

**MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRIC COMPANY**  
**Podunk Road Maintenance– Geotechnical Soil Borings Project**  
**Notice of Intent**

**Sturbridge, MA**  
**Conservation Commission**  
**February 2023**

Prepared for:  
Massachusetts Electric Company  
170 Data Drive  
Waltham, MA 02451

BSC Project No. 89799.34

FEBRUARY 20, 2023

[www.bscgroup.com](http://www.bscgroup.com)

Sturbridge Conservation Commission  
Attn: Edward Goodwin, Chair  
301 Main Street  
Sturbridge, MA 01566

**RE: Notice of Intent  
Podunk Road Maintenance Geotechnical Soil Borings Project  
Sturbridge, Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Electric Company**

Dear Members of the Sturbridge Conservation Commission:

BSC Group, Inc. (BSC) is filing this Notice of Intent (NOI) on behalf of the Massachusetts Electric Company (MECO) for activities associated with exploratory geotechnical soil borings along Podunk Road in Sturbridge, Massachusetts (the Project). The proposed borings are to plan for the road maintenance and stormwater feature design and construction along the unpaved section of Podunk Road within the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) State Highway Layout (SHLO) east of Route 49. This abandoned unpaved portion of the road will be used to construct and maintain a future distribution line extension along Podunk Road and across Route 49, which will be permitted separately with the Conservation Commission in the future. National Grid has received a request for a solar interconnection in Charlton, MA and has completed a study of the Company Area Electrical Power System. This study identified that the most suitable interconnecting distribution line is the 415L3 Feeder. In order to comply with the interconnection request, MECO must extend the existing 415L3 Feeder from the existing poles west of Route 49 and continue the line towards Putnam Road. MECO has evaluated several crossing possibilities with MassDOT, with the aforementioned road maintenance and feeder extension being selected as the best option. This NOI is being submitted in accordance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch.131, S.40) (WPA) and its implementing regulations (310 CMR 10.00), and the Sturbridge Wetland Protection Bylaw (Chapter 286) and its implementing regulations (Chapter 365).

Access to the soil boring locations will require the removal of approximately 59 trees<sup>1</sup>, ranging from 2 to 9 inches Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), and brush cutting within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW) to create an approximately 20-ft wide cleared path (centered on the soil boring locations) to facilitate equipment access to conduct the borings. A small berm is present at the beginning of the unpaved portion of Podunk Road which will be smoothed out to allow for equipment passage. No other access improvements will be required. The portion of Podunk Road where the Project is proposed was a previously used public roadway which was eventually bisected by Route 49 and removed from public use as it became part of MassDOT's SHLO. The existence of the roadway is visible on aerial images available from Historic Aerials<sup>2</sup> from 1966, see **Attachment D**,

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<sup>1</sup> The Town of Sturbridge Wetlands Regulations defines a tree as any woody vegetation with a stem diameter of two inches DBH.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer>, retrieved 2/16/2023

and continues to be visible through the 1970s to the 2010s. Please refer to the enclosed USGS Site Locus Map and Environmental Resources Map in **Attachment B** and Site Photographs in **Attachment C**.

The Project activities include four (4) soil borings (B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4) which are necessary to plan for the road maintenance and stormwater feature design and construction along the unpaved section of Podunk Road. In summary:

- Removal of approximately 59 trees (of various DBH) within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to BVW to create an approximately 20-ft wide cleared path; and
- Soil boring activities are proposed within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to BVW.

To facilitate the safe passage of the soil boring equipment, tree clearing and brush cutting will be required within the Limit of Work shown on the Environmental Resources Mapping in **Attachment B**. Tree removals are solely intended to facilitate the passage of soil boring equipment and the extent of clearing will be minimized to the extent practicable for the geotechnical soil boring phase. Podunk Road is a designated Scenic Road under Chapter 230 of the Town of Sturbridge Bylaws. As such, MECO has discussed the required tree removals with the Tree Warden and the required removals for the soil borings program have been approved.

While exploratory borings are considered exempt minor buffer zone activities under 310 CMR 10.02(2)(b)(g), tree removals will be required to access the boring locations and are not exempt from review. Therefore, this NOI is being submitted under the WPA for the proposed tree removals, and under the Sturbridge Wetland Protection Bylaw for the proposed tree removals and soil borings. National Grid has determined the most suitable distribution line to provide an interconnection to the solar customer, and in coordination with MassDOT has identified a location to extend the distribution feeder. This will require utilizing the abandoned section of Podunk Road to construct and maintain the future distribution line extension. With the restrictions of working in the MassDOT SHLO, MECO has designed the Project to avoid and minimize adverse impacts to wetland resource areas to the greatest extent practicable. Therefore, this NOI serves as a request for an Order of Conditions and associated Tree Removal Permit for the activities described herein.

We respectfully request that this matter be heard at the next scheduled Conservation Commission hearing. A copy of this application has also been sent to the Central Regional Office of the Department of Environmental Protection. If you have any questions regarding the enclosed information, please contact me at (617) 896-4519 or Laura Ernst of MECO at (781) 392-9594. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Thank you,



Heidi Graf  
Associate Project Manager, BSC Group, Inc.

cc: Laura Ernst, MECO  
MassDEP CERO  
Board of Selectman  
Planning Board

Board of Health  
Building Inspector  
Town Engineer  
Tree Warden

Enclosed:

NOI Application Coversheet  
WPA Form 3  
Tree Removal Application  
Local Filing Fee Worksheet  
Copy of filing fee checks  
**Attachment A :** Project Narrative  
**Attachment B :** USGS Locus Map, Environmental Resources Map, FIRMette, & Scenic Road Map  
**Attachment C :** Site Photographs  
Aerial Imagery Timeline  
**Attachment D :** Abutter List Request, Certified Abutter List, Abutters Notification Letter  
**Attachment E :** National Grid's Best Management Practices (EG-303NE)

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Podunk Road Maintenance – Geotechnical Soil Borings Project  
Sturbridge, Massachusetts  
Notice of Intent

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ATTACHMENT A	PROJECT NARRATIVE
ATTACHMENT B	USGS SITE LOCUS MAP ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MAP FEMA FIRMETTE MAP SCENIC ROAD MAP
ATTACHMENT C	SITE PHOTOGRAPHS AERIAL IMAGERY TIMELINE
ATTACHMENT D	ABUTTER LIST REQUEST CERTIFIED ABUTTERS LIST ABUTTER NOTIFICATION LETTER AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE-TO BE PROVIDED
ATTACHMENT E	NATIONAL GRID’S BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES



# Town of Sturbridge

Conservation Commission

## Notice of Intent (NOI) Packet

Packet for filing of applications  
under the Wetland Protection Act, MGL Ch. 131, sec 40,  
and the Sturbridge Wetland Bylaw

Enclosed in this packet are the forms needed for submitting a Notice of Intent to the Town of Sturbridge Conservation Commission. It contains the following forms needing completion:

- **Notice of Intent Application Coversheet/Check List**
- **Mass DEP BRP WPA Form 3 - Notice of Intent Instructions and Supporting Materials**
- **Mass DEP BRP WPA Form 3 - Notice of Intent (formal form) 8pp (includes Mass DEP Wetland Fee Transmittal Form 2pp)**
- **Sturbridge Conservation Commission Affidavit of Service:**  
*This document is your witness that abutters have been notified according to regulations.*
- **Town of Sturbridge Notification to Abutters**  
*Use this blank document to provide necessary information to abutters*
- **Town of Sturbridge Proof of Paid Tax**
- **Abutter List Request**
- **Local Bylaw Filing Fee Sheet**

Please contact our office with any questions in regards to filing this application or process.



**Town of Sturbridge  
Conservation Commission  
Notice of Intent Application Coversheet/Checklist**

Date 2/20/2023

in all white cells completely

<b>Parcel</b> Address Assessors Map/Plat Book & Page	No parcel ID  MassDOT SHLO SE of 248 Podunk Road Sturbridge, MA 01566	<b>Applicant name</b> Address Email Phone	Massachusetts Electric Company 170 Data Drive, Waltham, MA 02451 laura.ernst@nationalgrid.com 781-392-9594
<b>Owner name</b> Address Email Phone	MassDOT - District 3 499 Plantation Parkway Worcester, MA 01605	<b>Representative</b> Address Email Phone	BSC Group, Inc., Heidi Graf 1 Mercantile Street, Suite 610 Worcester, MA 01608 hgraf@bscgroup.com 617-896-4519

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<b>Wetland type</b>	Buffer	<b>sf/cf affected</b>		<b>Relevant Perf. Standards</b>	10. _____
<b>Wetland type</b>	Zone Only	<b>sf/cf affected</b>		<b>Relevant Perf. Standards</b>	10. _____
<b>Wetland type</b>		<b>sf/cf affected</b>		<b>Relevant Perf. Standards</b>	10. _____

Components of a Complete NOI Application

<b>State Form: NOI Form 3</b>	Included? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Engineered Plan</b>	Included? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Not an engineered project.
<b>Proof of Mailing to DEP</b>	Included? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Narrative</b>	Included? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Proof that all relevant perf. standards are met</b>	Included? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>TOPO Map identifying locus with scale</b>	Included? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>FIRM Map identifying locus with scale</b>	Included? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Natural Heritage Map with WH, PH, &amp; VP data</b>	Included? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Not applicable <span style="float: right;">Included? <input type="checkbox"/></span>
<b>Delineation lines (backup material)</b>	Included? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Tax Form</b>	Included? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Not applicable, within the highway ROW
<b>Fees</b>	
★ Fee Transmittal form	Included? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
★ Filing Fee Worksheet	Included? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
★ Town portion of state filing fee	Included? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
★ Sturbridge local filing fee \$ <u>750</u>	Included? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Abutter Information</b>	
★ Certified abutters list (within 200')	Included? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
★ Abutter notification form	Included? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
★ Affidavit & proof -- bring to hearing	<i>Present them at the hearing</i>
<b>Other Attachments, e.g.</b>	Narrative, Figures, Site Photographs, Aerial Imagery Timeline, BMPs
<b>Confirmation of submission to NHESP</b>	Included? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
<b>Planting Plan</b>	Included? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
<b>Floodplain analysis</b>	Included? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
<b>Stormwater analysis</b>	Included? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable

Components of a Complete NOI Application

## Conservation Commission Wetland Permit Process

NOI	Process
1	<b>Obtain a Certified list of all abutters within 200' of property lines from the Assessor's Office.</b> <i>(may take 10 business days)</i>
2	<b>Obtain a Tax Form Sign-Off by the Finance Department</b>
3	<p><b>Submit applications (see bullets below) by noon of the Tuesday deadline</b> (16 days before the desired hearing):</p> <p>a. <u>To Sturbridge Conservation Commission</u>: 301 Main St., Sturbridge, MA 01566</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>This coversheet</b> (1 paper copy)</li> <li>• <b>Complete application</b> -- see the checklist on the other side of this page (2 paper copies and 1 pdf) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Plans must be stamped by an engineer if any component of the project requires engineering.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Checks</b></li> </ul> <p>b. <u>To Mass DEP Central Regional Office</u>: 8 New Bond Street, Worcester, MA 01606</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Complete application</b> -- see the checklist on the other side of this page (1 paper copy)</li> <li>• <b>Photocopy of the two state checks</b></li> <li>• <b>Email a complete application to CERO_NOI@mass.gov</b></li> </ul> <p>c. <u>To DEP Lock Box</u>: Box 4062, Boston MA 02211</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Check</b> for state portion of the state fee</li> <li>• <b>Fee transmittal form</b></li> </ul>
4	<i>Upon receipt of a complete application, the Conservation Agent will <b>schedule a Public hearing/meeting.</b></i>
5	Once you are provided the date and time of the hearing, <b>notify all abutters within 200' of the property line</b> using the Town's " <b>Notification to Abutters Form</b> " by <b>certified mail, certificate of mailing, or hand delivery with signatures 7 business days prior to the Hearing.</b> (Present proof of notification prior to the beginning of the public hearing.)
6	<i>The Conservation Agent will <b>place a legal ad in a local newspaper</b> and the <b>Applicant will be billed for the ad.</b></i>
7	<b>Stake the project.</b> 2 weeks in advance of the public hearing, stake all proposed structures, erosion control barriers, stormwater systems, etc. within Con Com jurisdiction. (See SWB Regulations)
8	<i>The Conservation Commission and/or Agent will perform a <b>site visit</b> before the public hearing to confirm existing conditions and proposed work. If you wish to be informed of the time of the visit, please contact the Con Com office.</i>
9	<p><b>Attend the public hearing/meeting.</b> The applicant or representative is required to <b>provide proof of abutter notification (including Affidavit of Service), proof of legal advertisement,</b> briefly <b>present the project,</b> and <b>answer any questions about possible impacts on wetlands.</b> At the end of the hearing, the Con Com will either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Issue an <u>Order of Conditions</u> (OOC)</b> approving or denying the project, <b>or</b></li> <li>• <b>Approve a continuation</b> of the public hearing to allow time for additional information to be provided.</li> </ul>
10	<b>Receive and read the decision and understand the conditions.</b> Contact the Con Com if you have any questions. Some conditions are temporary (such as maintaining erosion controls), and some are perpetual (such as maintaining restoration planting areas or limiting the use of fertilizers).
11	<b>Wait-out the 10-Day appeal period.</b> A decision of the Con Com can be appealed by MassDEP or by any abutter, applicant, or 10-citizen group within 10 business days of the decision.
12	<b>Record the Order</b> at the Registry of Deeds. Provide proof of recording to the Conservation office along with signed Certificates of Understanding.
13	<b>Install MassDEP file number sign and erosion controls.</b>
14	<b>Schedule and attend a pre-construction site visit.</b> Contact the Conservation office to schedule the site visit.
15	<b>Execute the project.</b> The project must be completed within 3 years, unless an extension of the permit is issued; extensions must be requested at least 30 days prior to the expiration of the permit.
16	<b>Request a Certificate of Compliance (COC).</b> Once the project is complete and all conditions have been satisfied, request a COC from the Conservation office by submitting at least: (1) DEP <b>Form 8a</b> , (2) a stamped <b>as-built plan</b> , and (3) a <b>letter from the engineer</b> stating that everything is in substantial compliance with the approved plans and OOC. The Con Com will perform a site visit to ensure compliance and will issue a COC if appropriate.
17	<b>Record the Certificate of Compliance (COC)</b> at the Registry of Deeds to remove the cloud from the title. <b>Provide proof of recording to the Conservation office.</b>

**INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**





**Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection**  
Bureau of Resource Protection - Wetlands

**WPA Form 3 – Notice of Intent**

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

Provided by MassDEP:

MassDEP File Number

Document Transaction Number

Sturbridge

City/Town

**Important:**

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



Note:  
Before completing this form consult your local Conservation Commission regarding any municipal bylaw or ordinance.

