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November 9, 2006

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

PROJECT NAME : Backup Water Supply Well at National Fish Hatchery  
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : North Attleboro  
PROJECT WATERSHED : Ten Mile  
EOEA NUMBER : 12404  
PROJECT PROPONENT : U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : October 10, 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 hereby determine that it **does not require** the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

The project originally underwent MEPA review in February, 2001. An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was not required as stated by a Certificate on the Environmental Notification Form (ENF), dated February 23, 2001. As originally described in the ENF, the proposed project involved the construction of a new, gravel packed water supply well to provide water for rearing Atlantic Salmon at the site on Bungay Road, called Well #5. The well was planned to complement two existing wells, and replace two wells abandoned because of high manganese and iron. The well was planned to yield 0.33 MGD. The three resultant wells were to operate within the permitted 1.7 MGD. Well #5 was drilled in 2001.

The project was originally reviewed pursuant to Section 11.03 (4)(b)(1) of the MEPA regulations, because it involved the construction of a well to produce more than 100,000 gallons per day. It required a Water Management Act (WMA) Permit, as a new source, from the

Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP).

The project change described in this NPC involves the construction of a new supplemental emergency water supply Well #6 by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's North Attleboro National Fish Hatchery. Well #6 will be used as a backup source for Wells #3 and #5.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's North Attleboro National Fish Hatchery holds a WMA Registration #427211.01 which authorizes an average daily withdrawal volume of 1.71 MGD. On July 31, 2003, MassDEP issued Permit #9P3427211.01 to the Fish Hatchery for the addition of a new withdrawal source, Well #5. This Permit did not authorize any additional withdrawal volume above the registered volume.

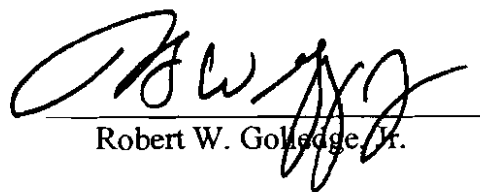
According to the NPC, Well #6 will have the capacity to pump 324,000 gpd. Since this volume is over the WMA threshold of 100,000 gpd, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will need to file a BRP WM02 application to add Well #6 as a WMA permitted source. Again, no additional volume will be authorized by the permit amendment.

MassDEP's staff have reviewed the pumping test proposal for Well #6, and anticipate receiving the results of the pumping test in the near future. Potential impacts to sensitive resources will be assessed as part of the BRP WM02 application review. I advise the proponent that an updated conservation plan will be required as part of the application package.

The NPC contains sufficient information to demonstrate that the environmental impacts of the project change do not warrant further MEPA review. The proponent can resolve any remaining issues during the MassDEP permitting process.

November 9, 2006

Date



Robert W. Gonsky, Jr.

Comments received:

10/30/06 Department of Environmental Protection, sERO

RWG/ACC/acc