



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION

Old State House 150 Benefit Street Providence, RI 02903

Telephone 401-222-2678

Fax 401-222-2968

www.preservation.ri.gov

TTY 401-222-3700

18 August, 2023

Gregory Dubell
Energy Projects Manager
PAL Inc
Via email

Re: Phase I Archaeological Survey
Algonquin Gas G-2 System Pipeline Maintenance Project
Little Compton and Portsmouth, RI
PAL #4303.07

Dear Mr. Dubell,

The RIHPHC has reviewed the report of the above-referenced survey. We concur with PAL's conclusion that none of the five archaeological resources are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. No additional archaeological survey is required.

We have assigned the following site numbers:

2875 Almy Farm Site
2876 G-2 East Site 1
2877 G-2 East Site 2
2878 G-2 Find Spot
2879 Old Mill Lane Find Spot.

We further concur with PAL's conclusion that the project will not affect any historic properties, and no additional historic architectural survey is warranted.

These comments are provided in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. If you have any questions, please contact Charlotte Taylor, archaeologist at this office.

Very truly yours,

Jeffrey D. Emidy
Executive Director
Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

Cc: John Brown, NITHPO

230818.05



July 21, 2023

Jeffrey Emidy
Executive Director and State Historic Preservation Officer
Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
150 Benefit Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Re: Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC
G-2 System Pipeline Maintenance Project, Little Compton and Portsmouth, Rhode Island
PAL #4303.07

Dear Mr. Emidy:

As you are aware, Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC (Algonquin) owns and operates a natural gas pipeline system in Rhode Island and is currently proposing the G-2 System Natural Gas Pipeline Maintenance Project, which involves the replacement of a section of pipeline by installing a new, approximately 7,300-foot-long section of 12-inch pipeline beneath the Sakonnet River via horizontal directional drill. The Project also includes replacing the remaining 2,600-foot-long section of the existing 6-inch G-2 System pipeline west of the Sakonnet River to Algonquin's existing metering and regulating (M&R) station 00013 with a new 12-inch pipeline, thus improving the overall G-2 System integrity and reliability to the surrounding area. Please see enclosed for a complete map set depicting the proposed conditions of the Project facilities.

On April 13, 2022, The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. (PAL) notified the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Heritage Commission, office of the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) of the Project, submitting a permit application to perform a Phase I archaeological survey; on April 27, 2022, the Rhode Island SHPO issued Permit #22-05 to PAL to perform the survey. On February 21, 2023, PAL requested that the Rhode Island SHPO amend the permit to include the section of the G-2 System west of the Sakonnet River to M&R 00013, and on March 10, 2023, SHPO amended the permit. On behalf of Algonquin, please find enclosed the following technical report on the investigations PAL performed for the proposed Project:

Phase I Archaeological Survey, Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC, G-2 System Natural Gas Pipeline Maintenance Project, Little Compton and Portsmouth, Rhode Island – July 2023

Pursuant to the Natural Gas Act (NGA) blanket certificate program (18 CFR 157.206[b][3][ii] and Appendix II of Subpart F), Algonquin will file a Prior Notice Application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) presenting the results of the proposed pipeline maintenance work; Algonquin will also file wetland and waterbody permit applications with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the Rhode Island General Permit. The FERC will serve as the lead federal agency for this undertaking and the Project is subject to review pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR 800. PAL has been contracted by Algonquin to address the Section 106 obligations of the FERC and seek the comments of the Rhode Island SHPO.

PAL conducted the Phase I archaeological survey for the proposed Project, identifying 26 pieces of cultural material (9 pre-contact and 17 post-contact) during subsurface testing with 106, 50-x-50-centimeter test pits within the Project study areas. Five archaeological resources were identified: four pre-contact sites and

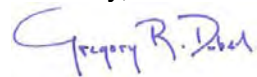
find spots (the G-2 East 1 Site, G-2 East 2 Site, G-2 Find Spot, and Old Mill Lane Find Spot) and one post-contact site (the Almy Farm Site). No archaeological features were identified and all five identified sites and find spots are low-density artifact scatters that have been disturbed or redistributed by repeated plowing or twentieth-century land development. Each of the sites exhibit moderate to poor archaeological integrity and have limited potential to provide new information or research value, and no further archaeological investigations are recommended.