**A. General Information**

1. Project Location (**Note:** electronic filers will click on button to locate project site):

MassDOT SHLO SW of 248 Podunk Road  
a. Street Address

Sturbridge  
b. City/Town

01566  
c. Zip Code

Latitude and Longitude:  
42.168280  
d. Latitude

-72.031665  
e. Longitude

MassDOT SHLO SW of 3  
f. Assessors Map/Plat Number

MassDOT SHLO SW of 520-\_0\_0335\_- \_248  
g. Parcel /Lot Number

2. Applicant:

Laura  
a. First Name

Ernst  
b. Last Name

Massachusetts Electric Company (MECO)  
c. Organization

170 Data Drive  
d. Street Address

Waltham  
e. City/Town

MA  
f. State

02451  
g. Zip Code

(781) 392-9594  
h. Phone Number

i. Fax Number

laura.ernst@nationalgrid.com  
j. Email Address

3. Property owner (required if different from applicant):  Check if more than one owner

a. First Name  
b. Last Name

MassDOT - District 3  
c. Organization

499 Plantation Parkway  
d. Street Address

Worcester  
e. City/Town

MA  
f. State

01605  
g. Zip Code

(857) 368-3000  
h. Phone Number

i. Fax Number

j. Email address

4. Representative (if any):

Heidi  
a. First Name

Graf  
b. Last Name

BSC Group, Inc.  
c. Company

One Mercantile Street, Suite 610  
d. Street Address

Worcester  
e. City/Town

MA  
f. State

01608  
g. Zip Code

(617) 896-4519  
h. Phone Number

i. Fax Number

hgraf@bscgroup.com  
j. Email address

5. Total WPA Fee Paid (from NOI Wetland Fee Transmittal Form):

500  
a. Total Fee Paid

237.50  
b. State Fee Paid

262.50  
c. City/Town Fee Paid



Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Resource Protection - Wetlands

# WPA Form 3 – Notice of Intent

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

Provided by MassDEP:
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## A. General Information (continued)

6. General Project Description:

MECO is proposing to conduct tree removals along the historical utilized unpaved portion of Podunk Road to facilitate exploratory soil borings for planning and design purposes for road maintenance and stormwater feature design and construction. Activities will occur within the 100-ft Buffer to BVW.

7a. Project Type Checklist: (Limited Project Types see Section A. 7b.)

- 1.  Single Family Home
- 2.  Residential Subdivision
- 3.  Commercial/Industrial
- 4.  Dock/Pier
- 5.  Utilities
- 6.  Coastal engineering Structure
- 7.  Agriculture (e.g., cranberries, forestry)
- 8.  Transportation
- 9.  Other

7b. Is any portion of the proposed activity eligible to be treated as a limited project (including Ecological Restoration Limited Project) subject to 310 CMR 10.24 (coastal) or 310 CMR 10.53 (inland)?

- 1.  Yes  No      If yes, describe which limited project applies to this project. (See 310 CMR 10.24 and 10.53 for a complete list and description of limited project types)

2. Limited Project Type

If the proposed activity is eligible to be treated as an Ecological Restoration Limited Project (310 CMR10.24(8), 310 CMR 10.53(4)), complete and attach Appendix A: Ecological Restoration Limited Project Checklist and Signed Certification.

8. Property recorded at the Registry of Deeds for:

_____	_____
a. County	b. Certificate # (if registered land)
_____	_____
c. Book	d. Page Number

## B. Buffer Zone & Resource Area Impacts (temporary & permanent)

- 1.  Buffer Zone Only – Check if the project is located only in the Buffer Zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland, Inland Bank, or Coastal Resource Area.
- 2.  Inland Resource Areas (see 310 CMR 10.54-10.58; if not applicable, go to Section B.3, Coastal Resource Areas).

Check all that apply below. Attach narrative and any supporting documentation describing how the project will meet all performance standards for each of the resource areas altered, including standards requiring consideration of alternative project design or location.



**Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection**  
 Bureau of Resource Protection - Wetlands

**WPA Form 3 – Notice of Intent**

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

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**B. Buffer Zone & Resource Area Impacts (temporary & permanent) (cont'd)**

For all projects affecting other Resource Areas, please attach a narrative explaining how the resource area was delineated.

Resource Area	Size of Proposed Alteration	Proposed Replacement (if any)
a. <input type="checkbox"/> Bank	1. linear feet	2. linear feet
b. <input type="checkbox"/> Bordering Vegetated Wetland	1. square feet	2. square feet
c. <input type="checkbox"/> Land Under Waterbodies and Waterways	1. square feet	2. square feet
	3. cubic yards dredged	

Resource Area	Size of Proposed Alteration	Proposed Replacement (if any)
d. <input type="checkbox"/> Bordering Land Subject to Flooding	1. square feet	2. square feet
	3. cubic feet of flood storage lost	4. cubic feet replaced
e. <input type="checkbox"/> Isolated Land Subject to Flooding	1. square feet	
	2. cubic feet of flood storage lost	3. cubic feet replaced
f. <input type="checkbox"/> Riverfront Area	1. Name of Waterway (if available) - <b>specify coastal or inland</b>	

2. Width of Riverfront Area (check one):

- 25 ft. - Designated Densely Developed Areas only
- 100 ft. - New agricultural projects only
- 200 ft. - All other projects

3. Total area of Riverfront Area on the site of the proposed project: \_\_\_\_\_ square feet

4. Proposed alteration of the Riverfront Area:

a. total square feet \_\_\_\_\_ b. square feet within 100 ft. \_\_\_\_\_ c. square feet between 100 ft. and 200 ft. \_\_\_\_\_

5. Has an alternatives analysis been done and is it attached to this NOI?  Yes  No

6. Was the lot where the activity is proposed created prior to August 1, 1996?  Yes  No

3.  Coastal Resource Areas: (See 310 CMR 10.25-10.35)

**Note:** for coastal riverfront areas, please complete **Section B.2.f.** above.

**B. Buffer Zone & Resource Area Impacts (temporary & permanent) (cont'd)**



**Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection**  
 Bureau of Resource Protection - Wetlands

**WPA Form 3 – Notice of Intent**

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

Provided by MassDEP:

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Check all that apply below. Attach narrative and supporting documentation describing how the project will meet all performance standards for each of the resource areas altered, including standards requiring consideration of alternative project design or location.

Online Users:  
 Include your document transaction number (provided on your receipt page) with all supplementary information you submit to the Department.

<u>Resource Area</u>	<u>Size of Proposed Alteration</u>	<u>Proposed Replacement (if any)</u>
a. <input type="checkbox"/> Designated Port Areas	Indicate size under Land Under the Ocean, below	
b. <input type="checkbox"/> Land Under the Ocean	_____	
	1. square feet	
	_____	
	2. cubic yards dredged	
c. <input type="checkbox"/> Barrier Beach	Indicate size under Coastal Beaches and/or Coastal Dunes below	
d. <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Beaches	_____	_____
	1. square feet	2. cubic yards beach nourishment
e. <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Dunes	_____	_____
	1. square feet	2. cubic yards dune nourishment
	<u>Size of Proposed Alteration</u>	<u>Proposed Replacement (if any)</u>
f. <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Banks	_____	
	1. linear feet	
g. <input type="checkbox"/> Rocky Intertidal Shores	_____	
	1. square feet	
h. <input type="checkbox"/> Salt Marshes	_____	_____
	1. square feet	2. sq ft restoration, rehab., creation
i. <input type="checkbox"/> Land Under Salt Ponds	_____	
	1. square feet	
	_____	
	2. cubic yards dredged	
j. <input type="checkbox"/> Land Containing Shellfish	_____	
	1. square feet	
k. <input type="checkbox"/> Fish Runs	Indicate size under Coastal Banks, inland Bank, Land Under the Ocean, and/or inland Land Under Waterbodies and Waterways, above	
	_____	
	1. cubic yards dredged	
l. <input type="checkbox"/> Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage	_____	
	1. square feet	
4. <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration/Enhancement	If the project is for the purpose of restoring or enhancing a wetland resource area in addition to the square footage that has been entered in Section B.2.b or B.3.h above, please enter the additional amount here.	
	_____	_____
	a. square feet of BVW	b. square feet of Salt Marsh
5. <input type="checkbox"/> Project Involves Stream Crossings		
	_____	_____
	a. number of new stream crossings	b. number of replacement stream crossings



Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Resource Protection - Wetlands

# WPA Form 3 – Notice of Intent

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

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## C. Other Applicable Standards and Requirements

- This is a proposal for an Ecological Restoration Limited Project. Skip Section C and complete Appendix A: Ecological Restoration Limited Project Checklists – Required Actions (310 CMR 10.11).

### Streamlined Massachusetts Endangered Species Act/Wetlands Protection Act Review

1. Is any portion of the proposed project located in **Estimated Habitat of Rare Wildlife** as indicated on the most recent Estimated Habitat Map of State-Listed Rare Wetland Wildlife published by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP)? To view habitat maps, see the *Massachusetts Natural Heritage Atlas* or go to [http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us/PRI\\_EST\\_HAB/viewer.htm](http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us/PRI_EST_HAB/viewer.htm).

- a.  Yes    No      **If yes, include proof of mailing or hand delivery of NOI to:**

**Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program  
Division of Fisheries and Wildlife  
1 Rabbit Hill Road  
Westborough, MA 01581**

- August 1, 2021  
b. Date of map

If yes, the project is also subject to Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) review (321 CMR 10.18). To qualify for a streamlined, 30-day, MESA/Wetlands Protection Act review, please complete Section C.1.c, and include requested materials with this Notice of Intent (NOI); *OR* complete Section C.2.f, if applicable. *If MESA supplemental information is not included with the NOI, by completing Section 1 of this form, the NHESP will require a separate MESA filing which may take up to 90 days to review (unless noted exceptions in Section 2 apply, see below).*

- c. Submit Supplemental Information for Endangered Species Review\*

1.  Percentage/acreage of property to be altered:
  - (a) within wetland Resource Area \_\_\_\_\_ percentage/acreage
  - (b) outside Resource Area \_\_\_\_\_ percentage/acreage

2.  Assessor's Map or right-of-way plan of site

2.  Project plans for entire project site, including wetland resource areas and areas outside of wetlands jurisdiction, showing existing and proposed conditions, existing and proposed tree/vegetation clearing line, and clearly demarcated limits of work \*\*
  - (a)  Project description (including description of impacts outside of wetland resource area & buffer zone)
  - (b)  Photographs representative of the site

\* Some projects **not** in Estimated Habitat may be located in Priority Habitat, and require NHESP review (see <https://www.mass.gov/endangered-species-act-mesa-regulatory-review>).

Priority Habitat includes habitat for state-listed plants and strictly upland species not protected by the Wetlands Protection Act.

\*\* MESA projects may not be segmented (321 CMR 10.16). The applicant must disclose full development plans even if such plans are not required as part of the Notice of Intent process.



Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Resource Protection - Wetlands

## WPA Form 3 – Notice of Intent

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

Provided by MassDEP:

MassDEP File Number

Document Transaction Number

Sturbridge

City/Town

### C. Other Applicable Standards and Requirements (cont'd)

- (c)  MESA filing fee (fee information available at <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/how-to-file-for-a-mesa-project-review>).

Make check payable to “Commonwealth of Massachusetts - NHESP” and **mail to NHESP** at above address

*Projects altering 10 or more acres of land, also submit:*

- (d)  Vegetation cover type map of site

- (e)  Project plans showing Priority & Estimated Habitat boundaries

- (f) OR Check One of the Following

1.  Project is exempt from MESA review.  
Attach applicant letter indicating which MESA exemption applies. (See 321 CMR 10.14, <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/exemptions-from-review-for-projectsactivities-in-priority-habitat>; the NOI must still be sent to NHESP if the project is within estimated habitat pursuant to 310 CMR 10.37 and 10.59.)

2.  Separate MESA review ongoing.                      a. NHESP Tracking #                      b. Date submitted to NHESP

3.  Separate MESA review completed.  
Include copy of NHESP “no Take” determination or valid Conservation & Management Permit with approved plan.

3. For coastal projects only, is any portion of the proposed project located below the mean high water line or in a fish run?

- a.  Not applicable – project is in inland resource area only      b.  Yes     No

If yes, include proof of mailing, hand delivery, or electronic delivery of NOI to either:

South Shore - Cohasset to Rhode Island border, and  
the Cape & Islands:

North Shore - Hull to New Hampshire border:

Division of Marine Fisheries -  
Southeast Marine Fisheries Station  
Attn: Environmental Reviewer  
836 South Rodney French Blvd.  
New Bedford, MA 02744  
Email: [dmf.envreview-south@mass.gov](mailto:dmf.envreview-south@mass.gov)

Division of Marine Fisheries -  
North Shore Office  
Attn: Environmental Reviewer  
30 Emerson Avenue  
Gloucester, MA 01930  
Email: [dmf.envreview-north@mass.gov](mailto:dmf.envreview-north@mass.gov)

Also if yes, the project may require a Chapter 91 license. For coastal towns in the Northeast Region, please contact MassDEP’s Boston Office. For coastal towns in the Southeast Region, please contact MassDEP’s Southeast Regional Office.

- c.  Is this an aquaculture project?                      d.  Yes     No

If yes, include a copy of the Division of Marine Fisheries Certification Letter (M.G.L. c. 130, § 57).



**Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection**  
Bureau of Resource Protection - Wetlands

## WPA Form 3 – Notice of Intent

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

Provided by MassDEP:

MassDEP File Number

Document Transaction Number

Sturbridge

City/Town

### C. Other Applicable Standards and Requirements (cont'd)

**Online Users:**  
Include your document transaction number (provided on your receipt page) with all supplementary information you submit to the Department.

4. Is any portion of the proposed project within an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)?
- a.  Yes  No If yes, provide name of ACEC (see instructions to WPA Form 3 or MassDEP Website for ACEC locations). **Note:** electronic filers click on Website.
- b. ACEC
5. Is any portion of the proposed project within an area designated as an Outstanding Resource Water (ORW) as designated in the Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards, 314 CMR 4.00?
- a.  Yes  No
6. Is any portion of the site subject to a Wetlands Restriction Order under the Inland Wetlands Restriction Act (M.G.L. c. 131, § 40A) or the Coastal Wetlands Restriction Act (M.G.L. c. 130, § 105)?
- a.  Yes  No
7. Is this project subject to provisions of the MassDEP Stormwater Management Standards?
- a.  Yes. Attach a copy of the Stormwater Report as required by the Stormwater Management Standards per 310 CMR 10.05(6)(k)-(q) and check if:
1.  Applying for Low Impact Development (LID) site design credits (as described in Stormwater Management Handbook Vol. 2, Chapter 3)
  2.  A portion of the site constitutes redevelopment
  3.  Proprietary BMPs are included in the Stormwater Management System.
- b.  No. Check why the project is exempt:
1.  Single-family house
  2.  Emergency road repair
  3.  Small Residential Subdivision (less than or equal to 4 single-family houses or less than or equal to 4 units in multi-family housing project) with no discharge to Critical Areas.

### D. Additional Information

- This is a proposal for an Ecological Restoration Limited Project. Skip Section D and complete Appendix A: Ecological Restoration Notice of Intent – Minimum Required Documents (310 CMR 10.12).

Applicants must include the following with this Notice of Intent (NOI). See instructions for details.

**Online Users:** Attach the document transaction number (provided on your receipt page) for any of the following information you submit to the Department.

1.  USGS or other map of the area (along with a narrative description, if necessary) containing sufficient information for the Conservation Commission and the Department to locate the site. (Electronic filers may omit this item.)
2.  Plans identifying the location of proposed activities (including activities proposed to serve as a Bordering Vegetated Wetland [BVW] replication area or other mitigating measure) relative to the boundaries of each affected resource area.



Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Resource Protection - Wetlands

# WPA Form 3 – Notice of Intent

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

Provided by MassDEP:
MassDEP File Number
Document Transaction Number
Sturbridge
City/Town

## D. Additional Information (cont'd)

3.  Identify the method for BVW and other resource area boundary delineations (MassDEP BVW Field Data Form(s), Determination of Applicability, Order of Resource Area Delineation, etc.), and attach documentation of the methodology.

4.  List the titles and dates for all plans and other materials submitted with this NOI.

Podunk Road Maintenance Geotechnical Soil Borings Project

a. Plan Title

BSC Group, Inc.

N/A

b. Prepared By

c. Signed and Stamped by

2/17/2023

1" = 20'

d. Final Revision Date

e. Scale

USGS Site Locus Map

2/16/2023

f. Additional Plan or Document Title

g. Date

5.  If there is more than one property owner, please attach a list of these property owners not listed on this form.

6.  Attach proof of mailing for Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, if needed.

7.  Attach proof of mailing for Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, if needed.

8.  Attach NOI Wetland Fee Transmittal Form

9.  Attach Stormwater Report, if needed.

## E. Fees

1.  Fee Exempt: No filing fee shall be assessed for projects of any city, town, county, or district of the Commonwealth, federally recognized Indian tribe housing authority, municipal housing authority, or the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority.

Applicants must submit the following information (in addition to pages 1 and 2 of the NOI Wetland Fee Transmittal Form) to confirm fee payment:

3283

2/20/2023

2. Municipal Check Number

3. Check date

N/A - eDEP payment

5. Check date

4. State Check Number

BSC Companies, Inc.

6. Payor name on check: First Name

7. Payor name on check: Last Name





Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Resource Protection - Wetlands

# WPA Form 3 – Notice of Intent

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

Provided by MassDEP:

MassDEP File Number

Document Transaction Number

Sturbridge

City/Town

## F. Signatures and Submittal Requirements

I hereby certify under the penalties of perjury that the foregoing Notice of Intent and accompanying plans, documents, and supporting data are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the Conservation Commission will place notification of this Notice in a local newspaper at the expense of the applicant in accordance with the wetlands regulations, 310 CMR 10.05(5)(a).

I further certify under penalties of perjury that all abutters were notified of this application, pursuant to the requirements of M.G.L. c. 131, § 40. Notice must be made by Certificate of Mailing or in writing by hand delivery or certified mail (return receipt requested) to all abutters within 100 feet of the property line of the project location.

	2/18/2023
1. Signature of Applicant <i>Laura Ernst</i>	2. Date
n/a agreement with MassDOT to conduct work	
3. Signature of Property Owner (if different)	4. Date
<i>[Signature]</i>	2/18/2023
5. Signature of Representative (if any)	6. Date

### For Conservation Commission:

Two copies of the completed Notice of Intent (Form 3), including supporting plans and documents, two copies of the NOI Wetland Fee Transmittal Form, and the city/town fee payment, to the Conservation Commission by certified mail or hand delivery.

### For MassDEP:

One copy of the completed Notice of Intent (Form 3), including supporting plans and documents, one copy of the NOI Wetland Fee Transmittal Form, and a **copy** of the state fee payment to the MassDEP Regional Office (see Instructions) by certified mail or hand delivery.

### Other:

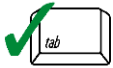
If the applicant has checked the "yes" box in any part of Section C, Item 3, above, refer to that section and the Instructions for additional submittal requirements.

The original and copies must be sent simultaneously. Failure by the applicant to send copies in a timely manner may result in dismissal of the Notice of Intent.



**Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection**  
 Bureau of Resource Protection - Wetlands  
**NOI Wetland Fee Transmittal Form**  
 Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act M.G.L. c. 131, §40

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



**A. Applicant Information**

1. Location of Project:

MassDOT SHLO SW of 248 Podunk Road	Sturbridge
a. Street Address	b. City/Town
N/A - eDEP payment	237.50
c. Check number	d. Fee amount

2. Applicant Mailing Address:

Laura	Ernst	
a. First Name	b. Last Name	
Massachusetts Electric Company (MECO)		
c. Organization		
170 Data Drive		
d. Mailing Address		
Waltham	MA	02451
e. City/Town	f. State	g. Zip Code
(781) 392-9594	laura.ernst@nationalgrid.com	
h. Phone Number	i. Fax Number	j. Email Address

3. Property Owner (if different):

a. First Name	b. Last Name	
MassDOT District 3		
c. Organization		
499 Plantation Parkway		
d. Mailing Address		
Worcester	MA	01605
e. City/Town	f. State	g. Zip Code
857-368-3000		
h. Phone Number	i. Fax Number	j. Email Address

**B. Fees**

Fee should be calculated using the following process & worksheet. **Please see Instructions before filling out worksheet.**

**Step 1/Type of Activity:** Describe each type of activity that will occur in wetland resource area and buffer zone.

**Step 2/Number of Activities:** Identify the number of each type of activity.

**Step 3/Individual Activity Fee:** Identify each activity fee from the six project categories listed in the instructions.

**Step 4/Subtotal Activity Fee:** Multiply the number of activities (identified in Step 2) times the fee per category (identified in Step 3) to reach a subtotal fee amount. Note: If any of these activities are in a Riverfront Area in addition to another Resource Area or the Buffer Zone, the fee per activity should be multiplied by 1.5 and then added to the subtotal amount.

**Step 5/Total Project Fee:** Determine the total project fee by adding the subtotal amounts from Step 4.

**Step 6/Fee Payments:** To calculate the state share of the fee, divide the total fee in half and subtract \$12.50. To calculate the city/town share of the fee, divide the total fee in half and add \$12.50.

To calculate filing fees, refer to the category fee list and examples in the instructions for filling out WPA Form 3 (Notice of Intent).



**Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection**  
 Bureau of Resource Protection - Wetlands  
**NOI Wetland Fee Transmittal Form**  
 Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act M.G.L. c. 131, §40

**B. Fees** (continued)

Step 1/Type of Activity	Step 2/Number of Activities	Step 3/Individual Activity Fee	Step 4/Subtotal Activity Fee
Category 2j	1		500

**Step 5/Total Project Fee:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Step 6/Fee Payments:**

Total Project Fee:	500
State share of filing Fee:	a. Total Fee from Step 5
	237.50
City/Town share of filing Fee:	b. 1/2 Total Fee <b>less</b> \$12.50
	262.50
	c. 1/2 Total Fee <b>plus</b> \$12.50

**C. Submittal Requirements**

- a.) Complete pages 1 and 2 and send with a check or money order for the state share of the fee, payable to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Department of Environmental Protection  
 Box 4062  
 Boston, MA 02211

- b.) **To the Conservation Commission:** Send the Notice of Intent or Abbreviated Notice of Intent; a **copy** of this form; and the city/town fee payment.

**To MassDEP Regional Office** (see Instructions): Send a copy of the Notice of Intent or Abbreviated Notice of Intent; a **copy** of this form; and a **copy** of the state fee payment. (E-filers of Notices of Intent may submit these electronically.)



# Town of Sturbridge

## Conservation Commission

### Tree Removal Permit Application

*In an effort to make the most informed decision possible concerning a tree removal application the Commission encourages the applicant to provide as much information about the tree(s) as possible.*

*Certain tree removal requests may be administratively approved by the Conservation Agent while others require approval from the Conservation Commission at a public meeting. Applicants will be contacted by the Conservation Department regarding site visit and the requirement for approval by the Conservation Commission.*

Application Date 2/16/23

Location/Address of Property: Historically used roadway on MassDOT SHLO off Podunk St.

and/or Assessor's Parcel Number: See Attached Environmental Mapping

#### Property Owner:

Name: MassDOT - District 3

Street Address: 499 Plantation Parkway, Worcester, MA 01605

Mailing Address: same

Town: Worcester Zip Code: 01605

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Applicant Contact Person:

Name: Massachusetts Electric Company; Attn: Laura Ernst

Street Address: 170 Data Drive, Waltham, MA 02451

Mailing Address: same

Town: Waltham Zip Code: 02451

Phone: 781-392-9594 Email: laura.ernst@nationalgrid.com

**Tree Removal Information**

Number of trees to be removed: 59, 14 of which are standing dead

Indicate the size, species and location of removal trees and attach plan/sketch with application. Trees must be marked and clearly visible for the site inspection by the Conservation Agent/Commission. Please refer to Attachment A, Section 3.3.

**Reason for removal:**

Health\*     High Risk\*     Tree is dead (please include picture)     Other (please explain below)

Tree removals are required to facilitate the safe passage of equipment to conduct soil borings within a historically used roadway.

*\*In situations where the health and/or risk assessment of the tree is justification for removal professional documentation of such is required. Credible professional tree diagnostic, evaluation and recommendation advice is available to the applicant through certified arborists: Please refer to the following two websites to learn more about utilizing a certified arborist. If Health or High Risk is checked above, please submit the arborist's report/documentation with your application.*

Refer to:            Massachusetts Arborists Association:    <http://www.massarbor.org/>  
                          International Society of Arboriculture:    <http://www.isa-arbor.com/>

**Replacement/Mitigation plantings are suggested, and may be required by the Commission in certain cases.**

**Guidance for Replacement Plantings:**

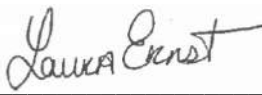
*It is recommended that careful consideration be made for mitigating plantings when a tree is being removed. Shrub planting may be a mitigation recommendation when tree replacement is not appropriate. This compensation is dependent upon the level of activity associated with the tree removal and its impacts or future impacts upon the effected resource area. Additional guidance can be obtained from a Certified Arborist or a qualified landscape professional.*

Number of trees to be replaced: None are proposed at this time as the soil borings are being conducted to plan for road maintenance and stormwater feature design and construction along the unpaved section of Podunk Road with the MassDOT State Highway Layout.

Proposed Replacement Plantings: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Replacement Locations: \_\_\_\_\_

Include replacement plants/locations on sketch submitted with application.

Signature of Applicant  \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Owner (if different from Applicant) \_\_\_\_\_

STURBRIDGE WETLANDS PROTECTION BY-LAW AND REGULATIONS

**WETLANDS FILING FEE CALCULATION WORKSHEET**

<b>Application Type</b>	<b>Qty</b>	<b>Town Filing Fee</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Notice of Intent (NOI):</b>			
<b>Residential – Single Family:</b>			
Accessory (Deck, Shed, Pool Septic)	_____	\$150	_____
Shoreline Work	_____	\$150	_____
New Construction	_____	\$300	_____
<b>Residential – Other:</b>			
Subdivision/Multi-Unit	<u>1</u> _____	\$750	<u>\$750</u> _____
<b>Commercial/Industrial:</b>			
New	_____	\$1500	_____
Redevelopment	_____	\$1000	_____
<b>Limited Project (as defined in SWB &amp; WPA)</b>	_____	Equal to full WPA fee	_____
<b>Alterations – located within Riverfront Area</b>	_____	Additional 50% of Fee	_____
<b>Application filed after Enforcement Order</b>		Double the Municipal fee	_____
<b>Request for Amended Order of Conditions</b>	_____	50% of initial fee	_____
<b>Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA):</b>			
No Wetland Boundary Confirmation			
Residential:	_____	\$100	_____
No Wetland Boundary Confirmation			
All Other:	_____	\$200	_____
For Wetland Boundary Confirmation			
<b>File ANRAD or NOI</b>			
<b>Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation (ANRAD):</b>			
<b>Residential – Single Family:</b>			
	_____	\$100	_____
<b>All Other:</b>			
<b>Base Review</b>	_____	\$300	_____
<b>Resource Area Boundary</b>			

<b>Certificate of Compliance (COC):</b>			
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**Residential:**

Single Family	_____	\$50	_____
---------------	-------	------	-------

Subdivision or Multi-Unit	_____	\$150	_____
---------------------------	-------	-------	-------

<b>Commercial or Industrial:</b>	_____	\$150	_____
----------------------------------	-------	-------	-------

<b>If Order of Conditions has Expired</b>	_____	Add an additional \$150	_____
---	-------	----------------------------	-------

<b>OOO Extension Request</b>	_____	\$50	_____
------------------------------	-------	------	-------

<b>Emergency Certification</b> (NOI may be required to be filed following issuance of Emergency Cert)	_____	\$50	_____
--	-------	------	-------

<b>Local Bylaw Fee (includes Town Filing Fee)</b>	\$ <u>\$1,012.50</u>
<b>State Filing Fee (from DEP Wetland Transmittal Form)</b>	\$ <u>\$237.50</u>
<b><u>Total Payable to "Town of STURBRIDGE"</u></b>	\$ <u>\$1,012.50</u>

\*Additional Consultant Fee may be required for reasons which may include:

- Significant amount of wetland impact;
- Extensive resource areas on a site;
- Lack of information supplied;
- Incomplete plans, reports, forms submitted;
- Supplemental information submitted.

## Transaction Overview **Trans# 1519556 ID# WPA Form 3 - NOI**



### Payment

[print](#)

[Exit](#)

### Payment Confirmation

Thank you. Your payment has been received and payment receipt has been emailed.

DEP TRANS # 1519556

Payment Amount: \$237.5

Payment Date: 2/20/2023 11:09:26 AM

DEP Payment Confirmation ID: dddc5e6d-dfcb-4932-b4ee-9001b20fd038

Note: Payment received after 3:30pm will not be posted until the next business day.

[Next](#)



# **Attachment A**

Podunk Road Maintenance – Geotechnical Soil Borings Project  
Sturbridge, Massachusetts  
Notice of Intent

PROJECT NARRATIVE

## 1 INTRODUCTION

BSC Group, Inc. (BSC) is filing this Notice of Intent (NOI) on behalf of the Massachusetts Electric Company (MECO) for activities associated with exploratory geotechnical soil borings along Podunk Road in Sturbridge, Massachusetts (the Project). The proposed borings are to plan for the road maintenance and stormwater feature design and construction along the unpaved section of Podunk Road within the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) State Highway Layout (SHLO) east of Route 49. This abandoned unpaved portion of the road will be used to construct and maintain a future distribution line extension along Podunk Road and across Route 49, which will be permitted separately with the Conservation Commission in the future. National Grid has received a request for a solar interconnection in Charlton, MA and has completed a study of the Company Area Electrical Power System. This study identified that the most suitable interconnecting distribution line is the 415L3 Feeder. In order to comply with the interconnection request, MECO must extend the existing 415L3 Feeder from the existing poles west of Route 49 and continue the line towards Putnam Road. MECO has evaluated several crossing possibilities with MassDOT, with the aforementioned road maintenance and feeder extension being selected as the best option. This NOI is being submitted in accordance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch.131, S.40) (WPA) and its implementing regulations (310 CMR 10.00), and the Sturbridge Wetland Protection Bylaw (Chapter 286) and its implementing regulations (Chapter 365).

