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July 11, 2007

CERTIFICATE OF THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
ON THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL NOTIFICATION FORM

PROJECT NAME: Intersection of East Street and Chapin Street  
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY: Ludlow  
PROJECT WATERSHED: Chicopee  
EOEA NUMBER: 14040  
PROJECT PROPONENT: **Town of Ludlow**, Department of Public Works  
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR: June 11, 2007

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 hereby determine that this project **does not require** the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Project Description

As described in the Environmental Notification Form (ENF), the project involves improvements to the intersection of East Street and Chapin Street in Ludlow, MA. The goals of the project are to improve pedestrian and vehicle flow through the intersection and two improve stormwater drainage in the area. The roadways at the intersection are locally owned and the project proponent is the Town of Ludlow Department of Public Works. The project is being partially funded by the Massachusetts Highway Department (MHD).

### Jurisdiction

The project is undergoing review pursuant to Section 11.03(6)(b)(2)(b) of the MEPA regulations because it will result in the removal of more than 5 public shade trees measuring fourteen or more inches in diameter breast height (dbh). The project requires review by the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP); Approval from the Ludlow Historical Commission; and has received a Negative Determination of Applicability from the Ludlow Conservation Commission. Because the proponent is receiving financial assistance from the Commonwealth, MEPA jurisdiction is broad and extends to all aspects of the project that may cause significant damage to the environment.

### Review of the ENF

Improvements to pedestrian and vehicle flow through the intersection will be achieved by implementing the following measures:

- Existing turning lanes will be extended and new turning lanes will be added;
- New traffic signals and equipment will be installed and programmed to produce a more efficient flow;
- New sidewalks will be installed with crosswalks, handicap ramps and pedestrian signalization at the intersection; and
- The paved corners of the intersection will be widened to allow for improved turning for larger vehicles.

Some roadway takings will be necessary for the project. The width of the roadway will increase by no more than 20 feet in any one section. The roadway widening will take place within 325 feet of the current intersection, with the largest widening taking place within 100 feet. Eight trees 14 inches in diameter or larger at breast height will be required to be removed, including several trees on private property that will be obtained by the Town.

The project also involves improvements to the roadway drainage system in the project area. The proponent will replace existing catchbasins with catchbasins that contain sumps. Existing drainage pipes will be replaced with larger pipes so that more flow can be conveyed through the system. The stormwater in the drainage system is eventually discharged to Minechoag Pond, which has been classified as an impaired waterbody and has been issued a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for pollutants. The stormwater improvements in the proposed project will contribute to meeting the TMDL for Minechoag Pond. The proponent should employ erosion and sedimentation control measures during construction to ensure that resource areas are not negatively impacted.

The Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife provided comments on the ENF. While the proposed project site is not located within Priority Habitat in the *12th Edition of the MA Natural Heritage Atlas*, NHESP states that there is credible evidence that the project site is near or within the habitat of two state-listed plant species and therefore may require a filing with NHESP for compliance with

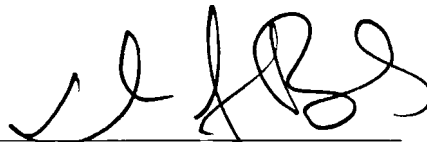
the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA 321 CMR 10.00). NHESP indicates in its comments that it does not have significant concerns about the project provided that appropriate stormwater and erosion control measures are implemented. The proponent should contact NHESP directly regarding the project and any MESA permitting requirements.

The Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) has submitted detailed comments regarding measures to reduce construction-period noise, air and odor impacts. The project must be constructed in compliance with MassDEP's Solid Waste and Air Quality regulations (310 CMR 7.00, 310 CMR 16.00 and 310 CMR 19.00). The proponent should note comments from MassDEP's Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup regarding procedures that must be followed should oil or hazardous materials be encountered during the excavation of the existing roadway area.

Conclusion

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 the preparation of an EIR. No further MEPA review is required at this time.

July 11, 2007  
Date

  
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Ian A. Bowles

Comments received:

- 6/26/2007 Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program
- 7/2/2007 Department of Environmental Protection, Western Regional Office

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