PAL also performed a desktop review of historic architectural properties within and adjacent to the Project corridor and determined the Project does not abut any properties that are recorded in Rhode Island SHPO's inventory or listed in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). Review of historic aerials, USGS quadrangle maps, Rhode Island GIS, historic maps, and assessor data indicates that there are no properties immediately adjacent to the Project ROW that are over 50 years of age, and they all post-date the installation of the pipeline. PAL identified one historic architectural property that is adjacent to proposed workspace at 175 West Main Road in Little Compton (a 1930s-era bungalow style residence), however that property is evaluated by PAL as not meeting the Criteria of Eligibility for listing in the National Register. Finally, the closes property that has been evaluated as eligible for listing in the National Register is the Rod Feather Farm/Almy Farm, located approximately 0.2 miles southeast of the Project ROW and is separated by woods and modern infill development. Based on this desktop assessment, PAL recommends that a full historic architectural reconnaissance survey is not warranted, and an effects assessment is not needed.

Therefore, based on the results of the Phase I archaeological survey and a desktop assessment of historic architectural resources, PAL recommends that the Project, as currently proposed, will not affect any historic properties (36 CFR 800.4[d][1]); no further cultural resource investigations are warranted. With this letter, we are requesting the Rhode Island SHPO's concurrence with this recommendation.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Joseph N. Waller, Jr., Principal Investigator, or me, at your convenience. We thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Gregory R. Dubell, RPA
Energy Projects Manager

Enclosures

cc: Maxwell Bergeron, Algonquin (w/encl. – via email)
Christopher Lombardi, Algonquin (w/encl. – via email)
Katelyn Wheeler, SWCA (w/encl. – via email)
John Brown, III, Narragansett Indian Tribe (w/encl. – via email)
Cora Peirce, Narragansett Indian Tribe (w/encl. – via email)
David Weeden, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe (w/encl. – via email)
Bettina Washington, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) (w/encl. – via email)
Mark Andrews, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) (w/encl. – via email)



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
New England Ecological Services Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, NH 03301-5094
Phone: (603) 223-2541 Fax: (603) 223-0104



In Reply Refer To:
Project Code: 2023-0087341
Project Name: Sakonnet River HDD

May 30, 2023

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

Updated 4/12/2023 - Please review this letter each time you request an Official Species List, we will continue to update it with additional information and links to websites may change.

About Official Species Lists

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Federal and non-Federal project proponents have responsibilities under the Act to consider effects on listed species.

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested by returning to an existing project's page in IPaC.

Endangered Species Act Project Review

Please visit the **"New England Field Office Endangered Species Project Review and Consultation"** website for step-by-step instructions on how to consider effects on listed

species and prepare and submit a project review package if necessary:

<https://www.fws.gov/office/new-england-ecological-services/endangered-species-project-review>

NOTE Please do not use the **Consultation Package Builder** tool in IPaC except in specific situations following coordination with our office. Please follow the project review guidance on our website instead and reference your **Project Code** in all correspondence.

Northern Long-eared Bat - (Updated 4/12/2023) The Service published a final rule to reclassify the northern long-eared bat (NLEB) as endangered on November 30, 2022. The final rule went into effect on March 31, 2023. You may utilize the **Northern Long-eared Bat Rangewide Determination Key** available in IPaC. More information about this Determination Key and the Interim Consultation Framework are available on the northern long-eared bat species page:

<https://www.fws.gov/species/northern-long-eared-bat-myotis-septentrionalis>

For projects that previously utilized the 4(d) Determination Key, the change in the species' status may trigger the need to re-initiate consultation for any actions that are not completed and for which the Federal action agency retains discretion once the new listing determination becomes effective. If your project was not completed by March 31, 2023, and may result in incidental take of NLEB, please reach out to our office at newengland@fws.gov to see if reinitiation is necessary.

Additional Info About Section 7 of the Act

Under section 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 et seq.), Federal agencies are required to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat. If a Federal agency, or its non-Federal representative, determines that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Federal agency also may need to consider proposed species and proposed critical habitat in the consultation. 50 CFR 402.14(c)(1) specifies the information required for consultation under the Act regardless of the format of the evaluation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<https://www.fws.gov/service/section-7-consultations>

In addition to consultation requirements under Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA, please note that under sections 7(a)(1) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 et seq.), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species. Please contact NEFO if you would like more information.

Candidate species that appear on the enclosed species list have no current protections under the ESA. The species' occurrence on an official species list does not convey a requirement to

consider impacts to this species as you would a proposed, threatened, or endangered species. The ESA does not provide for interagency consultations on candidate species under section 7, however, the Service recommends that all project proponents incorporate measures into projects to benefit candidate species and their habitats wherever possible.

