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July 7, 2006

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

PROJECT NAME : UMass Medical School  
Campus Modernization Program  
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Worcester  
PROJECT WATERSHED : Blackstone  
EOEA NUMBER : 13098  
PROJECT PROPONENT : UMass Medical School  
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : June 7, 2006

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (M.G.L. c.30, ss.61-62H) and Section 11.17 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** further MEPA review.

This project was originally reviewed in 2003, at which time a Certificate was issued stating that an Environmental Impact Report was not required for the project. At the time the project involved development of a 225,000 square foot expansion of the hospital building, the construction of a new 1600-space parking garage, and the replacement of the granite façade on the existing school and hospital buildings, resulting in 20,000 square feet of ancillary school office space.

In 2004 an NPC was submitted by the proponent proposing to construct a new 140,000 square foot building, an unoccupied shell only, and associated site access improvements. The shell will be attached to the 1,600-space parking garage previously reviewed in the Environmental Notification Form. The project change also involved the construction of new internal access driveways south and east of the proposed garage. A portion of the driveway east of the garage will run across property owned by the Massachusetts Highway Department (MHD). MHD has agreed in principle to grant the proponents easement of approximately 0.5 acre to allow for the construction and use of this driveway. As part of the agreement, the proponent has

agreed to reconfigure the existing MHD parking lot. The proponent has also committed to leaving the building unoccupied until a campus wide Master Plan has been filed and reviewed by MEPA. The campus Master Plan was initiated in 2004 by the Department of Capital Asset Management (DCAM) to establish a long-term vision for the campus.

As described in this NPC the proponent proposes to construct an addition of 90,000 square feet of building space over and above the previously reviewed 140,000 square feet of building space described in the previous NPC. The footprint of the previously reviewed building shell will not be modified. With the newly proposed change the new building will total 230,000 square feet of unoccupied building space. No new alterations to the driveways and access to the parking garage are proposed. The building shell will remain a shell until its full impacts have been reviewed under MEPA as a campus wide Master Plan.

The project change will not involve any increase in imperious coverage. There will also essentially be no increase in traffic generation. There will be an increase in the height of the building by two stories compared to the proposed building reviewed in the February, 2004 NPC. However, this new building will be below the height of other on-site buildings.

Based on a review of the information provided by the proponent and consultation with relevant public agencies, I find that the potential impacts of the project are not significant enough to warrant preparation of an Environmental Impact Report. As I stated in the previous NPC Certificate issued in February 2004 I am confident that any remaining issues can be adequately addressed through the Master Planning process. No further MEPA review is required.

July 7, 2006

Date

  
Stephen R. Pritchard

Comments received:

No comments received.

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