

**STATE OF NEW YORK
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE
OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND
PUBLIC NEED TO CONSTRUCT AN APPROXIMATELY
9.5-MILE NATURAL GAS GATHERING PIPELINE**

**NEW YORK MAINLINE LOOP
NATURAL GAS PIPELINE PROJECT**

CASE 13-T-_____

**UNDER ARTICLE VII OF THE
NEW YORK PUBLIC SERVICE LAW**

**DECEMBER 2, 2013, *REVISED JANUARY 16, 2014*
*Revised March 14, 2014***

**TOWN OF WINDSOR, COUNTY OF
BROOME, STATE OF NEW YORK**

APPLICANT:

**Williams Field Services Company, LLC and
DMP New York, Inc.
Park Place Corporate Center 2
2000 Commerce Drive
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15275-1026**

VOLUME I OF III

**WILLIAMS FIELD SERVICES COMPANY, LLC AND
DMP NEW YORK, INC.**

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USFWS. In a letter dated September 27, 2012, Williams initiated consultation with the USFWS NY Field Office. The USFWS NY Field Office responded in a letter dated November 14, 2012, indicating there are no anticipated impacts to RTE species for Project activities.

Since receiving initial clearance, Williams has conducted 3 90-day USFWS NY Field Office online reviews to ensure that listed species presence/absence information for the proposed Project is current.

Copies of USFWS NY Field Office correspondence and the 90-day online reviews are provided as **Exhibit T**.

NYSDEC. An online search of the Project area using the NYSDEC's Environmental Resource Mapper was used to search for RTE species within the vicinity of Project. The Environmental Resource Mapper showed no RTE Species within the Project area. In addition, consultation with the Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources and the NY Natural Heritage Program of the NYSDEC was initiated via "Request for Review" in a letter dated September 27, 2012. Williams received a response letter dated October 9, 2012 indicating that there are no known RTE species in the Project area.

A NYSDEC RTE clearance renewal letter was submitted on September 27, 2013. GAI received a response letter dated October 15, 2013 indicating that there are no known RTE species in the Project area.

Copies of these consultations are included as **Exhibit U**.

2.5.1.11 Invasive Species

According to the NYSDEC, invasive species are non-native species that can cause harm to the environment or to human health. The NYSDEC has created an "Interim List of Invasive Plant Species in New York State" (Revised May 14, 2012) which the NYSDEC uses as a tool for prevention, early detection, monitoring, rapid response, control and eradication, restoration, research, and public education for invasive species management.

Williams has outlined practical measures to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive species within the proposed Project's construction LOD and plans to implement construction activities in order to limit the impact of invasive species on the LOD and ROW.

These measures include:

- conducting a preliminary survey of the Project LOD to identify existing invasive species;

- training contractors and Environmental Inspectors (“EI”) on how to recognize invasive species;
- **marking invasive plant species with signage during construction in order to help facilitate avoidance;**
- using construction techniques along the NY Mainline Loop Pipeline route that minimize the transport and distribution of topsoil that may contain invasive species;
- **ensuring that construction equipment will arrive on the ROW clean, leave the ROW clean, and will be cleaned as needed to minimize the spread of invasive species;**
- minimize the time that bare soil is exposed and, therefore, minimize the opportunity for invasive species to become established;
- adherence to erosion control procedures to assure that sediment movement and the associated movement of invasive seeds into newly disturbed soils are minimized; and
- restoring and revegetating the ROW as soon after the final grading is completed to allow new vegetation to become established and discourage the growth of invasive species.

Invasive Species Survey

Williams **conducted a pre-construction invasive species plant review** to determine the extent of invasive species within the Project LOD **and within approximately 10 feet beyond the Project LOD. A list of invasive species identified during this review as well as a map depicting population locations is provided as Exhibit U-1.** The survey results will be shared during the pre-construction training given to contractors and Project EI’s.

