



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

IAN A. BOWLES
SECRETARY

Tel: (617) 626-1000

Fax: (617) 626-1181

<http://www.mass.gov/envir>

September 26, 2008

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

PROJECT NAME : Allen Pond Dredging
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : 233 Baker Street – Walpole
PROJECT WATERSHED : Neponset River
EOEA NUMBER : 14310
PROJECT PROPONENT : Walpole Country Club
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : August 27, 2008

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (G. L. c. 30, ss. 61-62I) and Section 11.06 of the MEPA regulations (301 CMR 11.00), I determine that this **project does not require** the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

According to the Environmental Notification Form (ENF), the project consists of the dredging/removal of approximately 23,000 cubic yards (cy) of sediment from an area of 3.39 acres of Allen Pond. The excess sediment was caused by upstream impacts from a gravel/excavation operation that has since been closed. The past accumulation of sediment has reduced the volume of the pond and converted Land Under Water (LUW) into Bordering Vegetated Wetland (BVW). The proponent is proposing to convert this BVW to deep marsh. It would reduce the overall sediment that has accumulated in the pond, and it would restore the pond depth/storage capacity. The Pond's current storage capacity is about 1.8 million gallons, and the dredging would increase storage capacity to about 4.6 million gallons. It is used as an irrigation resource for the golf course. The project will restore Allen Pond as a water supply and a fisheries resource. The current BVW area of the Pond supports nuisance/invasive aquatic species. Allen Pond is approximately 3.5 acres in area. It is an impounded pond that is located in a 95-acre golf course.

The project is subject to review pursuant to Sections 11.03(3)(b)(1)(b), 11.03(3)(b)(1)(d), 11.03(3)(b)(1)(f), 11.03(3)(b)(3), and 11.03(3)(b)(4) of the MEPA regulations because the project alters 500 or more linear feet of bank, alters 5,000 or more square feet (sf) of BVW, alters 0.5 or more acres of any other wetland, includes the dredging of 10,000 or more cy of material.



and includes the disposal of 10,000 or more cy of dredged material. A 401 Water Quality Certificate will be required from the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). The project may have to comply with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for stormwater discharges from a construction site and dewatering activities. It will require a Section 404 Dredging Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. An Order of Conditions will be required from the Walpole Conservation Commission as a "limited" project for impacts to wetland resource areas and buffer zones. MEPA jurisdiction is limited to those aspects of the project within the subject matter of state permits and that may cause Damage to the Environment, as defined in the MEPA regulations (in this case: dredging, wetlands, and stormwater).

According to the proponent, the project would affect approximately 748 lf of Bank (temporary), 35,457 sf of BVW (permanent), 23,000 cy of sediment from a 147,614 sf area of LUW) (permanent), and 24,397 sf of Riverfront Area (temporary). The proponent is proposing these temporary impacts and in-place restoration of wetland areas. The 23,000 cy of dredged material will be dewatered and beneficially used on-site for nonstructural fill and landscaping. The pond drawdown would occur between November 1 and December 1. It would be scheduled over two seasons to reduce impacts. The pond refill would be completed by April 1. During drawdown and refill, upstream and downstream flow rates from the pond will be managed by the proponent to ensure sufficient flow rates in order to maintain fisheries resources.

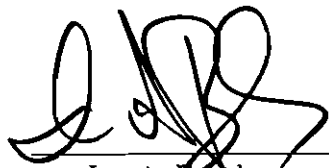
Since the project exceeds the allowable wildlife thresholds for Bank and LUW, the proponent should submit a wildlife habitat evaluation demonstrating that there will be no adverse effects on wildlife habitat. I recommend that the proponent comply with the Massachusetts Stormwater Management Regulations for the project site.

The proponent has a Water Management Act (WMA) Permit that allows it to withdraw 21 million gallons per year or 100,000 gallons per day from Allen Pond to irrigate the golf course. The WMA will expire on February 28, 2010.

Based on a review of the information provided by the proponent, a review of the comment letters, and after consultation with the relevant public agencies, I find that the potential impacts of this project do not warrant the preparation of an EIR. MassDEP and the local agencies have sufficient permitting authority to resolve any potential environmental impacts. No further MEPA review is required.

September 26, 2008

Date



Ian A. Bowles

Comments received:

Walpole Conservation Commission, 9/11/08

MassDEP/SERO, 9/16/08

14310enf

IAB/WTG/wg