



**RHODE ISLAND**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**  
**OFFICE OF WATER RESOURCES**  
235 Promenade Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

December 7, 2017

Francesco Cassisi  
31 Oakdale Avenue  
Johnston, RI 02919

**Insignificant Alteration – Permit**

**Re:** Application No. 17-0113 in reference to the location below:

Approximately 1500 feet southeast of Hartford Avenue (Route 6) near utility pole No 154 and approximately 1400 feet south of its intersection with Belfield Drive, Assessor's Plat 54, Lot 42, Johnston, RI.

Dear Mr. Cassisi:

Kindly be advised that the Department of Environmental Management's ("DEM") Freshwater Wetlands Program ("Program") has completed its review of your **Request for Preliminary Determination** application. This review included a site inspection of the above referenced property ("subject property") and an evaluation of the proposed solar installation as illustrated and detailed on site plans submitted with your application. These site plans were received by the DEM on November 8, 2017.

Our observations of the subject property, review of the site plans and evaluation of the proposed project reveals that alterations of freshwater wetlands are proposed. However, pursuant to Rule 9.00 of the Rules and Regulations Governing the Administration and Enforcement of the Fresh Water Wetlands Act (Rules), this project may be permitted as an **insignificant alteration** to freshwater wetlands under the following terms and conditions:

**Terms and Conditions for Application No. 17-0113; RIPDES No. RIR101596:**

1. This letter is the DEM's permit for this project under the R.I. Fresh Water Wetlands Act, Rhode Island General Laws (RIGL) Section 2-1-18 *et seq.* This application review has also included review related to the RIPDES "General Permit for Storm Water Discharge Associated with Construction Activity".
2. This permit is specifically limited to the project, site alterations and limits of disturbance as detailed on the site plans submitted with your application and received by the DEM on November 8, 2017. A copy of the site plans stamped approved by the DEM is enclosed. Changes or revisions to the project that would alter freshwater wetlands are not authorized without a permit from the DEM.
3. Where the terms and conditions of the permit conflict with the approved site plans, these terms and conditions shall be deemed to supersede the site plans.
4. You must notify this Program in writing immediately prior to the commencement of site alterations and again upon completion of the project.

5. A copy of the stamped approved site plans and a copy of this permit must be kept at the site at all times during site preparation, construction, and final stabilization. Copies of this permit and the stamped approved plans must be made available for review by any DEM or Town representative upon request.
6. Within ten (10) days of the receipt of this permit, you must record this permit in the land evidence records of the Town of Johnston and supply this Program with written documentation obtained from the Town showing this permit was recorded.
7. The effective date of this permit is the date this letter was issued. This permit expires four years from the date of issuance unless renewed pursuant to the Rules.
8. Any material utilized in this project must be clean and free of matter that could pollute any freshwater wetland.
9. **Prior to the commencement of any major grading operations or construction of the solar array, the wetland restoration specified on sheet 4 of 7 of the approved site plans and as detailed in the "Wetland Restoration Notes" on said sheet must be completed. The Program must be notified upon completion of the wetland restoration. Construction on the solar array is not to commence until written confirmation has been received from the Program that the wetland restoration has been satisfactorily completed.**
10. Prior to commencement of site alterations, you shall erect or post a sign resistant to the weather and at least twelve (12) inches wide and eighteen (18) inches long, which boldly identifies the initials "DEM" and the application number of this permit. This sign must be maintained at the site in a conspicuous location until such time that the project is complete.
11. Temporary erosion and sediment controls detailed or described on the approved site plans shall be properly installed at the site prior to or commensurate with site alterations. Such controls shall be properly maintained, replaced, supplemented, or modified as necessary throughout the life of this project to minimize soil erosion and to prevent sediment from being deposited in any wetlands not subject to disturbance under this permit.
12. Upon permanent stabilization of all disturbed soils, temporary erosion and/or sediment controls must be removed.
13. You are responsible for the proper installation, operation, maintenance and stability of any mitigative features, stormwater treatment facilities, and systems of treatment and control that are installed or used in compliance with this permit to prevent harm to adjacent wetlands until such time that documentation is provided that this responsibility has been assigned to another entity. The long-term operation and maintenance plan shall be consistent with the plan entitled, "Operation and Maintenance Plan, 'Altus Power America Solar Array', Hartford Avenue, Johnston, Rhode Island; Prepared for: Altus Power America", dated Revised: October 24, 2017, indicated as Prepared by: InSite Engineering Services, LLC.
14. With respect to the proposed infiltration basins, any basin that will be temporarily used as a sediment basin shall have its bottom area fully restored by sediment removal and deep tilling prior to being used an infiltration practice. Additional infiltration testing (or engineering inspection) shall be performed to demonstrate that the infiltration rates assigned by the submitted engineering analysis have been re-established. Results shall be provided to this office upon request.

