PUBLIC NOTICE

US Army Corps
of Engineers
New York District
Jacob K. Javits Federal Building
26 Federal Plaza
New York, N.Y. 10278-0090
ATTN: Regulatory Branch

In replying refer to:
Public Notice Number: NAN-2014-00402-EYA
Issue Date: August 14, 2014
Expiration Date: September 29, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

The New York District, Corps of Engineers has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

APPLICANT: Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC - Terry Doyle
C/o Mike Tyrrell
Spectra Energy Partners, LP
890 Winter Street, Suite 300
Waltham, MA 02451

ACTIVITY: Algonquin Incremental Market Project (AIM): Install new and expand existing natural gas transmission pipelines and associated facilities

WATERWAY: Hudson River, Minisceongo Creek, Cedar Pond Brook, Dickey Brook and various unnamed stream and wetlands

LOCATION: Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester County, New York

A detailed description and plans of the applicant's activity are enclosed to assist in your review.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is the lead Federal agency for this project and is reviewing this project under Docket No. CP14-96. As the lead agency, FERC has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Assessment (DEIS) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The DEIS includes a review under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531); the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act (Public Law 104-267); Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA); Section 307 (c) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 as amended [16 U.S.C. 1456 (c), and other applicable federal regulations.

The DEIS is anticipated to be issued by FERC on August 6, 2014 and published in the federal register on August 15, 2014. The document with accompanying instructions for submitting comments would be available at FERC's website (http://www.ferc.gov <http://www.ferc.gov>). Go to "Documents & Filings" and using the "eLibrary" link, select "General Search" from the eLibrary menu, enter the selected date range and the FERC "Docket No. (i.e., CP14-96)", and follow the instructions. For assistance, call 1-866-208-3676, or by e-mail at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov <mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov>.

FERC will hold one public comment meeting on the DEIS for the proposed AIM Project within New York State. The New York District Corps of Engineers will participate in the public comment meeting to gather information on the proposal to assist in our review of the permit application for the proposed activity.

PLEASE USE THE 18-CHARACTER FILE NUMBER ON ALL CORRESPONDENCE

The date and location of the public meeting in New York State is as follows:

- September 15, 2014, 6:30pm
  Muriel H. Morabito Community Center
  29 Westbrook Drive
  Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567
  (914) 739-5845

The AIM project also includes work within Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts under the regulatory boundary of the New England District Corps of Engineers and will be process by New England District under application number NAE-2013-01233. FERC will hold public comment meetings on the DEIS for the proposed AIM Project within Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The New England District Corps of Engineers will participate in the public comment meetings to gather information on the proposal to assist in their review of the permit application for the proposed activity. The dates and locations of the public meetings in Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts are as follows:

- September 8, 2014 Dedham, MA
- September 9, 2014 Norwich, CT
- September 10, 2014 Danbury, CT
- September 16, 2014 TBD, RI

For more information on the project activities within the regulatory boundary of New England District Corps of Engineers, please contact Cori Rose at cori.m.rose@usace.army.mil.

The United States Army Corps of Engineers neither favors nor opposes the proposed construction work. The purpose of this public notice is to announce that the Corps of Engineers would participate in the FERC public comment meetings to receive and consider public comments on the material matters at issue with respect to activities regulated by the Corps.

The decision whether to issue a permit would be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision would reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal would be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received would be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public

interest of the proposed activity.

ALL COMMENTS REGARDING THE PERMIT APPLICATION MUST BE PREPARED IN WRITING AND MAILED TO REACH THIS OFFICE BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE OF THIS NOTICE, otherwise, it would be presumed that there are no objections to the activity. Comments provided would become a part of the public record for this action.

Reviews of activities pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act would include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404 (b) of the Clean Water Act and the applicant would obtain a water quality certificate or waiver from the appropriate state agency in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act prior to a permit decision.

In addition to any required water quality certificate and coastal zone management program concurrence, the applicant has obtained or requested the following governmental authorization for the activity under consideration:

- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

In order for us to better serve you, please complete our Customer Service Survey located at: http://www.nan.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/CustomerSurvey.aspx

It is requested that you communicate the foregoing information concerning the activity to any persons known by you to be interested and who did not receive a copy of this notice. If you have any questions concerning this application, you may contact this office at (917) 790 - 8092 and ask for Jun Yan.

For more information on New York District Corps of Engineers programs, visit our website at http://www.nan.usace.army.mil

for
Jodi M. McDonald
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Enclosures

WORK DESCRIPTION

The applicant, Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC., a company within Spectra Energy Partners, LP, has requested Department of the Army authorization for the Algonquin Incremental Market Project (AIM) to install new and expand existing natural gas transmission pipelines and associated facilities. Work regulated by the Corps of Engineers includes waterway crossings and the placement of fill in wetlands and waterways along the proposed natural gas pipeline route. Within New York State, the project would cross the Hudson River, Minisceongo Creek, Cedar Pond Brook, Dickey Brook and various unnamed stream and wetlands in Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester County.

