

NATIONAL GRID - SUMMER STREET GAS MAIN INSTALLATION
REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY

TOWN OF ACTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 2009

Prepared for:
National Grid
52 Second Avenue
Waltham, MA 02451

BSC Project No. 12971.83

Prepared by:



15 Elkins Street
Boston, MA 02127



February 5, 2009

Acton Conservation Commission
Town Hall
472 Main Street
Acton, MA 01720

RE: Request for Determination of Applicability
National Grid – Gas Main Installation
Summer Street, Acton Massachusetts

Dear Acton Conservation Commission Members,

BSC Group Inc., on behalf of National Grid (“the applicant”) is requesting a review by the Acton Conservation Commission for a Determination of Applicability for project activities associated with the installation of an approximately 725-linear foot subsurface natural gas main. Proposed project activities will occur within the existing paved roadways associated with Summer Street, Central Street and Willow Street in Acton, Massachusetts. No impacts to jurisdictional wetland resource areas are proposed as part of the project, although approximately 80 linear feet (approximately 240 square feet) of project work will occur within 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The implementation of Best Management Practices (“BMP’s”) will reduce and mitigate impacts to adjacent wetland resource areas to the maximum extent practicable. We are requesting a Negative Determination of Applicability as this project has no anticipated impacts to jurisdictional wetland resource areas and utilizes erosion and sedimentation control BMP’s. This Request for Determination of Applicability has been prepared in accordance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. c.131 s.40 (“the Act”) and implementing regulations (310 CMR 10.00), and the Acton Wetlands Bylaw, Article 83. (“the bylaw”). In addition, proposed project activities would be regulated under the Limited Project provisions set forth under 310 CMR 10.53 (3)(d) which includes construction, reconstruction, operation and maintenance of underground and overhead public utilities, such as electrical distribution or transmission lines, or communication, sewer, water and natural gas lines.

15 Elkins Street
Boston, MA 02127

Tel: 617-896-4300
800-288-8123
Fax: 617-896-4301

www.bscgroup.com

Engineers
Environmental
Scientists
GIS Consultants
Landscape
Architects
Planners
Surveyors



Acton Conservation Commission

February 5, 2009

Page 2 of 2

Please find enclosed 4 complete copies of the Request for Determination of Applicability application and a check in the amount of \$45.00 to cover local filing fees associated with this permit application. We respectfully request that you place this matter on your agenda for the next available public hearing. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (617) 896-4355. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,
BSC Group, Inc.

Jeffrey T. Malloy
Environmental Scientist

cc: DEP Central Region
Dennis Behr, National Grid

TABLE OF CONTENTS

NATIONAL GRID – SUMMER STREET GAS MAIN INSTALLATION REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY

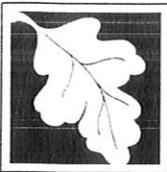
WPA FORM 1 - RDA FORM

ATTACHMENT A PROJECT NARRATIVE

ATTACHMENT B SITE FIGURES

ATTACHMENT C PHOTOGRAPHS

ATTACHMENT D SITE PLAN

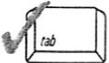


WPA Form 1- Request for Determination of Applicability

Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act M.G.L. c. 131, §40

A. General Information

Important:
When filling out forms on the computer, use only the tab key to move your cursor - do not use the return key.



1. Applicant:
- | | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| Dennis Behr | dennis.behr@us.ngrid.com | |
| Name | E-Mail Address | |
| 52 Second Avenue | | |
| Mailing Address | | |
| Waltham | MA | 02451 |
| City/Town | State | Zip Code |
| (781) 466-5241 | (781) 890-6091 | |
| Phone Number | Fax Number (if applicable) | |
2. Representative (if any):
- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| BSC Group, Inc. | | |
| Firm | | |
| Jeffrey T. Malloy | jmalloy@bscgroup.com | |
| Contact Name | E-Mail Address | |
| 15 Elkins Street | | |
| Mailing Address | | |
| Boston | MA | 02127 |
| City/Town | State | Zip Code |
| (617) 896-4300 | (617) 896-4301 | |
| Phone Number | Fax Number (if applicable) | |

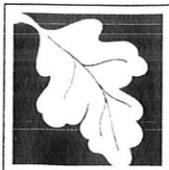
B. Determinations

1. I request the Acton Conservation Commission make the following determination(s). Check any that apply:

- a. whether the **area** depicted on plan(s) and/or map(s) referenced below is an area subject to jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act.
- b. whether the **boundaries** of resource area(s) depicted on plan(s) and/or map(s) referenced below are accurately delineated.
- c. whether the **work** depicted on plan(s) referenced below is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act.
- d. whether the area and/or work depicted on plan(s) referenced below is subject to the jurisdiction of any **municipal wetlands ordinance or bylaw** of:

Acton
Name of Municipality

- e. whether the following **scope of alternatives** is adequate for work in the Riverfront Area as depicted on referenced plan(s).



