

Environmental Justice Screening Form

Project Name	Amesbury Former MGP Site
Anticipated Date of MEPA Filing	September 2026
Proponent Name	Boston Gas Company
Contact Information (e.g., consultant)	Mark Manganello LEC Environmental Consultants, Inc. 12 Resnik Road, Suite 1 Plymouth, MA 02360 mmanganello@lecenvironmental.com 508-746-9491
Public website for project or other physical location where project materials can be obtained (if available)	https://amesburymgpsite.com/
Municipality and Zip Code for Project (if known)	Amesbury, MA 01913
Project Type* (list all that apply)	Remediation
Is the project site within a mapped 100-year FEMA flood plain? Y/N/unknown	Yes
Estimated GHG emissions of conditioned spaces (click here for GHG Estimation tool)	Not applicable – there are no conditioned spaces or structures proposed.

Project Description

1. Provide a brief project description, including overall size of the project site and square footage of proposed buildings and structures if known.

The Project involves removal and capping contaminated sediments within a portion of the Powwow River in accordance with requirements of the *Massachusetts Contingency Plan* (310 CMR 40.0000; MCP). This Project is associated with a former manufactured gas plant (MGP) that was located on 2.4 acres at the end of Water Street. The MGP operated from about 1899 to 1924, using coal and oil to manufacture gas. After MGP operations ceased, the City of Amesbury used portions of the former MGP area as a municipal landfill until 1952, followed by a local, private company that used it as an industrial landfill until the early 1960s. After landfilling operations concluded, part of the former MGP area was used for parking and the remainder was left undeveloped. A portion of this undeveloped area reverted to a wooded wetland.

Between 2004 and 2016, Boston Gas Company evaluated the site for potential coal tar contamination from MGP operations and potential cleanup alternatives, and then in 2016-2017 conducted a permitted and approved remediation project near the former MGP footprint.

After completing the permitted remedial activities in 2017, Boston Gas Company continued to closely monitor the site and surrounding area. Between 2017 and 2024, these monitoring efforts and environmental assessments, which included soil and sediment sampling, identified additional

potential contamination beyond the original MGP site boundary, including within a downstream wetland, mudflats and a portion of the Powwow River.

The proposed additional remediation consists of excavating the contaminated sediment in the affected wetland and dredging the shallow contaminated sediment in an approximately 1,200-foot-long portion of the Powwow River (see Attachment A). Following the proposed cleanup, the wetland and other affected areas will be restored to pre-construction elevations. Temporarily disturbed wetland resource areas and upland areas will be restored with native plantings. A subaqueous cap will be installed within the portion of the Powwow River that is dredged to provide a barrier to isolate deeper tar-contaminated sediments so they will not pose a significant risk. The cap will consist of an engineered sand layer overlain by a protective stone layer overlain by a suitable benthic layer to restore biological activity.

The Project is subject to the MCP cleanup requirements and will involve temporary alteration of federal, state and local-regulated wetlands and other jurisdictional areas, including Bank, Bordering Vegetated Wetland, Land Under Water Bodies and Waterways, Bordering Land Subject to Flooding, Riverfront Area and Buffer Zone.

2. List anticipated MEPA review thresholds (301 CMR 11.03) (if known)

The Project is expected to exceed three thresholds requiring an ENF:

Alteration of 5,000 or more square feet of BVW [11.03(3)(b)(1)(d)]

Alteration of ½ or more acres of any other wetland. [11.03(3)(b)(1)(f)]

Dredging of 10,000 or more cy of material [11.03(3)(b)(3)]

Disposal of 10,000 or more cy of dredged material [11.03(3)(b)(4)]

3. List all anticipated state, local and federal permits needed for the project (if known)

Table 1: Required Permits		
Permit/Approval	Agency/Party	Status
Local		
Notice of Intent/Order of Conditions	Conservation Commission	To Be Filed
Special Permit	Planning Board	To Be Filed
Industrial User Permit	City of Amesbury	To Be Filed
State		
Chapter 91 Waterways License	MassDEP Waterways	To Be Filed
401 Water Quality Certification	MassDEP Wetlands	To Be Filed
Federal		
Nationwide Permit Coverage	US Army Corps of Engineers	To Be Filed
NPDES Permit (Construction General Permit)	US Environmental Protection Agency	Prior to Construction
NPDES Dewatering and Remediation General Permit	US Environmental Protection Agency	Prior to Construction