The work, within New York State, would involve the following:

Installation of approximately 15.7 miles of 42-inch diameter natural gas pipeline, of which approximately 12.8 miles of the pipeline would replace the existing pipeline within existing pipeline right-of-way (ROW) and approximately 2.9 miles would be new pipeline installed within new pipeline (ROW). Between the Town of Stony Point and Town of Buchanan, approximately 0.7 miles of proposed natural gas pipeline would be installed by Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD) under the Hudson River. Please see Attachment 1 for the HDD Plan and Profile Drawing. Please Attachment 2 for AIM Project route map.

The AIM Project would cross a total of 77 wetlands and 34 waterways. It would place approximately 16,791 cubic yards of fill over 24 acres of wetland and 1.35 acres of open water during pipeline trenching and construction activities. Please see Attachment 3 for the Wetland and Waterway Crossing Drawings.

Construction Procedures:

Wetland Crossings

In general, clearing of vegetation would be minimized for construction of the project since existing pipeline ROWs, roadways, utility ROWs, and other industrial and commercial sites would be used for a significant portion of the construction ROW. Clearing of vegetation in wetlands would be limited to trees and shrubs, which would be cut flush with the surface of the ground and removed from the wetland. To avoid excessive disruption of wetland soils and the native seed and rootstock within the wetland soils, stump removal would be limited to the area immediately over the trench line. Following clearing, sediment barriers would be installed along wetland boundaries within the ROW and along limits of the ROW upslope of wetlands immediately after initial ground disturbance. All sediment barriers would be maintained during construction and repaired as necessary until permanent erosion controls or restoration of adjacent upland areas is complete. If trench dewatering is necessary in wetlands, the trench water would be discharged into stable, vegetated, upland areas and/or filtered through a filter bag or siltation barrier. No heavily silt-laden water would be allowed to flow into a wetland.

Construction methods would minimize the extent and time that construction equipment operates in wetland areas. The pipeline trench would be excavated across the wetland by

equipment supported on wooden swamp mats to minimize the disturbance to wetland soils. The top 12 inches of wetland soil over the trench line would be segregated. Trench spoil would be temporarily piled in a ridge along the pipeline trench. Gaps in the spoil pile would be left at appropriate intervals to provide for natural circulation or drainage of water. If dry conditions exist within the wetland, the pipe fabrication would occur in the wetland. For inundated or saturated wetland conditions, pipe strings would be fabricated on one bank and either pulled across the excavated trench in the wetland, floated across the wetland, or carried into place and submerged into the trench. After the pipeline is lowered into the trench, wide track bulldozers or backhoes supported on swamp mats would be used for backfill. Where topsoil has been segregated from subsoil, the subsoil would be backfilled first followed by the topsoil. Restoration of contours would be accomplished during backfilling. Prior to backfilling, trench plugs would be installed where necessary to prevent the subsurface drainage of water from wetlands. Equipment mats, terra mats, and timber riprap would be removed from wetlands following backfilling. Where wetlands are located at the base of slopes, permanent interceptor dikes and trench plugs would be installed in upland areas adjacent to the wetland boundary. Temporary sediment barriers would be installed where necessary until re-vegetation of adjacent upland areas is successful.

Waterway Crossings
The proposed project would cross Minisceongo Creek, Cedar Pond Brook, Hudson River, Dickey Brook and various unnamed streams and tributaries.

Dry River Crossing
The dry crossing method would be used to install AIM Project pipeline at all waterway crossing locations if there is flowing water at the time of construction, with exception of the Hudson River HDD crossing. The dry crossing method would involve installation of a flume pipes and/or dam & pump to divert the stream flow over the construction area and allow trenching of the stream crossing in drier conditions isolated from the stream flow. Spoil removed during the trenching would be stored away from the water's edge and protected by sediment containment structures. Pipe strings would be fabricated on one bank and either pulled across the stream bottom to the opposite bank, or carried into place and lowered into the trench.

Horizontal Directional Drill
At the Hudson River crossing, the applicant anticipates utilizing the intersect method HDD. The intersect method involves drilling the pilot hole from both sides of the waterway and intersecting in the middle. Enlarging the pilot hole is an incremental process accomplished with one to several reaming passes, depending upon the proposed pipeline diameter and the subsurface geology. Once reaming is completed, the prefabricated pipeline is attached to the drill string at the exit point, and drawn back toward the drilling rig at the entry location. The drilling process utilizes a drilling fluid comprised of a water and bentonite clay mixture.

Drilling and Blasting at Waterways
Some limited blasting may be required at stream crossings with shallow bedrock to

increase the depth and width of the existing trenches to accommodate the larger diameter pipeline. Using soil data and field surveys, the applicant provided three unnamed tributaries (UNT) in New York with shallow bedrock that may require blasting during construction. These UNT are listed below in following table.

