



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

January 18, 2024

State of RI Department of Transportation (RIDOT)  
Alisa Richardson, PE, Administrator, Environmental Division  
60 Lincoln Avenue  
Warwick, RI 02888

**Freshwater Wetlands Permit**

Re: Application No. 23-0218 and RIPDES No. RIR102577 in reference to the property and proposed project located:

Along Interstate Route 95 (I-95) Northbound, approximately 800 feet northeast of the I-95 and Route 4 merge and approximately 3,000 feet south of the Cowesett Road overpass, SFL Plat No. 1427, Warwick, RI.

Dear Ms. Richardson:

Kindly be advised that the Department of Environmental Management's ("DEM") Freshwater Wetlands Program ("Program") has completed its review of your **Application for a Freshwater Wetlands Permit** as described in Rule 3.11 of the Rules and Regulations Governing the Administration and Enforcement of the Fresh Water Wetlands Act, 250-RICR-150-15-3 ("Rules"). This review included a site inspection of the above referenced property ("subject property") and an evaluation of the proposed safety improvements along a segment of I-95, including the widening of pavements for the continuation of an auxiliary lane and shoulder with associated guardrails and related improvements, stormwater mitigation systems, clearing, grading and landscaping as illustrated and detailed on site plans submitted with your application. These site plans were received by the DEM on December 7, 2023.

Our observations of the subject property, review of the site plans and evaluation of the proposed project reveals that alterations of jurisdictional areas are proposed. However, pursuant to Rule 3.7.3B of the Rules, this project meets the Variance Criteria for Public and Governmental Bodies, and a **Freshwater Wetlands Permit** may be issued under the following terms and conditions:

**Terms and Conditions for Wetlands Application No. 23-0218: and RIPDES No. RIR102577:**

1. This letter is the DEM's permit for this project under the R.I. Fresh Water Wetlands Act, R.I. Gen. Laws § 2-1-18 et seq.
2. This determination also includes your final authorization to discharge storm water associated with construction activity under the **2020 RIDPES General Permit for Stormwater Discharge During Construction Activity ("CGP")**. For future references and inquiry, your permit authorization number is **RIPDES No. RIR102577**. This RIPDES CGP permit is not transferable to any person except after written notice to the Director, in the form of a Permit Transfer Form available on the RIDEM Stormwater Construction Permitting website.

3. 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 December 7, 2023. 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.
4. 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.
5. You must notify this Program in writing of the anticipated start date, and of your contractor's contact information, by submitting the Notice of Start of Construction Form prior to commencement of any permitted site alterations or construction activity. You must also notify this Program in writing upon completion of the project. The Start of Construction Form can be found on the webpage: [dem.ri.gov/stormwaterconstruction](http://dem.ri.gov/stormwaterconstruction).
6. 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 city representative upon request.
7. The effective date of this permit is the date this letter was issued. This permit expires five (5) years from the date of this letter unless renewed pursuant to the Rules.
8. Any material utilized in this project must be clean and free of matter that could pollute any jurisdictional area.
9. 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.
10. 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/programs/benviron/water/permits/ripdes/pdfs/cgp092620.pdf>.
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 freshwater wetland, buffer, floodplain, area subject to storm flowage, or other jurisdictional areas 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 freshwater wetland, buffer or

floodplain, area subject to storm flowage, or other jurisdictional areas until documentation is provided that this responsibility has been assigned to another entity. The long-term operation and maintenance plan shall be strictly followed. The long-term operation and maintenance plan shall be as described in the plan entitled "... Long-Term Operation and Maintenance Plan, For the Proposed: HSIP Roadway Departure 2024 C-1, Statewide, Rhode Island, Prepared for: Rhode Island Department of Transportation, Two Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02903", bearing the latest revision date of December 2023, dated received Dec. 7, 2023, as prepared by GM2 Associates, Inc., 200 Main Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860.

14. You are obligated to install, utilize, maintain, 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 wetland, buffer or floodplain, area subject to storm flowage or jurisdictional areas and the functions and values provided by such freshwater wetlands, buffer, floodplain, or area subject to storm flowage.
15. 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.
16. This Program has made specific revisions to the approved site plans. These revisions are clearly marked in red on the approved plans. Specifically, a row of evergreen shrubs (or low growth evergreen trees) have been redlined onto the General Plan No. 8 (Page 17 of 32). Plantings are to be installed 8-10 feet on center, at least 2-3 feet tall after planting for shrubs (and at least 4 feet tall after planting for trees), and include at least one of the following species:
  - Inkberry (*Ilex glabra*)
  - Rosebay Rhododendron (*Rhododendron maximum*)
  - Arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis*).

This project must take place in compliance with these revisions.

17. All plantings of shrubs, trees or other forms of vegetation as shown or detailed on the approved plans, or detailed in this permit, must be installed as soon as possible after completion of final grading; weather and season permitting.
18. Any plantings which fail to survive one full growing season shall be replaced. Replacement plantings shall be similarly guaranteed for one full growing season.

Pursuant to the provisions in 250-RICR-150-15-3.8.13 and 250-RICR-150-15-3.14.4(A), as applicable, any properly recorded and valid Freshwater Wetlands Permit is automatically transferred to the new owner upon sale of the property.

Please be aware that the RIDEM's Rules and Regulations Governing the Establishment of Various Fees (250-RICR-30-00-1) 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.

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.

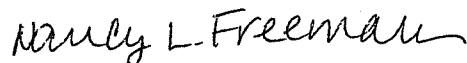
In permitting the proposed alterations, the DEM assumes no responsibility for damages resulting from faulty design or construction.

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 250-RICR-150-15-1.8(C).

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 Jessica Lord of this office (telephone: 401-537-4249) should you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,



Nancy L. Freeman, Environmental Scientist III  
Office of Water Resources  
Freshwater Wetlands Program  
NLF/JAL/jal

Enclosure: Approved site plans

cc: Neal Personeus, DEM Stormwater Program  
Kevin Nagle, PE, GM2 Associates, Inc.  
Heather Hamilton, RIDOT