

SR LITCHFIELD, LLC

Connecticut Siting Council Petition No. 1442

Updated Tree Clearing Phasing

In full compliance with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's General Permit for Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters from Construction Activities SR Litchfield, LLC (SRL) will undertake the Partial D&M Plan Phase I tree clearing activities using a phased approach. First only the trees necessary for site access and erosion and sedimentation control best management practices (BMP) installation will be cleared and grubbed. Then the remaining areas will be cleared and grubbed in areas not to exceed five (5) acres at a time within each drainage basin. Areas are designated in the Site Civil Design on Sheets C550 and C551. This phased approach is described in more detail below. Additional summary information is also included in Site Civil Design on Sheet C002

Phase 1

Phase 1 includes clearing and grubbing required to install perimeter erosion control measures. This includes silt sock, silt fence, diversion ditches, sediment basins, and sediment traps in all areas of the project site. Clearing and grubbing will also need to occur to install an access road off of Wilson Road to provide access to the southeast area of the site.

Trees in all Phase 1 areas will be cut and the stumps removed as needed for erosion control measure installation. Cutting in portions of Phase 1 areas in wetlands and running water will not involve stump removal. Cut trees and stumps will be moved to specified Landing Areas and chipped and removed from the project site.

Phase 2

Once all perimeter controls are stabilized, Phase 2 clearing can continue. Grubbing and grading can commence in stages of no more than 5 acres at once within a drainage basin. Clearing, grubbing, and grading may occur in multiple drainage basins at one time. Clearing, grubbing, and grading in Drainage Basin 8/10 will be phased to keep disturbance under 5 acres at once. All other drainage basins have minimal grading or disturbance except the installation of BMPs. Once a 5-acre disturbance is grubbed and graded, it will be stabilized.

Trees in all Phase 2 areas will be cut and the stumps removed. Cut trees and stumps will be moved to specified Landing Areas and chipped and removed from the project site. Due to the proximity to wetlands and running water, cutting in some portions of Phase 2 will not involve stump removal. Drainage Basin 14 contains lower growth than the other areas. As such, an attempt will be made to mow this area. If that is not possible, trees will be cut with a feller buncher and hitches will be placed at the highest possible elevations to avoid the wet areas.

Tree Clearing in Sensitive Areas

Modest modifications to the limit of disturbance (LOD) and area of trees to be cleared have also been made. These modifications are mostly the result of the adjustment to the LOD for the southern array near the Wilson Road access road and to accommodate installation of the overhead electrical intraconnection from the central array east of Wilson Road across Gulf Stream, under Wilson Road, and into the array west of Wilson Road.

Tree clearing for this crossing will be performed with sensitivity to the stream in order to minimize temporary impacts and avoid permanent impacts. A feller buncher and forwarder will cut trees near ground level with stumps left in place and no grubbing will occur to avoid and minimize soil disturbance with cut material removed. No crossing of Gulf Stream with equipment or mats for the utility interconnection line work will occur. The feller buncher and forwarder will access this utility interconnection area from Wilson Road for the segment west of Gulf Stream and the east array Project side for the segment east of Gulf Stream. This approach will avoid the need to temporarily cross the Gulf Stream with equipment. Tree clearing equipment will be supported by matting to avoid soil disturbance and compaction work.

Erosion control materials will be utilized as needed to avoid runoff or sediment impacts to Gulf Stream. Mats will remain in place only as long as necessary for clearing and tree/debris removal. Trees in proximity to the banks of Gulf Stream will be grappled with the feller buncher during cutting to prevent trees from falling into the stream and disturbing the stream bank. Cutting of the shrub understory will be limited to what is necessary to maintain required wire clearances. As the forwarder removes the timber, it will remove the mats as it moves away from Gulf Stream.

Any exposed/disturbed wetland soils resulting from any of the utility crossing activities will be seeded with a New England Wet Seed Mix (New England Wetland Plants, Inc., or approved equivalent) at the manufacturers recommended seed rate. Any exposed/disturbed upland soils resulting from any of the utility crossing activities will be seeded with a New England Conservation/Wildlife Seed Mix (New England Wetland Plants, Inc., or approved equivalent) at the manufacturers recommended seed rate. Seeded areas will be mulched with non-woven natural fiber erosion control blanket or 2 to 3 inches of clean straw mulch, as appropriate. The wire will be pulled across the wetland by walking a rope across, hanging the rope from the pole, and pulling wire pole to pole. No equipment will enter into Gulf Stream for the wire installation work.

The Resource Protection Measures provided in the Site Civil Design on Sheet C003 (Environmental Notes) also include monitoring by a wetland scientist to ensure Gulf Stream is protected during the utility crossing work.