

Boston Gas Company Chestnut Street PRV Installation Notice of Intent

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PREPARED FOR

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PREPARED BY

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1. Introduction

BSC Group, Inc. (BSC) is filing this Notice of Intent (NOI) on behalf of the Boston Gas Company (BGC) to connect a new 8-inch gas main along Chestnut Street to the existing gas main on Water Street and install a prefabricated pressure relief valve (PRV). All associated equipment will be contained within a single concrete vault located on Chestnut Street in Amesbury, Massachusetts. 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 Amesbury Wetlands Protection Ordinance (Article 37). The location of the proposed activities is shown on the USGS Site Locus Map in **Attachment B**.

The Project is located within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland (BVW) and Inland Bank, as well as the 200-foot Riverfront Area (RFA) of the Back River. While the Project is located adjacent to FEMA-mapped 100-year floodplain, no work is proposed directly within this resource area. Refer to the enclosed USGS Site Locus Map and Environmental Resources (ER) Map in **Attachment B**, and Site Photographs in **Attachment C**, for depictions of the Project area and proposed work.

The proposed gas main activities are considered as a Limited Project for the construction of underground public utilities under 310 CMR 10.53(3)(d) of the Wetlands Protection Act (WPA). Although the project qualifies for consideration as a Limited Project, it does not qualify as an exempt utility maintenance or minor buffer zone activity and is therefore subject to review under the WPA and Amesbury Wetlands Protection Ordinance. BGC is seeking an Order of Conditions for these project activities along Chestnut Street and Water Street.

The activities which are the subject of this NOI include installation of underground gas line, prefabricated gas relief valve system, and excavation along Chestnut Street for new line extension within 100-foot Buffer Zone to Inland Bank and the 200-foot Riverfront Area associated with Back River.

Throughout construction of the Project, crews will implement Best Management Practices (BMPs), including sediment and erosion controls, to ensure adjacent resource areas are adequately protected and impacts to the surrounding areas are minimized. Upon completion of the Project activities, all temporarily disturbed areas will be restored to pre-construction conditions to the maximum extent practicable.

2. Existing Conditions

The Project is located along Chestnut Street and Water Street, and consists of work within existing paved roadways and cleared road shoulders. Water Street crosses the Back River to the south. Land use in the surrounding area primarily consists of high-density residential and commercial properties.

2.1 Resource Area Summary

BSC conducted both a desktop analysis (using MassGIS data layers and publicly available data) and field investigations of the proposed Project area to assess permitting requirements pursuant to the WPA. A site visit was conducted on 8-3-2026. River bank and wetlands adjacent to the Project were not formally delineated because they are located on

private property.

Based on this analysis, activities were identified within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Inland Bank and the 200-foot Riverfront Area of the Back River. However, all work will be occurring within the existing roadway and road shoulder, and appropriate BMPs will be utilized to ensure that these areas are not directly impacted by Project activities. Existing conditions and wetland resource areas, in relation to the proposed activities, are shown on the Environmental Resource Map in **Attachment B**. Representative photographs of site conditions along the distribution lines are provided in **Attachment C**.

2.2 Other Resource Areas

No other jurisdictional resource areas, including NHESP Estimated and Priority Habitat, Certified or Potential Vernal Pools, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), Outstanding Resource Waters (ORWs), Wellhead Protection Areas, Activity and Use Limitation sites, or MassDEP 21E sites were identified within the Project area.

3. Project Activities and Anticipated Impacts

The Project will involve the installation of a PRV, placement of all relief valve equipment within a single underground concrete vault and above-ground installation of a SCADA box and vent poles to safely vent gas released during pressure-relief events. The dimensions of the above-ground portion of this PRV are 20" x 33" x 27". The PRV will be installed to connect a new 8-inch gas main, which will be installed along Chestnut Street, to the existing gas main on Water Street. Most of the proposed work along Chestnut Street and Water Street are located within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Inland Bank and the 200-foot Riverfront Area.

All activities take place within paved roadways, and on the existing disturbed and cleared roadway edges and lawn. No tree removal is required.

