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 •DOE identifies preliminary issues and resources to be analyzed in Environmental Assessment (EA) •DOE identifies stakeholders and develops public participation plan Internal •DOE identifies Cooperating agencies **Scoping** Public scoping notice and project details posted for public review •30 day Public Scoping Period which may include public meeting(s) **Public Involvement** •Written comments accepted from the public on issues and resources that Opportunity Public should be considered in the EA Scoping Period **WE ARE HERE** Draft EA is developed to analyze impacts • Required consultations initiated (i.e. Endangered Species Act, National Develop Historic Preservation Act, etc.) **Draft EA** • Draft EA posted for public review •30 day (minimum) Public Comment Period which may include public **Public Involvement** meeting(s) **Public Opportunity** •Written comments accepted from the public on EA content **Comment Period** Complete required consultations Address public comments received and revise EA as appropriate Develop **Final EA** Required consultations completed Final EA is developed Final EA and •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 Decision human environment **OR** a determination is made to prepare an Environmental Issued Impact Statement