Migratory Birds

In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts see:

<https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit>

<https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/bald-and-golden-eagle-management>

Please feel free to contact us at **newengland@fws.gov** with your **Project Code** in the subject line if you need more information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat.

Attachment(s): Official Species List

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

New England Ecological Services Field Office

70 Commercial Street, Suite 300

Concord, NH 03301-5094

(603) 223-2541

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2023-0087341

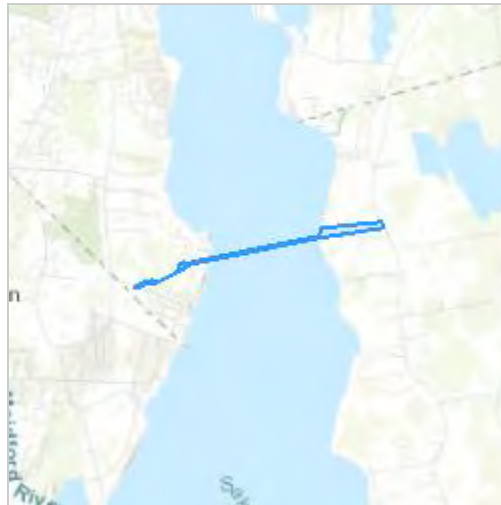
Project Name: Sakonnet River HDD

Project Type: Pipeline - Onshore - Maintenance / Modification - Below Ground

Project Description: Replacement of G-2 pipeline beneath the Sakonnet river to the Newport metering station.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@41.5274452,-71.2201463273004,14z>



Counties: Newport County, Rhode Island

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 3 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

-
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045	Endangered

BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii dougallii</i> Population: Northeast U.S. nesting population No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2083	Endangered

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Candidate

CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: SWCA

Name: Sam Hayden

Address: 8 Science Park Road

City: Scarborough

State: ME

Zip: 04074

Email: samuel.hayden@swca.com

Phone: 4434741880



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
New England Ecological Services Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, NH 03301-5094
Phone: (603) 223-2541 Fax: (603) 223-0104



In Reply Refer To:
Project code: 2023-0087341
Project Name: Sakonnet River HDD

May 30, 2023

Federal Action Agency (if applicable): Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Subject: Record of project representative's no effect determination for 'Sakonnet River HDD'

Dear Sam Hayden:

This letter records your determination using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on May 30, 2023, for 'Sakonnet River HDD' (here forward, Project). This project has been assigned Project Code 2023-0087341 and all future correspondence should clearly reference this number. **Please carefully review this letter.**

Ensuring Accurate Determinations When Using IPaC

The Service developed the IPaC system and associated species' determination keys in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and based on a standing analysis. All information submitted by the Project proponent into the IPaC must accurately represent the full scope and details of the Project. Failure to accurately represent or implement the Project as detailed in IPaC or the Northern Long-eared Bat Rangewide Determination Key (Dkey), invalidates this letter.

Determination for the Northern Long-Eared Bat

Based upon your IPaC submission and a standing analysis, your project has reached the determination of "No Effect" on the northern long-eared bat. To make a no effect determination, the full scope of the proposed project implementation (action) should not have any effects (either positive or negative), to a federally listed species or designated critical habitat. Effects of the action are all consequences to listed species or critical habitat that are caused by the proposed action, including the consequences of other activities that are caused by the proposed action. A consequence is caused by the proposed action if it would not occur but for the proposed action and it is reasonably certain to occur. Effects of the action may occur later in time and may

include consequences occurring outside the immediate area involved in the action. (See § 402.17).

Under Section 7 of the ESA, if a federal action agency makes a no effect determination, no consultation with the Service is required (ESA §7). If a proposed Federal action may affect a listed species or designated critical habitat, formal consultation is required except when the Service concurs, in writing, that a proposed action "is not likely to adversely affect" listed species or designated critical habitat [50 CFR §402.02, 50 CFR§402.13].

Other Species and Critical Habitat that May be Present in the Action Area

The IPaC-assisted determination for the northern long-eared bat does not apply to the following ESA-protected species and/or critical habitat that also may occur in your Action area:

- Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Candidate
- Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii dougallii* Endangered

You may coordinate with our Office to determine whether the Action may affect the animal species listed above and, if so, how they may be affected.

