



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

CERTIFIED MAIL

April 16, 2025

State of RI Department of Transportation
Attn.: Alisa Richardson
360 Lincoln Avenue
Warwick, RI 02888

PERMIT TO ALTER FRESHWATER WETLANDS

Re: Wetlands Application No. 23-0245, and RIPDES File No. RIR102591 in reference to the location below:

At the Interstate Route 95 - State Route 4 Interchange, approximately 2000-feet east of Quaker Lane, and approximately 2060-feet northeast of Quaker Lane and its intersection with Division Road, SFL Plat Nos. 964, 1372, 1472, 3002, West Warwick, Warwick, and East Greenwich, RI.

Dear Ms. Richardson:

The Department of Environmental Management's ("DEM") Freshwater Wetlands Program ("Program") has completed its review of your **Application for a Significant Alteration** regarding the proposed construction of two new freeway ramps, for the purpose of completing the "missing moves" of the highway interchange of I-95 and Route 4 as described and detailed in the material and information submitted in support of your application and on site plans received by the DEM on January 24, 2025. These site plans describing the project were made available for public comment as part of the forty-five (45) day public notice period required in accordance with the Freshwater Wetlands Act (R.I. Gen. Laws § 2-1-18 et seq.) and the procedures set forth in the Rules and Regulations Governing the Administration and Enforcement of the Freshwater Wetlands Act, 250-RICR-150-15-3, specifically in 250-RICR-150-15-3.12.

The Program did not receive any written comments relating to this application during the public notice period.

Pursuant to the Program's review and evaluation of your application including all supporting information and material, as well as the record to date, the Program has determined that this project does not represent a random, unnecessary or undesirable alteration of freshwater wetlands. Therefore, this Program hereby issues this permit to alter freshwater wetlands **subject to all controlling Rules and the Terms and Conditions set forth herein.**

Permit Terms and Conditions for Wetlands Application No. 23-0245: and RIPDES No. RIR102591:

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. **RIR102591**. 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 January 24, 2025. A copy of the site plans stamped approved by the DEM is enclosed. Changes or revisions to the project which 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.
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/town representative upon request.
7. The effective date of this permit is the date this letter was issued. This permit expires one (1) year from the date of this letter unless renewed pursuant to 250-RICR-150-15-3.14.2.
8. Any material utilized in this project must be clean and free of matter that could pollute any freshwater wetland.
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 or the DEM issues a Notice of Completion of Work for the project.
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 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.
14. 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.
15. The long-term operation and maintenance plan shall be strictly followed. The long-term operation and maintenance plan shall be that entitled "... Long-Operation and Maintenance Plan for the Proposed: I-95 / Route 4 Interchange Improvements...", Prepared for: Rhode Island Department of Transportation, Two Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 09903", dated May 2024, dated received May 14, 2024, indicated as Prepared by: GM2 Associates, Inc., 200 Main Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860.
16. Excavation to compensate for loss in flood storage as provided on the approved site plans is mandatory and must be completed prior to any filling or construction alterations within flood plain or areas subject to flooding on the subject property. Written certification must be provided to this Program by a registered land surveyor that such excavation and grading has been accomplished as permitted. Such certification shall be submitted within twenty (20) days of completion of the required excavation and grading.
17. All construction activities involving soil disturbances within watercourses must be limited to the low flow period (*i.e.*, the period from July 1 to October 31 of any calendar year). Soil disturbance in these watercourses must temporarily cease in the event of any abnormally high stormwater runoff event during the low flow period.
18. 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.
19. Floodplain compensation area plantings, except for necessary replacement, must be allowed to develop naturally without being subjected to mowing or manicuring.
20. Any plantings which fail to survive one full growing season shall be replaced. Replacement plantings shall be similarly guaranteed for one full growing season.
21. Additionally, 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 250-RICR-150-15-3.14.4, any properly recorded and valid permit is automatically transferred to the new owner upon sale of the property. Pursuant to the provisions in 250-RICR-150-15-3.14.4(B), within ten (10) days of any property transfer, the subsequent transferee must notify the Department by forwarding a certified copy of the deed of transfer.

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 against you by the DEM.

If you have not already done so, or in order to check on the status of their review, please contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine federal permit requirements on your project. Write the Corps' New England District, Regulatory Branch, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751; website: <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/or> email at cenaer@usace.army.mil. Please note that the Department of the Army authorization must be obtained before any work is initiated in areas subject to Corps jurisdiction.

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

If you are aggrieved by this decision, you may, within thirty (30) days of the receipt of this letter, request an adjudicatory hearing in writing. This request must be sent directly to the DEM Administrative Adjudication Division ("AAD"), 235 Promenade Street, Suite 350, Providence, RI 02908. A copy of the request should also be forwarded to this Program and to the Office of Legal Services, at the same address. Your written request for an adjudicatory hearing must be timely filed and should conform to the requirements of 250-RICR-10-00-1.7(B) of the DEM Rules and Regulations for the Administrative Adjudication Division, 250-RICR-10-00-1. Section 250-RICR-10-00-1.7(B) provides:

"The request for a hearing shall state clearly and concisely the specific issues which are in dispute, and the facts in support thereof, the relief sought, if any, the license or permit sought or involved, and any additional information required by applicable statutes and regulations."

The written request must be accompanied by an adjudicatory hearing fee of two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00); in the form of a certified bank check or money order made payable to the Rhode Island General Treasurer; however, in the event that the cost of the hearing exceeds the fee paid, the Program through the AAD will require an additional fee which the applicant must submit prior to the DEM's issuance of any final decision regarding this application. The adjudicatory hearing will be held before a Hearing Officer from the AAD. Such hearing will be held in compliance with 250-RICR-10-00-1, R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 42-35-1 *et seq.*, and other governing laws, rules, and regulations adopted by the DEM. Please note that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel in any proceeding which may be held in this matter.

Application No. 23-0245

If you have any questions regarding this matter, you may contact Sam Dufresne at this office (telephone: 401-537-4220).

Sincerely,



Martin D. Wencek, Program Supervisor
Office of Water Resources
Freshwater Wetlands Program

MDW/ SGD/sgd

Enclosure: Approved Site Plans

cc: Nick Pisani, DEM Stormwater Program
 Elizabeth Waterhouse, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District
 Heather Hamilton, RIDOT
 Kevin M. Nagle, PE-Senior Engineer, GM2 Associates, Inc.
 Jason Schwartz, Applied Bio-Systems, Inc.
 Alfred T. DeCorte, Director and Building Official, Warwick, RI
 Robert Assalone, Building Official, West Warwick, RI
 James Tavarozzi, Interim Building Official, East Greenwich, RI