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August 10, 2007

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

PROJECT NAME : Construction of Concrete Median Barrier, Paving and Road Widening
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Westborough and Hopkinton
PROJECT WATERSHED : SuAsCo
EEA NUMBER : 14056
PROJECT PROPONENT : Massachusetts Turnpike Authority
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : July 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).

The proposed project involves maintenance and safety improvements along an approximately 2.3-mile section of the MassPike (Route I-90) from Wood Street Bridge, Route 135 in Hopkinton to Flanders Road Bridge in Westborough. The project includes paving the roadway, installing a median safety barrier, repaving portions of the roadway, widening an existing culvert, and cleaning and repairing drainage structures. The ramps along this route will be widened which includes slope work. The project will result in an increase of approximately 5.3 acres of impervious area.

The project is undergoing MEPA review pursuant to Section 11.03(6)(b)(1)(b), Section 11.03 (1)(b)(2) and Section 11.03 (11)(b) of the MEPA Regulations because it involves widening of an existing roadway by four or more feet for one-half or more miles, creates five or more acres of impervious area, and is located within a designated Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) The proposed project is adjacent to and partially within the Cedar Swamp ACEC. The project requires Orders of Conditions from the Hopkinton and Westborough Conservation Commissions. The project will be undertaken by a state agency, therefore, MEPA

jurisdiction extends to all aspects of the project that may cause Damage to the Environment as defined in the MEPA regulations.

Cedar Swamp ACEC contains approximately 1,650 acres of primarily vegetated wetlands, providing critical flood water storage capacity for the Sudbury River basin. In addition, the area is the headwaters of the Sudbury River and overlays the medium- and high-yield aquifers that supply two public wells for Westborough. The Cedar Swamp ACEC contains state-listed rare species, as well as the uncommon Atlantic White Cedar swamp for which the area is named. Therefore, every effort should be made avoid and minimize impacts, and where absolutely necessary, mitigate for impacts. I remind the proponent that no work within wetland resource areas should create permanent impacts and temporary impacts should be minimized. In addition, any removal of vegetation within wetland resource areas should be minimized unless the vegetation is an invasive species. The proponent should also use best management practices throughout the project duration to ensure construction related impacts are minimized.

The project will require a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction Activities Permit from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The ENF indicates that detailed stormwater plans will be presented to the towns of Hopkinton and Westborough as part of the Notice of Intent filing. I remind the proponent that this project will be required to develop a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPP). I advise the proponent to consult with the ACEC Program, the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program and the Cedar Swamp Conservation Trust prior to filing Notices of Intent to address potential impact to rare species or habitat. The Notices of Intent must include a completed Stormwater Management Form, which demonstrates compliance with the Department of Environmental Protection's (MassDEP) Stormwater Management Policy.

I am satisfied that the ENF has sufficiently defined the nature and general elements of the project and that any outstanding issues can be addressed during the state and local review process. No further MEPA review is required for the proposed project.

August 10, 2007

DATE



Ian A. Bowles

Comments Received:

07/25/07	Department of Environmental Protection, CERO
07/31/07	Arc of Innovation, 495/MetroWest Corridor Partnership, Inc.
07/31/07	Cedar Swamp Conservation Trust
07/31/07	Area of Critical Environmental Concern Program
07/31/07	Town of Hopkinton, Conservation Commission

IAB/AC/ac