

Gas Main Replacement and Extension Project
Sewall Woods Road
Melrose, Massachusetts

REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY

Boston Gas Company

May 2022

Tighe & Bond

N-5068-183
May 23, 2022

Melrose Conservation Commission
562 Main Street
Melrose, MA 02176

Re: **Request for Determination of Applicability
Gas Main Replacement and Extension Project
Boston Gas Company
Sewall Woods Road, Melrose, Massachusetts**

Dear Members of the Commission:

On behalf of Boston Gas Company, Tighe & Bond respectfully submits this Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) for a proposed low pressure gas main replacement and extension project along Sewall Woods Road and Maple Road in Melrose, Massachusetts. A copy of the Wetlands Protection Act (WPA) Form 1 is provided in Attachment A. Refer to the Site Location Map (Figure 1) in Attachment B which shows the location of the proposed work.

The proposed work begins at the intersection of Sewall Woods Road and Warwick Road, and extends south within Sewall Woods Road to its intersection with Maple Road. At its intersection with Maple Road, the alignment turns north and continues within Maple Road before terminating at the intersection of Maple Road and Warwick Road. Proposed activities include the replacement of approximately 1,500 linear feet (lf) of 6-inch diameter low pressure gas main, and the installation of 250 feet of new 6-inch diameter gas main extension piping. The extension piping will tie the existing main that currently terminates at 161 Sewall Woods Road to the existing gas main that currently terminates at 1 Maple Road.

This RDA is being filed because 115 lf of the proposed gas main extension will occur within the 100-foot Buffer Zone of an Isolated Vegetated Wetland (IVW) and associated Certified Vernal Pool. The above-mentioned resource areas are not subject to protection and jurisdiction under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, however, they are subject to regulation under the City of Melrose Wetland Protection Ordinance (Chapter 231) and its implementing regulations. No impacts to resource areas are anticipated as all proposed work will occur within the existing paved roadway footprint.

Please note that the approximately 1,500 feet of proposed replacement work discussed above is exempt under the City of Melrose Wetlands Protection Ordinance in accordance with Chapter 231-2, as *"Any existing structure may be repaired, maintained and improved but in no event made larger"*. This RDA, therefore, is intended to serve as a written notification of exempt maintenance activities, as well as to describe non-exempt activities within local jurisdiction, and will serve only to analyze the potential impacts of the proposed 115-foot long portion of gas main extension within the 100-foot Buffer Zone, between 161 Sewall Woods Road and 1 Maple Road.

Tighe & Bond respectfully requests that the Melrose Conservation Commission issue a Negative Determination confirming that the proposed work does not require the filing of a Notice of Intent under the WPA or Chapter 231.

This RDA application includes the following items:

- Attachment A – WPA Form 1
- Attachment B – Figures
 - Figure 1 – Site Location Map
 - Figure 2 – Priority Resources Map
 - Figure 3 – Orthophotograph
 - Figure 4 – FEMA FIRMette
- Attachment C – Project Drawings (April 6, 2022)
- Attachment D – National Grid Best Management Practices Details

The following text discusses the wetland resource areas, proposed activities, and proposed protective measures.

Wetland Resource Areas

Massachusetts Geographic Information System (MassGIS), National Wetland Inventory data and aerial imagery indicates that there is one (1) mapped IVW and one (1) mapped Certified Vernal Pool in proximity to the project area. A desktop review of the project area was conducted by Tighe & Bond on May 18, 2022 to determine the location and proximity of these resource areas to the project site. These resource areas are located beyond the roadway ROW. Wetland resource areas and associated Buffer Zones are depicted on the attached Orthophotograph, provided as Figure 3 in Attachment B.

Isolated Vegetated Wetland

MassGIS indicates that the project area is located within proximity to an IVW. The IVW is located south and east of the project site in Sewall Woods Park, owned by the City of Melrose. The boundary of this wetland appears to be defined by a distinct topographical depression located along the southwestern boundary of the park. The IVW is classified by the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) Database as Palustrine Scrub-Shrub (PSS1E) wetland. Characteristics typical of the PSS1E classification include: dominant broad-leaved deciduous woody vegetation (shrubs and small trees) generally less than 20 feet tall with surface water present for extended periods throughout the year.

Vernal Pool

MassGIS indicates that a Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program Certified Vernal Pool (Certified Vernal Pool No. 3868) is mapped within the northern reach of the IVW as shown on Figure 2 in Attachment B.