Access to the soil boring locations will require the removal of approximately 59 trees<sup>1</sup>, ranging from 2 to 9 inches Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), and brush cutting within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW) to create an approximately 20-ft wide cleared path (centered on the soil boring locations) to facilitate equipment access to conduct the borings. A small berm is present at the beginning of the unpaved portion of Podunk Road which will be smoothed out to allow for equipment passage. No other access improvements will be required. The portion of Podunk Road where the Project is proposed was a previously used public roadway which was eventually bisected by Route 49 and removed from public use as it became part of MassDOT's SHLO. The existence of the roadway is visible on aerial images available from Historic Aerials<sup>2</sup> from 1966, see **Attachment D**, and continues to be visible through the 1970s to the 2010s. Please refer to the enclosed USGS Site Locus Map and Environmental Resources Map in **Attachment B** and Site Photographs in **Attachment C**.

The Project activities include four (4) soil borings (B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4) which are necessary to plan for the road maintenance and stormwater feature design and construction along the unpaved section of Podunk Road. In summary:

- Removal of approximately 59 trees (of various DBH) within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to BVW to create an approximately 20-ft wide cleared path; and
- Soil boring activities are proposed within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to BVW.

---

<sup>1</sup> The Town of Sturbridge Wetlands Regulations defines a tree as any woody vegetation with a stem diameter of two inches DBH.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer>, retrieved 2/16/2023

To facilitate the safe passage of the soil boring equipment, tree clearing and brush cutting will be required within the Limit of Work shown on the Environmental Resources Mapping in **Attachment B**. Tree removals are solely intended to facilitate the passage of soil boring equipment and the extent of clearing will be minimized to the extent practicable for the geotechnical soil boring phase. Podunk Road is a designated Scenic Road under Chapter 230 of the Town of Sturbridge Bylaws. As such, MECO has discussed the required tree removals with the Tree Warden and the required removals for the soil borings program have been approved.

While exploratory borings are considered exempt minor buffer zone activities under 310 CMR 10.02(2)(b)(g), tree removals will be required to access the boring locations and are not exempt from review. Therefore, this NOI is being submitted under the WPA for the proposed tree removals, and under the Sturbridge Wetland Protection Bylaw for the proposed tree removals and soil borings. National Grid has determined the most suitable distribution line to provide an interconnection to the solar customer, and in coordination with MassDOT has identified a location to extend the distribution feeder. This will require utilizing the abandoned section of Podunk Road to construct and maintain the future distribution line extension. With the restrictions of working in the MassDOT SHLO, MECO has designed the Project to avoid and minimize adverse impacts to wetland resource areas to the greatest extent practicable. Therefore, this NOI serves as a request for an Order of Conditions and associated Tree Removal Permit for the activities described herein.

## **2 EXISTING CONDITIONS**

Project activities are proposed within the 100-ft Buffer Zone to BVW and the Town of Sturbridge 200-ft Buffer Zone to BVW, 25-ft No Disturb and 50-ft No Structure Zone. Additionally, activities will be located within the MassDOT SHLO and along a designated Scenic Road which is no longer accessible for public use. No other sensitive resource areas were identified in proximity to the project areas. Dominant land uses adjacent to the project area include Route 49, forested land, and single-family properties.

### *2.1 Resource Area Summary*

BSC conducted both a Desktop Analysis (using MassGIS data layers, FEMA Firmette, and other publicly available data), and wetland field delineations, to assess permitting requirements pursuant to the WPA and the Town of Sturbridge Wetland Protection Bylaw. Wetland delineations were conducted in June 2022, in accordance with the methodology described in the MassDEP *Handbook on Delineating Bordering Vegetated Wetlands* (Published in March 1995).

The Environmental Resources Map in **Attachment B** depicts existing conditions, wetland resource areas, and buffer zones, in relation to the proposed activities. Project activities include soil borings and tree removal and brush cutting within the 100-ft Buffer Zone to BVW and the Town of Sturbridge 200-ft Buffer Zone to BVW, 50-ft No Structure Zone and the 25-ft No Disturb Zone.

Two (2) wetlands were identified within the vicinity of the Project within the SHLO. No work, access or impacts are proposed to BVW as part of this Project.

ST-W1 was identified to the north, west and south of the unpaved portion of Podunk Road. ST-W1 is classified as a palustrine forested wetland. Plant species identified within ST-W1 consist of Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), Ash sp. (*Fraxinus sp.*) Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*), Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana L.*), Sensitive Fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*), Cinnamon Fern (*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*), Sedge sp. (*Carex sp.*), and Canada-mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*). ST-W1 was noted to contain large amounts of trash and fill material.

ST-W2 is located south of ST-W1 on the southern side of the unpaved portion of Podunk Road. ST-W2 is a palustrine forested wetland. Plant species identified within ST-W2 consist of Eastern Hemlock, Red Maple, American Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*), Poison Ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) and Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*).

No other resource areas were identified within or near the Project area, including Land Under Water (LUW), Certified Vernal Pools, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW), Surface Water Protection Zones, or Zone II Wellhead Protection Areas. However, activities will be along a designated Scenic Road under Chapter 230 of the Town of Sturbridge Bylaws.

### **3 PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND ANTICIPATED IMPACTS**

#### **3.1 Summary**

The Project proposes four (4) exploratory geotechnical soil borings along the historically used unpaved portion of Podunk Road and the removal of approximately 59 trees and brush cutting to create an approximately 20-ft wide cleared path to facilitate equipment access necessary to conduct the borings. Tree removals will be restricted to the Limit of Work identified of the Environmental Resource Mapping in **Attachment B**. Permanent Project impacts are associated with the tree removals to re-establishment the cleared limits of the roadway. Temporary Project impacts are associated with soil boring activities. No work within BVW is proposed.

#### **3.2 Soil Borings**

The purpose of the borings is to evaluate subsurface conditions for stormwater feature design and construction associated with the future maintenance of the historically used unpaved portion of Podunk Road. The unpaved portion of Podunk Road will be used to install and maintain a future distribution line extension, which will extend from the existing line west of Route 49, along Podunk Road toward Putnam Road in Sturbridge, MA. This extension, road maintenance and stormwater design will be permitted separately with the Conservation Commission.

A small drill rig will be used to perform the soil borings. Each boring hole will be approximately four (4) to six (6) inches in diameter and is typically completed within 1-2 days. Soils from the boring hole will be temporarily stored adjacent to the boring location. If for any reason, the soil remains overnight, they will be properly contained (fiber rolls, etc.). Upon completion of the work, bored-out soil will be used to backfill the hole. Project activities will be restricted to the Limit of Work identified on the Environmental Resource Mapping in **Attachment B**.

### 3.3 Tree Removals

Since the abandonment of the unpaved section of Podunk Road for public access, the cleared roadway has not been maintained. In total, MECO will need to remove 59 trees conduct brush cutting within the 100-ft and locally regulated 200-ft Buffer Zone to BVW. Trees will be cut flat at the base, as close to grade as possible. All debris will be removed from the site. No ground disturbance or stump grinding is proposed. Table 1 (below), provides details of the proposed removals. DBH ranges from 2 to 9 DBH<sup>3</sup>, and 14 of the 59 trees are dead. Of the living trees, approximately 42% of the trees are greater than 5 DBH. Brush cutting will also be conducted and will include Eastern White Pine, American Hornbeam, Russian-Olive, Eastern Hemlock, Red Maple, Sugar Maples, Ash sp. And Sweet Birch.

Table 1. Tree removals subject to review under the WPA and local Bylaw. All tree removals are located within the Limit of Work identified on the Environmental Resource Mapping in Attachment B.

Tree ID	DBH	Common Name	Scientific Name	Comment	Jurisdictional under Scenic Bylaw (≥4 DBH)
T1, T21, T26	7	Eastern White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>		Yes
T2, T3, T4, T6, T33, T42	4	Eastern White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>		Yes
T5, T51	2	Eastern White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>		
T7, T16	7	Sweet Birch/Cherry Birch	<i>Betula lenta</i>		Yes
T9	3	Sweet Birch/Cherry Birch	<i>Betula lenta</i>		
T10, T11	3	Eastern White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	Dead	
T12	4	Eastern White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>	Dead	Yes
T13, T18	5	Sweet Birch/Cherry Birch	<i>Betula lenta</i>		Yes
T15	5	Northern Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>		Yes
T17, T60	4	Eastern White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	Dead	Yes

<sup>3</sup> The Town of Sturbridge Wetlands Regulations defines a tree as any woody vegetation with a stem diameter of two inches DBH.

Tree ID	DBH	Common Name	Scientific Name	Comment	Jurisdictional under Scenic Bylaw (≥4 DBH)
T19	8	Sweet Birch/Cherry Birch	<i>Betula lenta</i>		Yes
T20, T23, T44	5	Eastern White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	Dead	Yes
T24	8	Northern Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>		Yes
T25, T37	3	Eastern White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>		
T27	5	Eastern White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>		Yes
T28	3	Eastern White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>	Dead	
T30	4	Northern Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>		Yes
T31, T63	3	Eastern White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>		
T32	2	Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>		
T34	9	Northern Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>		Yes
T40, T45	5	Eastern White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>		Yes
T41	4	Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>		Yes
T43	3	Eastern White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	Dead	
T46	4	Northern Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Dead	Yes
T47	2	Ash	<i>Fraxinus sp.</i>		
T48	5	Northern Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Dead	Yes
T49	6	Eastern White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>		Yes
T54, T65	2	Eastern White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	Dead	
T61	2	Sweet Birch/Cherry Birch	<i>Betula lenta</i>		
T62	2	Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>		
T64	2	Eastern Hemlock	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>		
T68	9	Sweet Birch/Cherry Birch	<i>Betula lenta</i>		Yes
T69	9	Eastern White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>		Yes
T70	3	Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>		
T73	9	Northern Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>		Yes
T77	3-4	American Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>		Yes
T81	5	Sweet Birch/Cherry Birch	<i>Betula lenta</i>		Yes
T83	4	Sweet Birch/Cherry Birch	<i>Betula lenta</i>		Yes
T84	3	Hickory	<i>Carya sp.</i>		
T85	4	Hickory	<i>Carya sp.</i>		Yes
T86	2	American Elm	<i>Ulmus americana</i>		

#### 4 CONFORMANCE WITH PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

##### 4.1 Town of Sturbridge Wetland Regulations General Performance Standards, 365.5-0

Project activities are proposed within 200-ft Buffer Zone to BVW, 50-ft No Structure Zone, and the 25-ft No Disturb Zone. All four (4) soil borings are proposed within the 200-ft Buffer Zone, and two (2) soil borings (B-1 and B-4) are proposed within the 50-ft No Structure Zone.

Tree removals are proposed within the historically used roadway and will be limited to create a 20-ft wide path, centered on the soil borings locations, to facilitate equipment access.

The 200-ft Buffer Zone to BVW is designated as a resource area under the Town of Sturbridge Wetlands Bylaw, §286-2. The following general performance standards are applicable to the 200-ft Buffer Zone.

- (1) No project shall lead to a violation of Massachusetts Water Quality Standards, on both numeric and narrative criteria.

*Not applicable to this Project. No change in grade or ground disturbance outside of the temporary soil borings are proposed.*

- (2) No project may have adverse impacts on habitat for rare or endangered species or on areas of critical environmental concern.

*Not applicable. There is no NHESP Priority or Estimated Habitat or ACECs in the vicinity of the Project.*

- (3) No project will be allowed which will have an adverse impact on the interests noted for each resource area.

*The Project will implement the use of sediment and erosion controls ensure the adjacent resource areas are adequately protected, and impacts to the surrounding area are reduced, minimized, and restored to the maximum extent practicable. Tree removals have been minimized to the extent practicable. Through the use of BMPs, there are no anticipated impacts to the interests of the local bylaw: public or private water supply, groundwater, flood control, erosion and sedimentation control, storm damage prevention, water quality, water pollution control, fisheries, wildlife habitat, rare species habitat including rare plant species, recreation values, agriculture and aquaculture.*

- (4) Maximum allowable alterations are at the discretion of the Commission.

*The soil borings and tree removals are limited to the historically used road and Public Way.*

- (5) Values other than those identified in this section may be determined to be significant to a resource area on a case-by-case basis. Should the Commission determine that additional values are significant based on best professional judgment, a written statement with detailed reasons for the determination shall be submitted to the applicant. An applicant has the right to challenge the additional presumed values based on a preponderance of scientific evidence.

*To be addressed if submitted to MECO.*

(6) Failure to contain and control sedimentation and erosion on site and out of resource areas and restricted buffers may result in a cease and desist order at the discretion of the Sturbridge Conservation Commission. All work on site will be stopped until erosion control barriers are corrected and sediments are removed from resource areas, restricted buffer areas or impacted off-site areas.

*MECO will implement sediment and erosion control measures prior to ground disturbing activities, and will be maintained throughout construction.*

## **5 PROPOSED MITIGATION TECHNIQUES**

MECO has established procedures that are to be followed by all employees performing construction and maintenance activities on distribution Right-of-Ways. These procedures, or BMPs, are outlined in National Grid's Environmental Guidance document Access, Maintenance and Construction Best Management Practices (EG-303NE) to ensure that all MECO projects are completed in accordance with all applicable environmental laws and regulations as well as company policies and compliance objectives. MECO has an Environmental Department with full-time staff responsible to ensure company procedures are implemented in the field. The following sections provide a summary of BMPs that will be implemented for this Project. See **Attachment D** for an excerpt of National Grid's Environmental Guidance Document, Access, Maintenance and Construction Best Management Practices, Sediment and Erosion Controls.

### 5.1 Sediment and Erosion Controls

Erosion and sediment control measures will be installed prior to the commencement of work as necessary. These controls will function to mitigate work-related erosion and sedimentation, and to serve as a physical boundary that delineates work areas and contains construction activities within approved locations. Erosion and sediment control measures may include silt fence, weed-free straw bale barriers, straw wattles, or similar treatment.

BMPs will be inspected and maintained in working order until all disturbed areas are stabilized. Please refer to **Attachment D** for erosion and sediment control details.

### 5.2 Access

Access to the soil boring locations will be obtained from Podunk Road in Sturbridge MA.

### 5.3 Tree Removals

Prior to the commencement of work, tree removals and vegetation within the historically used roadway will be cleared to provide access for vehicles and personnel. Tree removals and brush cutting will be restricted to the Limit of Work identified on the Environmental Resource Mapping in **Attachment B**. For safety purposes, all debris will be removed from the



site for disposal.

#### 5.4 Restoration of Disturbed Areas

Disturbed areas will be returned to pre-construction elevations and conditions to the extent practicable. Temporary soil erosion and sediment control devices will be removed following the stabilization of disturbed areas. In addition, construction debris and non-biodegradable controls will be removed from the site following construction and site stabilization.

