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September 21, 2007

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

PROJECT NAME : United Waste Management Transfer Station
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Holyoke
PROJECT WATERSHED : Connecticut
EEA NUMBER : 14085
PROJECT PROPONENT : United Waste Management, Inc.
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : August 22, 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 construction of a 750-ton per day (tpd) transfer station on property formerly Site Assigned (by the City of Holyoke Board of Health) and used for a 20-tpd sewage sludge composting operation. The proposed is located at 686 Main Street in Holyoke, on the southern corner of Main Street and Berkshire Street, in a section of the City zoned as Waste Management (WM). The facility is proposed to handle and transfer a mix of Construction and Demolition Debris (C&D) and Municipal Solid Waste (MSW).

Waste transfer will occur on-site inside a 22,575 square foot (sf) building where waste will be separated and baled for transfer to off-site disposal facilities. It is anticipated that waste will be brought to the facility via truck, and upon separation, will be shipped to disposal facilities utilizing a combination of either truck or rail cars. At the MEPA site visit the project's

consultant conveyed the desire of the proponent to utilize the nearby rail line to ship MSW to disposal facilities, and trucks to convey the C&D off-site. Recently, a portion of the rail line servicing the property was removed by the City of Holyoke to construct components for the abutting combined sewage/stormwater treatment plant. The proponent has stated that at the time of the removal, the rail line owner (Pioneer Valley Railroad) noted that their intention was to replace the rail line when construction of the treatment plant is completed (anticipated in October 2007). The project proponent would be responsible for constructing a rail spur from this rail line to service its property. The proponent has stated that while the availability of rail creates many benefits to the project and the City of Holyoke, the project is not rail dependent and would proceed if rail were not available.

The project is undergoing review pursuant to Section 11.03(9)(b) because the project requires a State Agency action and will result in the new capacity for the storage, treatment or processing of 50 or more tons per day of solid waste. The project will require several permits including: Site Assignment, Site Suitability, Authorization to Construct, Authorization to Operate, and an Underground Injection Control (UIC) permit from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). 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 solid waste and stormwater.

The project is subject to the EOEEA Environmental Justice (EJ) Policy, as the project exceeds an applicable ENF review threshold (301 CMR 11.03(9)(b) and is located within one mile of an EJ population. The project required enhanced public participation, which for this project included the notification of the availability of the ENF in Spanish in a local Spanish language newspaper and the translation of a project executive summary into Spanish. This notification is commensurate with the notification process for MEPA projects in non-EJ communities. I strongly encourage the proponent to work with the City of Holyoke, including local government representatives and interest groups, throughout the Site Assignment and local permitting processes to address the needs of the Environmental Justice population by facilitating the public participation process via translation services or similar provisions.

Solid Waste

The project will be permitted to transfer up to 750 tpd of MSW and C&D. The project will require numerous solid waste related permits/approvals from MassDEP and the City of Holyoke. The proponent has indicated a desire to operate on a 24-hour a day, seven days a week, status to accommodate specific waste transfer needs of customers; however, it is anticipated that the majority of deliveries and traffic will be focused during traditional business hours.

MassDEP has indicated in its comment letter the need for several clarifications related to compliance with MassDEP's waste ban, C&D fines, and permitting requirements. These issues should be addressed in conjunction with State permitting processes. Additional guidance has been outlined in the MassDEP comment letter regarding compliance with the MassDEP Noise Policy, on-site demolition and re-use of asphalt, brick and concrete (ABC), and compliance with air pollution control regulation (310 CMR 7.00). The proponent should consider these comments during the preparation of State permitting applications.

Stormwater

The project will create 1.1 new acres of impervious area on site. The project will require the preparation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) in accordance with the NPDES program requirements. The ENF has outlined a system of catch basins, asphalt berms, oil and water separators, and leaching units to treat stormwater quality and quantities on-site. The proponent has prepared an operations and maintenance plan which addresses maintenance of the stormwater system. Additionally, the project will convey roof stormwater runoff to leaching basins, and will therefore require a UIC permit from MassDEP. The MassDEP comment letter has expressed concerns regarding the suitability of soils and the depth of groundwater at the site to accommodate the proposed stormwater infiltration system. The proponent should address MassDEP's concerns in a manner consistent with that requested in the MassDEP comment letter as part of the UIC registration process.

The City of Holyoke has a history of issues regarding Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) throughout the City. The proponent should clarify the types of discharges (either stormwater or sewer) that may enter the City's infrastructure and identify means to avoid, minimize or mitigate environmental impacts of these discharges. It was conveyed at the MEPA site visit that the City of Holyoke experiences a CSO during most storm events, regardless of duration or size. Therefore, it is imperative that the proponent work with the City of Holyoke to provide measures to prevent the entering of leachate into the system (via a gate valve, additional treatment, leachate testing and/or direct connection to the adjacent treatment facility, etc.).

Wastewater

MassDEP has requested that the proponent determine what requirements pursuant to the new MassDEP sewer connection and extension regulation (314 CMR 7.00) may be applicable to the project. If it is determined that additional permitting requirements are necessary for connection of the facility to the municipal sewer system, the proponent should file the appropriate permits with MassDEP.

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.

September 21, 2007

Date



Ian A. Bowles

Comments received:

09/07/2007 Green Seal Environmental, Inc.
09/10/2007 Holyoke Department of Public Works
09/10/2007 Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
09/11/2007 Holyoke Friends of the River
09/11/2007 Holyoke Planning Department
09/11/2007 **Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection - WERO**

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