Next Steps

Based upon your IPaC submission, your project has reached the determination of “No Effect” on the northern long-eared bat. If there are no updates on listed species, no further consultation/coordination for this project is required with respect to the northern long-eared bat. However, the Service recommends that project proponents re-evaluate the Project in IPaC if: 1) the scope, timing, duration, or location of the Project changes (includes any project changes or amendments); 2) new information reveals the Project may impact (positively or negatively) federally listed species or designated critical habitat; or 3) a new species is listed, or critical habitat designated. If any of the above conditions occurs, additional coordination with the Service should take place to ensure compliance with the Act.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or need further assistance, please contact the New England Ecological Services Field Office and reference Project Code 2023-0087341 associated with this Project.

Action Description

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

1. Name

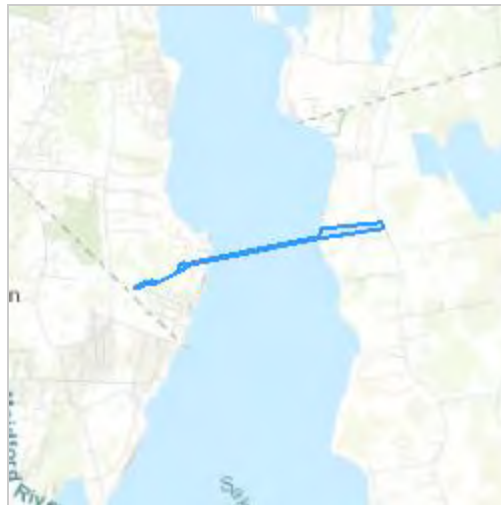
Sakonnet River HDD

2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'Sakonnet River HDD':

Replacement of G-2 pipeline beneath the Sakonnet river to the Newport metering station.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@41.5274452,-71.2201463273004,14z>



DETERMINATION KEY RESULT

Based on the information you provided, you have determined that the Proposed Action will have no effect on the Endangered northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). Therefore, no consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) is required for those species.

QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

1. Does the proposed project include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, intentional take of the northern long-eared bat or any other listed species?

Note: Intentional take is defined as take that is the intended result of a project. Intentional take could refer to research, direct species management, surveys, and/or studies that include intentional handling/encountering, harassment, collection, or capturing of any individual of a federally listed threatened, endangered or proposed species?

No

2. The proposed action does not intersect an area where the northern long-eared bat is likely to occur, based on the information available to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as of the most recent update of this key. If you have data that indicates that northern long-eared bats are likely to be present in the action area, answer "NO" and continue through the key.

Do you want to make a no effect determination?

Yes

PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: SWCA
Name: Sam Hayden
Address: 8 Science Park Road
City: Scarborough
State: ME
Zip: 04074
Email: samuel.hayden@swca.com
Phone: 4434741880

LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Lead Agency: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 Determination Table

Project Name: Sakonnet River HDD

Date: 5/31/2023

Project Code: 2023-0087341

Species / Resource Name <i>Insert name of species or resource as listed on Official Species List.</i>	Habitat/Species Presence in Action Area <i>Indicate if suitable habitat and species are present in the Action Area (see examples in Step 5).</i>	Sources of Info <i>Explain what info suitable habitat/species presence is based on.</i>	ESA Section 7 Determination <i>Using reasoning and decision tables in Step 5, select determination for each species (e.g. no effect, not likely to adversely affect, or likely to adversely affect).</i>	Project Elements that Support Determination <i>Explain which project elements may impact the habitat or individuals of each species and any Avoidance and Minimization Measures being implemented.</i>
Northern Long Eared Bat (NLEB) (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>)	Yes suitable habitat, unknown species present	IPaC tool, Species Profile for Northern Long-Eared Bat(Myotis septentrionalis) (fws.gov)	No effect	USFWS Northern Long-eared Bat Rangewide Determination Key identified Project area does not intersect an area where NLEB is likely to occur.
Reseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>)	Yes suitable habitat, unknown species present	IPaC tool, Roseate Tern (Sterna dougallii) U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (fws.gov)	No effect	No impacts to potential breeding habitat due to utilization of HDD. Banks and areas adjacent to Sakonnet River will not be impacted.

