



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900

Boston, MA 02114-2524

MITT ROMNEY
GOVERNOR

KERRY HEALEY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

ROBERT W. GOLLEDGE, JR.
SECRETARY

September 22, 2006

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

CERTIFICATE OF THE SECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS ON THE NOTICE OF PROJECT CHANGE

PROJECT NAME : Pleasant Street Well Field Development
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Pleasant Street - Hanson
PROJECT WATERSHED : Taunton River
EOEA NUMBER : 11835
PROJECT PROPONENT : Hanson Water Department
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : August 23, 2006

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (G. L. c. 30, ss. 61-62H) and Section 11.10 of the MEPA regulations (301 CMR 11.00), I have reviewed the Notice of Project Change (NPC) submitted on this project and determine that it **does not require** further MEPA review.

The proposed project originally consisted of the development and construction of a well field of five gravel-packed wells to pump a combined total of between 648,000 and 1,000,000 gallons per day (gpd). The project includes the construction of a 150 square foot (sf) control building and minor improvements to the existing gravel access roadway. The water would be sent via pipes to the City of Brockton's Silver Lake Water Treatment Plant (WTP) (about 3.0 miles) for the eventual distribution to the Brockton municipal water system. The proponent has an intermunicipal agreement with the City of Brockton for this project. The City of Brockton has agreed to finance the development, construction and the operation of the proposed facility for ten years. Under the terms of the intermunicipal agreement, Brockton will receive the majority of the water from the well as an interim supply for ten years. After ten years, the proponent will receive the well field facilities and control the water usage. On January 22, 1999, the Secretary determined that the project did not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

This NPC was submitted for MEPA review on August 14, 2006. The proponent has revised the project so that the proposed well field will be a Hanson-only water supply source. It will construct a 3,900 sf water treatment plant at the project site to remove iron and manganese. The project includes two lagoons for residuals treatment and underground sedimentation tanks. The proponent is considering the use of membrane filtration. The remaining solids would be

removed periodically for disposal to a landfill or a wastewater treatment facility. The proponent has not yet determined the final water treatment process. No work in wetland resource areas is anticipated. However, some work will occur in the buffer zone. The proponent is proposing to withdraw only about 100,000 gpd from the Pleasant Street well field on an average annual basis. However the proponent is seeking a Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)-approved yield (maximum daily limit) of 750,000 gpd. The proposed well is being proposed for redundancy and no increase is proposed in the total volume of withdrawal. The proponent has a water conservation program, which includes metering, a leak detection and repair program, full-cost pricing of water, and a water conservation and demand management program. All of the environmental controls, including wetland monitoring, listed for well field withdrawals in the original 2000 Permit would be retained.

The proponent is seeking well design approval, approval for the pilot treatment study, and a Water Management Act Withdrawal Permit from MassDEP for the addition of the new well to its existing Permit. Hanson is currently registered and permitted to withdraw 780,000 gpd from its existing sources. The project will require an Order of Conditions from the Hanson Conservation Commission for work within buffer zones. The proponent will seek a motion with the Administrative Magistrate to lift the stay on the Water Withdrawal Permit, which was filed by the Jones River Watershed Association. It may need to comply with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for supernatant discharge from residuals management. The proponent is seeking state financial assistance for the project.

According to MassWildlife's comment letter, preliminary maps indicate that the entire area of the proposed well field and Monponsett Pond fall within Priority Habitat and Estimated Habitat in its new Atlas. The proponent should avoid a "take" of state-listed species through the minimization and avoidance of disturbance to Eastern Box Turtle, Eastern Pondmussel, Tidewater Mucket, and Umber Shadowdragon habitat. It should consult with the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) regarding the appropriate timing of work, the installation of NHESP-approved enclosure barriers, and the monitoring of barriers. Since the proposed project will occur within a mapped Priority Habitat, the proponent is required to file pursuant to the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) prior to the installation of or operation of the wells.

The wetlands bordering Monponsett Pond and Stump Brook within the Zone I should be monitored with piezometers to evaluate impacts from well drawdown. The City of Brockton will be developing a Comprehensive Water Management Plan (CWMP), which includes Monponsett Pond and Stump Brook and a firm yield for Monponsett Pond in mid-2007. The CWMP will include consideration of the Pleasant Street Well Field withdrawal. MassDEP requires the City of Brockton to maintain a shutoff pond elevation for Monponsett Pond before any diversions of water via Stump Brook are permitted. It will also restrict this proposed well field withdrawal to the same shutoff pond elevation. The firm yield evaluation for Monponsett Pond will assist both Hanson and Brockton to develop operational plans for their water supply sources within

Monponsett Pond. The proponent should minimize the use of impervious surfaces within the Zone I by using porous paving options for the access road, parking area, and roadway surrounding the lagoons (Figure 7).

The Water Management Act Withdrawal Permit provides MassDEP with broad subject matter jurisdiction to protect other registered and permitted groundwater and surface water users. This NPC has significantly lowered the volume of water withdrawal from the proposed well field. 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 change do not warrant the preparation of an EIR and can be adequately addressed in the DEP and local permitting processes. No further MEPA review is required to permit the Pleasant Street Well Field development.

September 22, 2006

Date



Robert W. Gollidge, Jr.

cc: David Terry, DEP/WS
Sharon Stone, DEP/SERO

Comments received:

MassWildlife, 9/12/06
Jones River Watershed Assoc., 9/12/06
Hanson Conservation Commission (Philip R. Lindquist), 9/12/06
Riverways Program, 9/12/06
Jones River Watershed Assoc., 9/12/06
MassDEP/SERO, 9/14/06
MassDEP/SERO, 9/15/06
CDM, 9/18/06
CDM, 9/20/06

11835npc
RWG/WTG/wg