## **6 CONCLUSION**

Although portions of the Project will occur within the 100-ft and 200-ft Buffer Zone to BVW, the 50-ft No Structure Zone and the 25-ft No Disturb Zone the proposed Project will:

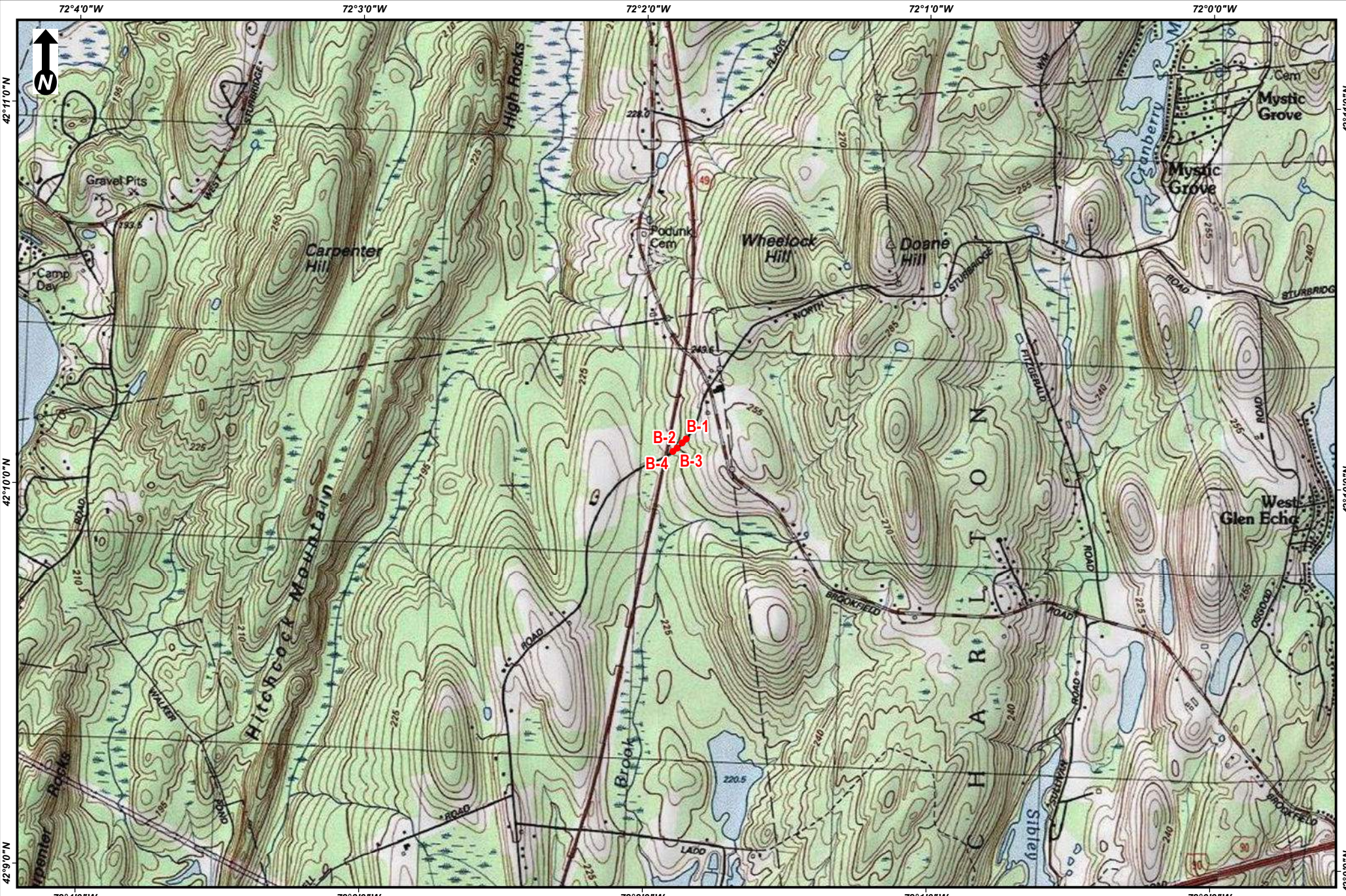
- Minimize disturbance by utilizing an historically used and previously disturbed public way; and
- Utilize appropriate BMPs to protect wetland resource areas from sedimentation and soil disturbance during boring activities.

Therefore, MECO requests the Sturbridge Conservation Commission find this proposal adequately protective of the public interests identified in the WPA, and the local bylaw and regulations and issue an Order of Conditions for the activities described in this narrative.

# **Attachment B**

Podunk Road Maintenance – Geotechnical Soil Borings Project  
Sturbridge, Massachusetts  
Notice of Intent

USGS SITE LOCUS MAP  
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MAP  
FEMA FIRMETTE MAP  
SCENIC ROAD MAP



Scale: 1:24,000  
1 inch = 2,000 feet  
0 1,000 2,000  
Feet  
(Page Size 8.5 x 11)

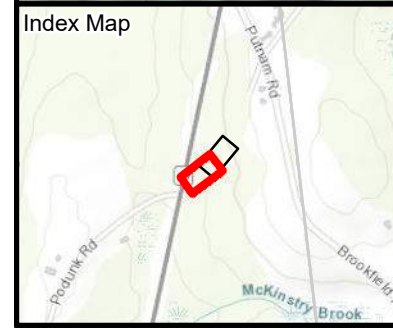
### Podunk Road Maintenance Geotechnical Soil Borings Program

USGS Site Location Map  
Sturbridge, MA

Source: Copyright ©  
2013 National  
Geographic Society, i-  
cubed



Resource Areas Reviewed:  
 MADEP Tier Classified Oil and/or Hazardous Material Sites (21E); MADEP Oil and/or Hazardous Material Sites with Activity and Use Limitations; Certified Vernal Pools; Potential Vernal Pools; NHESP Priority Habitats; NHESP Estimated Habitats; NHESP Restricted Data; Wild & Scenic Rivers; NHD Hydrography; Census 2000 Streams; MADEP Hydrologic Connections; MADEP Wetlands; FEMA 100yr Floodplain; NRCS Hydric Soils; Public Water Supply; Zone II Wellhead Protection Area; Interim Wellhead Protection Area; Surface Water Protection Zone; Outstanding Resource Water; Areas of Critical Environmental Concern; Watershed Protection Act Zones; Ch. 91 Tidelands Jurisdiction; Article 97 Land; Landfills ([Not]Capped, [Un]Lined, [In]Active, Closed)



**Legend**

Soil Boring Locations	Estimated Wetland	1ft Contour
Access Route	25ft No-Disturb Zone	5ft Contour
Limit Of Work	50ft No Structure Zone	
Work Envelopes*	100ft Buffer to Wetlands & Streams	
Field Delineated Wetland Boundary	Parcel Boundaries	
Field Delineated Wetland*	Culvert	

Extent of entire mapset located within Sturbridge's 200ft Local Buffer to Wetlands

1 inch = 20 feet  
 0 10 20  
 Feet

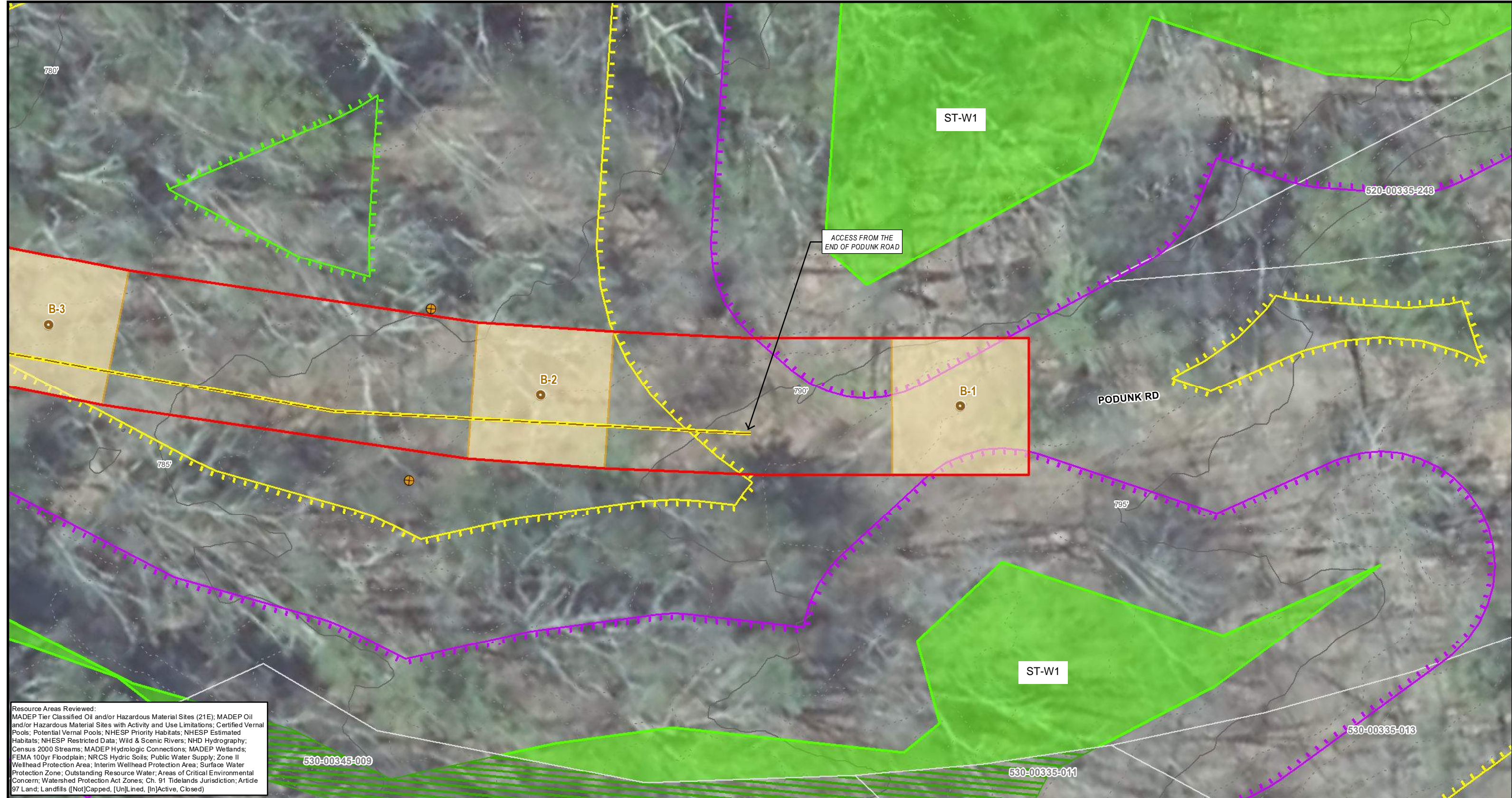
\*Indicates Layers Set to Transparency

**Podunk Road Maintenance  
 Geotechnical Soil Borings Program**

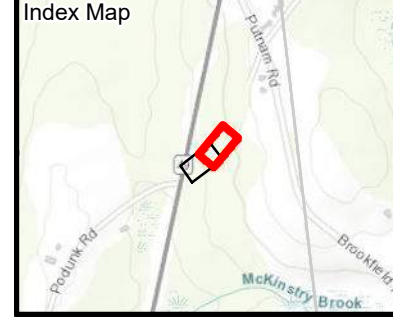
**Soil Boring Plan**

Sturbridge, MA  
 Page 1 of 2

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



Resource Areas Reviewed:  
 MADEP Tier Classified Oil and/or Hazardous Material Sites (21E); MADEP Oil and/or Hazardous Material Sites with Activity and Use Limitations; Certified Vernal Pools; Potential Vernal Pools; NHESP Priority Habitats; NHESP Estimated Habitats; NHESP Restricted Data; Wild & Scenic Rivers; NHD Hydrography; Census 2000 Streams; MADEP Hydrologic Connections; MADEP Wetlands; FEMA 100yr Floodplain; NRCS Hydric Soils; Public Water Supply; Zone II Wellhead Protection Area; Interim Wellhead Protection Area; Surface Water Protection Zone; Outstanding Resource Water; Areas of Critical Environmental Concern; Watershed Protection Act Zones; Ch. 91 Tidelands Jurisdiction; Article 97 Land; Landfills ([Not]Capped, [Un]Lined, [In]Active, Closed)



**Legend**

Soil Boring Locations	Estimated Wetland	1ft Contour
Access Route	25ft No-Disturb Zone	5ft Contour
Limit Of Work	50ft No Structure Zone	
Work Envelopes*	100ft Buffer to Wetlands & Streams	
Field Delineated Wetland Boundary	Parcel Boundaries	
Field Delineated Wetland*	Culvert	

Extent of entire mapset located within Sturbridge's 200ft Local Buffer to Wetlands

1 inch = 20 feet  
 0 10 20  
 Feet

\*Indicates Layers Set to Transparency

**Podunk Road Maintenance  
 Geotechnical Soil Borings Program**

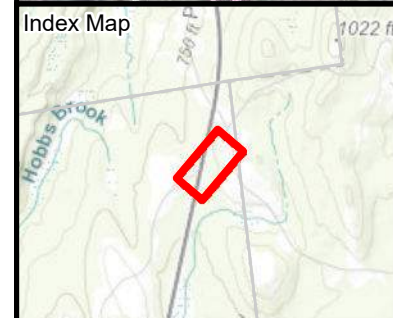
**Soil Boring Plan**

Sturbridge, MA  
 Page 2 of 2

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



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**Legend**

Soil Boring Locations	MADEP Wetlands*	Town Boundary
Access Route	25ft No-Disturb Zone	Catch Basin
Limit Of Work	50ft No Structure Zone	Culvert
Work Envelopes*	100ft Buffer to Wetlands & Streams	1ft Contour
Field Delineated Wetland Boundary	200ft Local Buffer	5ft Contour
Field Delineated Wetland*	MHC Historic Point	
Estimated Wetland	Parcel Boundaries	

1 inch = 100 feet  
 0 50 100  
 Feet

\*Indicates Layers Set to Transparency

## Podunk Road Maintenance Geotechnical Soil Borings Program

### Soil Boring Plan

Sturbridge, MA

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

# National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette

72°2'12"W 42°10'19"N



## Legend

SEE FIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT

**SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS**

- Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE)  
*Zone A, V, A99*
- With BFE or Depth *Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AP*
- Regulatory Floodway

0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard, Areas of 1% annual chance flood with average depth less than one foot or with drainage areas of less than one square mile *Zone X*

Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard *Zone X*  
Area with Reduced Flood Risk due to Levees. See Notes. *Zone X*  
Area with Flood Risk due to Levees *Zone D*

### OTHER AREAS OF FLOOD HAZARD

NO SCREEN *Zone X*  
Area of Minimal Flood Hazard *Zone X*  
Effective LOMRs *Zone D*  
Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard *Zone D*

### OTHER AREAS

**GENERAL STRUCTURES**

- Channel, Culvert, or Storm Sewer
- Levee, Dike, or Floodwall

**OTHER FEATURES**

- 20.2 Cross Sections with 1% Annual Chance Water Surface Elevation
- 17.5 Coastal Transect
- 30' Base Flood Elevation Line (BFE)
- Limit of Study
- Jurisdiction Boundary
- Coastal Transect Baseline
- Profile Baseline
- Hydrographic Feature

**MAP PANELS**

- Digital Data Available
- No Digital Data Available
- Unmapped

The pin displayed on the map is an approximate point selected by the user and does not represent an authoritative property location.

This map complies with FEMA's standards for the use of digital flood maps if it is not void as described below. The basemap shown complies with FEMA's basemap accuracy standards.

The flood hazard information is derived directly from the authoritative NFHL web services provided by FEMA. This map was exported on 2/16/2023 at 11:04 PM and does not reflect changes or amendments subsequent to this date and time. The NFHL and effective information may change or become superseded by new data over time.