NOAA Section 7 Endangered Species Act (ESA) Species Determination Table

Project Name: Sakonnet River HDD

Date: 5/31/2023

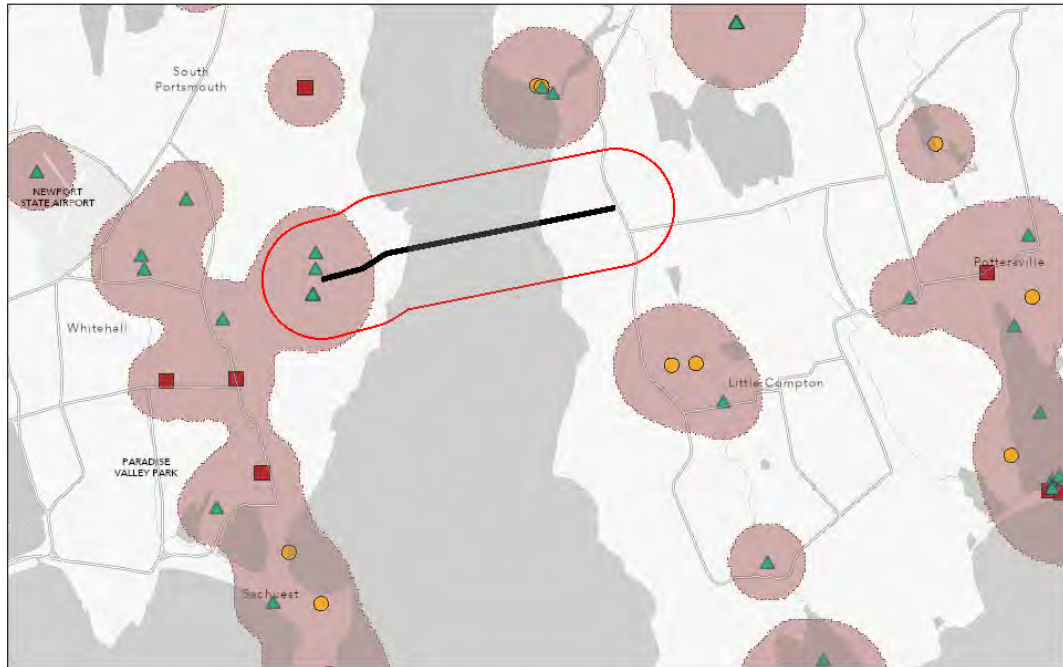
Consultation Code: N/A

Species / Resource Name <i>Insert name of species or resource as listed on Official Species List.</i>	Habitat/Species Presence in Action Area <i>Indicate if suitable habitat and species are present in the Action Area (see examples in Step 5).</i>	Sources of Info <i>Explain what info suitable habitat/species presence is based on.</i>	ESA Section 7 Determination <i>Using reasoning and decision tables in Step 5, select determination for each species (e.g. no effect, not likely to adversely affect, or likely to adversely affect).</i>	Project Elements that Support Determination <i>Explain which project elements may impact the habitat or individuals of each species and any Avoidance and Minimization Measures being implemented.</i>
Atlantic Sturgeon <i>Acipenser oxyrinchus</i>	No	NOAA Website Atlantic Sturgeon NOAA Fisheries	No Effect	No in water work or disturbance of bed or banks of Sakonnet River.
Shortnose Sturgeon <i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i>	No	NOAA Website Shortnose Sturgeon NOAA Fisheries	No Effect	No in water work or disturbance of bed or banks of Sakonnet River.
Right Whale <i>Eubalaena australis</i>	No	NOAA Website North Atlantic Right Whale NOAA Fisheries	No Effect	No in water work or disturbance of bed or banks of Sakonnet River.
Fin whale <i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	No	NOAA Website Fin Whale NOAA Fisheries	No Effect	No in water work or disturbance of bed or banks of Sakonnet River.
Green sea turtle <i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	No	NOAA Website Green Turtle NOAA Fisheries	No Effect	No in water work or disturbance of bed or banks of Sakonnet River.
Kemp's ridley sea turtle <i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>	No	NOAA Website Kemp's Ridley Turtle NOAA Fisheries	No Effect	No in water work or disturbance of bed or banks of Sakonnet River.
Leatherback sea turtle <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	No	NOAA Website Leatherback Turtle NOAA Fisheries	No Effect	No in water work or disturbance of bed or banks of Sakonnet River.
Loggerhead sea turtle <i>Caretta caretta</i>	No	NOAA Website Loggerhead Turtle NOAA Fisheries	No Effect	No in water work or disturbance of bed or banks of Sakonnet River.