Bordering Land Subject to Flooding

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel No. 25017C0429E, effective June 4, 2010, was consulted to evaluate the presence of jurisdictional BLSF within the project area. According to the FIRM, the project area is not located within the limits of 100-year flooding.

Rare Species

The Massachusetts (NHESP) Atlas (15th edition, effective August 2021) was reviewed during the preparation of this RDA. The project area does not fall within *Priority Habitats of Rare Species* or *Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife* as shown on Figure 2 in Attachment B.

Proposed Activities

The proposed project consists of the installation of approximately 250 linear feet (lf) of new 6-inch-diameter plastic, low pressure gas main. The new gas main will extend the existing gas main that currently terminates at 161 Sewall Woods Road southwest within the paved footprint of Sewall Woods Road before tying into the existing gas main that currently terminates at 1 Maple Road. Construction will be limited to the existing roadway (see Page C-002 of the Project Drawings in Attachment C).

The proposed gas main construction will require the excavation of an approximately two-foot-wide trench for installation. The trench bottom will be excavated and graded so that the pipe will be supported for its entire length on undisturbed bottom at a depth of approximately three feet below surface grade. Upon the completion of work, the trench will be backfilled, patched, and the site will be restored to pre-existing grades. Refer to the Project Drawings in Attachment C for additional details.

The proposed work will result in 115 lf of temporary impacts within the 100-foot Buffer Zone. The areas where the work is proposed consist of existing paved roadways, road shoulders, and driveways, as well as maintained lawns and landscaped areas. The proposed work will not change the general characteristics of the area, as the entire project is limited to previously disturbed areas.

Protective Measures

Prior to the commencement of work, appropriate erosion control measures will be installed at the downgradient limit of work as deemed necessary. The erosion controls will be maintained throughout the duration of work and will be removed after disturbed areas have been stabilized. Following the completion of construction activities, any disturbed soils will be restored in-kind. Attachment D of this submittal includes details of standard erosion control measures that have been used in past projects of similar scope.

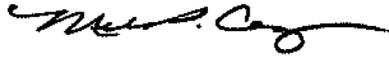
Summary

We look forward to having the opportunity to discuss this project with the Melrose Conservation Commission at the next available public hearing on June 16, 2022. We anticipate these materials are sufficient for the Commission to issue a Negative Determination confirming the proposed project may proceed without the filing of an NOI.

Should you have any questions regarding this application or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (413) 527-3224 or via email at MPCoady@tighebond.com. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

TIGHE & BOND, INC.



Melissa P. Coady
Project Manager

Enclosures

Copy: MassDEP Northeast Regional Office Division of Wetlands and Waterways
Jaime Walker, National Grid

Tighe&Bond

ATTACHMENT A



WPA Form 1- Request for Determination of Applicability

Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act M.G.L. c. 131, §40

A. General Information

Important:
When filling out forms on the computer, use only the tab key to move your cursor - do not use the return key.



1. Applicant:

<u>Boston Gas Company (c/o Jaime Walker)</u>		<u>Jaime.Walker@nationalgrid.com</u>	
Name		E-Mail Address	
<u>40 Sylvan Road</u>			
Mailing Address			
<u>Waltham</u>		<u>MA</u>	<u>02452</u>
City/Town		State	Zip Code
<u>(978) 551-1156</u>		_____	
Phone Number		Fax Number (if applicable)	

2. Representative (if any):

<u>Tighe & Bond, Inc.</u>		_____	
Firm		_____	
<u>Melissa Coady</u>		<u>MPCoady@tighebond.com</u>	
Contact Name		E-Mail Address	
<u>53 Southampton Road</u>			
Mailing Address			
<u>Westfield</u>		<u>MA</u>	<u>01085</u>
City/Town		State	Zip Code
<u>(413) 572-3224</u>		_____	
Phone Number		Fax Number (if applicable)	

B. Determinations

1. I request the Melrose _____ make the following determination(s). Check any that apply:
Conservation Commission

- a. whether the **area** depicted on plan(s) and/or map(s) referenced below is an area subject to jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act.
- b. whether the **boundaries** of resource area(s) depicted on plan(s) and/or map(s) referenced below are accurately delineated.
- c. whether the **work** depicted on plan(s) referenced below is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act.
- d. whether the area and/or work depicted on plan(s) referenced below is subject to the jurisdiction of any **municipal wetlands ordinance** or **bylaw** of:

Melrose
Name of Municipality

- e. whether the following **scope of alternatives** is adequate for work in the Riverfront Area as depicted on referenced plan(s).