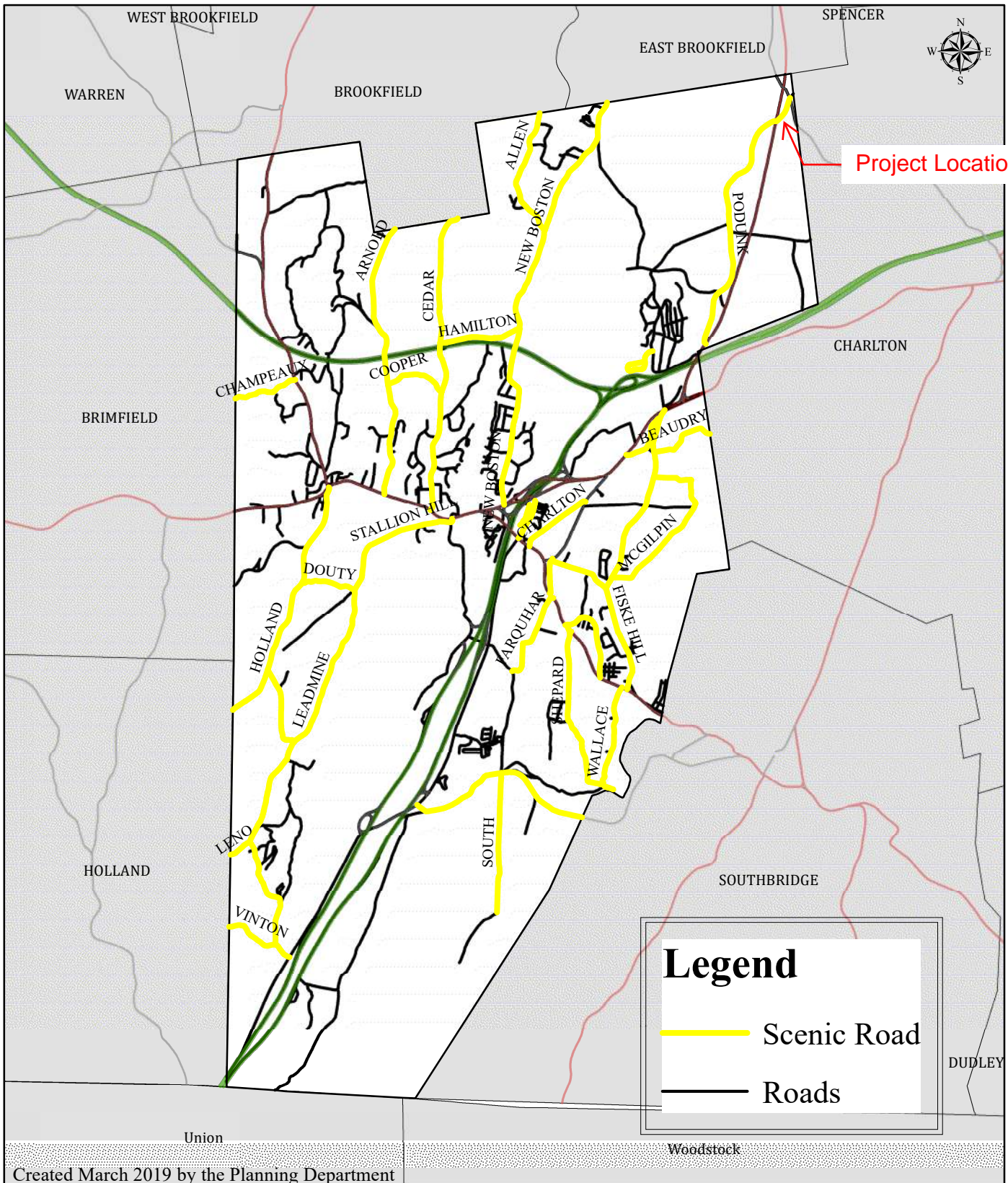
This map image is void if the one or more of the following map elements do not appear: basemap imagery, flood zone labels, legend, scale bar, map creation date, community identifiers, FIRM panel number, and FIRM effective date. Map images for unmapped and unmodernized areas cannot be used for regulatory purposes.



0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet 1:6,000  
Basemap: USGS National Map: OrthoImagery: Data refreshed October, 2020  
72°1'35"W 42°9'52"N



# Town of Sturbridge Scenic Roads Map



WARREN

WEST BROOKFIELD

BROOKFIELD

EAST BROOKFIELD

SPENCER



Project Location

BRIMFIELD

CHAMPEAUX

COOPER

HAMILTON

ALLEN

NEW BOSTON

PODUNKS

CHARLTON

BEAUDRY

STALLION HILL

NEW BOSTON

CHARLTON

MCGILPIN

DOUTY

HOLLAND

LEADMINE

AROUHAR

LEPPARD

FISKE HILL

WALLACE

HOLLAND

LENO

VINTON

SOUTH

SOUTHBRIDGE

## Legend

Scenic Road

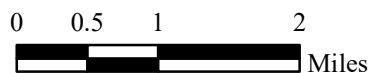
Roads

DUDLEY

Union

Woodstock

Created March 2019 by the Planning Department





## **SCENIC ROADS DESIGNATION**

### **Article 11 4-26-04 Town Meeting**

The following roads have been designated as scenic roads in relation to Sturbridge General Bylaws Sections 3.72 – 3.75:

- Allen Road from New Boston Road to the Brookfield Town Line
- Arnold Road from Main Street to the Brookfield Town Line
- Beaudry Road from Fiske Hill Road for approximately .67 miles
- Cedar Street from Main Street to Gay Road
- Champeaux Road from Brookfield Road to the Brimfield Town Line
- Charlton Street from Main Street to Hall Road
- Cooper Road from Cedar Street to Arnold Road
- Douty Road from Holland Road to Leadmine Road
- Fairview Park Road from the northerly connection to Main Street to the Southerly connection to Main Street
- Farquhar Road from Main Street to River Road
- Finlay Road from Holland Road to Leadmine Road
- Fiske Hill Road from Main Street (Route 131) to Route 20
- Gardner Avenue from Maple Street to the cul-de-sac, approximately .24 miles
- Gifford Road from Route 20 to Fiske Hill Road
- Holland Road from Main Street to the Holland Town Line
- Leadmine Road from Stallion Hill Road to Route 15
- Leno Road from Leadmine Road to the Holland Town Line
- Maple Street from Main Street to the cul-de-sac, approximately .51 miles
- Mashapaug Road from Route 15 to the Southbridge Town Line
- McGilpin Road from the northerly connection with Fiske Hill Road to the southerly connection with Fiske Hill Road
- New Boston Road from Route 20 to the East Brookfield Town Line
- Podunk Road from Route 49 to Putnam Road
- Shepard Road from Main Street to the Westville Dam access road
- South Road from Mashapaug Road to the end, approximately 1.00 miles
- Stallion Hill Road from Route 20 to the intersection with Douty Road and Leadmine Road

- Wallace Road from Main Street to the Westville Dam access road
- Whittemore Road from Hall Road to Fiske Hill Road
- Willard Road from Whittemore Road to Main Street
- Woodlawn Drive from Wells Park Road for approximately .56 miles
- Vinton Road from Leadmine Road to the Holland Town Line

# Attachment C

Podunk Road Maintenance – Geotechnical Soil Borings Project  
Sturbridge, Massachusetts  
Notice of Intent

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS  
AERIAL IMAGERY TIMELINE



**Photo #1:** Location of Soil Boring B-1, indicated by wooden stake. B-1 is proposed within the locally regulated 50-ft No Structure Zone, and 100-ft and 200-ft Buffer Zone to BVW. Tree removals are required to create a 20-ft wide cleared path centered on the soil borings. Trees proposed for removal are flagged in yellow flagging. *Facing northeast.*



**Photo #2:** Location of Soil Boring B-2, indicated by wooden stake. B-2 is proposed within the 100-ft and 200-ft Buffer Zones to BVW. Tree removals are required to create a 20-ft wide cleared path centered on the soil borings. Trees proposed for removal are flagged in yellow flagging. *Facing northeast.*



**Photo #3:** Location of Soil Boring B-3, indicated by wooden stake. B-3 is proposed within the 100-ft and 200-ft Buffer Zones to BVW. Tree removals are required to create a 20-ft wide cleared path centered on the soil borings. Trees proposed for removal are flagged in yellow flagging. *Facing west.*



**Photo #4:** Location of Soil Boring B-4, indicated by wooden stake. B-4 is proposed within the 100-ft and 200-ft Buffer Zones to BVW, and the 50-ft No Structure Zone. Tree removals are required to create a 20-ft wide cleared path centered on the soil borings. Trees proposed for removal are flagged in yellow flagging. *Facing east.*



**Photo #5:** Overview of historically used, abandoned portion of Podunk Road. Soil Borings B-1 is visible in the foreground and B-2 is visible in the background. *Facing west.*



**Photo #6:** Overview of historically used, abandoned portion of Podunk Road. Soil Borings B-2 is visible in the foreground. An existing culvert is indicated by stakes with blue flagging. *Facing west.*



**Photo #7:** Representative photo of trees proposed for removal near boring B-4. Trees proposed for removal are flagged in yellow. Route 49 is visible in the background. *Facing west.*



**Photo #1:** Aerial Image from 1966, retrieved from HistoricAerials.com. At this time, Route 49 did not exist, and Podunk Road was continuous.



**Photo #2:** Aerial Image from 1967, retrieved from HistoricAerials.com. A path is visible where present day Route 49 is now located.





**Photo #3:** Aerial Image from 1971, retrieved from HistoricAerials.com. Podunk Road is now bisected by Route 49.



**Photo #4:** Aerial Image from 1986, retrieved from HistoricAerials.com. Podunk Road is bisected by Route 49.



Photo #5: Aerial Image from 1997, retrieved from HistoricAerials.com.

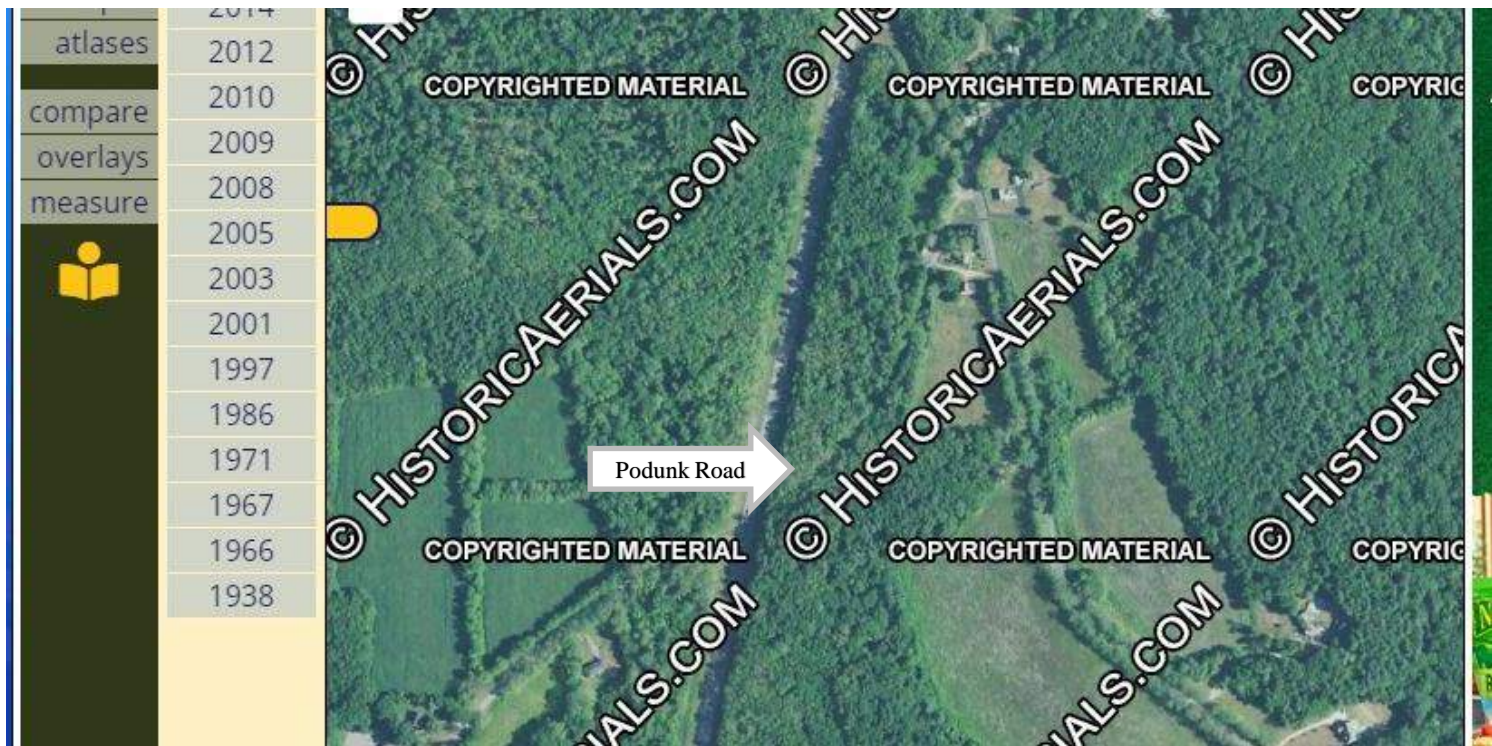


Photo #6: Aerial Image from 2016, retrieved from HistoricAerials.com.

# Attachment D

Podunk Road Maintenance – Geotechnical Soil Borings Project  
Sturbridge, Massachusetts  
Notice of Intent

ABUTTERS LIST REQUEST  
CERTIFIED ABUTTERS LIST  
ABUTTERS NOTIFICATION LETTER  
AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE- TO BE PROVIDED



# Town of Sturbridge

*Ann P. Murphy, MAA. - Principal Assessor*

## ABUTTER LIST REQUEST (Please allow 10 days for final list)

See map location in red on attached map. GPS Location: 42.168280, -72.031665  
PARCEL ADDRESS REQUESTED Closest Parcel is 530-00345-009

OWNER OF RECORD MassDOT

CONTACT PERSON Heidi Graf

SIGNATURE

DATE 2/9/2023 TELEPHONE # (617) 896-4519

COST: \$5.00 FOR EACH PARCEL REQUESTED  
\$3.00 PER SHEET OF MAILING LABELS

Direct Abutter

Conservation (200')

Planning / Zoning Board of Appeals (300')

Board of Selectmen  Forest Cutting (200')

Liquor License (Contact assessors office for requirements)

Miscellaneous (Contact assessors office for instructions)

*Town Hall, 308 Main Street  
Sturbridge, MA 01566*

*Telephone (508) 347-2503  
Fax (508) 347-2521  
Email: [lpeters@sturbridge.gov](mailto:lpeters@sturbridge.gov)*



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Town Hall, 308 Main Street  
Sturbridge, MA 01566

Telephone (508) 347-2503  
Fax (508) 347-2521  
Email: [lpeters@sturbridge.gov](mailto:lpeters@sturbridge.gov)







# Town of Sturbridge

## Conservation Commission

### Notification to Abutters

under the MA Wetlands Protection Act and the Town of Sturbridge Wetland Bylaw Regulations

In accordance with the second paragraph of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 131, § 40, as well as the Town of Sturbridge Wetland Bylaw, you are hereby notified of the following permit application for work within a wetland resource area and/or within the 200-foot buffer zone to a resource area:

- A. The name of the applicant is: Massachusetts Electric Company
- B. The address of the lot(s) where the activity is proposed is: MassDOT State Highway Layout, Southwest of 248 Podunk Rd
- C. The nature of the activity proposed includes: 4 exploratory geotechnical soil borings and tree removals in historically used roadway in Buffer Zone.
- D. The applicant has filed the following in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act (MGL c. 131, § 40), and/or the Town of Sturbridge Wetland Bylaws.
- Notice of Intent seeking permission to conduct work within a wetland, water body or resource area
  - Request for Determination seeking permission to conduct work within a buffer zone to a wetland, waterbody or resource area
  - Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation seeking to confirm the wetland resource area boundaries.
  - Request to amend an existing Order of Conditions for DEP File #300-\_\_\_\_\_

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**The Public Hearing for this application will be held in person and remotely via GoTo Meeting  
at the Center Office Building, 301 Main Street, 2nd Floor**

**Date and Time of Hearing:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Public Hearing can be accessed remotely:**

- **From your computer using:** \_\_\_\_\_ **or**
- **From your phone: +1 872 240 3212, followed by the access code** \_\_\_\_\_

---

Please note that while an option for remote attendance and/or participation is being provided to the public, the meeting/hearing will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless otherwise required by law. Members of the public with particular interest in any specific item on this agenda should make plans for in-person vs. virtual attendance accordingly. Please note that meetings can also be watched either online via the Town's on demand video broadcast or on cable television on channel 191, however, there is no public participation through these options.

