



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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June 30, 2006

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

PROJECT NAME : South Hadley Landfill – Cell 2B
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : South Hadley
PROJECT WATERSHED : Connecticut River
EOEA NUMBER : 10620
PROJECT PROPONENT : South Hadley Landfill, LLC/Town of South Hadley
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : May 24, 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 hereby determine that it **does not require** the preparation of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

A Certificate on the Supplemental Final EIR (SFEIR) was issued on December 15, 2000, with a determination that the SFEIR adequately and properly complied with MEPA and its implementing regulations, and that no further MEPA review was required with respect to the groundwater treatment plan and the lined landfill expansion of Cells I and II.

Notices of Project Change (NPC) were subsequently filed, in December 2003, June 2004, and August 2005. The December 2003 NPC was filed to clarify the proposed annual tonnage limit (123,240 tons per year). The June 2004 NPC described a change in the proposed maximum daily tonnage limit (from 395 to 500 tons per day) and the August 2005 NPC proposed a change in the annual tonnage limit from 123,240 to 156,000 tons per day. No further MEPA review was required for the proposed changes, as further detailed in response letters from the MEPA Office (dated 12/15/2003, 6/30/2004, and 8/26/2005).

The project as proposed in the SFEIR included approximately 21.5 acres of lined landfill cells (Cell 1A – 5.43 acres, Cell 1B – 5.29 acres, and Cell II – 10.8 acres). The proposed project change, as described in the NPC filed in May 2006, consists of an expansion of the landfill footprint, which will result in an additional two acres of land alteration (from 21.5 to 23.5 acres) and an increase in the maximum elevation of the landfill by 35 feet (from 355 feet to 390 feet above mean sea level). The expansion area, referred to as Cell 2B, will be constructed over an existing refuse area. The NPC included a Visual Impact Analysis Update to address the proposed change in landfill height.

The project requires a Modification to Site Assignment from the South Hadley Board of Health. The project also requires Authorization to Construct (ATC), Authorization to Operate (ATO), and Beneficial Use Determination (BUD) permits from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

The proponent will need to obtain a Modification to the Site Assignment before DEP can issue ATC or ATO permits. The proponent should submit a new site assignment application that addresses all criteria affected by the modification, as determined by DEP in writing. As further detailed in the DEP comment letter, amendments to the BUD regulations and fee regulations are applicable to reuse of any materials that would otherwise be considered solid waste. The proponent should consult with DEP regarding BUD and other permits needed for grading and shaping materials use.

The Certificate on the Supplemental Final EIR required that the groundwater remediation pilot study report be noticed in the *Environmental Monitor* to provide an opportunity for public comments to be submitted to DEP. The proponent should submit a notice to the MEPA Office for publication in either the July 10, 2006 or July 25, 2006 issue of the *Environmental Monitor*.

I am satisfied that any outstanding issues can be resolved during the state and local permit and review processes. The project changes as proposed in the NPC require no further MEPA review. I remind the DEP to incorporate any additional mitigation that may be required into revised Section 61 Findings for the project. If revised Section 61 Findings are required, a copy should be forwarded to the MEPA Office for the project file.

June 30, 2006

DATE



Stephen R. Pritchard, Secretary

Comments received:

6/23/06 Department of Environmental Protection, Western Regional Office

SRP/AE/ae