



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900

Boston, MA 02114-2524

MITT ROMNEY
GOVERNOR

KERRY HEALEY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

STEPHEN R. PRITCHARD
SECRETARY

February 10, 2006

Tel. (617) 626-1000
Fax. (617) 626-1181
<http://www.mass.gov/envir>

CERTIFICATE OF THE SECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
ON THE
NOTICE OF PROJECT CHANGE

PROJECT NAME : Cooley Dickinson Hospital Expansion
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : 30 Locust Street - Northampton
PROJECT WATERSHED : Connecticut River
EOEA NUMBER : 13321
PROJECT PROPONENT : Cooley Dickinson Hospital
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : January 11, 2006

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (G.L. c.30, ss. 61-62H) and Section 11.10 of the MEPA regulations (301 CMR 11.00), I have reviewed the Notice of Project Change (NPC) submitted on this project and determine that it **does not require** further MEPA review.

The project originally consisted of the construction of a 104,482 square foot (sf) addition to the existing hospital buildings, a four-level parking garage with 660 spaces, and associated heating and cooling system improvements. Site access was to be provided via the main driveway onto Locust Street. The site was approximately 26.84 acres. On August 23, 2004, the Secretary determined that the project did not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

In early 2005, the proponent submitted an NPC. The proponent eliminated the construction of the parking garage. It would now construct two surface parking lots, one with 250 spaces and the other with 85 spaces on an 18-acre parcel that the proponent has purchased and added to the site from the adjacent Smith Vocational High School site. The number of surface parking spaces will decrease from 1,033 to 953 spaces. The proponent would construct a new access drive to the western section of the Hospital and Hospital Road. It will reconstruct Hospital Road and its existing sanitary sewers. Much of the 18-acre parcel will be maintained as natural woodland and wetlands, and the project will include the restoration of more than 10,000 sf of Riverfront Area on the site. On February 25, 2005, the Secretary determined that this project change did not require further MEPA review.

This NPC was submitted for MEPA review on December 15, 2005. The proposed change consists of the construction of an approximately 7,350 sf, one-story wood chip burning facility adjacent to the existing 2-story metal boiler building. The project will require an Order of Conditions from the Northampton Conservation Commission for impacts to the buffer zone. It will require a Non-Major Comprehensive Plan Approval (310 CMR 7.02) from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for air emissions. The proponent is proposing to seek partial bond funding from the Massachusetts Health and Educational Facilities Authority.

The proposed project will alter about 0.6 acres and it will create about 0.2 acres of additional impervious area. It will not alter any wetland resource areas. It will increase water consumption by 12,096 gallons per day (gpd), and it will also increase wastewater generation by 8,737 gpd.

Based on a review of the information provided by the proponent and after consultation with the state permitting agencies, I find that the potential impacts of this project change do not warrant preparation of an EIR and can be addressed through the local and state permitting processes. The proponent's mitigation commitments, which were identified in the Certificate on the ENF, must be implemented, or it must satisfy the permitting agency as to why they are no longer relevant. No further MEPA review is required for the completion of Cooley Dickinson Hospital expansion, as presented in this NPC.

February 10, 2006

DATE


 Stephen R. Pritchard

cc: Craig Givens, DEP/WERO

Comments received:

DEP/WERO, 1/31/06

13321npc2
 ERH/WTG/wg