

Village of Croton-on-Hudson  
Water Control Commission Meeting of  
May 21, 2014

**PRESENT:** Stuart Greenbaum, Chair  
Ian Arturo  
Mark Goldfarb  
Charles Kane  
Gail Sasso

**ALSO PRESENT:** Daniel O'Connor, Village Engineer

**1. Call to Order:**

The Water Control Commission Meeting of May 21, 2014 was called to order at 7:30 P.M.

**2. New Business:**

- a) **ConEdison Corporation – Croton River Drilling Project:** Directional drilling under Croton River for new electrical line at former Route 9 Bridge over Croton River.

Representatives present for the application included Richard Perusse and Laura Ruggeri, both from ConEdison, and Robert Ulrich and Theresa Albanese, both from Gannett Fleming, an engineering and architectural consulting firm.

Although the application included extensive documentation, new documentation was distributed to the Board members which included a 2-page Aerial Photography Plan and a 1-page draft drawing of the proposed project. A larger version of the aerial plan was displayed on an easel as an aid for discussion.

Mr. Perusse introduced the project. He said the purpose of the project was to install 2 new feeders and some duct work via directional drilling under the Croton River for the purpose of offering some redundancy for the existing feeders that are lying on the riverbed. There will be extra duct work - 7 ducts but only 2 feeders. For the time being there will be 5 vacant feeders which will be used should the 2 existing feeders installed in the 1970s, need to be replaced. The project will provide for reinforcement of the electrical distribution system.

Chairman Greenbaum asked about the staging of the project and with the use of the aerial map, Mr. Ulrich indicated the staging and work areas. He said the disturbance would be minor and that what will likely be seen will be the drilling equipment and the “stringing

out” of the piping. He explained that they would need to lay the pipes out on the ground in order to pull all the pipes through at once and that it would last at most two weeks. In response to the Chair’s inquiry, Mr. Ulrich said they hoped to start the project in the fall, possibly in November, and that they were still in the process of obtaining quite a number of permits at all different levels. He also said that the project was similar to the AT&T project that had taken place a couple of years ago and that they were using essentially the same staging area used in the AT&T project.

Ms. Albanese then went into more detail about the staging area, stressing that there would only be a 25-foot disturbance area and that it was only temporary.

Mr. Ulrich added that any disturbed area would be brought back to its original condition and that the selected depth of drilling was at least 25 feet below the bottom of the river.

Chairman Greenbaum asked if the Applicant had plans showing other cables in the area so as not to interfere with them. Mr. Ulrich said Sheet C1 of the documentation indicated the different easements, by letter and number, and said that there were quite a lot of utilities in the area.

Mr. O’Connor asked if ConEdison has an easement for the entire work area. Mr. Ulrich said that it did and that ConEdison was currently working on getting temporary easements from owners on either side of the river for temporary work areas.

Mr. Kane asked where the drilling spoilage would be stored, to which Mr. Ulrich said it would be stored in tank trucks and then carted off. Mr. Kane then asked how it would be disposed of. Mr. Ulrich said he believed it would be brought to a landfill but that he would need to confirm it if necessary. Mr. Kane asked for the confirmation.

Mr. Kane had a follow up question with regard to what best management practices would be used to protect the waterway to the wetlands.

Mr. Ulrich explained that as work was being done there would be a wire across the river with sensors at either end that could detect whether the proper strength, depth, and alignment were being used. Also, the tunnel would be filled with clay to maintain pressure. Additionally, engineers would be on site. Ms. Albanese explained that on land, silt fences and hay bales would be used, and filter bags if necessary. She said that all best management practices applicable to NY standards would be put in place.

There was discussion regarding how often inspections would be done and the Applicant said most likely weekly. Mr. Kane said that he did not see anything about the inspections or best management practices in the documentation package. Ms. Ruggeri said it was not included because it was all standard practice but it could be included in the text if necessary. Mr. Kane said he would like a daily inspection to take place.

Mr. Kane asked about a spill kit and the Applicant said ConEdison will have spill material in place and has a procedure that can be put into effect if needed with all the necessary calls being made when and if needed.

Mr. Arturo asked if there was an easement between ConEdison and the Historic Hudson Valley and Mr. Ulrich explained that rather than an actual easement because of the numerous utilities in the area, there was an agreement between the two to access the existing facilities.

This was followed up by another question posed by Mr. Arturo. He wanted to know how storm water would run off the staging area. Mr. Ulrich replied that there would be sheet flow and as mentioned silt fencing, but the project had the potential of creating little runoff and would, instead, retain water.

Ms. Sasso asked for clarification as to why the project was scheduled to begin in November and how long it would take. Mr. Ulrich explained that November through March had the least number of conflicts with the Historic Hudson Valley calendar and would also allow enough time to obtain all the necessary permits. He added that it is anticipated that bad weather could delay the project a week or two but the contractors can find a way around it and do normally anticipate for weather issues. He said in all likelihood, the project would take 2 to 3 months - probably one month for prep, one month of work, and one month of cleanup.

Chairman Greenbaum asked what would be the hours of operation and Mr. Ulrich said it would be normal working daytime hours conforming to local ordinance.

The Applicant was asked by the Chair if there were any residential properties nearby and Mr. Ulrich said that only the Historic Hudson Valley was affected on the Croton side. Mr. Kane added that there were residential areas nearby on the Ossining side.

Ms. Ruggeri then answered Chairman Greenbaum's question as to what was the benefit of the project. She said that in light of Hurricane Sandy, ConEdison had reevaluated its system and decided to incorporate a redundancy electrical line. Should the feeder line fail, there would be another way to get electricity to the area. Mr. Ulrich added that age was a factor also and that the salt water component in the water could have a damaging effect over time.

Mr. Kane asked if ConEdison's existing line was lying on top of the riverbed to which Mr. Ulrich replied in the positive.

Mr. Kane then made a motion to declare the Water Control Commission the Lead Agency for the application under SEQRA and to refer the application to the Waterfront Advisory Committee for a preliminary consistency review. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sasso and approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

Mr. O'Connor suggested that the Board ask the Applicant about removing the old cables. The Board thought it was a good idea.

**3. Approval of Minutes:**

Mr. Kane made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2014 meeting of the Water Control Commission. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sasso and was passed with a vote of 5 to 0.

**4. Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Toni Cruz  
Secretary, Water Control Commission