



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900

Boston, MA 02114-2524

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

MITT ROMNEY
GOVERNOR

KERRY HEALEY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

ROBERT W. GOLLEDGE, JR.
SECRETARY

August 25, 2006

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

PROJECT NAME : Wellfield #2 Project
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Sterling
PROJECT WATERSHED : Nashua
EOEA NUMBER : 13843
PROJECT PROPONENT : **Stering** Department of Public Works
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : July 25, 2006


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.

As described in the Environmental Notification Form (ENF), the project consists of the construction of a new municipal three-well wellfield (Wellfield #2) with a capacity of 792,000 gallons per day (gpd) to replace the Town's existing Wellfield #1 and Well #2 located within the 2.75-acre project site off Worcester Road (Route 12) in Sterling. The project site contains an existing one-story (325 square feet (sf)) pumping station building, an enclosed one-story garage building (580 sf), and a gravel site drive (approximately 300 linear feet (lf)). The existing pumping station is connected to the Town's municipal water distribution system. According to the statements made by the proponent at the MEPA site visit held for this project, Wellfield #1 has been offline since 1971 and will be permanently capped as part of this project. Well #2 is currently offline and will be disconnected as part of this project. The project includes proposed upgrades to the Town's existing water treatment infrastructure, including the installation of an ultraviolet disinfection system within the existing pump station, and minor modifications to the garage. The Town of Sterling currently relies on municipal wells located in West Sterling off Redemption Rock Road for most of its existing water supply needs.

The project is undergoing review pursuant to Section 11.03 (4)(b)(1) of the MEPA regulations because it entails the withdrawal of 100,000 or more gpd from a water source that requires new construction for the withdrawal. The proponent is seeking a New Source Approval and may require an amendment to its existing Water Withdrawal Permit, pursuant to the Water Management Act (WMA) from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for the construction of the new wellfield and increases in water withdrawal from this Route 12 location. According to the Town, the project has received an Order of Conditions from the Sterling Conservation Commission. Because the Town is seeking financial assistance from the Commonwealth for the project, MEPA jurisdiction extends to all aspects of the project that may cause significant Damage to the Environment.

The proposed new Wellfield #2 is being developed to enhance the reliability of the Town's municipal water supply system. The project will not result in an increase to the Town's permitted withdrawals under the current Water Management Act permit. The proposed increase in water withdrawal from Wellfield #2 will be offset by decreases in groundwater withdrawals from other Town of Sterling municipal well locations. The Town can resolve any remaining issues regarding the technical specifications of the well pumping facility with DEP. The review of the ENF has served to demonstrate that the impacts of the project do not warrant the preparation of an EIR. No further MEPA review is required.

August 26, 2006
Date


Robert W. Golledge, Jr., Secretary

Comments received:

08/07/06 Montachusett Regional Planning Commission
08/10/06 Department of Conservation and Recreation – Division of Water Supply
Protection (DCR)

RWG/NCZ/ncz

ENF #13843