Specific proposed activities include:

- Installation of a new prefabricated gas relief valve system
- Excavation along Chestnut Street for new gas main extension
- Placement of all relief valve equipment within a single concrete vault
- Install a SCADA box and install vent poles to safely vent gas released during pressure-relief events

Impacts to Buffer Zone and RFA include excavation along Chestnut Street for the new gas line extension and installation of the PRV and associated equipment. Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented to avoid adverse impacts to Resource Areas, and disturbed areas will be stabilized once the work is complete.

4. Alternatives Analysis

Due to the nature and purpose of the proposed activities, there are no practicable alternatives to the Project. The extension of new gas line along Chestnut Street and installation of the PRV is necessary for BGC to continue providing safe and reliable natural gas service to residents in Amesbury, MA. No significant adverse impacts to wetland resource

areas or values protected by the WPA are anticipated.

4.1 No Action Alternative

The No-Action Alternative would not resolve the needs of the natural gas service nor address the reliability and operability concerns of the existing system. If no action is taken, the existing natural gas service reliability issues will remain unresolved. Because it does not address the Project need and would not satisfy applicable distribution planning criteria, the No-Action Alternative was not considered a feasible option for the Chestnut Street PRV Installation, Project.

5. Proposed Avoidance and Minimization Measures

BGC has established procedures that are to be followed by all employees and its contractors for accessing sites and performing construction and maintenance activities on utility Rights-of-Way. These procedures ensure that BGC's projects are completed in accordance with all applicable environmental laws and regulations as well as with BGC policies and compliance objectives. The following sections provide a summary of BMPs that will be implemented for this Project. See **Attachment E** for an excerpt of BGC's Environmental Guidance Document, Access, Maintenance and Construction Best Management Practices.

5.1 Sediment and Erosion Controls

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 mulching and straw wattles or similar treatment. BMPs will be inspected regularly and maintained in working order until all disturbed areas are stabilized. Refer to **Attachment E** for erosion and sediment control details.

5.2 Construction Access

Construction access will be from the existing paved roadway or roadway shoulder of Chestnut Street and Water Street. The last crew to leave the site each day will be responsible for regularly sweeping the roadways, if and when sediment and/or rock have been tracked onto the street. No off-road vehicle or equipment access is anticipated for the Project.

5.3 Dewatering

If dewatering is needed for PRV installation, discharge water will be pumped through a filter bag located in an upland area, surrounded with additional sediment filtration such as fiber rolls, hay bales, or other appropriate containment. Refer to **Attachment E** for details.

5.4 Stormwater Management

There will be no change in grade, and minimal increase in impervious area (as a result of this Project). Therefore, additional stormwater management appurtenances will not be required.

5.5 Restoration of Disturbed Areas

Temporarily disturbed areas will be returned to pre-construction conditions to the extent practicable. As necessary, disturbed soil surfaces will be seeded with an upland conservation seed mixture and/or mulched and allowed to revegetate. Erosion and sediment control devices will be removed following stabilization of disturbed areas. In addition, all construction vehicles, construction debris, and non-biodegradable controls will be removed from the site during restoration.

6. Regulatory Compliance

6.1 Limited Project Status

Although the Project meets the criteria to be considered a Limited Project as outlined in 310 CMR 10.53(3)(d), the Project has been designed to meet all applicable performance standards for each affected resource area. In accordance with general condition 310 CMR 10.53(3)(d)(2), BGC will implement BMPs to ensure the adjacent resource areas are adequately protected, and impacts to the surrounding area are reduced, minimized, and restored to the maximum extent practicable. Additionally, no work is occurring directly within resource areas that have performance standards under the WPA.

7. Conclusion

Although the Project will occur within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to BVW and Inland Bank, as well as the 200-foot RFA of Back River, the proposed Project will:

- Minimize disturbance by utilizing existing disturbed areas to the greatest extent practicable.
- Result in only minor impacts to previously developed/disturbed portions of the Buffer Zone and RFA.
- Include activities that qualify as Limited Project under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (310 CMR 10.53(3)(d)), provided all specified conditions are met.
- Utilize appropriate BMPs to protect wetland resource areas from sedimentation during construction activities.

Therefore, BGC requests the Amesbury Conservation Commission find this proposal adequately protective of the public interests identified in the WPA and issue an Order of Conditions for proposed Project activities.