

MEMORANDUM

To: Vermont Gas Systems, Inc.
From: Michael J. Buscher
Date: August 24, 2015
Re: Addison Rutland Natural Gas Project – Phase 1
Non-Substantial Change – 3rd Change Request: Aesthetic Review

Per the request of Vermont Gas Systems, Inc., T. J. Boyle Associates has assessed proposed changes to the Addison Rutland Natural Gas Project, Phase 1 (the “Project Changes”) as it pertains to potential aesthetic impacts. It is our understanding that there are 18 Project Changes, characterized as follows:

- Alignment changes (6)
- Mainline Valve (“MLV”) location changes (4)
- Access road and workspace adjustments/changes (7)
- Updates to natural resource mapping/impacts (1)

In assessing the Project Changes, T. J. Boyle Associates referenced the memorandum from John Stamatov summarizing changes dated July 31, 2015, the Non-Substantial Plan set dated July 2015, issued by VHB, a list of Non-Substantial changes submitted as Attachment 1A to Mr. Stamatov’s memorandum, and Project photography captured by T. J. Boyle Associates.

In summary, the proposed Project Changes will not materially change aesthetic impacts created as a result of the Project. Most Project Changes relate to minor alignment and access road revisions. A review of the Project Changes determined only minor changes to the visual landscape will occur as compared to previously proposed plans. However, four of the Project Changes include relocating proposed MLVs, one of the few above-ground components of the Project. A review and assessment of these changes are provided below, some of which will result in slight differences in visibility of Project components, but none of which were found to result in additional aesthetic impacts.

- **Change # PH1-14 (Williston)**

MLV-2 at Lincoln Road is proposed to be relocated to the south side of the roadway. The relocation of MLV-2 will not result in an increase in above-ground Project infrastructure, but will simply relocate the MLV to the opposite side of the road. Relocation to the south side of the road will help to further screen visibility due to additional existing vegetation along the south side of Lincoln Road. The proposed landscape mitigation planting plan L-5 was also revised to provide additional screening of MLV-2. Revisions to proposed landscape mitigation are shown on revised sheet L-5, dated 07/30/2015 and attached to this memorandum.

- **Change # PH1-22(1) & PH1-22(2) (Hinesburg)**

Proposed changes near Charlotte Road in Hinesburg, will relocate the pipeline alignment to the east of the VELCO corridor and will also result in the relocation of MLV-3 to the east of the VELCO corridor. This change will relocate underground portions of the Project and again, simply relocate a proposed MLV along Charlotte Road, approximately 550 feet to the east. The new MLV location will be setback slightly further from Charlotte Road and will now be accessed from Lagoon Road, an existing gravel access road to the Town of Hinesburg wastewater facility. As previously requested by the Department of Public Service, no landscape mitigation plantings are proposed to screen MLV-3. Relocations of MLV-3 will visually collocate the proposed utility infrastructure with existing utility infrastructure for the Hinesburg wastewater facility.

Revisions to the Project alignment to the east of the VELCO corridor will result in additional vegetation clearing, approximately 380 feet south of Charlotte Road. Additional clearing will be setback from the roadway and along the edges of large open fields and the edge of the cleared VELCO corridor. Clearing will be back dropped by other existing vegetation and will generally be unnoticeable to the average person.

Overall, changes along Charlotte Road in Hinesburg result in very minimal changes to Project visibility and will not result in an increase to aesthetic impacts at this location.

- **Change # PH1-28 (Monkton)**

MLV-4 is proposed to be relocated approximately 1.6 miles south along the Transmission Mainline. Although MLV's are some of the few above-ground components of the Project, neither the previous location from June 2013 nor the proposed new location will have noticeable public visibility. The relocation will not result in an increase of Project visibility or a change to aesthetic impacts.

- **Change # A-18 (New Haven)**

MLV-6 is proposed to be relocated approximately 100 feet north of the currently proposed location, adjacent to the access road to VELCO's New Haven Substation. The proposed location will be approximately 470 feet south of Vermont Route 17 and will be along the same alignment as previously proposed. The change in location will not result in a noticeable difference to the previously proposed MLV-6 location and will not result in additional aesthetic impacts.

Conclusion

The proposed Project Changes are minor in respect to aesthetic impacts. The aesthetic review determined that 2 of the proposed changes will result in noticeable difference to visibility of the Project, including Change # PH1-14 (MLV-2) and Change # PH1-22(1) (MLV-3). An assessment of these changes determined that the relocation of the MLV's would not result in an increase to the aesthetic impacts and may even slightly reduce visibility and impacts. Overall, the Project Changes will not materially change visibility of the Project, or aesthetic impacts as a result of the Project as compared to the previously approved plans. The Project Changes do not change our previous conclusion that the Project will not result in an undue adverse impact.

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