

CASE NO. 14-1717-GA-BLN LON Avon Lake Gas Addition Project Proposed Natural Gas Pipeline

ATTACHMENT I

SECTION 404 WETLAND PERMIT APPLICATION

Environmental Resources Management

1701 Golf Road Suite 1-700 Rolling Meadows, IL 60008-4242

+1 847 258 8900 +1 847 258 8901 (fax)



December 19, 2014

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District, Regulatory Branch **Keith Sendziak** 1776 Niagra Street Buffalo, NY 14207

RE: Avon Lake Gas Addition Project Lorain County, Ohio

Dear Mr. Sendziak:

The Avon Lake Power Plant is a 734 MW coal-fired generating facility located in Avon Lake, Ohio ("Power Plant"). The Power Plant is owned by NRG Power Midwest LP, which is an indirect subsidiary of NRG Energy, Inc. The Power Plant was slated for retirement by the facility's prior owner as a result of significant expenditures required to meet increasingly stringent environmental requirements. NRG Power Midwest has decided to move ahead with a gas addition project ("Avon Lake Gas Addition Project" or "Project"), which will keep the facility in operation on natural gas beyond its planned deactivation date. To add natural gas as a fuel supply for the Power Plant, a new natural gas pipeline must be designed, permitted and constructed. The Avon Lake Gas Addition Project will bring environmental, economic, employment and electric supply reliability benefits to the state of Ohio. The pipeline is anticipated to be in service by April 2016. The proposed pipeline will require siting approval from the Ohio Power Siting Board ("OPSB"), as well as permits and approvals from other local, State, and federal agencies.

Wetland and Water Resources Delineation Report

Environmental Resources Management ("ERM"), on behalf of NRG Ohio Pipeline Company LLC ("NRG Ohio Pipeline"), delineated wetlands and other waters of the U.S. along the proposed natural gas pipeline within a survey corridor generally 200-feet in width and approximately 20-miles in length in May 2014. As negotiations with landowners for necessary easement rights along the proposed route progressed, route adjustments requested by landowners have been incorporated to the extent feasible, reasonable or appropriate. As a result, an additional field delineation study was completed in September 2014 where the route has been adjusted outside of the May 2014 survey corridor. The enclosed Addendum to the July 2014 Wetland and Water Resources Delineation Report documents the results of the September 2014 field study. We request your continued concurrence of a Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination U.S. Army Corps of Engineers December 19, 2014 Page 2 of 2

such that all delineated wetlands and waters are considered jurisdictional to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Nationwide Permit 12 Application

Enclosed please find the required or supplemental attachments pertaining to the Avon Lake Gas Addition Project. The information enclosed herein may be amended as necessary or appropriate.

Specific attachments include the following:

- Application for Nationwide Permit 12
- Supporting Information Document
- Attachment A, Topographic Overview Map
- Attachment B, Aerial Overview Map
- Attachment C, Temporary Impact Table
- Attachment D, Status of Other Approvals
- Attachment E, Affected Landowner List
- Attachment F, Typical Wetland and Water Crossing Diagrams
- Attachment G, Wetland Mitigation Plan
- Attachment H, Wetland Delineation Report
- Attachment I, Wetland Delineation Report, Addendum I
- Attachment J, Aerial Overview Maps (11x17)
- Aquatic Resources Table

ERM respectfully requests your review of the enclosed report and application materials. We understand that a separate water quality certification from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency ("OEPA") applies to the Project. We are seeking the OEPA's certification under separate cover contemporaneously with the submittal of this wetland permit application.

If you have any questions or require additional information about the Project, please don't hesitate to contact me at (847) 258-8912, or via email at doni.murphy@erm.com. You may also contact Nate Rozic at (724) 597-8630, or via email at nathan.rozic@nrgenergy.com. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Doni Murphy

Partner

Cc: Nate Rozic, NRG Jeff Williams, ERM Matt Teichert, ERM

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS APPLICATION FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT 33 CFR 325. The proponent agency is CECW-CO-R.

OMB APPROVAL NO. 0710-0003 EXPIRES: 28 FEBRUARY 2013

Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to average 11 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of the collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters, Executive Services and Communications Directorate, Information Management Division and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0710-0003). Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number. Please DO NOT RETURN your form to either of those addresses. Completed applications must be submitted to the District Engineer having jurisdiction over the location of the proposed activity.

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

Authorities: Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 10, 33 USC 403; Clean Water Act, Section 404, 33 USC 1344; Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act, Section 103, 33 USC 1413; Regulatory Programs of the Corps of Engineers; Final Rule 33 CFR 320-332. Principal Purpose: Information provided on this form will be used in evaluating the application for a permit. Routine Uses: This information may be shared with the Department of Justice and other federal, state, and local government agencies, and the public and may be made available as part of a public notice as required by Federal law. Submission of requested information is voluntary, however, if information is not provided the permit application cannot be evaluated nor can a permit be issued. One set of original drawings or good reproducible copies which show the location and character of the proposed activity must be attached to this application (see sample drawings and/or instructions) and be submitted to the District Engineer having jurisdiction over the location of the proposed activity. An application that is not completed in full will be returned.

(ITEMS 1 THRU 4 TO BE FILLED BY THE CORPS)								
1. APPLICATION NO.	2. FIELD OFFICE CODE	3. DATE RECEIVED	4. DATE APPLICATION COMPLETE					
(ITEMS BELOW TO BE FILLED BY APPLICANT)								
5. APPLICANT'S NAME		8. AUTHORIZED AGENT'S NAME AND TITLE (agent is not required)						
First - Alan Middle -	Last - Sawyer	First - Doni Middle -	Last - Murphy					
Company - NRG Ohio Pipeline Co	ompany LLC*	Company - Environmental Resources Management						
E-mail Address - alan.sawyer@nrg.	com	E-mail Address - doni.murphy@erm.com						
6. APPLICANT'S ADDRESS:		9. AGENT'S ADDRESS:						
Address- 211 Carnegie Center		Address- 1701 Golf Road, Suite 1-700						
City - Princeton State - N	J Zip - 08540 Country - USA	City - RollingMeadows State - IL, Zip - 60008 Country - USA						
7. APPLICANT'S PHONE NOS. WAR	EA CODE	10. AGENTS PHONE NOS. WAREA CODE						
a. Residence b. Business	s c. Fax	a. Residence b. Busine	ss c. Fax					
609-524-4	677	847-258-	8912					
	STATEMENT OF	AUTHORIZATION						
11. I hereby authorize, Doni Murphy to act in my behalf as my agent in the processing of this application and to furnish, upon request, supplemental information in support of this permit application.								
alan.sawyer@nrgenergy.com								
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT DATE								
NAME, LOCATION, AND DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT OR ACTIVITY								
12. PROJECT NAME OR TITLE (see instructions)								
Avon Lake Gas Addition Project								
13. NAME OF WATERBODY, IF KNO	WN (if applicable)	14. PROJECT STREET ADDRESS (if applicable)						
See Aquatic Resource Table		Address						
15. LOCATION OF PROJECT Latitude: •N 41.267301	Longitude: •W -82.095662	City - 5	State-Ohio Zip-					
16. OTHER LOCATION DESCRIPTIONS, IF KNOWN (see instructions)								
State Tax Parcel ID Municipality								
Section - To	wnship -	Range -						

