

Project Overview

Application # 2012- 0056.001 South Jersey Gas Branwen L. Ellis, Environmental Specialist

Purpose:

To supply natural gas to the existing Beesley's Point coal-fired electric generation plant (B.L. England) located outside of the Pinelands, in Upper Township

The Application:

14.85 miles (78,446 linear feet) of a 24-inch natural gas main within the Pinelands Area

The Application:

- No compression stations are proposed
- **One Interconnect Station**
- **One Remote Operating Valve Station**
- Six potential Pinelands storage staging areas

The proposed Interconnect Station, Remote Operating Valve Station and temporary storage staging areas would be located on privatelyowned property

The Application:

Eight Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) staging areas located within existing roads and/or cleared or maintained rights-of-way

HDD under two ponds, a river and a creek



PILOT HOLE



PRE-REAMING



PULL-BACK





Example of Horizontal Directional Drilling

Example of a Proposed Temporary Construction Storage/ Staging Area





Installation:

- Paved Travel Way: 14.7%
- Paved Shoulder: 19.2%
- Grass Shoulder: 55%
- Horizontal Directional Drilling: 11.1%

Depth: 4', with the exception of HDD

Project Chronology

- Pre-application meeting held on April 14, 2012
- Initial Application Materials received on July 24, 2012
- Incomplete letter sent on August 23, 2012
- Throughout 2012 and 2013:
 - Letters, reports, surveys, maps submitted by applicant
 - Four meetings held
 - Three Incomplete letters sent
- Application complete as of July 29, 2013



Three routes (A, B & C) to the B.L. England Plant were initially considered for the proposed gas main. SJ Gas rejected routes B & C.



Reason for Rejection by SJ Gas

Route C:

 Environmental concerns: Significant clearing and grubbing of many miles of reforested railroad ROW mapped as threatened or endangered species habitat



Reasons for Rejection by SJ Gas

Route B:

- Potential impacts to wetlands
- 7,000 linear feet of proposed Horizontal Directional Drilling under the Great Egg Harbor Bay
- Economic considerations: Temporary relocation of residents of Jefferson Landing and the proximity of houses to School House Rd.



Applicable CMP Standards

- Permitted Use (N.J.A.C. 7:50-5)
- Wetlands Protection Standards (N.J.A.C. 7:50-6.6)
- Threatened and Endangered Species Standards (N.J.A.C. 7:50-6.27 & 6.33)
- Stormwater Management Standards (N.J.A.C. 7:50-6.84(a)6)
- Fire hazard mitigation standards (N.J.A. C. 5:50-6.124)
- Cultural Resource Survey requirements (N.J.A.C. 7:50-6.151)

Permitted Use Standards

Proposed gas main would be located in a Pinelands Rural Development Area, Pinelands Forest Area and Pinelands Village Area

Permitted use in the Rural Development and Pinelands Village Areas

Forest Area Land Use Standards

The CMP permits the development of a gas main in a Forest Area, provided it is intended to primarily serve only the needs of the Pinelands

The proposed project does not meet this standard

Wetlands Protection Standards

Wetlands locations were verified by Commission staff

As proposed, the gas main would not be located in wetlands, and it is consistent with all wetlands standards Threatened and Endangered (T & E) Species Standards

Three separate T & E reports were submitted, reviewed and determined to be consistent with the CMP

T & E Target Survey Species

Habitat suitability assessments and surveys done for:

- Stiff tick trefoil
- Elliptical rushfoil
- American Mistletoe
- Pine Barrens Boneset
- Silvery Aster
- Climbing fern
- Red-headed woodpecker
- Barred Owl
- Cope's gray Treefrog

No T & E plant or animal species or suitable T & E animal habitats were found in the proposed development areas

Proposed Interconnect Station and ROV Station



Stormwater Management

Stormwater management plans and calculations were submitted, reviewed and determined to be consistent with the CMP

Interconnect Station



Fire hazard mitigation

The standards address the potential for fire hazard risk associated with above ground development proposed for human use

The Interconnect Station proposes a 7,899 s.f. crushed stone surface with six-foot-wide grassed perimeter berm

The Remote Operating Valve Station proposes a 1,503 s.f. crushed stone surface with three-foot-wide grassed perimeter

Cultural Resources

Applicant submitted a preliminary and follow up cultural resource inventory, including research and field work

Visual reconnaissance, shovel tests and excavations units performed along route and staging areas

Only two areas were found to have historic and prehistoric resources. These proposed staging areas were reconfigured to avoid impacts to resources

Next Steps Per CMP Regulations

Issue Inconsistent Certificate of Filing

- Application is complete, but inconsistent with Permitted Use Standards
- A Certificate of Filing is NOT an approval

 It is the document necessary to allow any local or county agency to review and act on the proposed development.