4. Identify EJ populations and characteristics (Minority, Income, English Isolation) within 5 miles of project site (can attach map identifying 5-mile radius from [EJ Maps Viewer](#) in lieu of narrative)

EJ Populations within a 5-mile radius of the Project site are summarized below (See Attachment B):

EJ Block Group	Municipality	Criteria
BG 1, CT 2663	Amesbury	Income
BG 2, CT 2664	Amesbury	Income
BG 1, CT 2683	Newburyport	Income
BG 3, CT 2683	Newburyport	Income
BG 3, CT 2621	Merrimac	Income

5. Identify any municipality or census tract meeting the definition of “vulnerable health EJ criteria” in the [DPH EJ Tool](#) located in whole or in part within a 1 mile radius of the project site.

Municipalities within the 1-mile radius of the Project site include Amesbury and Newburyport.

- **Amesbury meets the vulnerable health criteria for Childhood Blood Lead and Low Birth weight on a municipality level, and Low Birth Weight and Lead Poisoning on a Census Tract level.**
- **Newburyport does not meet any of the vulnerable health criteria on a municipality or Census Tract level.**

6. Identify potential short-term and long-term environmental and public health impacts that may affect EJ Populations and any anticipated mitigation

Two EJ Populations, BG 1, CT 2663 and BG 2, CT 2664, are located within the 1-mile radius in the municipality of Amesbury.

The purpose of the Project will be to remediate contamination within the Powwow River which will provide long-term environmental benefits. There are no long-term environmental or public health impacts that will affect EJ Populations. The construction of the Project will result in the following temporary impacts:

Wetlands and Water Quality

The Project involves temporary impacts to Wetland Resource Areas, including Bordering Vegetated Wetlands, Bank, Land Under Water, Bordering Land Subject to Flooding, and Riverfront Area. No permanent loss of Wetland Resource Areas or flood storage capacity will occur. The Project will incorporate protective and preventative measures to minimize and avoid impacts to wetlands and water quality. All existing wetland functions/values will be maintained or improved in response to remedial activity and on-site restoration.

To protect water quality and these sensitive resource areas, temporary access to excavation/dredge areas will be constructed over wetlands using protective construction mats. Construction mats are comprised of wooden beams, bolted together, and are typically 4 feet wide by 16 feet long. They are laid temporarily on top of the ground and vegetation. Use of these mats is a “Best Management Practice” because they reduce environmental impacts by allowing heavy machines and vehicles to cross sensitive areas without damaging the soil or roots of vegetation and are also placed in a manner that does not affect the flow of water in streams. These mats will be removed when construction is completed, and the wetlands will be restored. Additional Best Management Practices, such as the use of straw wattles, silt fencing, stormwater management features, and other control measures will be used to prevent soil and other material from being transported into wetlands and waterbodies. Using these Best Management Practices, any impacts to water quality will be negligible and temporary and are not anticipated to cause impacts to public health. Multi-year post-construction monitoring and reporting will ensure temporarily disturbed Wetland Resource Areas are restored as intended. As a result of these measures, construction of the Project is not expected to generate any impacts related to wetlands or water quality that will materially impact EJ Populations.

Air Quality

Construction-period activities, such as grading, road building, vehicle travel, and other earth-disturbing work may result in a temporary increase in airborne dust. Impacts to air quality will be minimized by managing the control of dust movement or blowing into the air with practices such as spreading wood mulch or straw and using water trucks to spray dried soil to keep it moist. The potential for dust generation is only anticipated during the construction period and is not anticipated to cause impacts to public health. Post construction, soil will be stabilized and re-vegetated. In addition, diesel-powered equipment is required to use ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel. Any diesel-powered non-road construction equipment rated 50-horsepower or more that will be used on the Project for 30 days or more will be required to install emission control devices. The temporary impacts from these emissions will be minimal and are not anticipated to cause material environmental or public health impacts to EJ populations.

