

# ENF Environmental Notification Form

*For Office Use Only*  
*Executive Office of Environmental Affairs*

EOEA No.: *14404*  
 MEPA Analyst: *Aisling Eglinton*  
 Phone: *617-626-1024*

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: Brox Industries Proposed Quarry Expansion		
Street: off Methuen Street		
Municipality: Dracut	Watershed: Merrimack Watershed	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: UTM Zone 19N northing: 4727090.5 easting: 315568.75	Latitude: 71°15'2.958"W Longitude: 42°40'27.051"N	
Estimated commencement date: Upon receipt of all approvals	Estimated completion date: Operations at site will be ongoing	
Approximate cost: N/A	Status of project design: 10% %complete	
Proponent: Brox Industries Inc.		
Street: 1471 Methuen Street		
Municipality: Dracut	State: MA	Zip Code: 01826
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Corinne Snowdon		
Firm/Agency: Epsilon Associates	Street: 3 Clock Tower Place Suite 250	
Municipality: Maynard	State: MA	Zip Code: 01754
Phone: 978 897-7100	Fax: 978 897-0099	E-mail: csnowdon@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. 11794<sup>1</sup>)  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 301CMR 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):

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?  
 Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_)  No

<sup>1</sup> EOEA 11794 was a power plant facility proposed to be sited to the east of the currently proposed quarry expansion area, with a transmission line crossing over the currently proposed site. The power plant facility was not constructed.

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: The project will require an Excavation Permit from the Dracut Planning Board.

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

- |                                 |  |  |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rare Species | <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water  | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License <input type="checkbox"/> 401 Water Quality Certification <input type="checkbox"/> MHD or MDC Access Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Water Management Act Permit <input 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>  Conservation and Management Permit from the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
Total site acreage	333			
New acres of land altered		18.3		
Acres of impervious area	11	0	11	
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	40,000 <sup>2</sup>	0	40,000	
Number of housing units	0	0	0	
Maximum height (in feet)	40	0	40	
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>				
Vehicle trips per day	350 <sup>3</sup>	0	350	
Parking spaces	30-40	0	30-40	
<b>WATER/WASTEWATER</b>				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use -- potable water	744	0	744	
GPD water withdrawal	0.14 MGD consumptive volume <sup>4</sup>	0	0.14 MGD consumptive volume	
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment – sanitary wastewater	676	0	676	
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	0	0	0	

<sup>2</sup> Does not include machinery.

<sup>3</sup> On average, during construction season. Significantly fewer trips during the winter months.

<sup>4</sup> 1.58 MGD permitted volume under the WMA Permit (9P2313079.04).

**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

Species of Special Concern: Blue Spotted Salamander (*Ambystoma laterale*)  
Wood Turtle (*Glyptemys insculpta*)

**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 DRA-HA-01)  No

If yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources?

Yes (Specify: DRA-HA-01)  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 neces sary.)

### **Project Site/Existing Conditions**

The proposed project entails the expansion of the Brox Industries Quarry, located off Methuen Street in Dracut, Massachusetts. Brox Industries, Inc. operates a rock quarry, a stone crushing plant and two asphalt plants on its property, which includes approximately 500 acres in Dracut and Methuen. Brox Industries specializes in paving and construction materials and paving contracting. Products include bituminous concrete, sand, stone and gravel made for a variety of standard and custom specifications. Brox Industries operates three other quarries and nine asphalt plants located in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

The Brox quarry facility in Dracut includes a high-tech drum plant and six-ton batch plant and is capable of producing up to 900 tons of hot mix asphalt an hour, making it one of the largest capacity operations in the Northeast. Elements of the Brox facility operate seven days a week during the construction season. The Brox quarry has been in operation at this site for more than 40 years.

The ongoing quarry operations are located on approximately 333 acres, an area bounded by Methuen Street in Dracut to the south, Wheeler Street in Methuen to the east, and forested land to the north and west (see Figures 1 and 2). Portions of land around the periphery are currently forested, although there is evidence of some historic excavation activities in certain areas. In addition to the quarry itself, the ongoing quarry operations include gravel roads, mining and processing equipment and a number of buildings. The site is zoned Industrial (I-1) and Residential (R-1). Quarrying activity will continue on portions of the Brox property labeled "Ongoing Quarry Operations" on Figure 2.

An area located north and west of the existing quarry operations has been mapped by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program as Priority and Estimated Habitat for Rare and Endangered Species<sup>5</sup>.

For purposes of this ENF, the identified existing conditions relate to the 333 acres of active quarry operations as identified above. However, Brox Industries has obtained certain environmental permits (e.g. Water Management Act) that encompass the entire Brox Industries operations located in Dracut and Methuen (i.e. the 500+/- acre facility). As such, where this ENF provides data on existing conditions, if the data applies to an area other than the 333 acre site of ongoing quarry operations, the data are noted as such.

### **Proposed Project**

The proposed quarry expansion will be located north of Methuen Street, south of Wheeler Road and east of Parker Road. As shown on Figure 3, the proposed quarry expansion encompasses 19.9 acres adjacent to the western edge of the active quarry operations within mapped rare species habitat. Of these 19.9 acres, 18.3 acres will be used for active mining operations, which will occur over a period of time for the foreseeable future. 1.6 acres of the proposed quarry expansion will be a "no-work" area to preserve a 110 foot buffer around wetland resource areas. A New England Power Company transmission line right-of-way runs in a north-south direction to the west of the site. The proposed quarry expansion area is zoned Industrial (I-1).

The project will not impact wetland resource areas and will be located outside the 100 foot buffer zone of wetland resource areas. On August 5, 2008, the proponent filed a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) with the Dracut Conservation Commission. Following review of the RDA, on September 30, 2008, the Dracut Conservation Commission issued a Negative Determination, indicating that no further action under the Wetlands Protection Act is required. No additional potable water consumption, wastewater generation or traffic generation is anticipated to result from the quarry expansion.

### **Mitigation Measures**

The area of the proposed quarry expansion includes NHESP-mapped habitat. As partial mitigation for potential impacts to rare species habitat, the proponent is proposing to place a Conservation Restrictions on approximately 92 acres located immediately to the north and west of the quarry expansion. Other mitigation measures will be determined in consultation with NHESP.

Additionally, an earthen berm will be constructed at the western edge of the quarry expansion site, outside of the conservation restriction area, to provide a visual buffer between the quarry and the surrounding area. An additional benefit of the berm will be its mitigation of noise from quarry operations.

### **Project Schedule**

The proposed expansion work is set to begin upon receipt of all state and local approvals and mining of the expansion area is expected to take 30 to 40 years to complete.

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<sup>5</sup> Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program 2008 Atlas.