

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
BEFORE THE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

PETITION OF GORHAM PAPER AND TISSUE, LLC FOR LICENSE TO CONSTRUCT  
AND MAINTAIN A LANDFILL GAS PIPELINE OVER AND ACROSS THE  
ANDROSCOGGIN RIVER IN THE CITY OF BERLIN, NEW HAMPSHIRE

TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION:

Gorham Paper And Tissue, LLC ("GPT"), hereby petitions the Public Utilities Commission ("Commission"), pursuant to RSA 371:17, for a license to construct and maintain a landfill natural gas pipeline over and across the Androscoggin River in the City of Berlin, New Hampshire, and in support of its petition states as follows:

1. GPT, which has a business address of 72 Cascade Flats, Gorham, New Hampshire 03581, proposes to construct and operate a landfill gas pipeline (the "Project") located in northern New Hampshire. The Project will supply GPT's paper mill, located in Gorham, New Hampshire (the "Gorham Mill") with landfill gas as an alternative to the current use of No. 6 fuel oil and the proposed future use of natural gas to fire the boilers that supply steam to the Gorham Mill's papermaking process.
2. GPT contracted with R.H. White Companies, Inc. to design and build the Project. Cianbro Corporation will provide project oversight and management.
3. The landfill gas pipeline will be six inch high density polyethylene ("HDPE") piping located a minimum of thirty-six inches below grade. The landfill gas pipeline will run parallel to the natural gas pipeline proposed by GPT in NHPUC Docket No. DG11-138 commencing at a location just south of the proposed Metering and Regulating Station ("M&R

Station”) which is east of Shelby Street in Berlin, NH. (*See* Tab A for preliminary plans.)

4. The six inch HDPE landfill gas pipeline will travel approximately 3,600 feet to the Gorham Mill. The pipeline will be joined by heat-fusion butt welds with electrofusion couplings as necessary to facilitate installation. The pipeline will be designed to supply landfill gas at a minimum pressure of 20 psig. The pipeline will not be insulated but the landfill gas will be dried to -20°F to remove moisture. For cathodic protection, insulating flanges and polarization cell replacement kits will be installed as needed where transitions from underground to aboveground steel piping are made.

5. The pipeline route requires the crossing of the Androscoggin River via an existing abandoned railroad bridge which is approximately three hundred feet in length. GPT owns the bridge and it is currently posted “No Trespassing.” This is the “point-of-crossing.” The abandoned railroad bridge is located in the City of Berlin, slightly upstream from the Berlin Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant. (*See* Tab A.)

6. The pipeline mounted on the bridge will be six inch Schedule 40 A333 Grade 6 steel pipe with corrosion protective coating. The pipeline will be mounted on rollers and support guides. Expansion joints with stainless steel bellows will be provided to accommodate thermal expansion and contraction of the steel pipe on the bridge. The pipes will be electrically isolated from the bridge by nonconductive rollers and supports. The pipeline will have non-conductive isolation flanges at each end of the bridge immediately before the pipeline descends to an underground trench condition. The buried steel portions of the pipeline will have sacrificial anode cathodic protection. GPT will complete a quarterly visual inspection of the pipeline over the bridge and retain records thereof in accord with Puc 508.04(f).

7. In the event of emergency, the landfill gas pipeline will be manually shut down via valves located at the landfill and at the Gorham Mill. All appropriate emergency agencies will be notified and response actions initiated.

8. At the north end of the Gorham Mill, the HDPE pipeline will transition to steel below grade, rise two feet above grade, and end in flanges for connection by others. The pipeline will be foam pigged and pneumatically tested. The locations where the pipeline comes out of the ground will be guarded by fencing.

9. In addition to the bridge, GPT owns the parcel of land on the west side of the bridge along the Androscoggin River. The land on the east side of the river is owned by Great Lakes Hydro America, LLC ("GLHA"). GPT holds easement rights over GLHA's allowing for the construction of the landfill gas pipeline pursuant to an Easement Agreement to Confirm and Supplement between Fraser H.H. LLC, the predecessor of the Gorham Mill, and GLHA, dated as of the 27<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2006 and recorded in the Coos County Registry of Deeds in Book 1190, Page 23, as supplemented by an Acknowledgment of Rights and Easements from GLHA dated May 12, 2011 and recorded in the Coos County Registry of Deeds in Book 1328, Page 858, copies of which are attached hereto. (*See Tab B.*)

10. The proposed crossing will have only minimal and temporary environmental impacts on the Androscoggin River during construction and will not affect the use and enjoyment of the river by the public. The pipeline will cross an existing, privately-owned, railroad bridge that no longer operates as a railway. GPT currently uses the bridge to support a pipe carrying water to the Gorham Mill. GPT contracted with Fisher Engineering, P.C. to review the October 1, 2010 Stephens Associates Report prepared for Northstar Industries, LLC ("Initial Bridge Report"), complete an evaluation of the safety of the bridge, and prepare a design for addressing each of the recommendations in the Initial Bridge Report.

The repair work proposed by Fisher Engineering is shown on plans attached hereto as Tab C. GPT will complete work necessary to ensure the bridge is structurally sound prior to completion of construction of the pipeline.

11. In the event of decommissioning the pipeline will be left in place following purging with inert gas.

12. The ability to supplement the existing fuel source with landfill gas as proposed will enable the Gorham Mill's efforts to run profitability. GPT's ability to operate the Gorham Mill and bring it up to full operation and employment levels hinges in large part on its confidence that the Project (including both the natural gas and landfill gas pipelines) will be completed by September 26, 2011.

13. GPT and its representatives met with New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services ("DES") officials, including officials from the Air Resources Division, the Solid Waste Division and the Wetlands Bureau to discuss all applicable environmental requirements. DES officials have informed GPT what DES approvals are necessary to construct and operate the Project. The Androscoggin Valley Refuse Disposal District ("District") obtained some of those approvals. GPT is working with DES to transfer or obtain all necessary DES approvals.

14. GPT and its representatives met with the City of Berlin ("City") and the Town of Gorham which confirmed what local approvals are necessary. GPT received Site Plan approval from the City of Berlin and has applied for the Building Permit from the Town of Gorham pursuant to the Site Plan approval issued to the District. GPT plans to submit a building permit application to the City of Berlin in the very near future.

15. GPT submits that the license petitioned for herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the rights of the public in the public waters of the Androscoggin River. The use and enjoyment by the public of the Androscoggin River will not be diminished in

any material respect as a result of the pipeline crossing.

WHEREFORE, GPT respectfully requests that the Commission:

- a. Find that the license petitioned for herein may be exercised without substantially affecting the public rights in the public waters which are the subject of this petition;
- b. Grant GPT a license to construct and maintain a landfill gas pipeline over and across the Androscoggin River in Berlin, New Hampshire, as specified in this petition; and
- c. Issue an Order Nisi and orders for its publication.

DATED at Portland, Maine this 13th day of July, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

**GORHAM PAPER AND TISSUE, LLC**

By its attorneys,

**DRUMMOND WOODSUM**

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