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August 10, 2007

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

PROJECT NAME : Lake Quannapowitt Sediment Remediation
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Wakefield
PROJECT WATERSHED : North Coastal
EEA NUMBER : 14059
PROJECT PROPONENT : Wakefield Municipal Gas and Light Department
(WMGLD) and Town of Wakefield Department of Public
Works
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : July 11, 2007

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (G. L. c. 30, ss. 61-62H) and Section 11.03 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).

As described in the Environmental Notification Form (ENF), the project consists of the removal (via dredging) of contaminated sediment in the Hartshorne Cove boat ramp area of Lake Quannapowitt (the Lake). Under existing conditions, an ecological Substantial Hazard potentially exists to benthic organisms in an area of "Readily Apparent Harm" due to the visible presence of coal tar residuals in sediment within one foot of sediment surface near the boat ramp. The project will dredge sediments from an area approximately 16,000 square feet (sf) in area to an average depth of seven (7) feet and place clean sand over the remaining sediment. The contaminated sediments will be removed and reused, recycled or disposed at an approved and permitted facility. The adjacent Veteran's Field parking lot will be used as a staging area for the

dredging operation, as well as a location for equipment to remove water from the sediment and treat water prior to discharge back to the Lake.

The project site is located along North Avenue at the southwestern end of Lake Quannapowitt, south of Hall Park and north of Veteran's Field. The site is characterized by a small boat ramp, manmade granite outcroppings of cut stone, and landscaped areas. The adjacent parking lot is used by the public in association with the nearby ballfields, walking paths, and for other recreational opportunities. The ENF states that removal of the sediments in accordance with standards set by the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP) will impact approximately 22,000 sf of Land Under Water, 15,600 sf of Bordering Land Subject to Flooding, and 170 linear feet (lf) of inland Bank. At the MEPA site consultation session it was stated that dredging would require the drawdown of the Lake by 1.5 to 2 feet. This will be achieved by controlling flows through an existing flood gate/spillway located at the northern end of the Lake, ultimately discharging to the Saugus River. The project will dewater extracted sediments and discharge water back to the Lake subsequent to filtration and achievement of appropriate water quality standards. Land-based and water-based erosion and sedimentation control measures such as haybales and silt curtains will be utilized, in addition to the performance of water quality testing during the dredging period to ensure limited impact to wetland resource areas and water quality.

The project is undergoing review pursuant to Section 11.03 (3)(b)(f) because the project requires a State Agency action and will result in the alteration of ½ or more acres of wetland resource areas. The project will require an Order of Conditions from the Wakefield Conservation Commission, a Section 401 Water Quality Certificate (WQC) and a Chapter 91 Permit from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), and a Programmatic General Permit from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (U.S. ACOE). Additionally, the project will require a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA).

Because the proponent is not seeking financial assistance from the Commonwealth for the current phase of the project, MEPA jurisdiction extends to those aspects of the project that may have significant environmental impacts and that are within the subject matter of required or potentially required state permits. In this case, MEPA jurisdiction exists over wetlands and stormwater.

Wetlands and Waterways

The project will remove approximately 5,000 cubic yards of sediment from an area of about 16,000 sf. This will result in the alteration of about 22,000 sf of Land Under Water, 170 lf of Bank and 15,600 sf of Bordering Land Subject to Flooding. The project could be considered a limited project under the Wetlands Protection Act regulations pursuant to 310 CMR 10.53(3)(q) for remediation of a release of oil and/or hazardous materials in accordance with the provisions of the MCP.

The proponent should take into consideration the comments made by MassDEP regarding the potential impact of Lake drawdown and schedule the dredging period accordingly to minimize impacts. Furthermore, it would be prudent to monitor downstream of the spillway to ensure that there are no adverse flooding impacts on adjacent properties during the drawdown period. Additionally, MassDEP has expressed concern regarding the project's ability to meet performance standards associated with impact to Land Under Water, specifically the changes to bottom profiles in relation to the plant community and benthic organisms. I encourage the proponent to investigate this matter further as part of the State and local permitting processes.

The project will require a Chapter 91 dredging permit from MassDEP. MassDEP has requested that the Chapter 91 application for the project include measures to minimize any impact of the project on the existing boat ramp and its use by the public. Conversely, the design of the dredging project, including dredge depth and thickness of the cap material, should take into account the ongoing use of the boat ramp and the effects of boat propellers, paddles, etc., on the final condition of the remediated area.

Water Quality

The project will require a Section 401 Water Quality Certificate from MassDEP. The proponent has proposed several erosion and sedimentation control measures to reduce the likelihood of negative water quality impacts during the dredging period. MassDEP has indicated that in preparing an application for the Water Quality Certificate, the proponent should consult the regulations for requirements for water quality sampling during dredging; dredge material sampling, handling, and disposal requirements; and dredging performance standards.

Archaeology

The Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources (BUAR) has stated that upon preliminary review of its files and secondary literature sources, no record of any underwater archaeological resources was found within the project area. Therefore, following review of the project characteristics, the BUAR has concluded that the project is unlikely to negatively impact submerged cultural resources. However, should heretofore-unknown submerged cultural resources be encountered during the course of the project, the BUAR expects that the project proponent will take steps to limit adverse affects and notify the BUAR, as well as other appropriate agencies in accordance with the BUAR's *Policy Guidance for the Discovery of Unanticipated Archaeological Resources* (updated 9/28/06).

Stormwater

The project will not increase the current impervious surface or stormwater runoff in the project area. The proponent will install an erosion control barrier at the limits of the Veteran's Field parking lot work area prior to sediment removal and detwatering activities. The ENF has indicated that contractors will be required to prepare and Environmental Protection Plan (EPP) to

include measures for protection of soil and water resources, debris disposal, spill control, and decontamination. Under existing conditions an 18-inch diameter storm drain that conveys drainage from a portion of North Avenue and the Veteran's Field parking lot discharges to the Lake in the vicinity of the boat ramp. The proponent should ensure that stormwater discharges via this pipe are not substantially altered subsequent to the completion of boat ramp reconstruction or sediment dredging.


Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP)/21E

MassDEP has indicated that they were notified initially of a reportable release of arsenic and lead on December 17, 1999. More recently, on December 14, 2006, the proponents received a Notice of Noncompliance (NON) from MassDEP for not submitting a Phase IV Remedy Implementation Plan and a Response Action Outcome (RAO) statement for compliance with the MCP. These outstanding response action documents must be submitted to MassDEP by August 28, 2008, the expiration date of the Tier I Permit Extension. The site remediation under RTN 3-19079 includes the WMGLD property and Veterans Field Park, in addition to the Hartshorne Cove area of the Lake. The project has been filed in compliance with the MCP to facilitate remediation efforts.

Additional studies are underway in the project area to further assess potential areas of risk or hazard. Should the ecological risk assessment show that the Lake contamination is more extensive than described; it may be necessary to undertake an expanded site remediation to achieve the desired RAO. The proponent is advised that such actions may require new or amended State permits and/or a Notice of Project Change (NPC) in accordance with the MEPA regulations. Furthermore, I encourage the proponent to consider the comments raised in the MassDEP comment letter regarding potential odor control measures and possible increased human health exposure.

Based on the information in the ENF and after consultation with relevant public agencies, I find that no further MEPA review is required at this time. The project may proceed with obtaining required State permits.

August 10, 2007
Date


Ian A. Bowles

Comments received:

07/30/2007 Saugus River Watershed Council
07/30/2007 Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources
07/30/2007 Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection - NERO

IAB/HSJ/hsj