Training

As part of the Project’s Environmental Training, Williams will train contractors and particularly the EI’s on how to recognize invasive species. Personnel who will be on-site for the Project will receive the NYSDEC’s *Revised Interim List of Invasive Species in New York State* (Revised May 14, 2012) along with a pamphlet containing photographs, common characteristics, and the results of the invasive species survey. **A sample of this pamphlet which depicts the species that are ranked “Very High” is also included in Exhibit U-1.**

- Clean Machinery and Equipment: Machinery and equipment to be used in the construction of the proposed Project, including but not limited to, trucks, tractors, excavators, and hand tools such as shovels, rakes, hoes, picks, and etc., will be cleaned **prior to delivery to the site**, in an effort to keep them free of invasive

- species. The EI will check that trucks and equipment have been washed prior to first use, and that there is no dirt or plant material clinging to the wheels, tracks, or undercarriage of the vehicles or equipment. The intent is that equipment will be clean when arriving at the Project site.
 - ***To prevent or minimize the potential introduction of “Very High” Draft Ranked invasive plant species from the project area to wetlands or streams, all vehicles, equipment, and materials (including swamp mats) will be inspected for, and cleaned of, any visible soils, vegetation, and debris before moving to another location on the project. Cleaning stations equipped with brushes, shovels, and brooms will be staged in areas along the ROW. Equipment will be inspected and if necessary, cleaned prior to leaving an infested area.***

Topsoil Segregation

During construction, topsoil will be removed from the excavation areas and stored to the side for replacement once the construction is complete. ***Stripped topsoil that is found to contain invasive plant species will not be transported away from its existing vicinity.*** This will minimize the introduction of invasive species and maintain the native plant seed bank. The stored topsoil will be seeded and mulched with cover crops and/or fast-growing grasses to control erosion and serve to minimize the associated movement of invasive seeds into newly disturbed soils.

- Erosion Control: Disturbed soils will be stabilized using erosion control/stormwater management technical standards as soon as feasible to minimize invasive species establishment in accordance with the EM&CS&P and approved soil erosion control plan.
- Preserve and Restore Native Vegetation: Impacts on native vegetation will be avoided or minimized. Wetland areas and riparian zones temporarily impacted during the construction of the Project will be restored to pre-construction contours and re-vegetated. Re-vegetation and restoration will be conducted in accordance with the EM&CS&P, the Project’s ROW Restoration and Revegetation Plan included as **Exhibit S**, the approved soil erosion control plan, and conditions of the USACE NWP-12. Landowner agreements will supersede the restoration and seeding procedures on those properties along the ROW. Non-invasive or native seed cover for crops or revegetation will be used according to Project plans.
 - ***If an area remains populated with invasive plant species upon completion of work (its preconstruction condition), the invasive material cleaned from equipment used within that construction area***

may remain within the infested area, provided that no filling of a wetland will occur.

- **If upland invasive species must be cut within the Project area during construction, the slash will either be used within the same construction area that is infested, provided that no filling of any wetlands or adjacent areas will occur.**

During construction, **Williams will work to contain invasive plant species to their existing areas.** The EI will monitor the ROW during day-to-day activities and check for new infestations of invasive species or the spread of existing populations. **During post-construction revegetation monitoring, EI's will also inspect the ROW for any new invasive species growth. This will continue until the ROW has been successfully revegetated. Additionally, the inspection reports will be modified to allow documentation of any finding. Should any new invasive species be identified during these surveys, Williams will consult with the landowner and NYSDEC regarding the proposed control measures.** Appropriate control measures will be determined and implemented **based on field conditions.**

2.5.1.12 Protected Vegetation

No "Old Growth Forest", "Sugar Bush", active logging or Christmas tree operations were identified during Project field surveys in September, October, and November 2012. Additionally, there are no trees listed in the Registry of Big Trees that are located in the vicinity of the proposed Project route, according to the NY State Big Tree Register (NYSDEC, 2013).

2.5.1.13 Visual Resources

Visual resources on private lands are a function of geology, climate, and historical processes and are influenced by topographic relief, vegetation, water, wildlife, land use, human uses and development. In Broome County, the topography ranges from rolling hills to steep slopes.

An online review was completed to identify visual resources crossed by the Project. The NY State DOT's Scenic Byways Program (NYSDOT, 2010) website was reviewed for scenic byways within the Project area. No national or state designated scenic byways or scenic roads or parkways are located within the Project area. Additionally, no national trails, forest preserves, wilderness protected areas, state parks or wild and scenic rivers are located within the Project area (NPS, 2010; NYSDEC, 2012a, NYSDEC, 2012b, NYSDEC, 2012c, NYSOPRHP, 2012).