WPA Form 1- Request for Determination of Applicability

Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act M.G.L. c. 131, §40

C. Project Description

1. a. Project Location (use maps and plans to identify the location of the area subject to this request):

Summer Street	Acton
Street Address	City/Town
N/A - Project is within a state roadway	N/A
Assessors Map/Plat Number	Parcel/Lot Number

b. Area Description (use additional paper, if necessary):

Please refer to Attachment A

c. Plan and/or Map Reference(s):

Attachment D - Site Plan	
Title	Date
Title	Date
Title	Date

2. a. Work Description (use additional paper and/or provide plan(s) of work, if necessary):

Installation of an approximately 725 natural gas main connection within Summer Street in Acton MA.
Please refer to Attachment A for additional detail.



WPA Form 1- Request for Determination of Applicability

Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act M.G.L. c. 131, §40

C. Project Description (cont.)

b. Identify provisions of the Wetlands Protection Act or regulations which may exempt the applicant from having to file a Notice of Intent for all or part of the described work (use additional paper, if necessary).

Limited Project - 310 CMR 10.53(3)(d) - underground public utilities, natural gas lines

3. a. If this application is a Request for Determination of Scope of Alternatives for work in the Riverfront Area, indicate the one classification below that best describes the project.

- Single family house on a lot recorded on or before 8/1/96
- Single family house on a lot recorded after 8/1/96
- Expansion of an existing structure on a lot recorded after 8/1/96
- Project, other than a single family house or public project, where the applicant owned the lot before 8/7/96
- New agriculture or aquaculture project
- Public project where funds were appropriated prior to 8/7/96
- Project on a lot shown on an approved, definitive subdivision plan where there is a recorded deed restriction limiting total alteration of the Riverfront Area for the entire subdivision
- Residential subdivision; institutional, industrial, or commercial project
- Municipal project
- District, county, state, or federal government project
- Project required to evaluate off-site alternatives in more than one municipality in an Environmental Impact Report under MEPA or in an alternatives analysis pursuant to an application for a 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or 401 Water Quality Certification from the Department of Environmental Protection.

b. Provide evidence (e.g., record of date subdivision lot was recorded) supporting the classification above (use additional paper and/or attach appropriate documents, if necessary.)



Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Resource Protection - Wetlands

Acton
City/Town

WPA Form 1- Request for Determination of Applicability
Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act M.G.L. c. 131, §40

D. Signatures and Submittal Requirements

I hereby certify under the penalties of perjury that the foregoing Request for Determination of Applicability and accompanying plans, documents, and supporting data are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

I further certify that the property owner, if different from the applicant, and the appropriate DEP Regional Office were sent a complete copy of this Request (including all appropriate documentation) simultaneously with the submittal of this Request to the Conservation Commission.

Failure by the applicant to send copies in a timely manner may result in dismissal of the Request for Determination of Applicability.

Name and address of the property owner:

Not Applicable - State Roadway

Name

Summer Street

Mailing Address

Acton

City/Town

Massachusetts

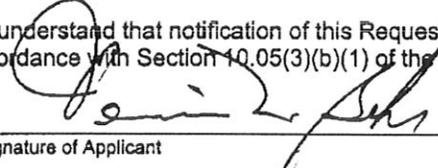
State

01720

Zip Code

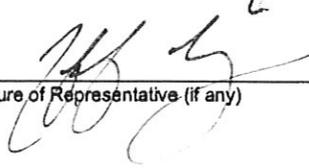
Signatures:

I also understand that notification of this Request, will be placed in a local newspaper at my expense in accordance with Section 10.05(3)(b)(1) of the Wetlands Protection Act regulations.