15. You are obligated to install, utilize and follow all best management practices detailed or described on the approved site plans in the construction of the project to minimize or prevent adverse impacts to any adjacent freshwater wetlands and the functions and values provided by such wetlands.
16. Buffer zone plantings of trees and/or shrubs proposed within the wetland restoration area outlined on sheet 4 of 7, except for necessary replacement, must be allowed to develop naturally without being subjected to mowing or manicuring.
17. Any plantings which fail to survive one full growing season shall be replaced. Replacement plantings shall be similarly guaranteed for one full growing season.
18. You must provide written certification from a registered land surveyor or registered professional engineer that the stormwater drainage system including any and all basins, piping systems, catch basins, culverts, swales and any other stormwater management control features have been constructed/installed in accordance with the site plans approved by this permit. This written certification must be submitted to this Program within twenty (20) days of its request or upon completion of the project.

Pursuant to the provisions in Rule 7.09 and Rule 11.04, as applicable, any properly recorded and valid permit is automatically transferred to the new owner upon sale of the property.

Additionally, the Program has reviewed this project in accordance with the standards of the RIPDES General Permit for Storm Water Discharge Associated with Construction Activity ("CGP"). Construction Activities which disturb one (1) or more acres of land and where storm water runoff is directed, via a point source, into a separate storm sewer system or into the waters of the State, are required to seek coverage under the Rhode Island Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (RIPDES) storm water permit. Our review has determined that the project has been designed to meet the requirements of the 2013 GP. This determination therefore includes your final authorization to discharge storm water associated with construction activity under the CGP. For future references and inquiry, your permit authorization number is RIPDES No. **RIR101596**.

Both the owner and the contractor retained to undertake the construction activity are required to comply with all terms and conditions of the CGP. This includes maintaining the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control (SESC) Plan, performing the required inspections and maintenance of the selected Best Management Practices (BMPs), and retaining inspection records. Further information on the requirements of the CGP is available at:

<http://www.dem.ri.gov/pubs/regs/regs/water/ripdesca.pdf>.

Please be aware that the RIDEM's Rules and Regulations Governing the Establishment of Various Fees require that RIPDES CGP permit holders to pay an Annual Fee of \$100.00. An invoice will be sent to the owner on record in May/June of each year if the construction was still active as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of the previous year. The owner will be responsible for the Annual Fee until the construction activity has been completed, the site has been properly stabilized, and a completed Notice of Termination (NOT) has been received by the RIPDES Program. A copy of the NOT can be found attached to the CGP on the web page referenced above.

You are required to comply with the terms and conditions of this permit and to carry out this project in compliance with the Rules at all times. Failure to do so may result in an enforcement action by this Department.

In permitting the proposed alterations, the DEM assumes no responsibility for damages resulting from faulty design or construction.

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Kindly be advised that this permit is not equivalent to a verification of the type or extent of freshwater wetlands on site. Should you wish to have the types and extent of freshwater wetlands verified, you may submit the appropriate application in accordance with Rule 8.03.

This permit does not remove your obligation to obtain any local, state, or federal approvals or permits required by ordinance or law and does not relieve you from any duties owed to adjacent landowners with specific reference to any changes in drainage.

Please contact Kate McPherson of this office (telephone: 401-222-6820 x7732) should you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,



Charles A. Horbert, Program Supervisor

Office of Water Resources

Freshwater Wetlands Program

CAH/KHM/khm

Enclosure: Approved site plans

cc: Paul Carlson, PE, InSite Engineering  
Scott Rabideau, Natural Resource Services  
Thomas Deller, Johnston Town Planner