

*Norwalk Harbor Management Commission
Application Review Committee Meeting
Wednesday, June 23, 2021
6:00 p.m.
Zoom.us Webinar Conference*

1. 1 Manresa Island Avenue, South Norwalk, CT. COP. Norwalk Power LLC (Applicant) On-going Wetland Sediment Remediation. As a result of historic operations, the Site around the Norwalk Harbor Generating Station is being remediated as part of a State Corrective Action program under Licensed Environmental Professional (LEP) oversight in coordination with the CTDEEP Remediation Division. The area of concern (AOC) is a vegetated area (~55-acres) formerly used for coal ash and oil ash disposal. Analyses of the area indicate the presence of sediment impacted by metals associated with coal ash in four wetlands of AOC. The four wetlands consist of two freshwater (W-3 and W-4) and two saltwater (tidal; W-5 and W-6) wetlands. **The tidal wetlands (W-5 and W-6) are the subject of this current permit application per CTDEEP and USACE regulations.** However, proposed work activities in the two freshwater wetlands will be the same as and will occur concurrently with those described herein for the two tidal wetlands.

The proposed sediment remediation will occur in Wetland W-5 (3.25 acres) and Wetland W-6 (5.03 acres) which consist of a mix of palustrine and estuarine intertidal wetlands. Both Wetland areas (W-5 and W-6) are connected to tidal marsh estuaries by a culvert or culvert with weir. *[Note: Palustrine wetlands are characterized by the presence of trees, shrubs, and emergent vegetation (plants rooted below water but grow above the surface). They range from permanently saturated or flooded land (as in marshes, swamps, and lake shores) to land that is wet only seasonally].*

The proposed activities will remediate shallow sediment composed of select metals in the two tidal wetlands and include the following components:

Sediment removal: Site preparation; Excavation of vegetation and 1' sediment in W-5; Dredging of submerged sediment to 1' in open water area of W-6; Sediment dewatering; Characterization, transport, and off-site disposal of sediment.

Wetland restoration: Restoration of excavated areas to pre-existing elevations with clean sand backfill; Planting the restored areas to establish native wetland vegetation.

Wetland monitoring: Monitoring of the restored areas to ensure that the native wetland vegetation becomes established.

2. 26 Shorefront Park, Pre-application, South Norwalk, CT. Mr. Andrew Vigneault (applicant) proposes to dredge a 5,826 sq ft area to -8 ft below mean low water with 0.5 ft of allowable overdredging. A portion of the proposed dredge area has been dredged under COP-2003-024-SJ. No documentation exists that demonstrates that the rest of the proposed dredge area was ever dredged although it has been used for private dockage for several decades. Dredging will be conducted by clamshell method using a crane on a work barge to remove approximately 1,173 cy of sediment. Dredged material will require testing to determine suitability for disposal in Long Island Sound.

The applicant had a Coastal Resource Analyst (Peter Pellegrino) conduct a Macro-benthic community structure of the habitat around 26 Shorefront Park. This study characterized the existing benthic community as a Stage II Structure, which according to published criteria is conducive to rapid benthic recolonization after dredging. Study results concluded that the proposed dredged area should recolonize to the same current level within 12-18 months following dredging.

Standing Action Items: Open discussion of future Walk Bridge proposals regarding placement of transmission cables by Eversource and DOT, DOT's plans for stationing work barges in Norwalk Harbor; DOT's plans to monitor water quality, and bulkhead construction at proposed South Water Street staging properties.

John Thomas Pinto
Chairman, Application Review Committee
Norwalk Harbor Management Commission