



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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April 7, 2006

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

PROJECT NAME	: Nelson Point Subdivision/Assabet River Consortium
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY	: Shrewsbury/ and five other municipalities
PROJECT WATERSHED	: Assabet River
EOEA NUMBER	: 12348
PROJECT PROPONENT	: Cutler Brown Development Co., LLP/ The Assabet River Consortium
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR	: March 8, 2006

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (G. L., c. 30, ss. 61-62H) and Section 11.06 of the MEPA regulations (301 CMR 11.00), I determine that this project **does not require** the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Nelson Point Subdivision Project

The proposed project involves the development of a 18-lot residential subdivision on a 20-acre parcel of property located off Nelson Point Road in Shrewsbury. The project includes the construction of roadway, utilities and stormwater management infrastructure including two stormwater detention basins. The projects potable water supply demand (9,680 gallons per day (gpd)) will be serviced by the Town of Shrewsbury's municipal water supply system. The project's wastewater flows (9,680 gpd) will be conveyed by the Town of Shrewsbury's wastewater collection and conveyance system to the Town of Westborough's wastewater treatment plant (Westborough WWTP) for treatment and disposal.

According to the information provided in the NPC, the project site soils were found to be suitable to accommodate on-site Title 5 systems. The Town of Shrewsbury however, requested that the project be sewered to avoid the risk of nutrient loading and eutrophication to Flint Pond which abuts the western boundary of the project site. The proposed project does not exceed any MEPA review thresholds.

Assabet River Consortium

The Town of Shrewsbury is developing a Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP) as part of the Assabet River Consortium (EOEA# 12348). The Certificate on the ENF for the Consortium established a Special Review Procedure (SRP) and required the filing of four documents: Phase I, Existing and Proposed Conditions and Needs Analysis; Phase II, Development of Screening of Wastewater Alternatives; Phase III, Evaluation of Most Feasible Options (Draft CWMP/EIR); and Phase IV, Presentation of Recommended Plan (Final CWMP/EIR). The Certificate on the ENF for the Consortium also required that prior to completion of MEPA review for the Consortium CWMP, projects located within the Consortium communities that seek sewer extension permits from the DEP will also require a Phase I waiver from the EIR requirement for the Consortium. The member communities of the Consortium, along with DEP, EPA, and public commenters, have made significant progress to this project on this innovative approach to wastewater planning in Massachusetts. Phase I, for which I issued a Certificate in June 2001, included a definition of existing conditions and an analysis of wastewater management needs; On August 15, 2002, I issued a Certificate for Phase II, which included the development and screening of wastewater management alternatives to address the needs defined in the Phase I document. In June 2005, the Consortium, with the support of DEP, EPA, and public commenters, filed a Notice of Project Change (NPC) with the MEPA Office to describe the Consortium's proposed changes to the forthcoming Phase III Report - Evaluation of Most Feasible Options (Draft CWMP/EIR); and the Phase IV Report - Presentation of Recommended Plan (Final CWMP/EIR).

Given the progress made to this project to date, I will now require projects located within the Consortium communities that seek sewer extension permits from the DEP to file with the MEPA a Notice of Project Change (NPC) to the CWMP for the Assabet River Consortium (EOEA# 12348). I anticipate that the Phase III/DEIR document will bring us closer to providing a sound basis for regional water resources decision-making that will benefit the Assabet River and the members of Consortium communities alike.

Historical/Archeological Resources:

According to the comments received from the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC), the project area is archaeologically sensitive and likely to contain significant archaeological sites associated with ancient and historical period occupation of the Shrewsbury area. MHC requests that the proponent conduct an intensive archaeological survey of the proposed project site. I strongly encourage the proponent to work closely with MHC in the design and the completion of an archaeological survey of the proposed project site.

Based on a review of the information provided by the proponent and after consultation with the relevant public agencies, I find that the potential impacts of this project do not warrant further MEPA review.

April 7, 2006
DATE


Stephen R. Pritchard, Secretary

Comments received:

03/20/02 Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection – CERO
03/30/06 Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC)

NPC12348, Nelson Point Subdivision, Shrewsbury
SRP/NCZ/ncz