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September 7, 2007

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

PROJECT NAME : Revetment Reconstruction, Seawall Boulevard
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Hull
PROJECT WATERSHED : Boston Harbor
EEA NUMBER : 14073
PROJECT PROPONENT : Department of Conservation and Recreation
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : August 8, 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 ENF, the purpose of the project is the complete reconstruction of an existing revetment. In the proposed design the existing 10-12 ton armor stone will be reset to construct an underlayer over which 16 ton armor stone will be placed. The proposed crest elevation of the revetment will be 36 feet mean low water (MLW) and will have a slope that will vary from 1.5:1 to 2.0:1. The existing southern end of the revetment will be extended to include an adjacent property on an eroding coastal bank and to provide public access. The project includes the construction of a cobble dune along the southern portion of the project site that will incorporate 9000 cubic yards of 18 inch minus cobble constructed on a 6:1 slope

The project will also entail the dredging of approximately 5,800 cubic yards of material for the construction of the revetment toe. The project will result in impacts or alteration of 7,925 square feet (sf) of Land Under the Ocean, 32,960 sf of coastal beaches (7,835 sf from the proposed revetment and 25,125 sf from the cobble dune), 960 linear feet of coastal bank, and 44,900 sf of land subject to coastal storm flowage.

The project is undergoing review pursuant to section 11.03 (3)(b)(1)(a), because the project requires state permitting and involves alteration of a coastal dune and a coastal bank.

The project will require a 401 Water Quality Certification and Chapter 91 License from the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), and possibly Federal Consistency Review by the Coastal Zone Management (CZM). This project is located within an estimated habitat of rare species. The project will also require an Order of Conditions from the Hull Conservation Commission and a Section 404 Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The project may require a NPDES Stormwater Permit for Construction Activities. Because the project will receive state funding from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), there is broad scope MEPA jurisdiction.

I am not requiring an EIR because I am satisfied that the proponent has incorporated into project design sufficient mitigation for project impacts. The existing seawall and revetment at Point Allerton have failed and are insufficient to provide protection to landward areas from a 100 year storm event. The proposed revetment reconstruction and expansion project is intended to address the failure of the existing structure and improve its ability to provide storm damage protection to landward areas. After consultation with other state agencies I concur that the structure needs complete reconstruction to increase the stone size as well as upgrading other design elements to improve its function. The Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) has reviewed this project pursuant to MESA and has determined it will not adversely affect the actual Resource Area Habitat of state-protected rare wildlife species and will not result in a "take" of state-listed rare species.

The project has undergone an alternatives analysis and has been coordinated with the local, state, and federal permitting agencies. The preferred design involves extending the seaward toe of the structure significantly further seaward and extending the existing revetment to mitigate for end effects which will affect an additional 3500 sf of beach. CZM has expressed concerns in their comment letter regarding ongoing vertical erosion of the beach fronting the wall which may be exacerbated by extending the structure further seaward. The alternatives analysis acknowledged that moving or removing one of the existing houses may be needed to accommodate the reconstructed revetment. I encourage the proponent to work closely with CZM to determine how to help minimize adverse effects associated with this structure.

The ENF did not include sufficient detail regarding the beach characterization in the footprint of the proposed nourishment or details concerning the cobble nourishment design. The proponent should provide this information and work with the permitting agencies. In addition, MassDEP has provided detailed comments on additional information that must be submitted during the permitting process.

The project will require several state and federal permits. I am confident that any remaining issues regarding refinement of project design can be resolved during those processes. The review of the ENF has generated sufficient information on impacts and mitigation for purposes of MEPA review, and has demonstrated that the impacts of the project do not warrant the preparation of an EIR. No further MEPA review is required.

September 7, 2007

Date



Ian A. Bowles

Comments Received:

08/17/07 Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program
08/27/07 J. Gerson Bloch
08/28/07 Coastal Zone Management
08/28/07 Department of Environmental Protection
08/28/07 Richard, Janet, Jason and Kenton Gilmartin

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