Signature of Applicant

02/02/2009

Date


Signature of Representative (if any)

02/03/2009

Date

ATTACHMENT A

NATIONAL GRID – SUMMER STRET GAS MAIN INSTALLATION
REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY

PROJECT NARRATIVE

Attachment A – Project Narrative

1.0 Introduction

BSC Group Inc., on behalf of National Grid (“the applicant”) is requesting a review by the Acton Conservation Commission for a Determination of Applicability for project activities associated with the installation of an approximately 725-linear foot subsurface natural gas main. Proposed project activities will occur within the existing paved roadways associated with Summer Street, Central Street and Willow Street in Acton, MA (See Attachment B, Site Figures 1 and 2). No impacts to jurisdictional wetland resource areas are proposed as part of the project, although approximately 80 linear feet (approximately 240 square feet) of project work will occur within 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The implementation of Best Management Practices (“BMP’s”) will reduce and mitigate impacts to adjacent wetland resource areas to the maximum extent practicable. We are requesting a Negative Determination of Applicability as this project has no anticipated impacts to jurisdictional wetland resource areas and utilizes erosion and sedimentation control BMP’s. This Request for Determination of Applicability has been prepared in accordance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. c.131 s.40 (“the Act”) and implementing regulations (310 CMR 10.00), and the Acton Wetlands Bylaw, Article 83. (“the bylaw”). In addition, proposed project activities would be regulated under the Limited Project provisions set forth under 310 CMR 10.53 (3)(d) which includes construction, reconstruction, operation and maintenance of underground and overhead public utilities, such as electrical distribution or transmission lines, or communication, sewer, water and natural gas lines.

2.0 Existing Conditions

The surrounding area is characterized by light residential development. The project area extends from the intersection Central Street and Willow Street, with most of the work area occurring within the roadside shoulder of Summer Street. An emergent wetland is located along the eastern side of Central Street and Muddy Brook is located approximately 1000-feet south of the project area.

2.1 *Review of Existing Data*

According to MassGIS wetland layers and confirmed by field observations, no work is proposed within jurisdictional wetland resource areas (See Figure 3).

According to the Essex County, Northern Part Soil Survey, (USDA/NRCS Web Soil Survey), no mapped hydric soils exist within the proposed project area.

According to the applicable Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) (See Figure 4), Community Panel 250176 0001 C, dated, January 6, 1988 indicates that an area south of the project site is located within the 100-Year Floodplain (Zone A - No base flood elevations determined) associated with Bordering Land Subject to Flooding. No project activities are located within the 100-Year Floodplain.

The 2006 Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Atlas does not depict an area of mapped priority habitat within proximity of the project area.

2.2 Wetland Resource Area Discussion

A single Bordering Vegetated Wetland (BVW)(310 CMR 10.55) was delineated within proximity of the project area. This BVW is characterized as an palustrine emergent (PEM) and palustrine forested (PFO)¹ wetland predominantly dominated by mature red maple (*Acer rubrum*) trees, cattails (*Typha spp.*) and highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*). This wetland is located approximately 25-feet from the eastern roadside shoulder of Central Street. A depiction of delineated BVW is provided in Attachment D.

A BVW (Mapped DEP Wetland, See Figure 3) is situated behind a residential dwelling approximately 150-feet south of Summer Street. This area was not delineated because it is located outside the 100-foot Buffer Zone to BVW.

3.0 Proposed Conditions

Proposed project activities are located within paved roadway associated with Central Street, Willow Street and Summer Street. The proposed natural gas pipeline will be situated parallel to an existing National Grid pipeline. With the implementation of BMP's (See Section 4.0), proposed work will be reduced and mitigated to the maximum extent practicable.

The proposed 6-inch pipeline will measure approximately 725 l.f. and provide connections to existing gas mains within Central and Willow Streets. The existing pavement shall be removed before any excavation or trenching occurs. The pavement will be removed by a pneumatic hammer or saw cut and will be disposed of in accordance with applicable laws. Trenching is then conducted with backhoes with all material sidecast along the upland side of the trench to determine its suitability for backfill (See Section 4.2). The trench will be approximately 30-inches wide and approximately 4-feet deep. Daily construction activities include mobilization, trenching, laying out of new pipe, joining pipe, backfilling, compacting and restoration of the road surface.