**PLEASE NOTE: Copies of the application and related materials including agendas and staff notes can be found here:**

- <https://www.sturbridge.gov/conservation-commission/pages/meeting-calendar-and-documents>

You may contact the Sturbridge Conservation Commission Office (508) 347-2506 or the Department of Environmental Protection Central Regional Office at 508-792-7650 with questions in regards to the application process or the Wetlands Protection Act.



# Attachment E

Podunk Road Maintenance – Geotechnical Soil Borings Project  
Sturbridge, Massachusetts  
Notice of Intent

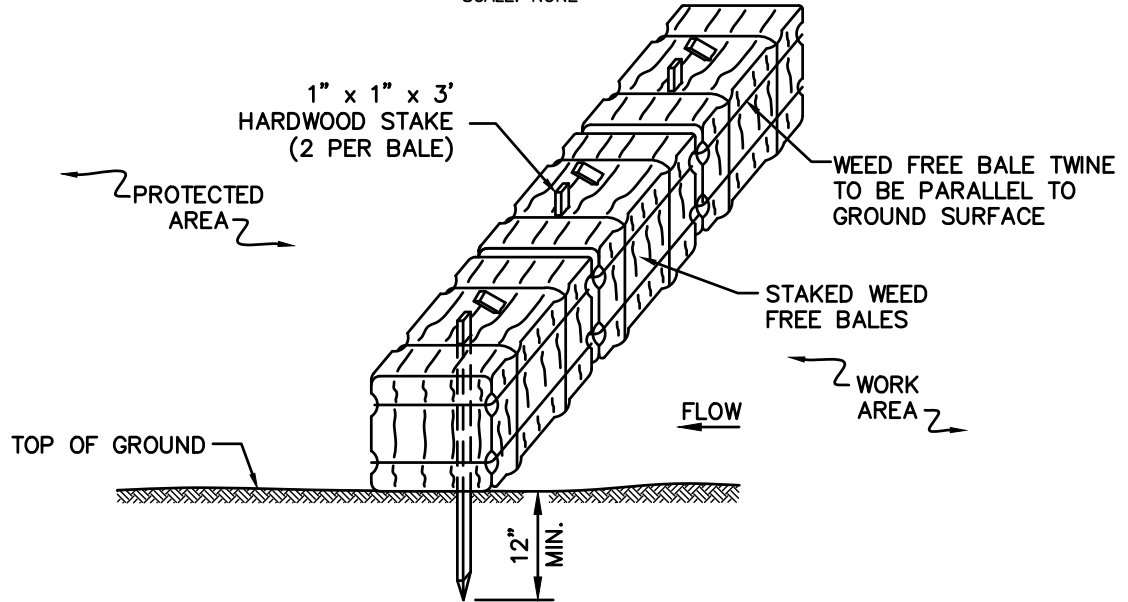
NATIONAL GRID'S BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

**SUBJECT**  
Access, Maintenance and Construction  
Best Management Practices

Reference  
EP No. 3 - Natural Resource  
Protection (Chapter 6)

**BMP DETAIL**

SCALE: NONE



**NOTES:**

1. THE GROUND SHALL BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE COMPLETE CONTACT WITH THE BALES.

**BMP PICTURE**



File: BALE\_BARRIER.DWG

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**SEC-1**  
**WEED FREE BALE BARRIER**

**SUBJECT**

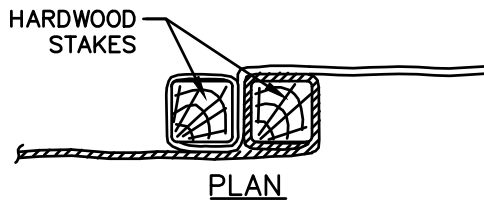
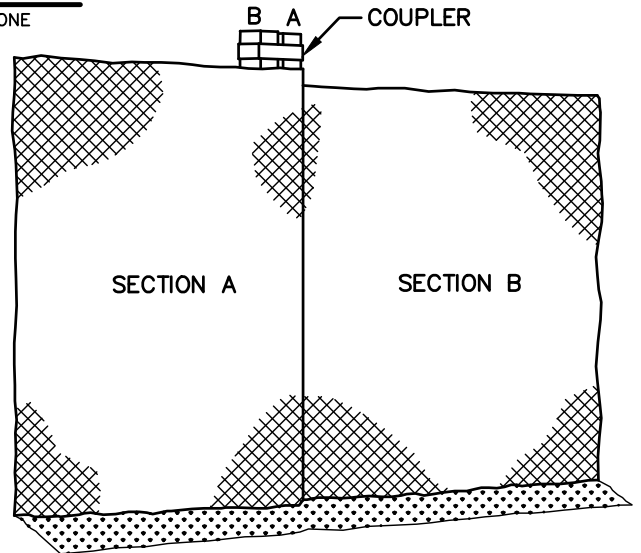
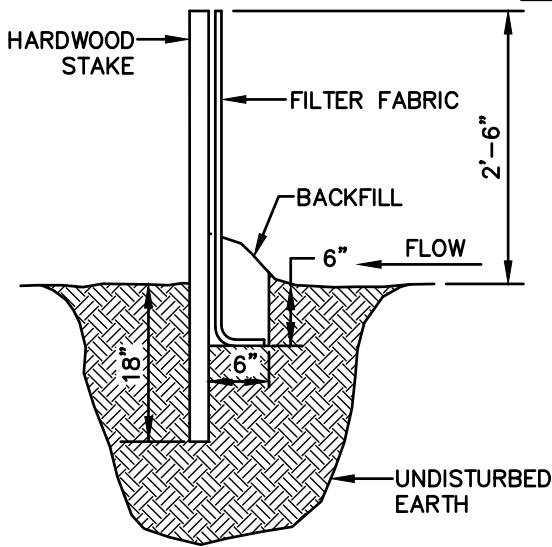
Access, Maintenance and Construction  
Best Management Practices

**Reference**

EP No. 3 - Natural Resource  
Protection (Chapter 6)

**BMP DETAIL**

SCALE: NONE



**BMP PICTURE**



File: Sediment\_Fence.dwg

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**SEC-2**  
**SEDIMENT CONTROL FENCE**

SUBJECT

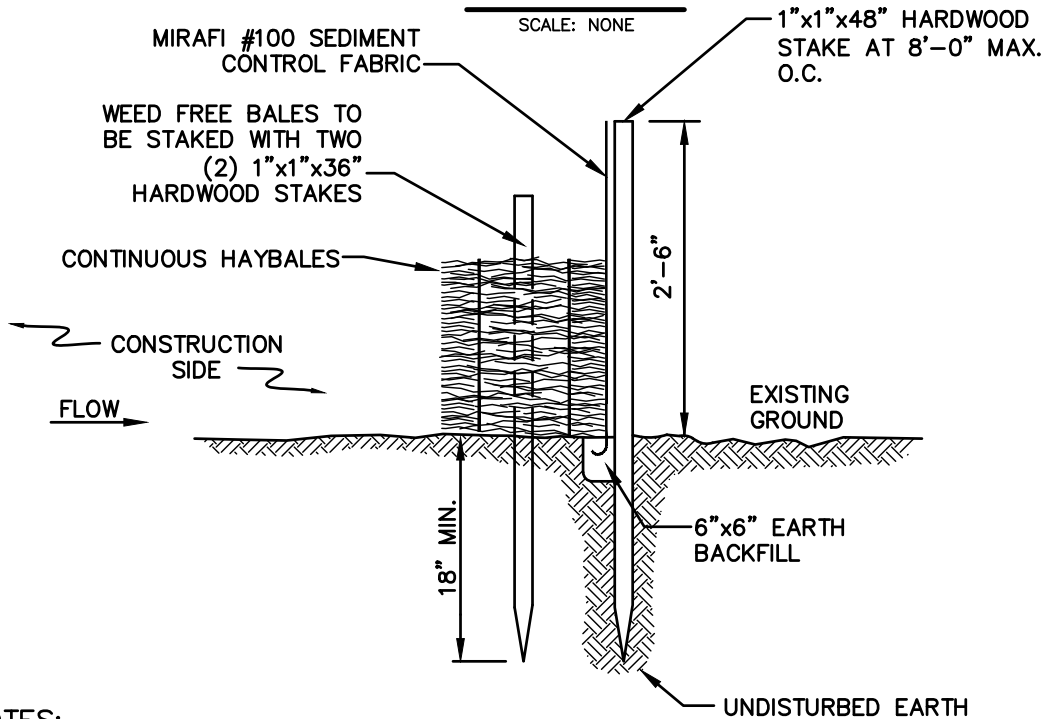
Access, Maintenance and Construction  
Best Management Practices

Reference

EP No. 3 - Natural Resource  
Protection (Chapter 6)

**BMP DETAIL**

SCALE: NONE



**NOTES:**

1. BALES SHALL BE PLACED IN A ROW WITH THE ENDS TIGHTLY ABUTTING THE ADJACENT BALES.
2. BALES SHALL BE SECURELY ANCHORED IN PLACE BY TWO (2) 1"x1"x36" HARDWOOD STAKES DRIVEN THROUGH THE BALES. THE FIRST STAKE IN EACH BALE SHALL BE ANGLED TOWARD PREVIOUSLY LAID BALE TO FORCE BALES TOGETHER.
3. INSPECTION SHALL BE FREQUENT AND REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT SHALL BE MADE PROMPTLY AS NEEDED.
4. BALES SHALL BE REMOVED AND REPLACED WHEN THEY BECOME FILLED WITH SEDIMENT AND BLOCK OR IMPEDE STORM FLOW OR DRAINAGE.
5. BALES SHALL BE REMOVED WHEN THE EMBANKMENTS STABILIZE.
6. BALES TO BE TWINE BOUND.

**BMP PICTURE**



File: Silt\_Fence\_&\_Barrier.dwg

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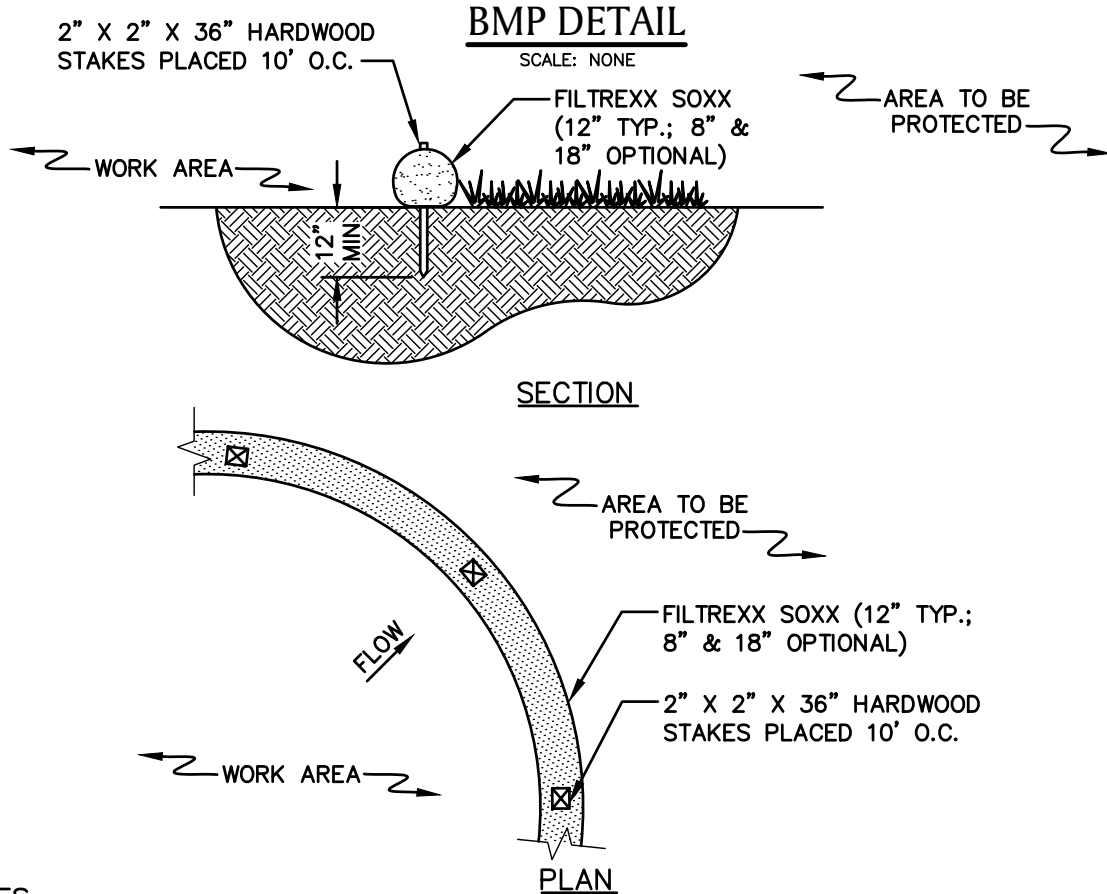
**SEC-3**  
**SILT FENCE /**  
**WEED FREE BARRIER**

**SUBJECT**

Access, Maintenance and Construction  
Best Management Practices

**Reference**

EP No. 3 - Natural Resource  
Protection (Chapter 6)



**NOTES**

1. PRODUCT TO BE FILTREXX SILT SOXX OR APPROVED EQUAL BY NATIONAL GRID ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST.
2. ALL MATERIAL TO MEET FILTREXX SPECIFICATIONS.
3. FILTER MEDIA FILL TO MEET APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.
4. MESH CONTAINMENT MATERIAL SHOULD BE KNITTED PHOTODEGRADABLE OR BIODEGRADABLE MATERIAL, WITH OPENING SIZES BETWEEN 1/8" - 3/8".
5. COMPOST MEDIA SHOULD HAVE PARTICLE SIZE WHERE 99% < 2", 50% > 1/2".
6. COMPOST MATERIAL TO BE DISPERSED ON SITE, AS DETERMINED BY NATIONAL GRID ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST.