ENG FORM 4345, OCT 2012

17. DIRECTIONS TO THE SITE

To the south terminus of the project from Cleveland, head south on I-71 South for 8.6 miles. Take exit 238 to I-480 West and continue for 8.3 miles. Then merge onto US-20 and continue for 2.4 miles. Exit at State Highway 301 and turn south for 3.1 miles. Turn east onto Parsons Road and continue for 1 mile. Then turn south onto Wheeler Road. Continue for 0.6 miles and the south terminus of the project will be located in the field east of the road.

18. Nature of Activity (Description of project, include all features) See Supplemental Information

19. Project Purpose (Describe the reason or purpose of the project, see instructions)

The purpose of the Project is to install approximately 20-miles of new 24-inch diameter high-grade steel natural gas pipeline, which will supply natural gas to the Avon Lake Power Plant. Currently the Avon Lake Power Plant is a 734 MW coal fired generating facility. The power plant was slated for retirement by the facility's prior owner as a result of significant expenditures required to meet increasingly stringent environmental requirements. NRG purchased the plant and has decided to move ahead with a gas addition project, which will keep the facility in operation on natural gas beyond its planned deactivation date. The proposed Project is necessary to provide natural gas as a fuel supply for the power plant and keep it operational. Construction is anticipated to start as early as June 2015. The pipeline is anticipated to be in service in April 2016.

USE BLOCKS 20-23 IF DREDGED AND/OR FILL MATERIAL IS TO BE DISCHARGED

20. Reason(s) for Discharge

The reason for unavoidable temporary wetland impacts is to construct the proposed 20-mile long 24-inch natural gas pipeline. Permanent wetland impacts are limited to the unavoidable conversion of forested wetlands to non-forested wetlands. There will be no permanent loss of waters. Construction activities that will temporarily place discharged material into wetlands include erosion and sediment control measures, trench excavation, matting and temporary storage. The material excavated from the trench will be side-cast into wetlands for temporary storage. Once the pipe has been laid in the trench, the side-cast material will be backfilled into the trench in the same profile that it was excavated. As stated in Box 18, the topsoil and subsoil will be separated during excavation to preserve the native seed bank. Matting will be utilized in wetlands where equipment/vehicular traffic is proposed. The material type or drainage patterns as all aquatic resources will be restored to their pre-construction conditions, or to wet meadow conditions in the instance of impacted forested wetlands.

21. Type(s) of Material Being Discha	rged and the Amount of Each Type in Cubic Yards:								
Туре	Туре	Туре							
Amount in Cubic Yards	Amount in Cubic Yards	Amount in Cubic Yards							
See Supplemental Imformation									
22. Surface Area in Acres of Wetlan	ds or Other Waters Filled (see instructions)								
Acres See Supplemental Information									
or									
Linear Feet									
23. Description of Avoidance, Minim	ization, and Compensation (see instructions)	····							
See Supplemental Information									

24. Is Any Portion of the Work Already Complete?							
			-				
25. Addresses of Adjoinin	g Property Owners, Lessee	es, Etc., Whose Property A	djoins the Waterbody (if more	e than can be entered here, please a	ittach a supplemental list).		
a. Address- See Attachn	nent E						
City -		State -	Zip -				
b. Address-							
City -		State -	Zip -				
c. Address-							
City -		State -	Zip -				
d. Address-							
City -		State -	Zip -				
e. Address-							
City -		State -	Zip -				
26. List of Other Certificate	es or Approvals/Denials rec		State, or Local Agencies for	r Work Described in This A	oplication.		
AGENCY	TYPE APPROVAL*	IDENTIFICATION NUMBER	DATE APPLIED	DATE APPROVED	DATE DENIED		
See Attachment D		<u> </u>					
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·					
* Would include but is not i	restricted to zoning, buildin	g, and flood plain permits					
27. Application is hereby r complete and accurate. I f applicant.	nade for permit or permits further certify that I possess	to authorize the work desc s the authority to undertake	ribed in this application. I c the work described herein	ertify that this information ir or am acting as the duly at	this application is thorized agent of the		
alan.sawyer@nrgenergy.com	Dainly tiped by the same Import for DN 1974 and 1991 Strategy tem Dis 2014 DI DI DI DI DI Char	2014-12-18	doni.murphy@erm.co	کورندی مزیده ای است. الله در است. الم در است. الله در است. الله در است. الم مام دام در است. الم مام دام دام دام دام دام دام دام دام دا	2014-12-19		
SIGNATURE C		DATE		JRE OF AGENT	DATE		
	e signed by the person v statement in block 11 ha		e the proposed activity (a ned.	applicant) or it may be si	gned by a duly		
knowingly and willfully fa	alsifies, conceals, or cov r representations or mal	vers up any trick, schem kes or uses any false wi	he jurisdiction of any dep le, or disguises a materia riting or document knowi imprisoned not more tha	al fact or makes any fals ing same to contain any	e, fictitious or		

Application for Nationwide Permit #12 – Utility Line Activities NRG Ohio Pipeline Company LLC Avon Lake Gas Addition Project Lorain County, Ohio

Application Form 4345 Additional Information

Applicant:

Applicant is NRG Ohio Pipeline Company LLC signed by: Alan Sawyer, Vice President

Box 18 – Nature of Activity:

The nature of the activity is to install approximately 20-miles of new 24-inch diameter high-grade steel natural gas pipeline. A total of 39 wetlands and 15 streams will be temporally impacted by construction of the new pipeline. No permanent filling of wetlands or streams will occur. The Project will typically require a 50 foot permanent right-of-way ("ROW") with an additional temporary construction workspace of up to 100 feet. In some areas, both the permanent and temporary rights-of-way have been narrowed to reduce the potential for impact. Additional temporary workspace areas outside of the temporary construction ROW will be needed for short durations during construction. Construction of the pipeline will require soil disturbance to accommodate areas for trench excavation, side-casting of spoils, temporary storage of the new pipe and equipment/vehicular traffic. Existing public and private roads will be utilized for access to most of the construction ROW; however, approximately 2.2 miles of 25-foot-wide temporary access roads are anticipated. All equipment/vehicular traffic in wetlands or stream will be on matting to minimize impacts to aquatic features.

The pipeline installation will typically consist of an excavated open cut trench approximately 8-feet wide by 6-feet deep. The excavated top soil will be excavated and stockpiled separately from the subsoil at all locations, such that at least 3-feet of cover is placed over the pipe. All excavated material that will be temporarily side-cast into wetlands will be placed on geotextile fabric, timber matting or steel plating, whichever is most practical for the area. Once the pipe has been laid in the trench, the subsoil and topsoil will then be backfilled, respectively, to pre-construction elevations. The backfilled material that will be returned to the trench will consist of the same material removed from the trench, to the extent practicable.

Horizontal directional drilling ("HDD") will be utilized at locations of major highways, railroads, and some wetland and stream crossings. HDD is a less intrusive installation method where no disturbance of the soil or vegetation is required between the HDD entrance/exit points. There are eight HDD locations on the Project.

The Project lies in a portion of Lorain County where forested wetlands comprise much of the forested areas not yet developed. As such, the Project will affect approximately 42 acres of forested wetlands by converting them to a non-forested wetland. These areas will require tree removal across the full construction workspace to allow for installation of the pipeline. The cleared trees will be chipped and dispersed throughout the wetland as evenly and thinly as practical. Trees will not be allowed to regrow

within the permanent ROW. No seeding will take place in wetlands beyond the provisions of any applicable permit as wetlands will generally be left to re-vegetate naturally.

Box 21 – Type(s) of Material Being Discharged:

The types of material being discharged are associated with the trench excavation required to install the proposed pipeline. Soils excavated will be temporary side-cast into wetlands as described in Block 18. Once the pipe has been laid in the trench, the soils will be backfilled into the trench. Soils that would be subject to discharge include silt loams, silty clay loams, sandy loams and loams. USACE data forms for each wetland, including soil descriptions are included in Attachments G and H; Appendix C. The amount of discharge for each specific wetland can be found in Attachment C.

Box 22 – Surface Area of Wetlands or Other Water Filled:

Temporary impacts resulting from the installation of the pipeline will result from the trench excavation required to install the pipeline. The excavated material will be temporarily side-cast into wetlands as described in Box 18. Separation and restoration of the topsoil from the subsoil will take place in wetlands and at stream crossings. The total acreage of wetlands to be temporarily impacted is 59.4 acres. Of the 59.4 acres, 42 are palustrine forested ("PFO") and will require conversion from PFO to palustrine emergent ("PEM") wetland type. Temporary stream impacts total 1,169 linear feet for intermittent streams and 79 linear feet for perennial streams. Wetland and stream impact tables are included in this application (Attachment C).

Box 23 – Description of Avoidance, Minimization, and Compensation:

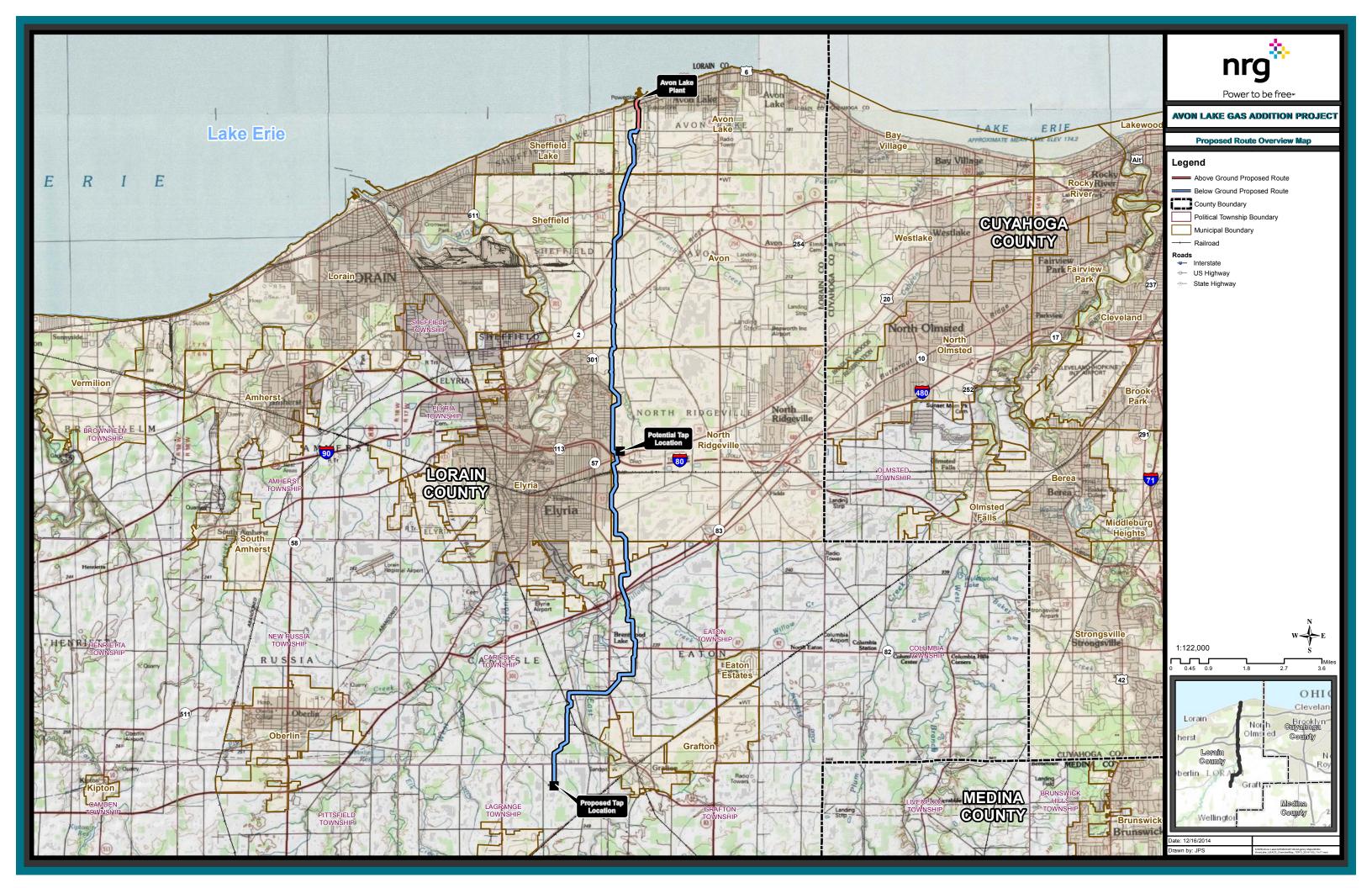
The construction limit of disturbance has been reduced throughout the Project area to the extent reasonable and practical, and further reduced when crossing wetlands. Use of HDD will be used to minimize impact in certain areas.

