U.S. Department of Energy NEPA Process

The key steps in the DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for the New England Aqua Ventus I Project are summarized below. Please note this summary is not a comprehensive list of all steps in the process.

KEY STEPS IN DOE NEPA PROCESS

Internal Scoping

- DOE identifies preliminary issues and resources to be analyzed in Environmental Assessment (EA)
- DOE identifies stakeholders and develops public participation plan
- DOE identifies Cooperating agencies

Public Scoping Period

- Public scoping notice and project details posted for public review
- 30 day Public Scoping Period which may include public meeting(s)
- Written comments accepted from the public on issues and resources that should be considered in the EA

Public Involvement Opportunity

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Develop Draft EA

- Additional 2 week public scoping period
- Draft EA is developed to analyze impacts
- Required consultations initiated(i.e. Endangered Species Act, National
- Historic Preservation Act, etc.)

Public Involvement Opportunity

Public Comment Period

- Draft EA posted for public review
- 30 day (minimum) Public Comment Period which may include public meeting(s)
- Written comments accepted from the public on EA content

Public Involvement Opportunity

Develop Final EA

- Complete required consultations
- Address public comments received and revise EA as appropriate

Final EA and Decision Issued

- Required consultations completed
- Final EA is developed
- Determination made to prepare a "Finding of No Significant Impact" if EA supports the finding that the action will not have a significant effect on the human environment **OR** a determination is made to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

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