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July 15, 2009

**PUBLIC BENEFITS DETERMINATION
OF THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

PROJECT NAME : Sengecontacket Inside Channel
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Oak Bluffs
PROJECT WATERSHED : Islands
EEA NUMBER : 14413
PROJECT PROPONENT : Town of Oak Bluffs
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : May 6, 2009

Consistent with the provisions of *An Act Relative to Licensing Requirements for Certain Tidelands*, I hereby determine that the above-referenced project will have a public benefit. This determination accompanies a Final Record of Decision (FROD) that was issued on July 15, 2009.

Project Description

As described in the Expanded Environmental Notification Form (EENF), the project includes the continuation of the Sengecontacket Regional Dredging Program for a previously permitted and existing navigational channel inside Sengecontacket Pond. The project includes the dredging of 57,000 cubic yards (cy) of material from an approximate area of 832,000 square feet (sf) within a channel running from the Little Bridge Inlet to the Big Bridge Inlet, and an additional area outside the Little Bridge channel. Dredged materials will be reused as beach nourishment. The project includes a combination of maintenance and improvement dredging in the interest of safe navigation and improved coastal resiliency to storms and flooding on Joseph A. Sylvia State Beach, Pay Beach, and Inkwell Beach. Anticipated wetland resource area impacts are estimated to include 832,000 sf of Land Under Salt Ponds and Land Containing Shellfish, 2,700 linear feet (lf) of Barrier Beach and 600 lf Coastal Beaches.

Public Benefit Determination

Consistent with the provisions of *An Act Relative to Licensing Requirements for Certain*

Tidelands (2007 Mass. Acts ch. 168, sec.8) (the Act), which was enacted on November 15, 2007, and corresponding regulations at 301 CMR 13.00, I must issue a Public Benefit Determination (PBD) for this project.

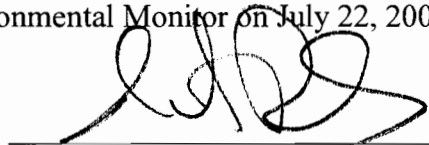
To support the PBD, I have reviewed the EENF and comments received on the EENF. This PBD has been issued in accordance with 301 CMR 13.03(1)(d), as the project will require a c.91 License. As a water-dependent project, it is presumed that this project will provide adequate public benefit in accordance with 301 CMR 13.04. Therefore, I am satisfied that the project provides adequate public benefits and that any impacts to tideland resources can be adequately addressed during the permitting process.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, I hereby determine that the project will have a positive public benefit. To meet the public publication requirements of the legislation, this Determination will be published in the next edition of the Environmental Monitor on July 22, 2009.

July 15, 2009

Date



Ian A. Bowles

IAB/PPP/ppp