Project construction activities will expose bare soil and increase the potential for sedimentation of wetlands and erosion of upland areas adjacent to wetlands. An Erosion and Sediment Control Plan ("ESCP") has been developed for this Project in accordance with the most stringent of the collective requirements of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Lorain County, City of Avon Lake, City of Avon, City of Elyria and the City of North Ridgeville. All erosion and sediment control and storm water pollution prevention measures, in addition to Best Management Practices ("BMPs"), will be duplicated under separate cover as the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan ("SWPPP"). The ESCP/SWPPP will be strictly adhered to throughout construction and restoration. Attachment F displays the typical construction BMPs that will be used for this Project.

Compensatory Mitigation will be required for this Project. See the Wetland Mitigation Plan, Attachment G, for further detail.

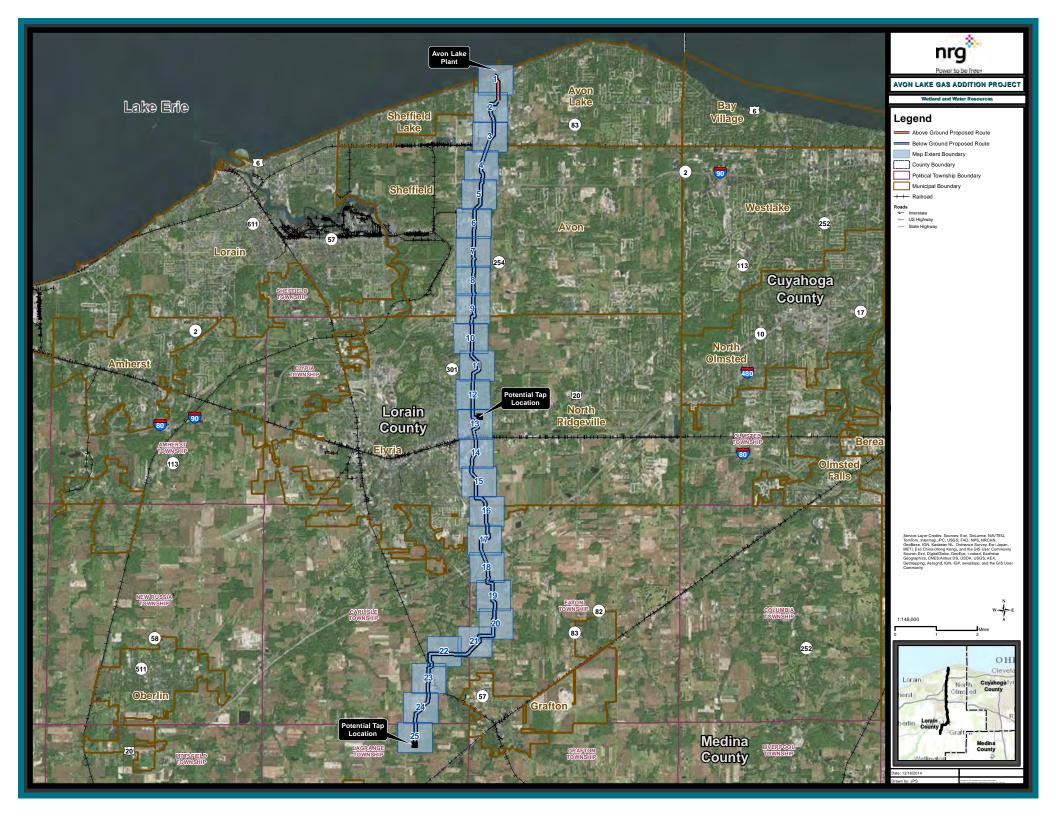
Attachment A