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C. Project Description

1. a. Project Location (use maps and plans to identify the location of the area subject to this request):

<u>161 Sewall Woods Road to 1 Maple Road</u>	<u>Melrose</u>
Street Address	City/Town
<u>N/A - Roadway ROW</u>	<u>N/A - Roadway ROW</u>
Assessors Map/Plat Number	Parcel/Lot Number

- b. Area Description (use additional paper, if necessary):

The Project Area is located within the Sewall Woods Road paved footprint from 161 Sewall Road to 1 Maple Road. A portion of the proposed activities are within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to an Isolated Vegetated Wetland (IVW). Refer to the attached cover letter and figures for additional information.

- c. Plan and/or Map Reference(s):

<u>Figure 1 - Site Location Map</u>	<u>5/10/2022</u>
Title	Date
<u>Figure 2 - Priority Resources Map, Figure 3 - Orthophotograph</u>	<u>5/19/2022</u>
Title	Date
<u>Figure 4 - FEMA FIRMette</u>	<u>5/18/2022</u>
Title	Date

2. a. Work Description (use additional paper and/or provide plan(s) of work, if necessary):

The proposed project consists of the installation of approximately 250 linear feet (lf) of new 6-inch-diameter plastic, low pressure gas main. The new gas main will extend the existing gas main that currently terminates at 161 Sewall Woods Road southwest along Seall Woods Road before tying into the existing gas main that currently terminates at 1 Maple Road. Construction will be limited to the existing roadway. The proposed gas main construction will require the excavation of an approximately two-foot-wide trench for installation. Upon the completion of work, the trench will be backfilled, patched and the site will be restored to pre-existing grades.



WPA Form 1- Request for Determination of Applicability

Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act M.G.L. c. 131, §40

C. Project Description (cont.)

b. Identify provisions of the Wetlands Protection Act or regulations which may exempt the applicant from having to file a Notice of Intent for all or part of the described work (use additional paper, if necessary).

The proposed project is not within an area subject to protection and/or jurisdiction under the WPA.

3. a. If this application is a Request for Determination of Scope of Alternatives for work in the Riverfront Area, indicate the one classification below that best describes the project.

- Single family house on a lot recorded on or before 8/1/96
- Single family house on a lot recorded after 8/1/96
- Expansion of an existing structure on a lot recorded after 8/1/96
- Project, other than a single-family house or public project, where the applicant owned the lot before 8/7/96
- New agriculture or aquaculture project
- Public project where funds were appropriated prior to 8/7/96
- Project on a lot shown on an approved, definitive subdivision plan where there is a recorded deed restriction limiting total alteration of the Riverfront Area for the entire subdivision
- Residential subdivision; institutional, industrial, or commercial project
- Municipal project
- District, county, state, or federal government project
- Project required to evaluate off-site alternatives in more than one municipality in an Environmental Impact Report under MEPA or in an alternatives analysis pursuant to an application for a 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or 401 Water Quality Certification from the Department of Environmental Protection.

b. Provide evidence (e.g., record of date subdivision lot was recorded) supporting the classification above (use additional paper and/or attach appropriate documents, if necessary.)



WPA Form 1- Request for Determination of Applicability

Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act M.G.L. c. 131, §40

D. Signatures and Submittal Requirements

I hereby certify under the penalties of perjury that the foregoing Request for Determination of Applicability and accompanying plans, documents, and supporting data are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

I further certify that the property owner, if different from the applicant, and the appropriate DEP Regional Office were sent a complete copy of this Request (including all appropriate documentation) simultaneously with the submittal of this Request to the Conservation Commission.

Failure by the applicant to send copies in a timely manner may result in dismissal of the Request for Determination of Applicability.

Name and address of the property owner:

N/A - Roadway ROW

Name

Mailing Address

City/Town

State

Zip Code

Signatures:

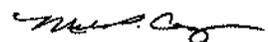
I also understand that notification of this Request will be placed in a local newspaper at my expense in accordance with Section 10.05(3)(b)(1) of the Wetlands Protection Act regulations.



Signature of Applicant

5/24/2022

Date



Signature of Representative (if any)

5 / 24 / 2022

Date