcommittee finds that the project as proposed will be constructed using approved techniques and that reasonable methods will be utilized to restore the affected area as quickly as possible. In addition the project will increase the capacity of natural gas to Cape Cod residents as well as enhancing the efficiency of the system. Therefore, the Cape Cod Commission hereby approves a DRI Exemption for the Algonquin Gas Transmission Co. G-8 Replacement Loop because the location, character and environmental effects of the development will prevent its having any significant impacts on the values and purposes protected by this act outside of the municipality in which the development is to be located.



Richard S. Armstrong, Chair

12/19/91
Date

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Barnstable, ss.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of Dec 1991



NAME, Notary

My Commission Expires:

My Commission Expires December 3, 1992

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