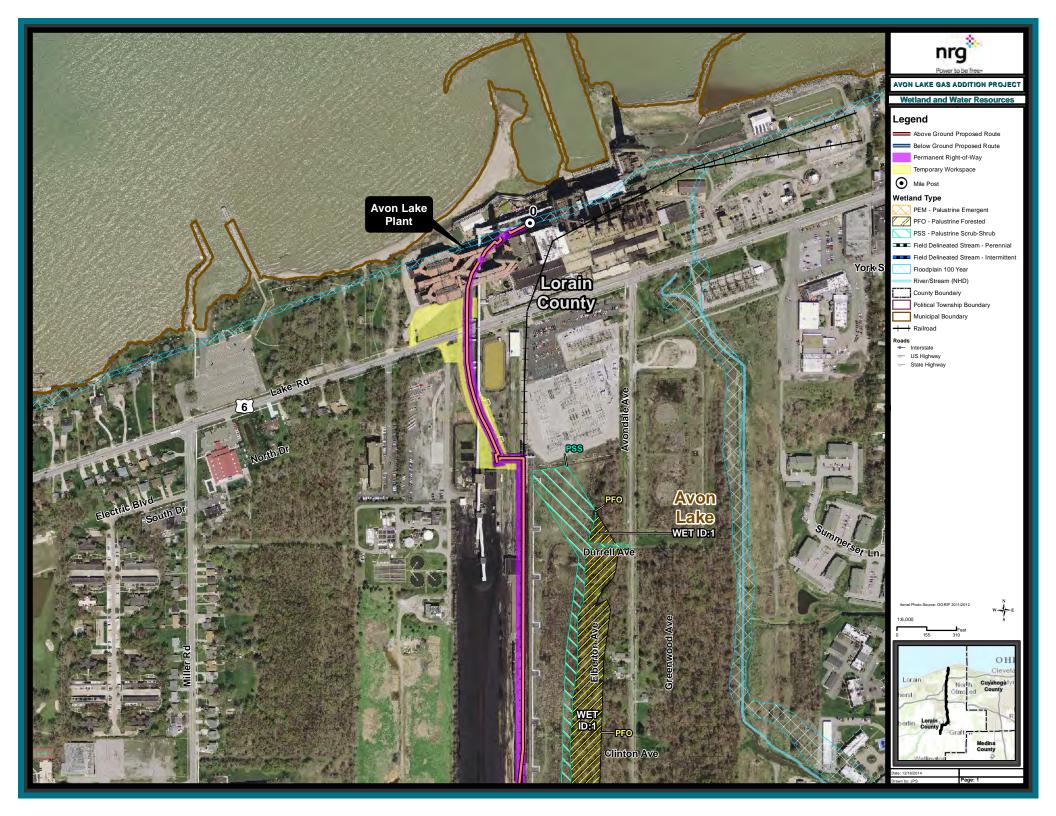
Topographic Overview Map

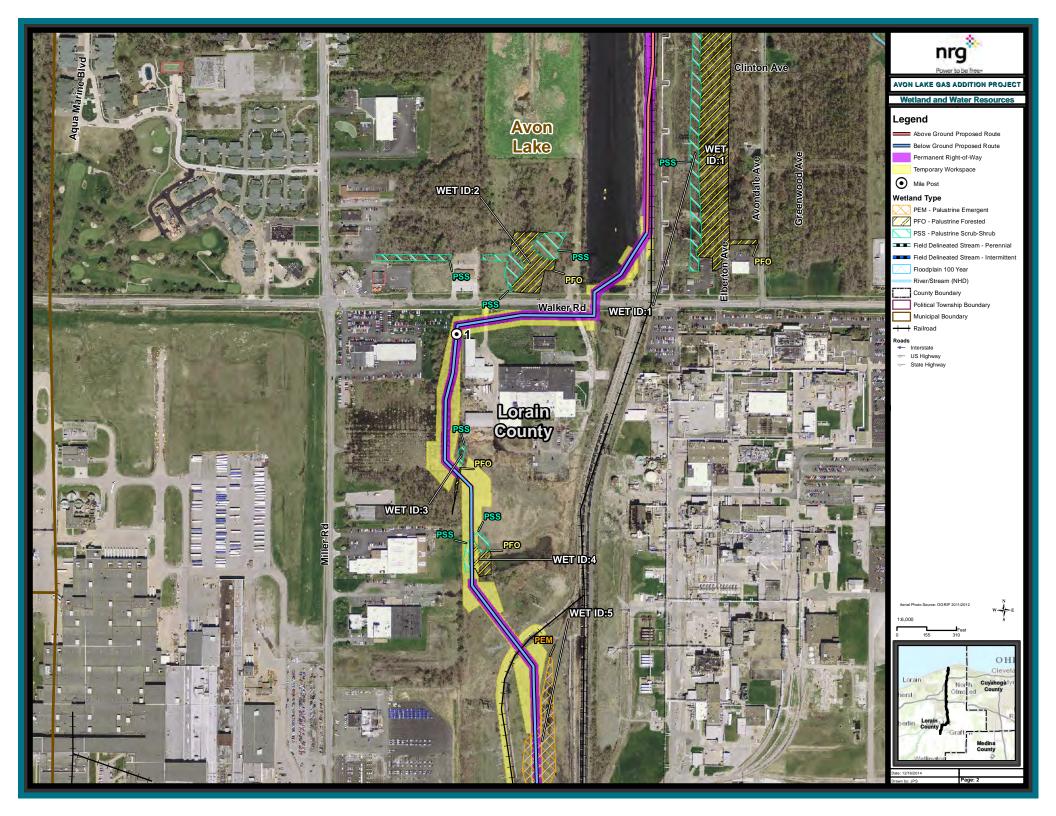


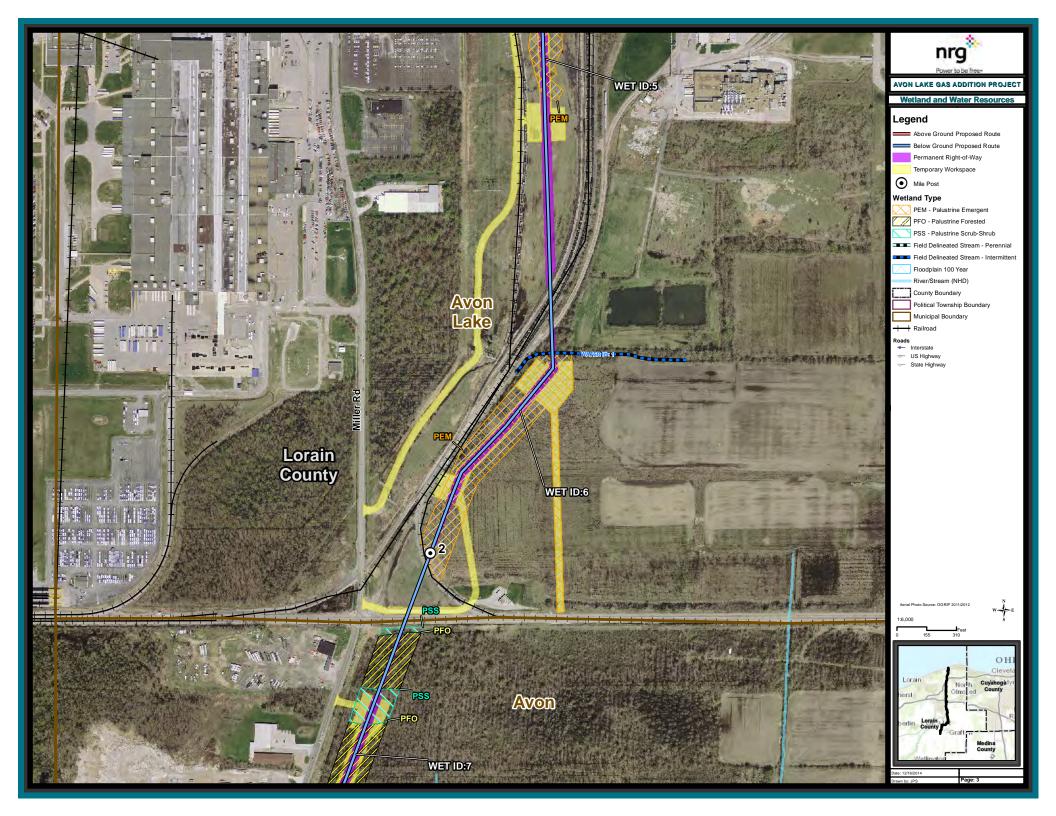
Attachment B

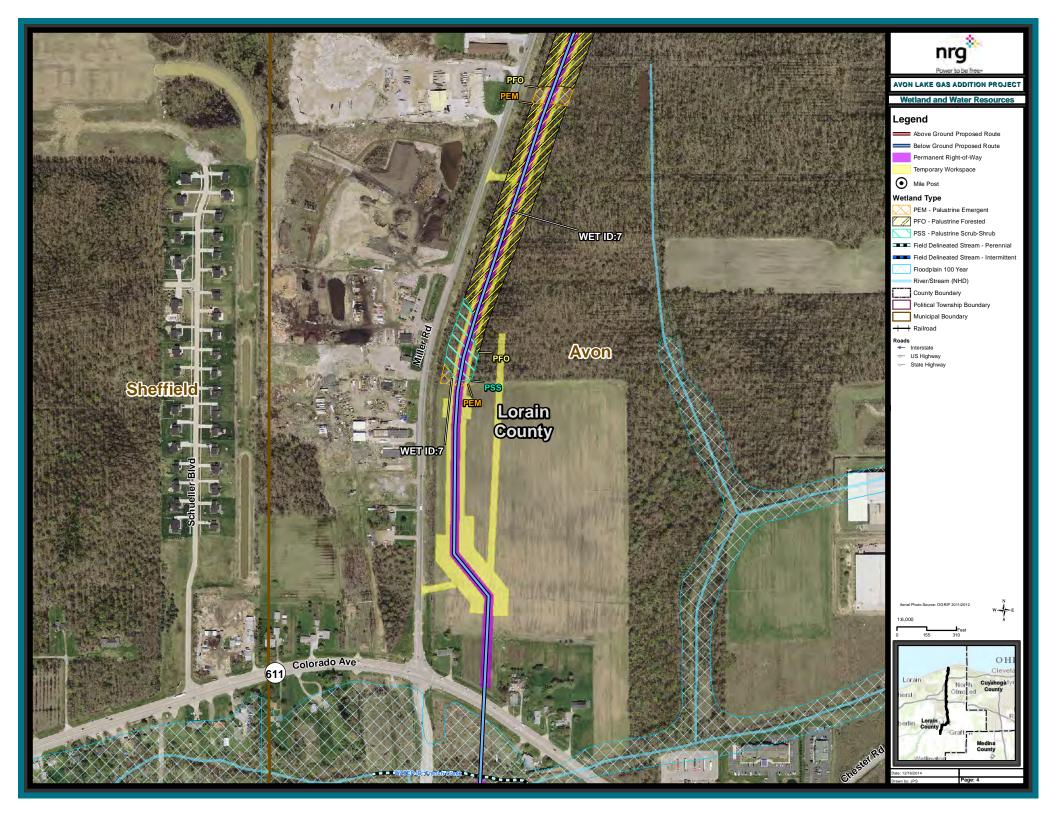
Aerial Overview Map Set

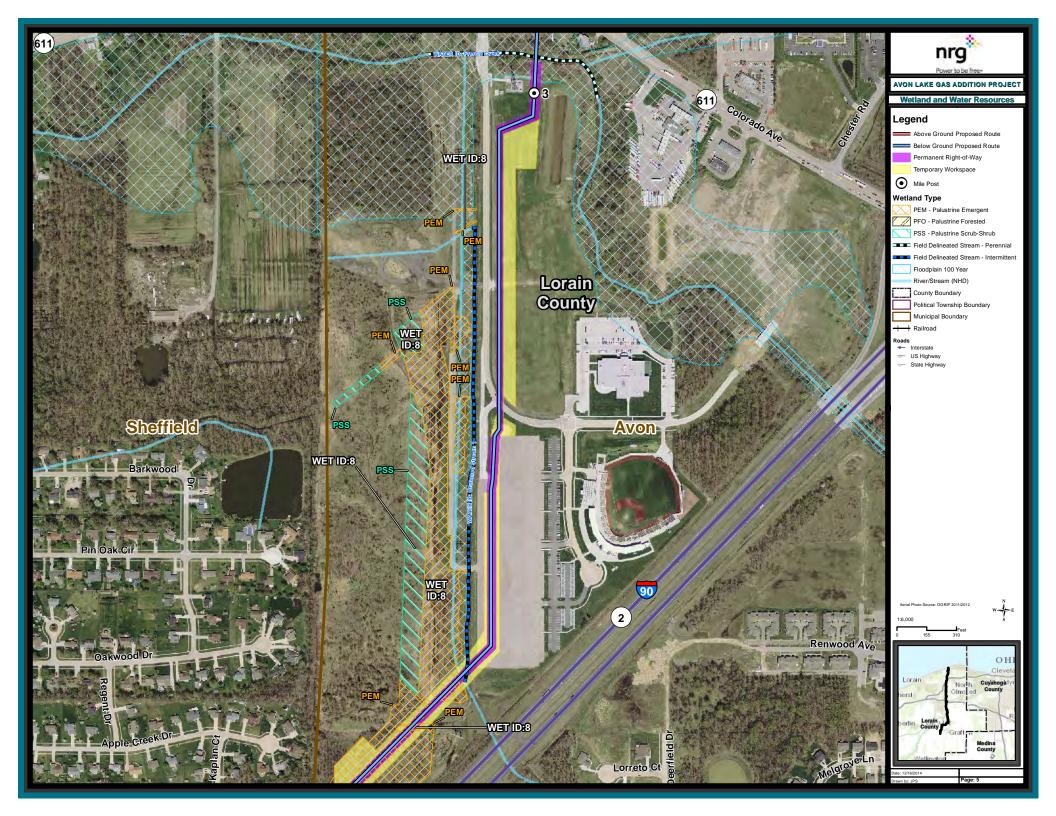


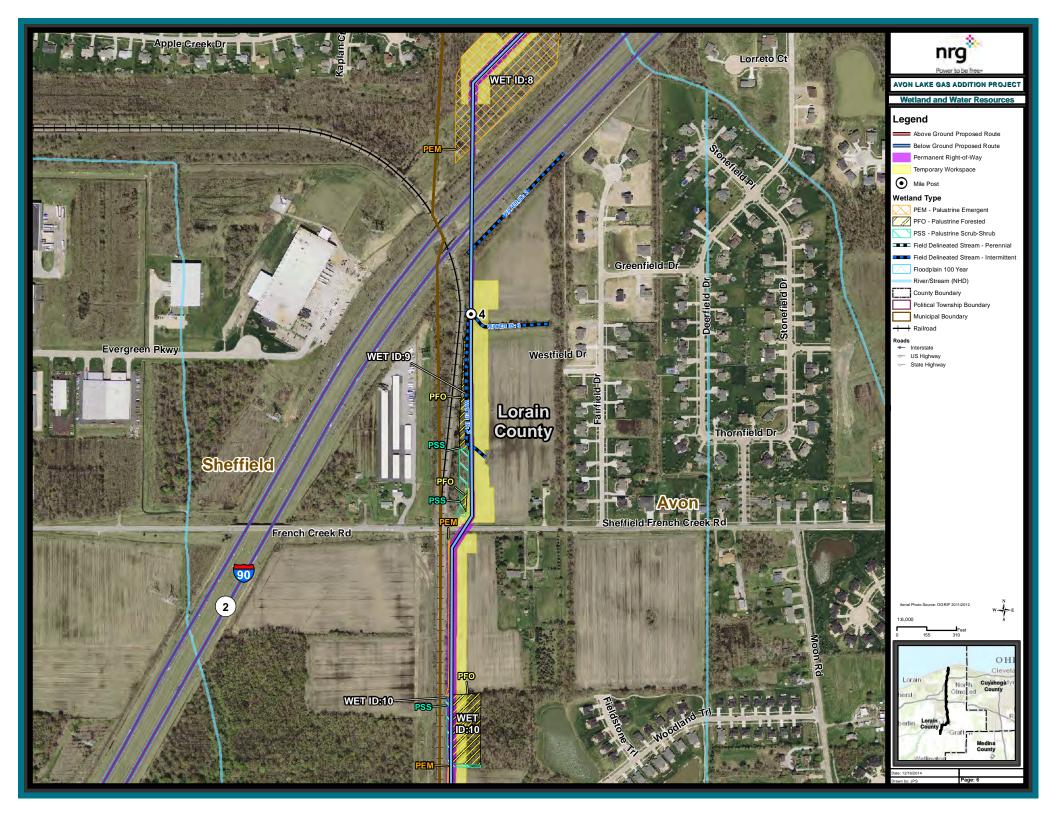


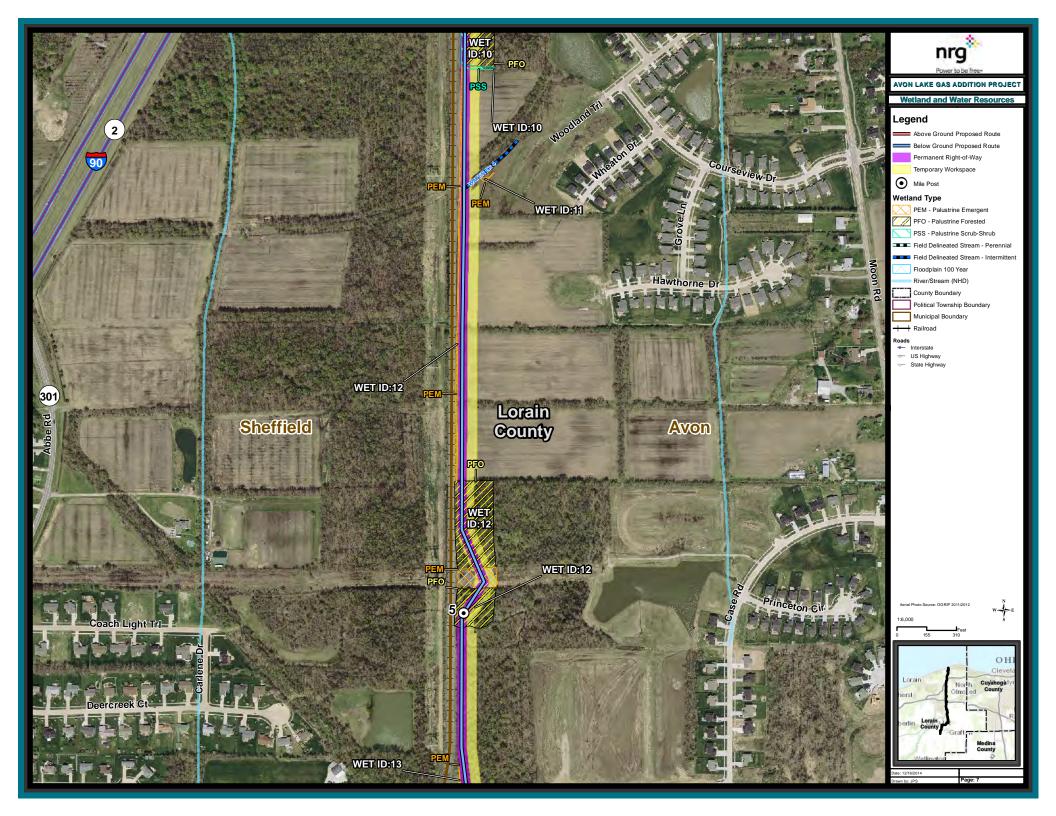


