



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")
90 Depot Road Clearing

From: Damian Bednarz, Inspector

**DAMIAN
BEDNARZ** Digitally signed by
DAMIAN BEDNARZ
Date: 2023.10.12
09:51:08 -04'00'

Thru: Stephanie Tougas, Inspector

To: File

I. Facility Information

- A. *Facility Name:* 90 Depot Road Clearing
- B. *Facility Location:* 90 Depot Road
Hampstead, NH 03841
- C. *Facility Contacts:* John Mason, Operator
6035539677, maisonbellemc@gmail.com
- D. *NPDES ID No(s):* None

II. Background Information

- A. *Date(s) of inspection:* September 7, 2023
- B. *Weather Conditions:* 90°, sunny
- C. *US EPA Representative(s):*
Damian Bednarz
- D. *State/Local Representative(s):*
NA
- E. *Federally Enforceable Requirements Covered During the Inspection:*
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Construction General
Permit (CGP) (Effective February 17, 2022)
- F. *Previous Enforcement Actions:*
None known

III. Type and Purpose of Inspection

Evaluation of EPA general permit for stormwater discharges from construction activities.

IV. Facility Description

The site at 90 Depot Road in Hampstead, NH (the “Site”), is a tree clearing of approximately 4 acres. According to the town of Hampstead’s Planning Board, this clearing has occurred in preparation of the construction of multiple residential duplexes.

V. Inspection

I announced the inspection to the Facility on September 6, 2023 over the phone with John Mason, the Site’s construction operator.

I arrived at approximately 1:30 PM.

A. Opening Conference

When I arrived, no construction activity was occurring at the Site and no representatives were present. I proceeded to call Mr. Mason, and he let me know he would arrive in 15 minutes.

When Mr. Mason arrived, introductions were made and I showed my EPA Inspector credential. I asked about the current status of the Site. Mr. Mason explained that he has the construction operation on hold as he is waiting for certain state approval paperwork to become approved. Mr. Mason explained construction should begin soon, and perhaps within the next month. He had already received approval for alteration of terrain and previous tree cutting.

At this point, after about 15 minutes of discussion, Mr. Jeff Quirk arrived at the Site. Mr. Quirk works with Keach-Nordstrom Engineering out of Bedford, NH and oversees this project in particular but also many others in New Hampshire. Mr. Quirk has worked closely with Mr. Mason in the past. Mr. Quirk said that this was Mr. Mason’s 3rd or 4th construction project that required CGP coverage and that there is a sequential process each operation goes through to obtain the proper planning approvals at the right times. Mr. Quirk is not directly involved with the construction operation of the Site but does review plans and produce engineering documents to assist its development.

Mr. Mason explained to me that the project would eventually construct 10 privately-owned residential duplexes. This development would be named “Cameron Commons”. He has not began removing tree stumps, as the plan outlined by Mr. Quirk called for eventual CGP coverage. When I asked when the trees were cut, Mr. Mason said this process was quick and completed “a few weeks ago”. Mr. Mason assured me that he is seeking CGP coverage for the Site and stated that it will be obtained at least 14 days prior to ground disturbing activity, including stumping. At this phase of the project Mr. Mason

mentioned that erosion control is “responsive”, meaning that if an erosion issue is observed site modifications would be made. At the time of the inspection there were no stormwater controls present on the Site.

Mr. Mason plans to have two detention ponds as a stormwater control measure when construction should commence. He explained that the deep tracks on the Site were due to large tree cutting equipment tracking through the malleable ground. This included chained skidders, which grappled logs and pulled them along the ground to be placed in piles. These piles of logs have since been hauled off the Site as I did not see any log piles.

B. Facility Tour

Both Mr. Mason and Mr. Quirk did not join me during my walkaround but allowed me to continue and take photos to depict current ground conditions of the Site.

I walked the Site in a clockwise fashion, taking photos along the perimeter. I noticed several tree stumps (marked with an orange box in the attached photo album on slides 1, 2, 8, and 9). The stumps were consistently prevalent throughout the Site, and tree roots were visible from the ground in certain areas. Stormwater had pooled in certain areas where depressions existed, such as areas where heavy machinery operated (slide 4, 6, 7).

D. Closing Conference

Upon returning to Mr. Mason and Mr. Quirk, I mentioned that the observations I made of the site would be communicated with them within 60 days in the form of this report and attached photo album.

I departed at approximately 2:30 PM.

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.