Area of Interest (AOI) Information

Area : 84,287,752.79 ft²

Jun 19 2023 7:27:05 Eastern Daylight Time



Natural Heritage Observations Dec2022

- State Endangered
- State Threatened
- State Concern
- Natural Heritage Area Dec2022

1:72,224

0 0.45 0.9 1.8 mi

0 0.75 1.5 3 km

Esri, HERE, Garmin, Swire, GeoTechnologies, Inc., METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA

Summary

Name	Count	Area(ft²)	Length(ft)
Natural Heritage Observations Dec2022	5	N/A	N/A

Natural Heritage Observations Dec2022

#	Family	Genus	Species	COMNAME	SurvDate	LAST_OBS	RI_STAT	Count
1	Amphibian	Lithobates	pipiens	Northern Leopard Frog	00/00/2010	2010	State Concern	2
2	Amphibian	Lithobates	pipiens	Northern Leopard Frog	06/17/1985	1985	State Concern	1
3	Bird	Cistothorus	palustris	Marsh Wren	05/20/1984	1984	State Concern	1
4	Bird	Porzana	carolina	Sora	05/20/1984	1984	State Concern	1



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8 Science Park Road, 2nd Floor
Scarborough, Maine 04074
www.swca.com

June 16, 2023

Paul Jordan
Data Analyst/Supervising GIS Specialist
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908

Sent electronically to Paul.Jordan@dem.ri.gov

**Re: State Threatened and Endangered Species Data Request
Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC
G-2 Natural Gas Pipeline Maintenance Project
Portsmouth and Little Compton, Rhode Island**

Mr. Jordan:

On behalf of Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC (Algonquin), SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) is requesting additional information from the Rhode Island Natural Heritage Program regarding state protected species that may exist within the proposed footprint for Algonquin's G-2 Natural Gas Pipeline Maintenance Project (Project) located in the City of Portsmouth and Town of Little Compton.

Algonquin is an interstate natural gas pipeline transmission company that maintains and operates interstate pipelines extending from New Jersey through the states of New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. The company's interstate pipeline network includes an existing six-inch diameter pipeline that is partially located in Portsmouth and Little Compton, Rhode Island that interconnects with Rhode Island Energy, the local gas distribution company. The existing pipeline is the sole source of natural gas for homes and businesses on Aquidneck Island. This pipeline was originally installed in 1954.

The Project is being undertaken based on Algonquin's responsibility for maintaining the structural integrity and ensuring the safety and reliability of its natural gas pipeline systems; accordingly, Algonquin routinely monitors, inspects, and maintains its pipelines. The Project involves replacement of approximately 1.95 miles of Algonquin's existing 6-inch G-2 natural gas pipeline with 12-inch using horizontal directional drilling (HDD) and open cut methods. The project limits extend from the east side of the Sakonnet River, in Little Compton to an existing Meter and Regulation Station 00013 (M&R 00013) in Portsmouth.

The following information is provided as part of this data request to identify any protected natural resources that may occur within the Project. Included are details on existing site characteristics, proposed construction activities, best management practices and site restoration.

Project Scope

The Project work will be located within a section of the pipeline's crossing beneath the tidally influenced Sakonnet River between Little Compton and Portsmouth, RI. To repair this segment of pipeline, Algonquin is proposing to install a new, approximately 7,300-foot long section of 12-inch diameter pipeline beneath the



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Scarborough, Maine 04074
www.swca.com

Sakonnet River via an HDD. The HDD will be routed within close proximity to the existing pipeline ROW. By using the HDD method, there are no anticipated impacts to the Sakonnet River as the new segment will be drilled a considerable depth beneath the riverbed within competent bedrock with no need for excavation in the river. The existing G-2 pipeline will be grouted and abandoned in place.

The Project also includes replacing the remaining 2,600 foot section of the existing 6-inch G-2 pipeline west of the Sakonnet River to Algonquin's existing M&R 00013 with a new 12-inch pipeline, thus improving the overall G-2 system integrity and reliability to the surrounding area. This section of existing 6-inch G-2 pipeline will also be grouted and abandoned in place. This segment will be replaced using a combination of HDD and open-cut method. The HDD will be utilized to install approx. 1,300 feet of pipeline under Cotton Swamp to avoid and minimize impacts. Aboveground and below ground modifications will be required at M&R 00013 to tie-in the new pipeline with the existing facility. There will be tree clearing required for workspace on both the east and west side of the Sakonnet River. Work associated with the Project is scheduled to begin during spring of 2024, once all necessary federal and state permits are acquired.

We are requesting additional information regarding protected natural resources habitat or species potentially present in this area to assist the Project team in avoidance and minimization efforts. If you have any questions, please reach out to me by email at Katelyn.Wheeler@swca.com or phone at 207-509-4386.