Noise

Noise impacts associated with construction-period activities are temporary in nature and expected to be minimal. Noise and vibration generated by construction activity may result in temporary impacts to immediately surrounding properties during construction. Prior to the commencement of work, the Proponent will notify landowners in proximity to the Project area of the Project schedule. Temporary, noise-generating activities will be conducted in accordance with any local and state requirements and are not anticipated to cause environmental or public health impacts to EJ populations.

Traffic

Impacts from traffic during the construction of the Project will be minor and intermittent. Construction vehicle traffic and circulation during construction may result in temporary impacts to the surrounding properties, including congestion from construction-related truck traffic and construction employee traffic. Traffic will be routed directly to main roads and away from neighborhoods to minimize impacts. Traffic from the northerly construction laydown area will be routed from Water Street to Chestnut Street to Elm Street to Route 110, and then east onto Route 95 or west to Route 495. Traffic from the southerly construction laydown area will be routed from Noel Street to Main Street to Route 110, and then west onto Route 495 or east onto Route 95. Temporary traffic impacts from the Project are not anticipated to cause environmental or public health impacts to EJ populations.

Recreation

Impacts to recreational activity in the vicinity of the Project site will be minor and short-term. Temporary re-routing of the Riverwalk shared-use path will be necessary during the construction season and will impact recreation use of the path near the Project site. Restricted access to the Powwow River in the vicinity of the Project will be necessary during construction. Signage and barriers will be installed in the affected segment of the bike path to alert users to rerouting. Signage will be posted in the river up- and downstream of the Project limits warning recreational boaters to avoid the area due to ongoing remediation activities. Temporary impacts to public recreation from the Project are not anticipated to cause environmental or public health impacts to EJ populations.

7. Identify project benefits, including “Environmental Benefits” as defined in 301 CMR 11.02, that may improve environmental conditions or public health of the EJ population

The purpose of the Project is to provide environmental benefits through the cleanup of the Powwow River.

8. Describe how the community can request a meeting to discuss the project, and how the community can request oral language interpretation services at the meeting. Specify how to request other accommodations, including meetings after business hours and at locations near public transportation.

Communities and members of the public can access information related to the Project in the following ways:

- A public website, hosted at the following web address: <https://amesburymgpsite.com/>
- Boston Gas Company will host a virtual public meeting on August 26, 2026.

