



Everett + Malden + Medford

Friends of the Malden River

friendsofthemaldenriver@gmail.com

Christine Hopps Assistant Director, Waterways Program
Department of Environmental Protection
christine.hopps@mass.gov
May 5, 2022

RE: Waterways License Application Number W16-4697

Dear Ms. Hopps,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Friends of the Malden River (FoMR) regarding the Chapter 91 Waterways License Application submitted then withdrawn by Massachusetts Electric Company and New England Power Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for a site along the Malden River in Everett, Malden, and Medford.

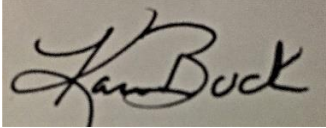
This citizens group, FoMR, is committed to reviving the Malden River back to a vibrant and civic life by improving the Malden River's natural environment and ensuring public access. The group was initiated in 2012 by community organizations, the former Tri-City Community Action Program, the Mystic River Watershed Association, environmental and urban justice advocates and Tufts University's interdisciplinary graduate program in Water: System, Science & Society. By creating a resilient, equitable, and attractive open space with river access, Malden and Everett residents will have access to enjoy activities in a healthy environment.

FoMR is in gratitude to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the Waterways Program for their due diligence to this unfortunate matter of National Grid versus the environmental justice communities of Malden, Everett, and Medford. The past and recent actions by National Grid illustrate the challenges faced by our community residents to have unfettered access to the Malden River.

It is critical that the National Grid property along the Malden River is restored to provide safe public access by National Grid. National Grid is shirking its responsibilities under Chapter 91 as a property owner on tidelands jurisdiction. They have an obligation to provide public access on this property. According to research by the Tufts University Department of Urban and Environmental Planning and Policy Malden River project, National Grid has been out of compliance for decades. According to the Malden River Practicum, the building improvements between 1984-1994 at their site should have triggered a Chapter 91 non-compliance report. They continue to refuse to contribute to the community's vision for cohesive and interconnected public waterfront access.

The Friends of the Malden River are outraged at National Grid's denial of their obligations to the communities of Everett and Malden. We seek to have quality access for area residents to the banks of the Malden River as required under law. Our communities deserve this. We expect better examples of good corporate citizenship than the one recently on display by National Grid.

Sincerely in solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is cursive and reads "Karen Buck".

Karen Buck, President

Friends of the Malden River

CC:

Deanna Moran, Conservation Law Foundation
Marcia Manong, Steering Committee of the Malden River Works
Erga Pierrette, Steering Committee of the Malden River Works
Commissioner Suuberg
Patrick Herron, Mystic River Watershed Association
Senator Jason Lewis
Representative Paul Donato
Representative Joe McGonagle
Representative Steven Ultrino
Mayor DeMaria
Mayor Christensen
Mayor Lungo-Koehn

Mission of The Friends of Malden River: The Friends of the Malden River seek to promote awareness of and interest in the Malden River, improve its water quality, and increase access for public enjoyment.