Sincerely,

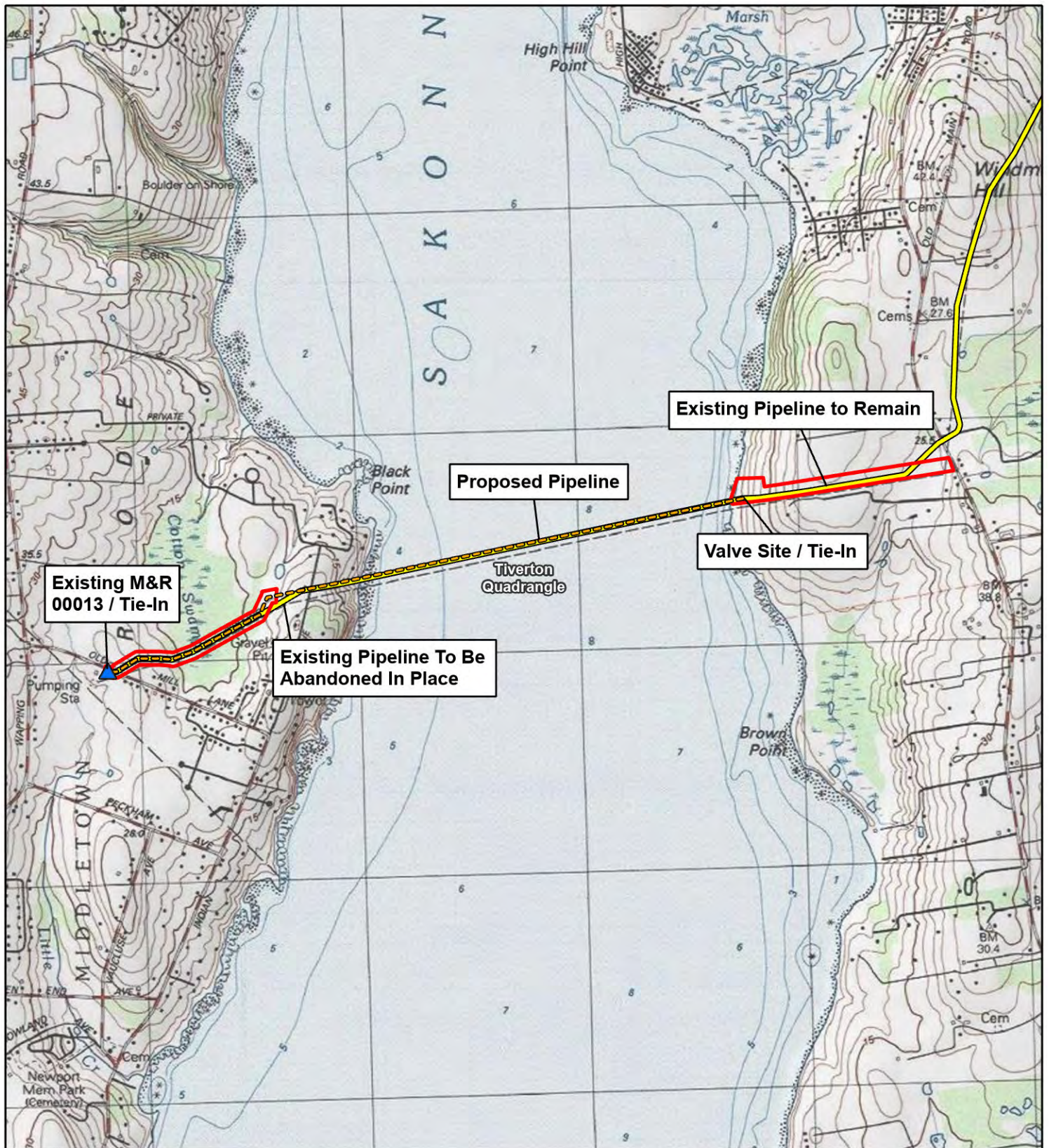
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katelyn Wheeler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Katelyn" and last name "Wheeler" clearly distinguishable.