**BMP PICTURE**



\* PICTURE AND DETAIL PROVIDED BY FILTREXX LAND IMPROVEMENT SYSTEMS  
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**SEC-4**  
**SILT SOXX \***

**SUBJECT**

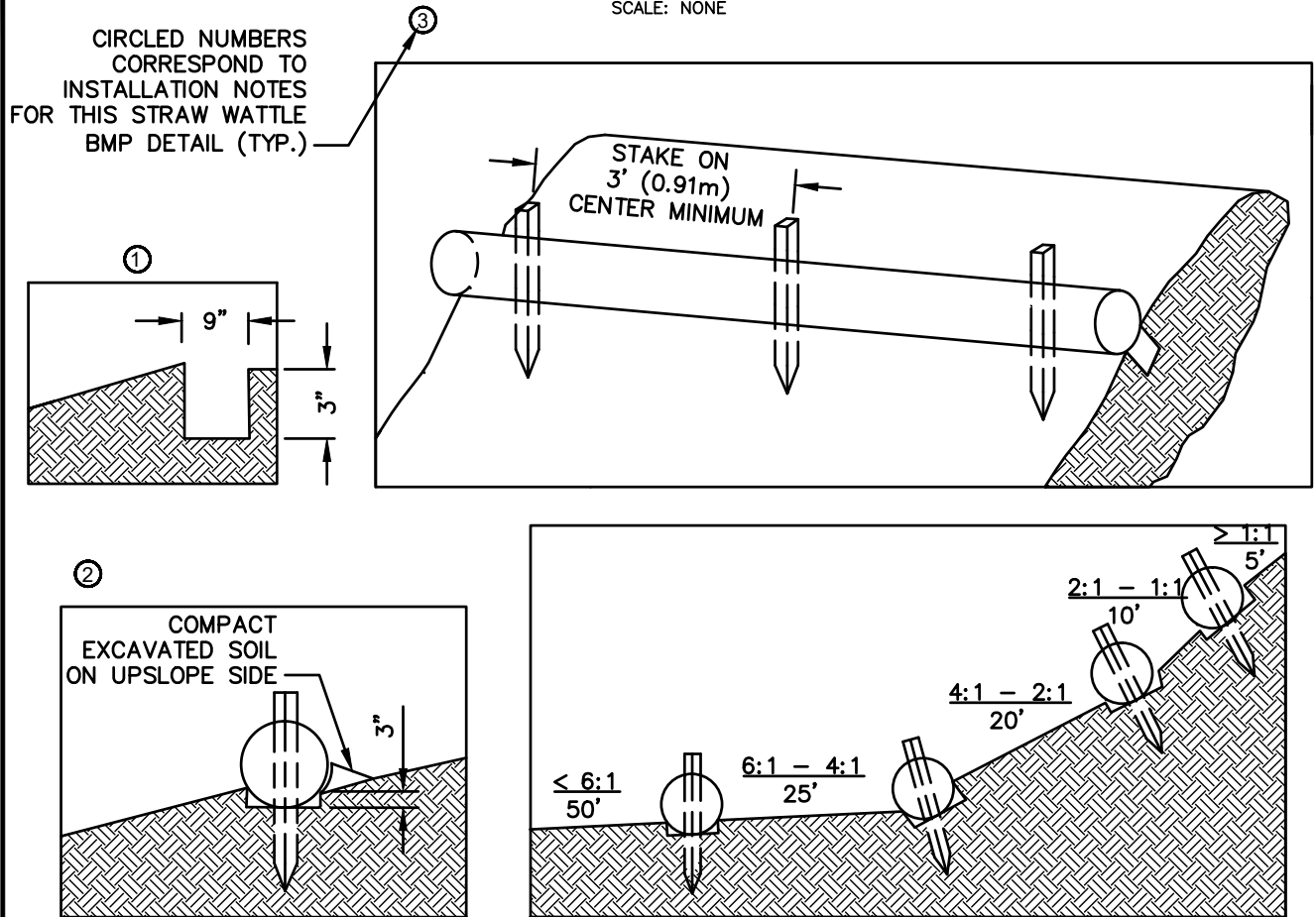
Access, Maintenance and Construction  
Best Management Practices

**Reference**

EP No. 3 - Natural Resource  
Protection (Chapter 6)

**BMP DETAIL**

SCALE: NONE



TYPICAL WATTLE SPACING DETAIL

**NOTES:**

1. PRODUCT TO BE TENSAR NORTH AMERICAN GREEN STRAW WATTLE OR APPROVED EQUAL BY NATIONAL GRID ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST.
2. TYPICAL WATTLE SPACING BASED ON SLOPE GRADIENT. COORDINATE SPACING AND LOCATION WITH NATIONAL GRID ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST.
3. MINIMUM 12" DIAMETER WATTLES SHOULD BE USED FOR HIGHLY DISTURBED AREAS (I.E., HEAVILY USED ACCESS ROAD WITH ADJACENT WETLAND) AND MINIMUM 9-10" WATTLES SHOULD BE USED FOR LESS DISTURBED SOILS.

**INSTALLATION NOTES:**

1. BEGIN AT THE LOCATION WHERE THE WATTLE IS TO BE INSTALLED BY EXCAVATING A 2-3" DEEP X 9" WIDE TRENCH ALONG THE CONTOUR OF THE SLOPE. EXCAVATED SOIL SHOULD BE PLACED UPSLOPE FROM THE ANCHOR TRENCH.
2. PLACE THE WATTLE IN THE TRENCH SO THAT IT CONTOURS TO THE SOIL SURFACE. COMPACT SOIL FROM THE EXCAVATED TRENCH AGAINST THE WATTLE ON THE UPHILL SIDE. ADJACENT WATTLES SHOULD TIGHTLY ABUT.
3. SECURE THE WATTLE WITH 18-24" HARDWOOD STAKES EVERY 3-4' AND WITH A STAKE ON EACH END. STAKES SHOULD BE DRIVEN THROUGH THE MIDDLE OF THE WATTLE LEAVING AT LEAST 2-3" OF STAKE EXTENDING ABOVE THE WATTLE. STAKES SHOULD BE DRIVEN PERPENDICULAR TO THE SLOPE FACE.

\* DETAIL AND PICTURE PROVIDED BY TENSAR NORTH AMERICAN GREEN  
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**SEC-5**  
**STRAW WATTLE \* (1 OF 2)**

**SUBJECT**

Access, Maintenance and Construction  
Best Management Practices

**Reference**

EP No. 3 - Natural Resource  
Protection (Chapter 6)

**BMP PICTURE**



**STRAW WATTLE – SHALLOW SLOPE ( $\leq 4:1$ )  
(ALTERNATE STAKING)**

**ALTERNATE STAKING INSTALLATION NOTES:**

1. ON SHALLOW SLOPES ( $\leq 4:1$ ), STRAW WATTLE MAY BE SECURED WITH 18–24” HARDWOOD STAKES DRIVEN AGAINST THE SIDES OF THE WATTLE INSTEAD OF THROUGH. STAKES SHALL ALTERNATE SIDES, AND BE SPACED 3–4’ MAX.
2. TWINE SHALL BE TIED FROM STAKE TO STAKE, CRISS–CROSSING THE STRAW WATTLE. TIE TWINE TO STAKES BELOW THE HEIGHT OF THE WATTLE.

**\* DETAIL AND PICTURE PROVIDED BY TENSAR NORTH AMERICAN GREEN  
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**SEC-5  
STRAW WATTLE \* (2 OF 2)**

**SUBJECT**  
Access, Maintenance and Construction  
Best Management Practices

Reference  
EP No. 3 - Natural Resource  
Protection (Chapter 6)

**BMP**

**Definition**

Applying coarse plant residue or chips, or other suitable materials, to cover the soil surface.

**Purpose**

The primary purpose is to provide initial erosion control while a seeding or shrub planting is establishing. Mulch will conserve moisture and modify the surface soil temperature and reduce fluctuation of both. Mulch will prevent soil surface crusting and aid in weed control. Mulch is also used alone for temporary stabilization in non-growing months.

**Conditions Where Practice Applies**

On soils subject to erosion and on new seedings and shrub plantings. Mulch is useful on soils with low infiltration rates by retarding runoff.

**Criteria**

Site preparation prior to mulching requires the installation of necessary erosion control or water management practices and drainage systems.

Slope, grade and smooth the site to fit needs of selected mulch products.

Remove all undesirable stones and other debris to meet the needs of the anticipated land use and maintenance required.

Apply mulch after soil amendments and planting is accomplished or simultaneously if hydroseeding is used.

Select appropriate mulch material and application rate or material needs. Determine local availability.

Select appropriate mulch anchoring material.

NOTE: The best combination for grass/legume establishment is straw (cereal grain) mulch applied at 2 ton/acre (90 lbs./1000sq.ft.) and anchored with wood fiber mulch (hydromulch) at 500 – 750 lbs./acre (11 – 17 lbs./1000 sq. ft.). The wood fiber mulch must be applied through a hydroseeder immediately after mulching.



**NOTE:**

1. PICTURE DEPICTS STRAW MULCH APPLICATION (FROM MULCH SPREADER) ON STEEP SLOPE WITH AN IMPROVED DRAINAGE SWALE.
2. COORDINATE MULCH MATERIALS AND RATES WITH NATIONAL GRID ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST.

\* BMP INFORMATION FROM "NEW YORK STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL (AUGUST, 2005)." INFORMATION OBTAINED VIA WEBSITE: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/29086.html>  
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**SEC-9**  
**MULCH MATERIALS, RATES AND**  
**USES (FROM NY) \***



## SUBJECT

Access, Maintenance and Construction  
Best Management Practices

## Reference

EP No. 3 - Natural Resource  
Protection (Chapter 6)

## UPLAND ROW RESTORATION MIX – GENERAL

### Species Composition Options:

- Andropogon gerardii; Niagra Big Bluestem
- Schizachyrium scoparium; Little Bluestem
- Elymus Canadensis; Canada Wild Rye
- Elymus virginicus; Virginia Wildrye
- Lolium multiflorum; Annual Ryegrass
- Sorghastrum nutans; Indiangrass
- Chamaecrista fasciculata; Partridge Pea
- Desmodium canadense; Showy Tick Trefoil
- Heliopsis helianthoides; Ox–Eye Sunflower
- Panicum virgatum; Switchgrass
- Rudbeckia hirta; Black Eyed Susan
- Poa palustris; Fowl Bluegrass
- Agrostis perennans; Upland Bentgrass
- Agrostis alba; Redtop
- Festuca rubra; Red Fescue
- Lotus corniculatus; Birds–Foot Trefoil
- Chrysanthemum leucanthem; Ox–Eye Daisy
- Aster novae–angliae; New England Aster

### Example Seed Mixes:

1. Native Upland wildlife forage and Cover Meadow Mix – Ernst Conservation Seeds (ERNMX–123)
2. Eastern Ecotype Native Grass Mix– Ernst Conservation Seeds (ERNMX–177)
3. New England Native Warm Season Grass Mix – New England Wetland Plants, Inc.
4. New England Logging Road Mix – New England Wetland Plants, Inc.
5. Northeast Upland Wildflower/Restoration Erosion Mix – Southern Tier Consulting (STCMX–2)

## UPLAND ROW RESTORATION MIX – DRY/ROCKY SITES

### Species Composition Options:

- Festuca rubra; Red Fescue
- Schizachyrium scoparium; Little Bluestem
- Elymus Canadensis; Canada Wild Rye
- Bouteloua gracillis; Blue Grama
- Lolium multiflorum; Annual Ryegrass
- Lolium perenne; Perennial Ryegrass
- Agrostis scabra; Rough Bentgrass
- Agrostis perennans; Upland Bentgrass
- Sorghastrum nutans; Indiangrass

### Example Seed Mixes:

1. New England Erosion Control/ Restoration Mix for Dry Sites – New England Wetland Plants, Inc.
2. Ernst Conservation Seeds and similar companies can create a custom seed mix matching the composition above (with site specific additions if necessary).

## SUBJECT

Access, Maintenance and Construction  
Best Management Practices

## Reference

EP No. 3 - Natural Resource  
Protection (Chapter 6)

## WETLAND ROW RESTORATION MIX

### Species Composition Options:

- Agrostis stolonifera; Creeping Bentgrass
- Poa trivialis; Rough Bluegrass
- Alopecurus arundinaceus; Creeping Meadow Foxtail
- Lolium multiflorum; Annual Ryegrass
- Festuca rubra; Creeping Red Fescue
- Elymus virginicus; Virginia Wildrye
- Schizachyrium scoparium; Little Bluestem
- Andropogon gerardii; Niagra Big Bluestem
- Carex vulpinoidea; Fox sedge
- Panicum virgatum; Switchgrass
- Agrostis scabra; Rough Bentgrass
- Aster novae-angliae; New England Aster
- Eupatorium perfoliatum; Boneset
- Euthamia graminifolia; Grass Leaved Goldenrod
- Scirpus atrovirens; Green Bulrush
- Verbena hastata; Blue Vervain
- Juncus effusus; Soft Rush
- Scirpus cyperinus; Wool Grass
- Panicum clandestinum; Deertongue

### Example Seed Mixes

1. New England Erosion Control/Restoration Mix for Detention Basins and Moist Sites – New England Wetland Plants, Inc.
2. Northeast Wetland Grass Seed Mix – Southern Tier Consulting (STCMX-7)
3. Ernst Conservation Seeds and similar companies can create a custom seed mix matching the composition above (with site specific additions if necessary).

### GERNERAL NOTES:

1. Seed mixes described herein are intended to cover a variety of typical new england landscapes. However, site specific seed mixes will need to be evaluated in coastal or mountainous regions.
2. Seed mixes described herein are intended for general ROW restoration. Site specific wetland seed mixes may be required by local, state and/or federal regulators for certain impacts to wetlands.
3. All seed mixes are to be approved by National Grid Environmental Scientist prior to construction and must conform with all project permits.
4. Seedbed preparation and maintenance as well as temporary erosion and sediment controls are crucial to the establishment of newly seeded areas. Coordinate with National Grid Environmental Scientist on seed bed preparation and maintenance as well as temporary erosion and sediment controls prior to construction.

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SEC-11  
SEEDING OPTIONS -  
WETLAND SEED MIX

**SUBJECT**

Access, Maintenance and Construction  
Best Management Practices

**Reference**

EP No. 3 - Natural Resource  
Protection (Chapter 6)

**BMP PICTURE**



**NOTE:**

1. PICTURE SHOWS VIEW OF ACCESS WAY STABILIZATION ADJACENT TO A WETLAND.
2. COORDINATE STABILIZATION DESIGN AND PRODUCT WITH NATIONAL GRID ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST.

File: Access\_Stabilization.dwg

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**CM-10**  
**ACCESS WAY STABILIZATION**