The work will likely consist of 4-5 workers including a dump truck, crew truck and excavator. Prior to leaving the work each day, the trench will be backfilled and compacted except for a small work zone (6-8 l.f.) at the end of the pipe. This portion is left unfilled so the end of the pipe can be located without re-excavating the area and possibly damaging the new pipe. The unfilled portion is covered with a steel road plate. Following completion of the pipeline installation activities, trench backfilling and compaction of disturbed portions of the roadway will be re-paved.

4.0 Erosion Control and Best Management Practices

Although the project does not propose impacts to jurisdictional resource areas, the project is within the 100-foot buffer zone to BVW and Bank and has therefore been designed to incorporate BMP's to ensure adequate protection to nearby wetland resource areas. Mitigation measures are described below. Please refer to Project Site Plans (Attachment D) for additional detail.

¹ Cowardin, L. Et al. (1979) Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Biological Services Program, Washington D.C., FWS/OBS-79/31

4.1 Sedimentation and Erosion Control

Siltation barriers composed of silt sacks will be installed within direct proximity of the proposed work areas located within the 100-foot buffer zone to jurisdictional wetland resource areas. Pipeline installation activities to occur outside the 100-foot buffer zone will be protected by silt sacks that can be moved following completion of each pipeline section. In addition, silt sacks will be used to protect roadway catch basins along the pipeline route. The siltation barriers will demarcate the limit of work, form a work envelope and provide additional assurance that construction equipment or sediment will not enter the adjacent wetland areas or adjacent catch basins. Sedimentation barriers within the 100-foot buffer zone to BVW and Bank will remain in place until disturbed areas are stabilized.

4.2 Construction Staging Locations

There will be no overnight storage of soil, gravel, or construction debris within the 100-foot buffer zone. Trench materials will be sidecast along the upland side of the trench line during construction activities to determine its suitability for backfill. Suitable backfill material consists of sand and gravel free of large stones, construction debris, trash, frozen soil, and other foreign material. All unsuitable materials will be stockpiled within a covered dump truck and will be removed from the site. All suitable backfill materials will be placed back in the trench at the completion of each pipeline section. Any extra excavate will be removed from the area daily. Any additional material needed will be trucked in on a covered dump truck and will be placed in the trench directly from the truck.

4.3 Dewatering Measures

The need for dewatering is not anticipated. Should the need for dewatering arise, groundwater will be pumped directly into a sediment filter bag and allowed to flow over the roadway toward the nearest catch basin which will be lined with filter fabric.

4.4 Stormwater Management

No net increase in impervious surface is anticipated as a result of project activities. The proposed project is therefore not subject to the DEP Stormwater Management Policy. As previously stated, silt sacks will be used as a BMP to protect roadway catch basins along the pipeline route.