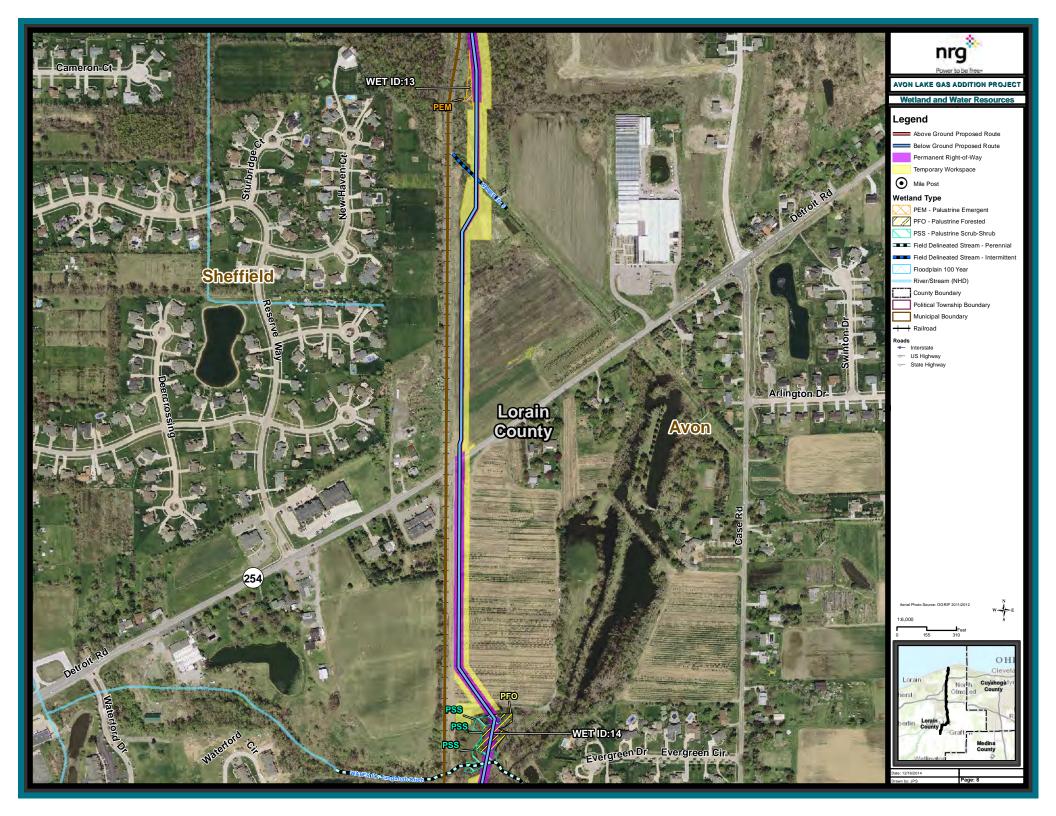


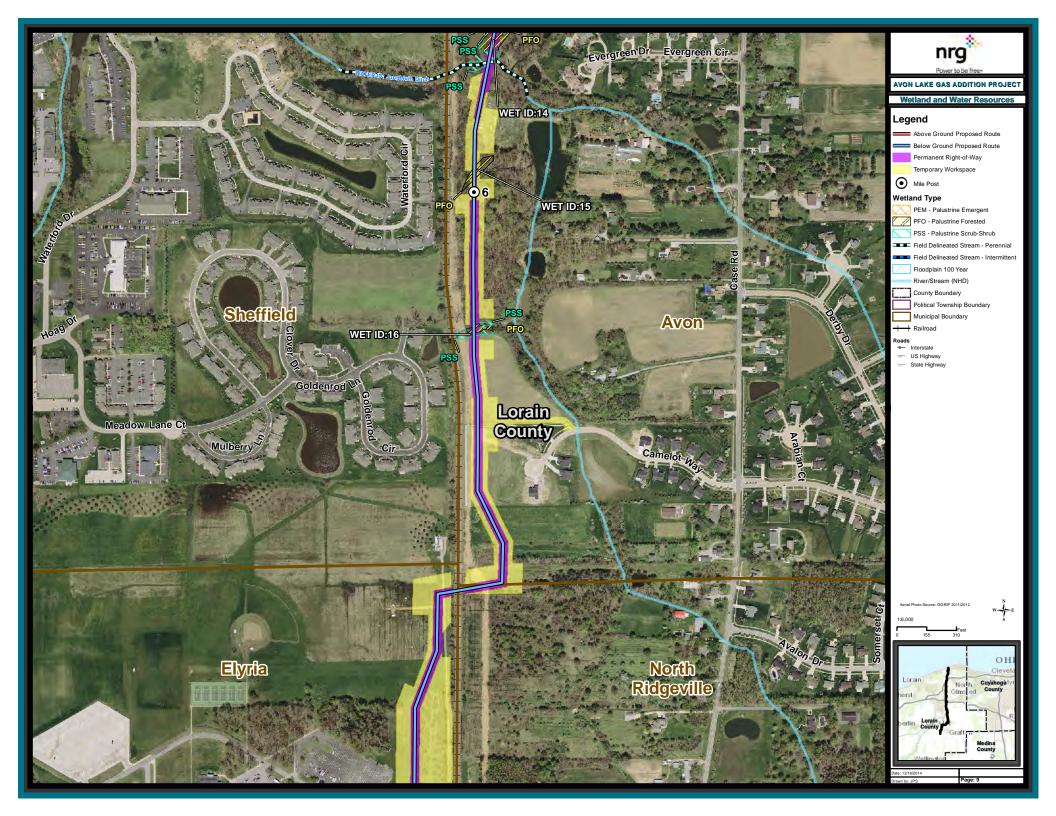












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in

Case No(s). 14-1717-GA-BLN

Summary: Application of NRG Ohio Pipeline Company LLC continued - Attachments H (Part 5)-I (Part 1) electronically filed by Teresa Orahood on behalf of Sally Bloomfield