Katelyn Wheeler

Associate Project Manager

APPENDIX A





Mapping



G-2 NATURAL GAS PIPELINE MAINTENANCE PROJECT

USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

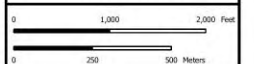
TIVERTON QUADRANGLE
PORTSMOUTH AND LITTLE COMPTON, RI

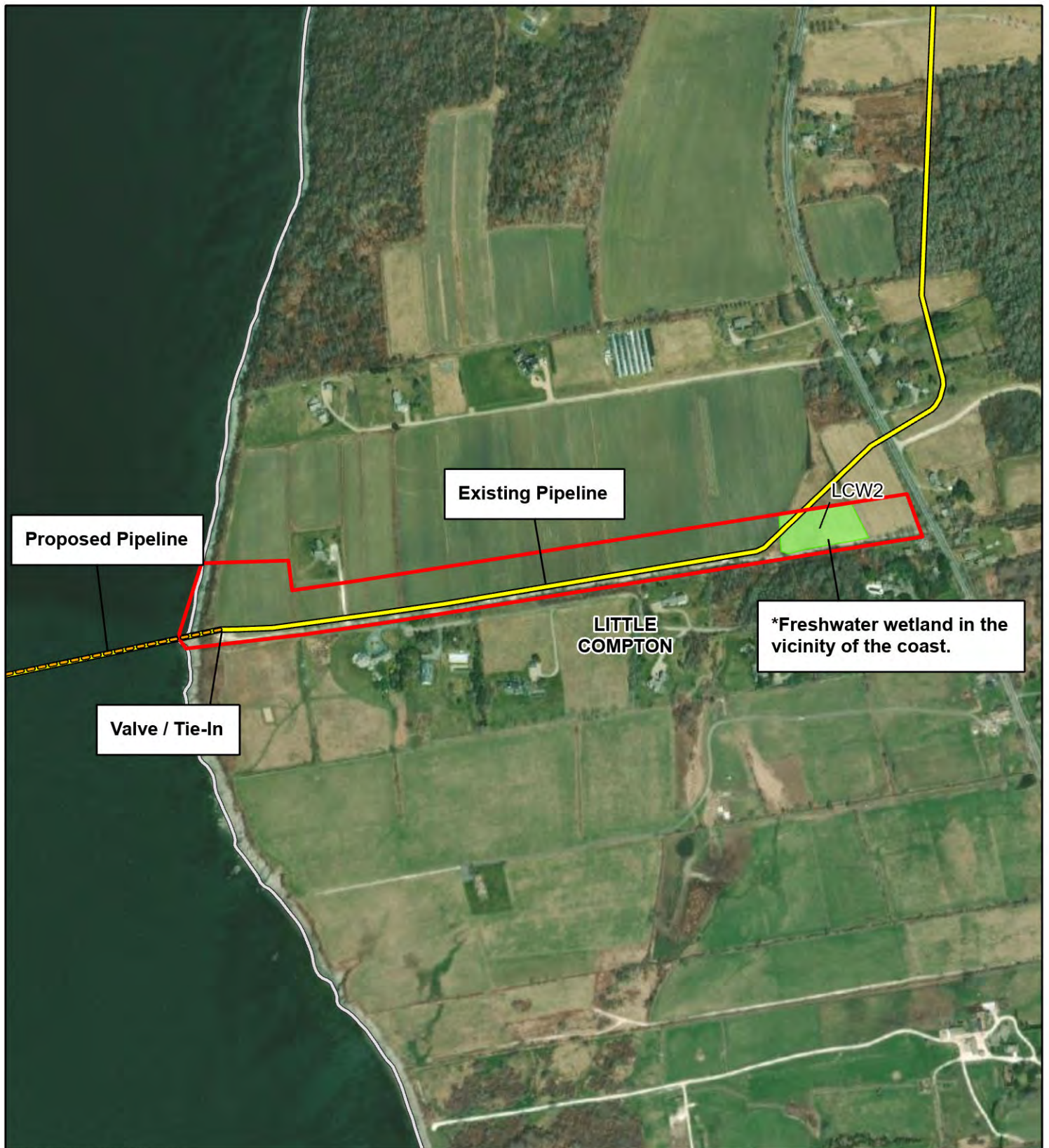
-  Meter and Regulation Station 00013
-  Existing Pipeline
-  Proposed Pipeline
-  Project Area



1:24,000

Created By: S. McInerney
Project Number: 68136
Date: 5/15/2023
NAD 1983 2011 StatePlane Rhode Island FIPS 3800 F1 US





G-2 NATURAL GAS PIPELINE
MAINTENANCE PROJECT
NATURAL RESOURCE DELINEATION MAP
EAST BANK
TIVERTON QUADRANGLE
LITTLE COMPTON, RI

- Existing Pipeline
- - - Proposed Pipeline
- Delineated Wetland Area
- Project Area
- Municipal Boundary



1:7,200

Created By: S. McInerney
Project Number: 68136
Date: 5/15/2023
NAD 1983 2011 StatePlane Rhode Island FIPS 3800 PT US