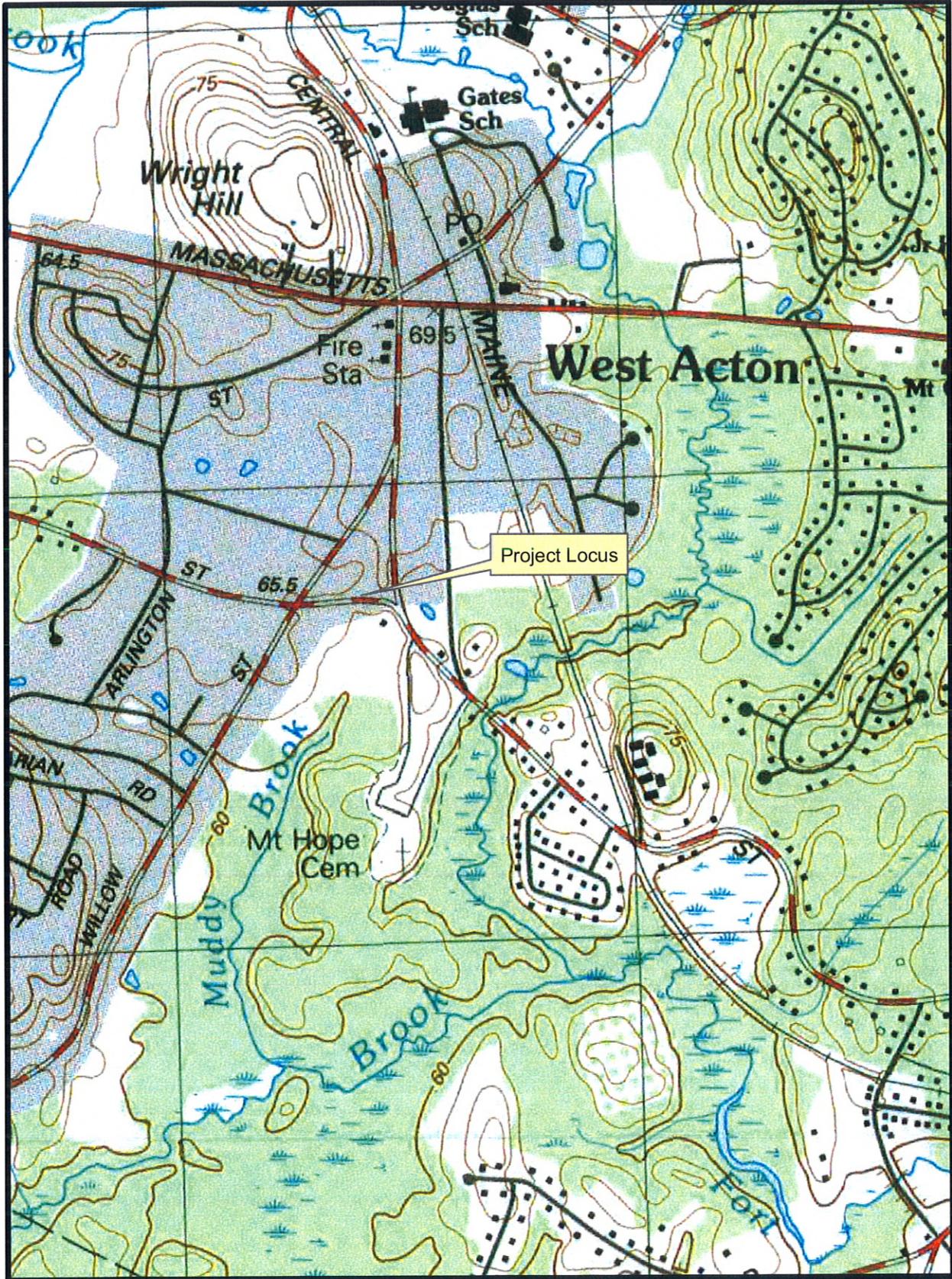
5.0 Conclusion

The applicant respectfully requests that the Acton Conservation Commission issue a Negative Determination of Applicability confirming that while some activities described in this Request are located in the 100-foot buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland, it will not alter an area subject to protection under the Act or the Bylaw, and therefore, does not require the filing of a Notice of Intent.

ATTACHMENT B

NATIONAL GRID – SUMMER STREET GAS MAIN INSTALLATION
REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY

SITE FIGURES



2-05-2009

Scale 1:12,000
1 inch = 1000 feet



0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet

Figure 1
National Grid
Site Locus Map - USGS Topographic Map
Summer Street, Acton MA



2-05-2009

Scale 1:1,800
1 inch = 150 feet



0 50 100 200 300 Feet

Figure 2
National Grid
Site Locus Map - Orthophotograph
Summer Street, Acton, MA





Legend
 [Blue Box] Mapped DEP Wetlands

Willow Street

Central Street

Summer Street

2-05-2009

Scale 1:1,800
 1 inch = 150 feet

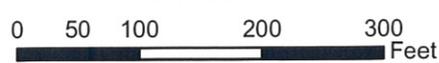


Figure 3
 National Grid
 Site Locus Map - DEP Wetlands Map
 Summer Street, Acton MA