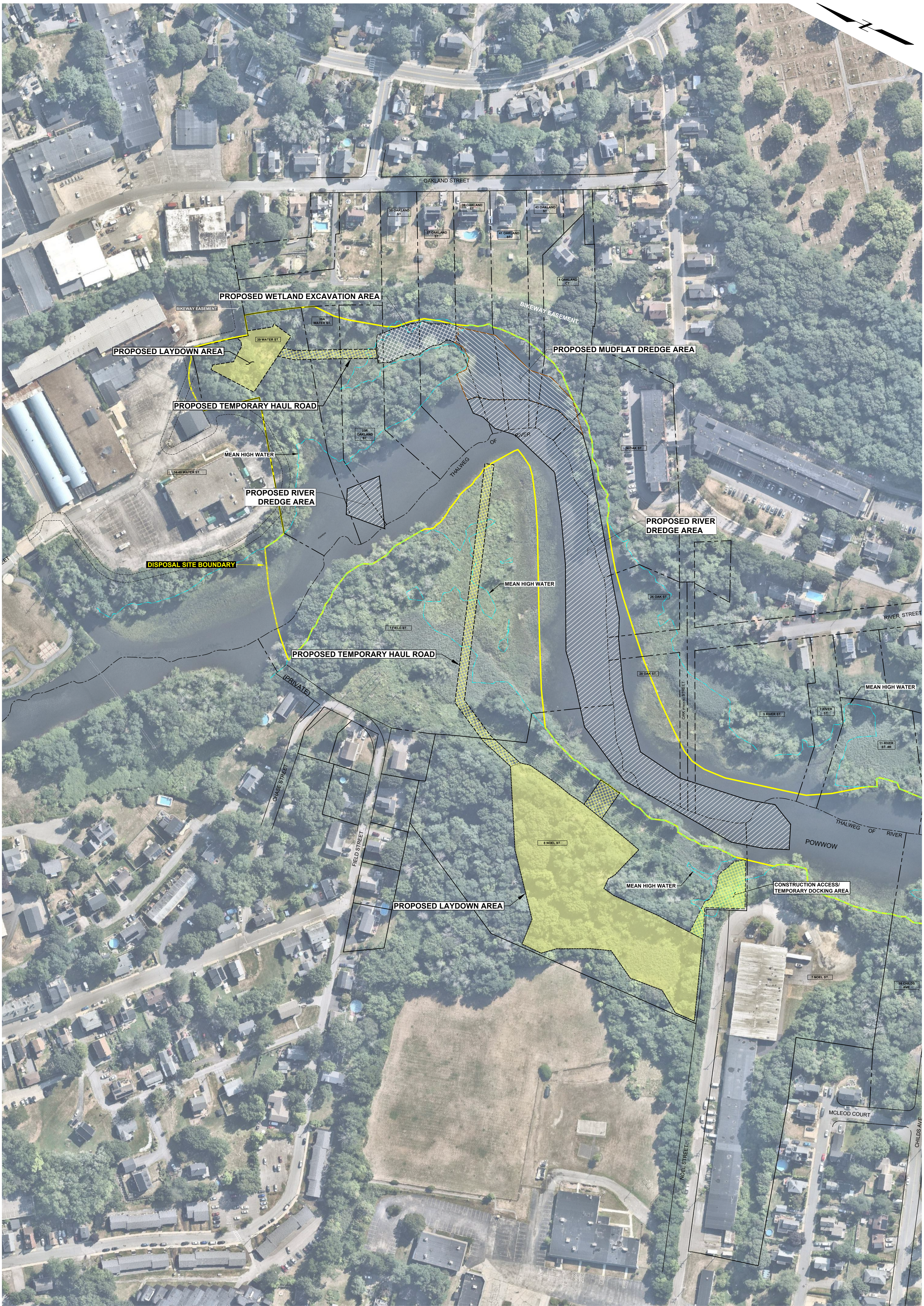
Attendee Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85649839064>

Webinar ID: 856 4983 9064

- Recipients of this screening form will receive information related to this meeting via email.
- Notice of this virtual meeting will be sent to the City of Amesbury Mayor's Office and will be published in the Newburyport Daily News.
- Anyone who cannot attend the virtual meeting may request an in-person meeting with the Project team.
- Hard copies of Project materials will be made available to anyone by request.
- For anyone that is not able to attend the virtual public meeting or if you have additional questions, the project team is available. Contacts include Kenneth Lento at 781-633-3123 or at Kenneth.Lento@nationalgrid.com, or Mark Manganello at 508-746-9491 or at MManganello@lecenvironmental.com.

There are no EJ communities that meet the "English Isolation" criteria within the 1-mile designated geographic area (DGA) of the Project. However, should individuals request interpretation services in advance of meeting dates, including translation of project materials, please email Kenneth.Lento@nationalgrid.com. Boston Gas Company will endeavor to translate the documents provided to EJ populations and provide requested interpretation.

Recipients of this form include organizations on the EJ Reference List provided by Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs per the Public Involvement Protocol.



- LEGEND:**
- LAYDOWN AREA
 - TEMPORARY HAUL ROAD
 - WETLAND EXCAVATION AREA
 - MUDFLAT DREDGE AREA
 - RIVER DREDGE AREA

- NOTES:**
- NEARMAP IMAGE DATED 7/29/2025.
 - PARCEL BOUNDARIES, THALWEG OF RIVER, AND MEAN HIGH WATER LINE PROVIDED BY HAYNER/SWANSON, INC., 2026.

Attachment A: Aerial Image



Environmental Justice Screening Form
Amesbury Former MGP Site
Amesbury, Massachusetts

Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid
Waltham, Massachusetts



PROPOSED REMEDIATION
AND CONSTRUCTION
LAYDOWN AREAS

Project 1804576

July 2026

Att. A

