

# ENF Environmental Notification Form

For Office Use Only  
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

EOEA No.: 13183  
MEPA Analyst: Arthur Pugsley  
Phone: 617-626-1029

The information requested on this form must be completed to begin MEPA Review in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, 301 CMR 11.00.

Project Name: Swansea Desalinization Project		
Street:		
Municipality: Swansea	Watershed: Narragansett Bay	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 4626735 Northing, 310922 Easting	Latitude: 41°46'18" North Longitude: 71°16'30" West	
Estimated commencement date: <b>2005</b>	Estimated completion date: <b>2006</b>	
Approximate cost:	Status of project design: <b>5%</b>	%complete
Proponent: Swansea Water District		
Street: 700 Wilbur Avenue		
Municipality: Swansea	State: MA	Zip Code: 02777
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Richard N. Foster		
Firm/Agency: Epsilon Associates, Inc	Street: 150 Main Street	
Municipality: Maynard	State: MA	Zip Code: 01754
Phone: (978) 897-7100	Fax: (978) 897-0099	Email: rnfoster@epsilonassociates.com

Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)?

Yes  No

Has this project been filed with MEPA before?

Yes (EOEA No. \_\_\_\_\_)  No

Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before?

Yes (EOEA No. \_\_\_\_\_)  No

Is this an Expanded ENF (see 301 CMR 11.05(7)) requesting:

a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8))  Yes  No

a Special Review Procedure? (see 301 CMR 11.09)  Yes  No

a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11)  Yes  No

a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11)  Yes  No

Identify any financial assistance or land transfer from an agency of the Commonwealth, including the agency name and the amount of funding or land area (in acres): **The Swansea Water District (SWD) may seek State Revolving Fund funding for the project.**

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_)  No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: Order of Conditions; NPDES

Which ENF or EIR review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03):

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land             | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare Species          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wastewater | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy           | <input type="checkbox"/> Air                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid & Hazardous Waste                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACEC             | <input type="checkbox"/> Regulations           | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical & Archaeological Resources       |

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total	State Permits & Approvals
<b>LAND</b>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 401 Water Quality Certification <input type="checkbox"/> MHD or MDC Access Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Water Management Act Permit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Source Approval  <input type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/ Extension Permit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Permits <i>(including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:</i> BRP WM 11b Surface Water Discharge of Reverse Osmosis Reject Water NPDES Surface Water Discharge BRP WS 24 WTP > 1 mgd
Total site acreage	4.8 <sup>1</sup>			
New acres of land altered		4.0		
Acres of impervious area	0.18	2.75		
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		0		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0		
<b>STRUCTURES</b>				
Gross square footage	6,000	70,000	70,000	
Number of housing units	0	0	0	
Maximum height (in feet)	40	0	40	
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>				
Vehicle trips per day	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Parking spaces	0	10	10	
<b>WASTEWATER</b>				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	0			
GPD water withdrawal	0	4.3 mgd	4.3 mgd	
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	0	1.3 mgd <sup>2</sup>	1.3 mgd <sup>2</sup>	
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	0	0.40 water 0.66 ww	0.40 water 0.66 ww	

**CONSERVATION LAND:** Will the project involve the conversion of public parkland or other Article 97 public natural resources to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97?

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_ )  No

Will it involve the release of any conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction, or watershed preservation restriction?

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_ )  No

**RARE SPECIES:** Does the project site include Estimated Habitat of Rare Species, Vernal Pools, Priority Sites of Rare Species, or Exemplary Natural Communities?

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_ )  No

**HISTORICAL /ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES:** Does the project site include any structure, site or district listed in the State Register of Historic Place or the inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth?

Yes (Specify Barneyville Historic District )  No

If yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources? **Raw water pipeline is partially located within the District.**

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_ )  No

**AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN:** Is the project in or adjacent to an Area of Critical Environmental Concern?

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_ )  No

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The project description should include (a) a description of the project site, (b) a description of both on-site and off-site alternatives and the impacts associated with each alternative, and (c) potential on-site and off-site mitigation measures for each alternative (You may attach one additional page, if necessary.)

The Swansea Water District (SWD), established by act of the Legislature in 1949 as a Municipal Corporation responsible for providing water to the citizens of the Town of Swansea, proposes to construct a water treatment facility to treat and desalinate brackish water from the Palmer River for the purpose of providing a safe, reliable, and expandable source of potable water for the town.

The District currently operates 11 overburden wells and has recently developed a bedrock well. Studies conducted by the District have shown that it has exhausted groundwater options within the District and that freshwater surface sources are not feasible. While the per capita water use in Swansea is very low, 58 gpd, the demand on the system has increased beyond the District's ability to provide water reliably. Consequently, the District has commissioned studies to investigate desalinization of brackish water as a new source of water to help it meet the current and future demand.

The current proposal involves the development of three project elements: (1) plant - the treatment facility, including pre-treatment, desalinization, appurtenant tankage and backwash lagoons at the site of the Mason Barney School on Old Providence Road; (2) intake - an intake structure in the Palmer River at the location of the Old Providence Road bridge over the river, a pumping station, and a raw water transmission line within the embankment of Old Providence Road between the river and the treatment facility; and (3) discharge - a diffuser in the Palmer River, approximately 2000 feet downstream from the bridge, and a pipeline from the treatment plant to the diffuser for disposal of brine concentrate from the desalinization process.

The District investigated another site for desalinization to the east on the Coles River, as well as other groundwater options. The Coles River site was found not to be feasible and the current Palmer River site was adopted for further review. Further detail on the site, the water treatment processes, and on water supply planning by the District is included in the attached Appendices. Appendix A provides a complete project description. Appendix B addresses Water Supply Planning.