

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Docket No. 2011-03

Petition of Gorham Paper and Tissue, LLC for an Exemption from the Application
and Certificate Requirements of
R.S.A. 162-H

ORDER AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND INFORMATIONAL HEARING

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that a public information hearing and public meeting of the Site Evaluation Committee for the State of New Hampshire shall be held on July 6, 2011 commencing at 10:00 a.m. at the Berlin City Hall, 168 Main Street, Berlin, N.H.

The Application

On December 29, 2010, in Docket No. 2010-02, the Site Evaluation Committee (Committee) granted an exemption from the application and certificate requirements of RSA 162-H to Androscoggin Valley Regional Refuse Disposal District (District) for the siting, construction, and operation of a blended landfill gas (LFG) and natural gas energy project which included (1) a landfill gas processing facility and associated compressor, dehydration unit, flares, and LFG meter at the eastern end of the Mt. Carberry Landfill located in Success, Coos County; (2) a natural gas metering and pressure regulation station (M&R Station) on District property located in Berlin, Coos County, and near the existing Portland Natural Gas Transmission System (PNGTS) pipeline; (3) an approximate 11,300-foot-long, buried 8-inch-diameter High Density Poly Ethylene (HDPE) LFG pipeline from the Landfill to the M&R Station in Berlin; (4) an approximate 350 foot-long, 2-inch diameter lateral pipeline from the existing PNGTS mainline pipeline to the M&R Station; (5) an approximate 470-foot-long, 8-inch-diameter HDPE mixed LFG and natural gas pipeline from the M&R Station to the Androscoggin River; (6) an approximate 300-foot-long, 8-inch-diameter segment of coated steel pipeline crossing the abandoned railroad bridge over the Androscoggin River; and, (7) an approximate 2,500-foot-long, 8-inch-diameter HDPE mixed LFG and natural gas pipeline from the west end of the Androscoggin River crossing to the Gorham paper mill (Project).

On June 10, 2011, Gorham Paper and Tissue, LLC (GPT) filed a letter with the Committee updating the Committee on modifications to the Project and seeking confirmation that GPT could rely on the exemption granted to the District in Docket No. 2010-02. In its filing, GPT reported the following substantial modifications to the Project:

1. GPT has completed its purchase of the former Fraser Paper mill located in Gorham, Coos County, NH (Mill), and proposes to install and own the natural gas pipeline, the M&R Station and all parts of the pipeline transiting from the PNGTS pipeline to the Mill. Originally, the District planned to construct, install and own the entire pipeline.
2. Rather than delivering blended LFG and natural gas to the Mill through a single pipeline, GPT now proposes to construct two separate pipelines delivering natural gas and LFG separately.
3. The LFG pipeline will be owned in part by GPT and in part by the District.

The proposed modifications to the Project are substantially different than contemplated by the original exemption and require that the Committee determine whether the Project, as modified, continues to qualify for exemption from the application and certificate process of RSA 162-H.

Location of the Proposed Facilities

The proposed facilities will include a LFG processing facility and associated compressor, flares, dehydration unit, meters, and ancillary equipment at the Mt. Carberry landfill in Success, Coos County, N.H.

The proposed facilities will include a LFG pipeline that will commence at the Mt. Carberry landfill in Success, N.H. and travel approximately 11,300 feet from Success to the M&R Station located near the existing PNGTS pipeline in Berlin, Coos County. The pipeline carrying LFG will then travel for approximately 470 feet to the Androscoggin River in Berlin. The pipeline will cross the river from east to west for approximately 300 feet on an abandoned railroad bridge. From the west end of the bridge, the pipeline will continue for approximately 2500 feet to the Mill located in Gorham, Coos County, where the pipeline will terminate with an interconnection to the Mill.

In addition, a natural gas pipeline will be constructed. A lateral natural gas pipeline will commence at a point along the existing PNGTS pipeline and transit approximately 350 feet to the M&R Station. From the M&R station, the natural gas pipeline will travel the same route as, and alongside, the LFG pipeline, terminating at a point where it will interconnect with existing facilities at the Mill.

All of the proposed facilities are located within Coos County, N.H.

Nature of the Proposed Facilities

The proposed facilities will collect and transport LFG and natural gas in Success and Berlin and deliver LFG and natural gas to the facilities located in Gorham via two separate pipelines and associated facilities.

Notice of Public Hearing

A Public Information Hearing will be held on July 6, 2011, at 10 a.m. The hearing shall be for public information on the proposed facility. GPT will present information to the Committee and the public. The proceedings shall be recorded and members of the public will be permitted to submit questions or give public comment.

The Public Information Hearing shall commence on July 6, 2011, at 10 a.m., in the auditorium in the Berlin City Hall, 168 Main Street, Berlin, N.H.

Upon completion of the public hearing, the Committee may go into deliberative session to determine whether GPT's request for exemption is complete and may also deliberate and determine whether an exemption from the requirements of R.S.A. 162-H should be granted or denied.

Written Comments

Written comments from the public will be accepted and considered by the Committee until July 6, 2011. Written comments should be addressed to the office of the Chairman of the Committee located at the Department of Environmental Services, 29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95, Concord, N.H. 03302-0095.

Public Inspection

The materials filed by GPT and all other correspondence and public records regarding this matter are available for public inspection at the office of the Chairman of the Committee located at the Department of Environmental Services, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, N.H. The records are also available on the Committee's website: www.nhsec.nh.gov.

It is **FURTHER ORDERED**, that the Applicant shall publish a copy of this Order and Notice of Public Meeting and Informational Hearing no later than June 26, 2011, in a newspaper of statewide circulation and as soon as practicable and shall publish a copy of this Order and Notice in one or more newspapers having a regular circulation in Coos County. The Applicant shall file an affidavit documenting publication on or before July 5, 2011.

By **ORDER** of the Site Evaluation Committee, this 21st day of June, 2011.


New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee
Thomas S. Burack, Chairman