Waterbody Crossings in New York That May Require Blasting During Construction					
Stream name	**Stream ID**	**MP**	**Crossing Width (Feet)**	**Soil type**	**Depth to bedrock (Inches)**
Stony Point to Yorktown Take-up & Relay					
UNT to Cedar Pond Brook	A13-SPLR-S1	0.37	25	Charlton-Rock outcrop complex	0
UNT to Dickey Brook	B13-SPLR-S7	6.66	3	Chatfield-Hollis-Rock outcrop complex	20
UNT to Furnace Brook	B13-SPLR-S13	7.62	2	Chatfield-Hollis-Rock outcrop complex	20

In order to identify the need for drilling or blasting at these locations and others throughout the Project area, the trench crew would drill and/or probe the stream banks to determine if rock would be encountered during construction. Should these test holes identify the need for blasting, the ditch crew would prepare the trench line for blasting. When blasting is complete, the mainline tie-in crews would then excavate the trench, install the pipeline, and restore the area.

Impacts:

Impacts to waters of the United States consist of the following:

- Placement of fill would convert approximately 0.83 acres of forested (PFO) wetland into emergent/shrub-shrub wetlands.
- Placement of fill would temporarily impact approximately 6.29 acres of forested (PFO) wetland and approximately 16.88 acres of emergent/shrub-shrub (PEM/PSS) wetland.
- Placement of fill would temporarily impact approximately 1.35 acres of open water.

Please see Attachment 4 for the Wetland Impacts Table.

Mitigation:

On-site restoration for temporarily impacted PEM/PSS wetlands would include restoration of approximately 16.88 acres of PEM/PSS wetland. Within 6 working days of restoration of substrate, weather condition permitting, palustrine non-tidal wetlands will typically be seeded with annual ryegrass at a rate of 40 pounds per acre. The use of annual ryegrass in restoration is recommended by FERC and the National Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) and has been shown to effectively stabilize the site and serve as a

nursery crop as the indigenous wetland vegetation reestablishes itself. The ryegrass quickly looses vigor after the first growing season and allows re-vegetation by native wetland plant species. Additionally, Algonquin would conduct post-construction maintenance and monitoring of the ROW in affected wetlands to assess the success of restoration and re-vegetation. Monitoring efforts would include documenting occurrences of exotic invasive species to compare to pre-construction conditions.

On-site restoration for temporarily impacted PFO wetlands would include restoration of approximately 6.29 acres of PFO wetland located in temporary work space (TWS) outside the permanent pipeline ROW. Restoration would include re-planting efforts, as necessary, combined with invasive species control and post planting monitoring. Plant species that readily re-sprout from stumpage (*e.g.,* red maple) would be allowed to grow in place. Where construction has removed stumps or where re-sprouting does not appear feasible, a plan would be initiated to re-establish the PFO to a similar species composition and density as existed prior to construction. Native, locally-sourced plant materials would be used. All trees plantings would be potted nursery stock, at least 24-inches tall. To reduce competition from weedy species, each planted tree would be surrounded with a thick, organic mulch layer, at least four inches thick and with a radius of at least four-feet centered on the plant. Rodent guards would be placed around each tree, to a height of at least 12 inches above the ground.

On-site restoration for stream crossings would re-establish the original stream bed and bank contours, and mulch, jute thatching, or bonded fiber blankets would be installed on the stream banks to prevent erosion and encourage reestablishment of vegetation cover. Disturbed riparian areas would be re-vegetated with conservation grasses and legumes in accordance with the recommended Upland Seed Mix. Where necessary, slope breakers (i.e., interceptor dikes) would be installed adjacent to stream banks to minimize the potential for erosion. Temporary sediment barriers, such as silt fence or straw bales, would be maintained across the ROW until a permanent vegetation cover is established.

The applicant has offered several offsite mitigation locations to compensate for the 0.83 forested wetland conversions. Please see the Attachment 5 for the "Yorktown Preliminary Mitigation Opportunity Sites Overview Map" and a table describing the potential offsite mitigation sites. Algonquin proposes to use the approximately 7.9-acre Mill Pond sites as the preferred alternative site for off-site compensatory mitigation. Due to the potential for unforeseen constraints, the applicant is also concurrently proposing two alternative mitigation sites in case the Mill Pond Site does not prove feasible.

Purpose

The stated purpose of this AIM Project is the expansion of Algonquin's existing pipeline system from Mahwah, NJ and Ramapo, NY to deliver up to 342,000 dekatherms per day of natural gas transportation service to the Connecticut and Massachusetts markets.

ATTACHMENTS
NAN-2014-00402-EYA
Algonquin Incremental Market Project (AIM)

Attachment 1 - HDD Plan and Profile Drawing

Attachment 2 - AIM Project route map

Attachment 3 - Wetland and Waterway Crossing Drawings

Attachment 4 - Wetland Impacts Table.

Attachment 5 - Yorktown Preliminary Mitigation Opportunity Sites Overview Map and a table describing the potential offsite mitigation sites.