

**EARTH REMOVAL STORMWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2015, 7:00 PM
MINUTES**

Chairman Perkins called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall

Members present: Perkins, Capes, and Hanninen

Member absent: Delaney and Swezey

PUBLIC HEARING – GELD SOLAR PROJECT, 600 COW POND BROOK ROAD, STORMWATER PERMIT

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 198 of the Code of Groton, the Earth Removal Stormwater Advisory Committee held to consider the application submitted by the Groton Electric Light Department for a Stormwater Management Permit for the 2.93 megawatt (MW) Solar Photovoltaic Installation Project as shown on the plan entitled, "Groton Landfill Solar PV Development, Groton, Massachusetts," prepared by AMEC Foster Wheeler, dated October 14, 2015. The proposed project is located on land owned by the Town of Groton, Assessors' Map 248, Parcel 41, located on the easterly side of Cow Pond Brook Road.

Chairman Perkins called the public hearing to order and read the notice published in the November 20, 2015 issue of the *Groton Herald*. Applicant Geri Kantor of Ameresco and design engineer Robert Bukowski of AMEC Foster Wheeler were present.

Mr. Bukowski presented the plan to install the solar fields on the closed landfill area under a lease agreement with GELD on land owned by the Town of Groton. The disturbance to the land will be less than 40,000 square feet so this is a limited stormwater permit application. The solar arrays will be on racks on concrete blocks. The only impervious area will be the foundation blocks. Rainwater will trickle through the racks onto the ground. An Operating and Maintenance plan is not required, but the DEP will review the stormwater calculations as part of the post-closure use permit. There will be no increase in runoff from the site. The landfill cap is impermeable so runoff will flow into swales. There are no proposed grading changes.

Member Capes asked if a new gravel road would be constructed. Mr. Bukowski said a new 12" thick gravel road would be used during construction. No rubber tire vehicles will be used on the landfill. Access will be with track vehicles.

Member Hanninen asked if Terracon, the Board of Health's consultant, would have a problem accessing the monitoring wells for the required quarterly testing. Mr. Bukowski said the wells would be sealed and safe and Terracon would not have any problem accessing the wells.

Chairman Perkins asked about an Operating and Maintenance plan. Mr. Bukowski said it is not required, but Ameresco has long-term operating and maintenance responsibilities for the site under the lease agreement with GELD.

The Committee voted unanimously to close the public hearing.

The motion was made by Hanninen, seconded by Capes, that the proposed project is significant to the interests stated in Chapter 198, Section 1 Purposes, including:

It has been determined that proper management of construction sites and post-development stormwater runoff will prevent damage to public and private property and infrastructure, safeguard the public health,

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safety, environment and general welfare, protect water and aquatic resources, promote groundwater recharge to protect surface and groundwater drinking supplies, and encourage the appropriate use of the land throughout the Town.

And to grant the permit with the following conditions:

1. Construction shall be done in accordance with the above-referenced plans.
2. The construction entrance shall be stabilized for a minimum distance of 50 ft as shown on the "Construction Entrance" detail from the "Massachusetts Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines for Urban and Suburban Areas." The crushed stone shall be replenished as needed to prevent tracking sediment on the public way.
3. All work shall be done in compliance with the "Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection - Stormwater Management, Volume One: Stormwater Policy Handbook, and Volume Two: Stormwater Technical Handbook," dated February 2008.
4. It is the applicant's responsibility to prevent the products of erosion and sedimentation from reaching Cow Pond Brook Road and causing a safety hazard on the public way. There shall be no net increase in runoff or erosion to the public ways, the municipal storm drain system, or abutting properties.
5. Work shall not go beyond the limits of disturbance shown on the above-referenced plan. The stakes shall be maintained throughout construction to prevent any disturbance to the vegetation or topography beyond the limits of disturbance.
6. The applicant shall take effective measures to control dust and windblown erosion at all times.
7. The applicant must submit any proposed change in the above referenced plans to the Earth Removal-Stormwater Advisory Committee for its review and approval before the change is implemented.
8. The removal of any excess earth material from the site requires a Certificate of Exemption from the Earth Removal By-law, Chapter 134 of the Code of the Town of Groton. Chapter 134, Section 10 Exemptions.
9. The applicant is responsible for obtaining any other permits (including but not limited to) those required by the Board of Selectmen, Board of Health, Conservation Commission, Building Inspector, DPW Director, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals.
10. It is the applicant's responsibility to insure that the contents of this permit are made known to all contractors who perform work at this site.
11. It is the applicant's responsibility to contact Dig Safe prior to the commencement of any work at the site. The applicant is responsible for obtaining a trench permit, if required by G.L. c. 82A §1 and 520 CMR 7.00 et seq (as amended).
12. The applicant will notify the Earth Removal Stormwater Inspector at least 48 hours prior to the commencement of construction.

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13. If the project is not completed within two (2) years from the date the permit is issued, it is the responsibility of the applicant to request an extension. The Committee may grant extensions for additional time provided that the applicant submits a written request for renewal no later than 30 days prior to expiration of the permit.

14. This permit runs with the land and applies to any successor in interest or successor in control.

The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Collette
Earth Removal Stormwater Inspector