



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

May 6, 2019

Lindsey Lefebvre
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New England District
Regulatory Division
696 Virginia Rd
Concord, MA 01742

Re. USACENE File No. NAE-2015-00665 – Section 401 Water Quality Certification

Dear Ms. Lefebvre,

On April 23, 2019, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New England District (USACENE) released a Public Notice for the above referenced project known as the Seacoast Reliability Project (SRP) which requires a federal permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). As noted in the Public Notice, a “Water Quality Certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act” is required. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the SRP has received a Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) from the State of New Hampshire.

On April 12, 2016, Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy, Inc. submitted an application for WQC for the SRP. From the time the original WQC application was received until the final “Order and Certificate of Site and Facility with Conditions” was issued by the Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) on January 31, 2019, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) worked in good faith to address all surface water quality concerns. Opportunity for public comment was available through the SEC public process. The SEC’s final order, which includes New Hampshire’s 401 WQC conditions, may be found on the SEC website <https://www.nhsec.nh.gov/projects/2015-04/2015-04.htm> (Tab 369, Appendix I). The 401 WQC included in the SEC’s final order states that compliance with the water quality certification issued for the Section 404 General Permit in 2017 and the conditions for the Alteration of Terrain and Wetlands permits, provides reasonable assurance that construction and operation of the Activity will not violate surface water quality standards.

In summary, the “Order and Certificate of Site and Facility with Conditions” issued by the SEC on January 31, 2019 includes New Hampshire’s Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the SRP. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact me at 603-271-2983 or gregg.comstock@des.nh.gov.

Sincerely,

Gregg Comstock, P.E.
Watershed Management Bureau

cc. Pam Monroe, NH Site Evaluation Committee
Kurt Nelson, Public Service Company of NH d/b/a Eversource Energy, Inc.
Tom O’Donovan, Water Division Director, NHDES
Collis Adams, Wetlands Bureau Administrator, NHDES