



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 1

5 POST OFFICE SQUARE, SUITE 100
BOSTON, MA 02109-3912

Date: *Dated as shown on electronic signature(s)*

Subj: Inspection Report
Clean Water Act - National Pollutant Discharge Elimination
System ("NPDES")
Blackstone Rail Trail Construction

From: Andrew Spejewski, Inspector
**ANDREW
SPEJEWSKI**
Digitally signed by ANDREW
SPEJEWSKI
Date: 2024.04.29 15:44:20 -04'00'

Thru: Stephanie Tougas, Inspector

To: File

I. Facility Information

- A. *Facility Name:* Blackstone Rail Trail Construction
- B. *Facility Location:* St Paul St. to RI State line
Blackstone, MA 01504
- C. *Facility Contacts:* Kurt Cormier, Northern Construction
1520 Park St
Palmer, MA 01069
781- 364-7325
kcormier@northernconstruction.com
- D. *NPDES ID No(s):* MAR1004HL

II. Background Information

- A. *Date(s) of inspection:* April 4, 2024
- B. *Weather Conditions:* Light rain, possibly heavier rain earlier in the day
- C. *US EPA Representative(s):*
Andrew Spejewski
- D. *State/Local Representative(s):* None

E. Federally Enforceable Requirements Covered During the Inspection:
EPA general permit for construction stormwater discharge

F. Previous Enforcement Actions: None known

III. Type and Purpose of Inspection

Unannounced evaluation of compliance with the EPA general permit for construction stormwater discharge

IV. Facility Description

The facility is the construction of a rail trail. The current phase runs from St Paul St. running east about 1/3 mile to the Blackstone River then south another 150 yards to the Massachusetts/Rhode Island state line (where it links to an existing trail in Rhode Island). It includes significant fill/cut/regrading of the old rail line and a new bridge over Farnum St. The trail is on a high embankment at the bridge, slopes down to the river and is at the level of the surrounding terrain at the south end of the project. At the time of the inspection, the work west of the bridge was complete, the new bridge was essentially complete, with earthmoving underway east of the bridge.

V. Inspection

Mr. Spejewski arrived unannounced at the site around 10:45 AM, and parked at a construction trailer office at the site entrance just east of the new bridge.

A. Opening Conference

Entering the trailer, Mr. Spejewski found Daniel Boyer, of Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation, who was overseeing the project for DCR. Mr. Spejewski explained the purpose of the inspection; Mr. Boyer explained there was a contractor, Northern Construction, doing the actual site work, who oversaw erosion controls, but Sean Dermott, the superintendent for Northern Construction, was not on site at the moment. Mr. Boyer called Mr. Dermott, who offered to have Nate Kology (a foreman for Northern Construction) lead a tour. Mr. Spejewski confirmed with Mr. Dermott that Mr. Cormier (listed on the NOI for the permit) was an appropriate contact for follow-up.

Mr. Kology then arrived. Mr. Spejewski presented his credentials and they left on a facility tour.

B. Facility Tour

Mr. Spejewski and Mr. Kology then toured the site. South of the trail embankment, and west of the south-running portion, is a large staging/stockpile area with various stockpiles, material and equipment. This area, aside from stockpiles, was very flat with several large areas of shallow standing water (apparently due to the rain). It appeared to be slightly below the terrain to the south and west; it did not appear to drain in any direction. Mr. Kology said only one stockpile nearest the embankment is from the rail trail; the area is a town site used for DPW work.

Along the north-south section, the site ran along the top of the riverbank. The site was excavated a couple inches below the existing top of the bank and there was no sign of flow over the top of the bank. Mulch tubes were in place along the top of the bank, though they had rotted away in several places.

At the northeast corner of the work, a slight slope led down to the north from the project and down to the east to the river. A small area drained down a steep slope toward the river; there was mulch tube in place but it appeared the tube could be easily overwhelmed.

The north side of the project was a steep slope down to a flat grassed park/athletic field. The western part of the slope was established woods, the eastern part was being excavated/graded. There was no sign of concentrated flow or sediment being carried across the fields.

C. Records Review

No records were reviewed as part of this inspection.

D. Closing Conference

Mr. Spejewski departed at approximately 11:15 AM

Note on timestamps: The camera's clock for this inspection was erroneously set to Eastern Standard Time, when the inspection took place during Eastern Daylight Time; therefore all timestamps are one hour earlier than the actual (EDT) time.

Picture List:

IMG_2094.JPG	Site plan (south)
IMG_2095.JPG	Site plan (north)
IMG_2096.JPG	Facing south to end of project (at RI state line)
IMG_2097.JPG	Facing north along eastern boundary of site
IMG_2098.JPG	Detail of eastern boundary
IMG_2099.JPG	Facing north along eastern boundary, about mid point
IMG_2100.JPG	Northern section of eastern boundary
IMG_2101.JPG	Detail of eastern boundary, northern section
IMG_2102.JPG	Detail along eastern boundary
IMG_2103.JPG	North end of eastern boundary

IMG_2104.JPG	Detail, drainage at northeast corner
IMG_2105.JPG	Facing west along north edge of site
IMG_2106.JPG	Facing west to bridge
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Unless otherwise noted, this report describes conditions at the facility/property as observed by EPA inspector(s), and/or through records provided to and/or information reported to EPA inspector(s) by facility representatives and as understood by the inspector(s). This report may not capture all operations or activities ongoing at the time of the inspection. This report does not make final determinations on potential areas of concern. Nothing in this report affects EPA's authorities under federal statutes and regulations to pursue further investigation or action.