

Stormwater questions

1. Require increased adherence to MASS Stormwater Standards in resource areas. Demonstrate effort to include more stormwater maintenance features and O&M plan
2. Require to meet Stormwater Standard 3 more completely to provide additional groundwater recharge in Zone II wellhead protection areas. Can disturbed areas within MBTA ROW near Chestnut Well accommodate small infiltration basins?
2. Require additional TSS removal by VP1, Fort Meadow Brook, Stream 1 and Stream 3.
3. Require draft SWPP for review

Wildlife Habitat Questions

1. SVT has maintained/created rarer plant communities (Pitch pine-Oak woodland, pitch pine-scrub oak and scrub oak shrubland). Could management of the ROW replicate these efforts at additional sites to help expand these communities, through tree removal and girdling, and planting/promotion of these target species?
2. Create turtle nesting habitat to discourage turtle nesting in ROW
3. In some places in the filing it says there are 2 vernal pools in Hudson, in others it says 3. The NOI says that no work in Hudson is in vernal pool habitat. What is the closest work to a vernal pool? Is vernal pool migration adequately protected?
4. Is the TOW restriction Mar 1- May 15 long enough for vernal pool species? Will erosion controls be removed in migration paths.
5. How will TOY restrictions impact construction duration, and how will construction delays affect species along the corridor?

Plantings and veg management (invasives, herbicides, etc) questions

1. In order to qualify for Limited Status, one condition is that “The surface vegetation and contours of the area shall be substantially restored”. Simply replanting these areas with seed mix and otherwise allowing it to revegetate naturally will not restore the habitat and conditions that existed prior to construction. Further work needs to be done to ensure restoration so that this can qualify for Limited Status.
2. Aside from basic site stabilization, the bulk of the plantings and restoration will take place after the bike path is constructed. If there is a significant delay (more than 1 growing season), this will create significant adverse impacts for wildlife who may have used the area.

3. Provide further details on plans for managing invasive species (herbicides/mechanical, different phases, etc)
4. What is the MOU for vegetation management between Eversource and DCR? If that is not finalized, when will it be finalized?
5. In our site walk we discussed expanding the planting plan to include a sloped, eroded area near Ferjulian Farm. Has this been added to the plan?
6. In item 5 in the Peer Review of the Transmission Line NOI, WDA suggests that there are areas along the ROW that could accept shrub or tree plantings rather than just "General Construction Corridor Mix". Eversource claims that these areas are too narrow and/or too steep to accommodate planting, and instead suggests adding shrub seeds to the seed mix. I would like Eversource to reevaluate this planting plan since shrubs planted from seed are very slow to establish and have low success rates.
DCR proposes to plant shrubs along certain steep sections in lieu of fencing/railing (see sheets C-04 and C05. This system could be employed in additional RFAs, vernal pool areas, etc.
7. Provide a plan for dealing with invasive species during initial vegetation removal so that seeds are not scattered
8. Provide a plan for cleaning construction equipment so as not to transport invasive seeds in wetland habitat

Soil and groundwater contamination questions

1. From Rail Trail BMPs: is all soil going to be covered with either pavement or at least 12" of clean fill/loam and a geosynthetic barrier?
2. Will there be an environmental monitor to oversee construction and excavation?
3. What procedures are in place for dust control?
4. There are concerns about ground water contamination near Precision Coatings and the fact that soil sampling and ground water sampling do not seem to include that area. Request more information about test locations and results. Provide groundwater/soil data and reports from soil borings in legible form, showing locations on a map.
5. There are no measures to inspect subsoils when rails and ties are removed. How will we be assured that that soils are not contaminated
6. Provide plans of known areas of soil and groundwater contamination that could impact dewatering. Provide a contaminated soil and groundwater management plan, including a statement that addresses dewatering of potentially contaminated groundwater.
7. Are you installing monitoring wells along the portion of the ROW in the Hudson Zone II wellhead area? Will you test pre-construction and again at post-construction?

8. Is there a possibility that soil pulled from an untested area could be moved and re-used elsewhere and that it might cause additional motility of contaminants?

Erosion Control and construction staging

1. Will crane mats impact LUW? Require silt curtain
2. Require erosion control plans that will allow movement to and from vernal pools. Specialist must inspect grading within vicinity of vernal pools

Permits etc

1. What are all the permits that you are applying for and can you provide us with the following:
 - a. Outstanding permits
 - b. Permits received
 - c. Permits not yet applied forSpecifically, I am interested in: 401 Water Quality Certification, c. 91 Waterways license, EPA permits, ACOE permits (including historical artifacts?), Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
2. Please provide the DEP-CERO letter confirming eligibility of limited project status

Construction/Engineering

1. Require upgrade to culverts for Streams 1 and 3. Is there a culvert beneath the easement connecting wetlands 13 and 14?
2. What is the structure between stations 150 and 151?
3. What is the final plan for the bridge removal at FMB? What materials will be taken out and how will they be disposed of?
4. I have concerns about the schedule and sequencing of construction. OOC should include having the commission review the construction sequence plan once it is finalized and before work commences.
5. The plan says avoid dewatering into wetlands if practicable. What is the plan if not practicable? Commission must be notified. The plan says haybales will be used- these should be straw bales. Please provide a plan of likely dewatering locations.

MISC

1. We discussed cleaning up trash within the ROW, even outside limits of work. Areas where trash will be removed (within MBTA property but outside the limit of work) should be specified on the plan.
2. How has the Covid-19 pandemic affected the likelihood of the bike path being built? What funding has been secured to-date?

3. What, if any, changes may be made to the construction sequencing, duration, etc, if there are Covid closures next winter?
4. What is the plan if there is a large gap between the transmission line construction and the rail trail construction? There needs to be a contingency plan to for stabilization, erosion control removal, and invasive species management in disturbed areas