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July 24, 2009

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

PROJECT NAME : Pioneer Valley Builders, New Salem House
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : New Salem
PROJECT WATERSHED : Chicopee
EOEA NUMBER : 14433
PROJECT PROPONENT : Pioneer Valley Builders, LLC
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : June 24, 2009

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (G. L., c. 30, ss. 61-62I) 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).

Project Description

As described in the Environmental Notification Form (ENF), the project involves the construction of a 2,600 square foot (sf) single family house and associated utilities on a 2.3-acre parcel of property located on North Main Street in New Salem. The project's estimated water supply needs (330 gpd) and water flows (330 gpm) will be served by the proposed construction of a private on-site water supply well and a Title 5 compliant on-site septic system. The project is located within the watershed for the Quabbin Reservoir designated as an Outstanding Resource Water (Quabbin Reservoir ORW).

Permits and Jurisdiction

The project is undergoing review pursuant to 301 C.M.R. 11.03 (3)(b)(1)(c) of the MEPA regulations because it requires a state Permit and involves the direct alteration of 1000 sf or more of Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW) in an ORW. The project as currently proposed requires a 401 Water Quality Certificate from MassDEP and a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Programmatic Construction General Permit (CGP) for stormwater discharges from a construction site of over one acre from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Project will require an Order of Conditions from the New Salem Conservation Commission for construction in wetlands (and hence Superseding Order(s) from MassDEP if any local Orders were appealed).

The Proponent is not seeking state funding or financial assistance for the proposed project. MEPA jurisdiction therefore is limited to those aspects of the project within the subject matter of any required or potentially required state permits that have the potential to produce Damage to the Environment as defined in the MEPA regulations.

Wetlands and Water Resources

The Proponent proposes to fill approximately 3,144 sf of bordering vegetated wetlands (BVW) in the center of the project site to locate the building envelope in close proximity to North Main Street. The project will also result in the alteration of approximately 20,000 sf of wetland buffer area. The Proponent proposes to construct 3,200 sf of on-site wetlands mitigation to be located adjacent to existing BVW near the central portion of the project site.

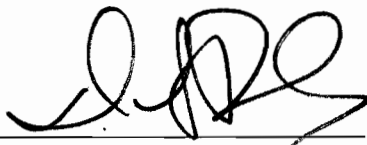
The Proponent will be required to submit an alternatives analysis to MassDEP as part of the 401 Water Quality Certification required for this project and will need to demonstrate the project's consistency with the performance standards for filling of an ORW pursuant to 314 CMR 9.06(3)(e)(3). In so doing, the Proponent will need to satisfactorily demonstrate to MassDEP that the proponent has investigated all feasible methods of further avoiding, reducing, or minimizing project construction impacts to wetland resource areas, watershed protection areas, and the creation of impervious surface area.

Stormwater

The Proponent will need to work closely with MassDEP during final project design to ensure that the project's stormwater management design is consistent with MassDEP's Stormwater Management Policy guidelines, and contains adequate stormwater pollution protection measures to prevent or minimize impacts to the Quabbin Reservoir ORW. MassDEP's permit process should contain conditions relative to the coordination of all work to be permitted for this site.

Based on the information provided by the Proponent and consultation with relevant public agencies, I conclude that the review of the ENF has served adequately to disclose potential impacts and mitigation, and to demonstrate that project impacts do not warrant the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report. The Proponent can resolve any remaining issues during permitting.

July 24, 2009
DATE



Ian A. Bowles, Secretary

Comments received:

07/15/09 Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) – WERO

ENF #14433
IAB/NCZ/ncz