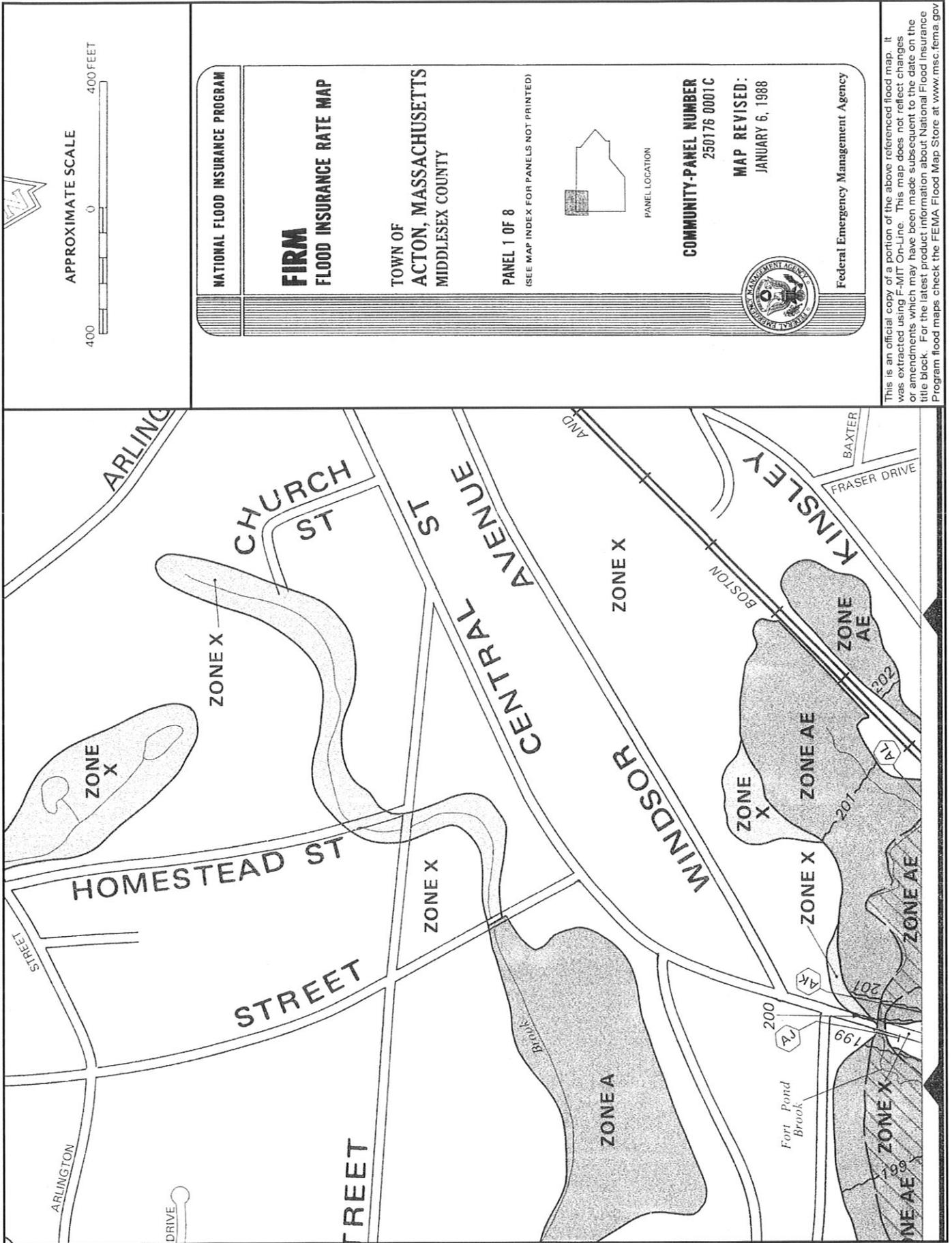


Figure 4 - FEMA Floodplain Map

ATTACHMENT C

NATIONAL GRID – SUMMER STREET GAS MAIN INSTALLATION
REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: View of Summer Street – Willow Street Intersection (facing east).



Photo 2: View of Summer Street (facing east).

Site Photographs

National Grid – RDA Application

Summer Street – Acton, MA

2-05-2009





Photo 3: View of Summer Street – Central Street Intersection (facing east).



Photo 4: View of Delineated BVW adjacent Central Street (facing east).

Site Photographs

National Grid – RDA Application

Summer Street – Acton, MA

2-05-2009



ATTACHMENT D

NATIONAL GRID – SUMMER STREET GAS MAIN INSTALLATION
REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY

SITE PLAN



LEGEND

- CATCH BASIN
- WETLANDS FLAG
- EXISTING GAS LINE
- PROPOSED GAS LINE (APPROX. 75' WITHIN 100' BUFFER ZONE)



EXISTING AND
PROPOSED GAS LINES

SUMMER ST
ACTION, MA

PREPARED FOR:

NATIONAL GRID



15 Elkins Street
Boston, Massachusetts

02127

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Scale: 1"=80' Date: 02/02/2009

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