



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
 Boston, MA 02114

DEVAL L. PATRICK
 GOVERNOR
 TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
 LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
 IAN A. BOWLES
 SECRETARY

Tel: (617) 626-1000
 Fax: (617) 626-1181
<http://www.mass.gov/envir>

August 10, 2007

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

PROJECT NAME : Sale, Lease or Transfer of the Rights to the Dever Wells from the Department of Conservation and Recreation to the City of Taunton
 PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Crane Avenue North - Taunton
 PROJECT WATERSHED : Taunton River
 EEA NUMBER : 14058
 PROJECT PROPONENT : City of Taunton
 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).

According to the Environmental Notification Form (ENF), the proposed project consists of the transfer of the rights for the use of the Dever State School's Wells #1, 2, 3, and 4 to the City of Taunton for the installation and operation of a water supply and treatment facility. The project includes the construction of two new gravel-packed wells (approximately 24 x 18-inch) with submersible pumps and motors. The proponent would construct an approximately 1,600 square foot (sf) centralized pump station/treatment facility with an approximately 1,600 sf parking /loading area for chemical delivery near Well #1. The proponent is proposing to abandon Well #3. Well #4 has not been used for decades and is no longer considered a water supply. The project would include a new gravel or porous access driveway with a width of about 10-feet for approximately 5,500 linear feet, which includes Crane Avenue North to the pump station and from the pump station to the existing water tower.

The proposed wells are estimated to have an average daily capacity of 200,000 gallons per day (gpd) (average day)/71.5 million gallons per year (gpy). The proposed wells are being transferred from the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to provide local control, and add capacity, flexibility, and reliability to the Taunton water supply system. The project includes the installation of about 1,200 linear feet of an approximately 12-inch in diameter water

main from the new wells within existing gravel roads to the Taunton distribution system. The water treatment plant may utilize chlorine for disinfection. The project site is approximately 25 acres and contains Wells # 1, 2, 3, and 4 and is located within the Canoe River Aquifer Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

This project is subject to review pursuant to Section 11.03(11)(b) of the MEPA regulations because the project site is located within an ACEC. It will require a Transfer of the Water Management Act Permit to City of Taunton, a Water Distribution System Modification Permit, and potentially a Permit for the Demolition of Asbestos containing buildings from the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). The project may also need to obtain a Permit to Construct a Water Treatment Facility of less than 1 million gpd from MassDEP. It will also require a Site Access License from the Division of Capital Asset Management (DCAM). The project may need to comply with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for stormwater discharges from a construction site. It will require an Order of Conditions for the test wells from the Taunton Conservation Commission (TCC) as a "limited" project. Another Order of Conditions may be needed for the permanent wells from the TCC. Because the proponent is seeking financing from the State Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) to develop the wells, MEPA jurisdiction extends to all aspects of the project that may have significant environmental impacts (water distribution, wetlands, and stormwater).

The Dever School is presently consuming between 26,000 and 30,000 gpd. The School will continue to be supplied with potable water by the City of Taunton when the wells are transferred.

Existing site runoff at the site is sheet flow. The project will create approximately 3,200 sf of impervious area. Runoff from the roof and parking/loading area will be sheet flow.

The existing Water Management Act registration for the existing Dever wells expires on February 28, 2010. The entire Zone I area (about 23 acres) surrounding the existing wells is not owned by the Commonwealth. The proponent and DCR will try to relocate the new wells within a Zone I area, which is owned by the DCR. The estimated Zone II area for the well field is approximately 761.6 acres.

According to Taunton's existing Water Management Act Permit, the City of Taunton currently obtains its potable water (average day – 7.29 million gpd)(5.87 million gpd registered withdrawal and 1.42 million gpd permitted withdrawal) from Elders and Assawompset Ponds (518.3 million gallons per year (gpy)). Its Water Management Act Permit expires on February 28, 2010.

The proponent encourages water conservation awareness within the community through its annual consumer confidence report. It offers water saving devices, rain barrel discounts, and a healthy lawns and landscaping and composting workshops to customers. The proponent sponsors water conservation educational programs in the public schools. Leak detection was conducted on approximately half of the water distribution system last year. The water distribution system is approximately 260 miles. The most recent estimate of unaccounted-for-water loss is about 13 percent. The proponent provides a master-meter calibration every two years, and it accounts for authorized unmetered water usage (main breaks, fire fighting and training, distribution system flushing, and irrigation of City fields). The water system is 100 percent metered.

The City Council has the authority to enforce two mandatory water bans. The first water ban is an "odd-even" system with hand-held watering only, and the second water ban prohibits all outdoor water use. The proponent has an ascending block rate pricing structure and is fully funded by water system revenue. The City of Taunton has established the necessary zoning controls for the proposed Zone II around the Dever Wells. It also has a floor drain regulation that meets the requirements of 310 CMR 22.21(2)(a)(8).

There are several steps that the proponent could take to strengthen its water conservation program. The proponent should consider adding a seasonal price increase during hot and dry weather to its water conservation program to discourage outdoor watering. The City of Taunton should adopt Low Impact Development (LID) techniques that maximize infiltration, minimize the need for irrigation, and encourage water-efficient appliances.

The proponent should evaluate the potential for groundwater drawdown, induced infiltration, and potential impacts to adjacent wetlands due to altered hydrology and should provide the results for MassDEP's review. It should develop a monitoring plan of sufficient duration to evaluate the impacts from pumping activities. The proponent should set up test plots within adjacent wetlands near the wells to establish baseline conditions to monitor in the future. The City of Taunton has agreed to install monitoring points on the side of the Watson Pond nearest the wells. The wetland monitoring should also assess changes in wildlife and vegetation quantity and compositions as well as changes in water levels in Watson Pond, the small pond near Well #2 and the associated wetlands near the two replacement wells. The proponent should also provide DCR with a visual assessment of the potential impacts of any proposed pump station on its parkland.

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 and can be adequately addressed in the MassDEP permitting process.

EEA #14058

ENF Certificate

August 10, 2007

August 10, 2007
Date

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ian A. Bowles", written over a horizontal line.

Ian A. Bowles

Comments received:

MassDEP, 7/16/07

DCR, 7/31/07

MassDEP/SERO, 7/31/07

DCAM, 8/2/07

CDM, 8/3/07

CDM, 8/9/07

IAB/WTG/wg
14058enf