Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs ■ MEPA Office

ENF Environmental Notification Form

For Office Use Only
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
EOEA No.: 13581
MEPA Analyst: Bill Gage
Phone: 617-626-1023

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: Emergency Action for Sewer Overflow		
Street:		
Municipality: Weymouth	Watershed: Weymouth and Weir	
Universal Tranverse Mercator Coordinates: 339665.2 East 4672649.4 North Z19 NAD 83	Latitude: 42°11'22.46" N Longitude: 70°56'30.25" W	
Estimated commencement date: Feb 2005	Estimated completion date: October 2005	
Approximate cost:	Status of project design: %complete	
Proponent: Town of Weymouth – Department of Public Works		
Street: 120 Winter Street		
Municipality: Weymouth	State: MA	Zip Code: 02188
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Joseph Freeman		
Firm/Agency: Earth Tech	Street: 196 Baker Avenue	
Municipality: Concord	State:MA	Zip Code: 01742
Phone: 978-371-4000	Fax: 978-371-2468	E-mail: joseph.freeman@earthtech.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?
Route 3 South Transportation Improvement Project ☒Yes (EOEA No. 5121, 12665) ☐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): None

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 from Weymouth Conservation Commission; US Army Corps of Engineers MA Category II Programmatic General Permit

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

- ☐ Land
- ☐ Water
- ☐ Energy
- ☐ ACEC
- ☐ Rare Species
- ☐ Wastewater
- ☐ Air
- ☐ Regulations
- ☒ Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Solid & Hazardous Waste
- ☐ Historical & Archaeological Resources

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total
LAND			
Total site acreage	~ 12 Acres		
New acres of land altered		~ 2 Acres	
Acres of impervious area	0	0	0
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		33,800	
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		Bank:150 LF BLSF: 41,700 LUW: 400	
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0	
STRUCTURES			
Gross square footage	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of housing units	N/A	N/A	N/A
Maximum height (in feet)	N/A	N/A	N/A
TRANSPORTATION			
Vehicle trips per day	N/A	N/A	N/A
Parking spaces	N/A	N/A	N/A
WATER/WASTEWATER			
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	N/A	N/A	N/A
GPD water withdrawal	N/A	N/A	N/A
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	N/A	N/A	N/A
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	N/A	N/A	N/A

State Permits & Approvals

- ☒ Order of Conditions
- ☐ Superseding Order of Conditions
- ☒ Chapter 91 License
- ☒ 401 Water Quality Certification
- ☐ MHD or MDC Access Permit
- ☐ Water Management Act Permit
- ☐ New Source Approval
- ☐ DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/ Extension Permit
- ☒ Other Permits (*including Legislative Approvals*) – Specify:

MassHighway permit for sewer line in Route 3 median

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_____) ☒ No

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

☐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 Town of Weymouth, acting through its Department of Public Works, has constructed a gravel access road within the median of State Route 3, west of Pleasant Street and east of Middle Street, to provide access to an existing sewer line for purposes of conducting future maintenance on the line. The gravel access roadway extends from Pleasant Street in a westerly direction for approximately 2,500 feet, and follows an existing easement obtained by the town from the Massachusetts Department of Public Works (now MassHighway) during the construction of Route 3 in the late 1950s.

The roadway was constructed on an emergency basis to respond to a recent emergency situation that posed a direct threat to public health and the environment. On February 15, 2005 the Weymouth Sewer Department responded to a blockage in the existing 18-inch pressure sewer on Pleasant Street. The sewer line was full and the sewer department started cleaning the line to remove what was believed to be a blockage of the pipe. (This is standard procedure when surcharging occurs in any line.) During this cleaning, articles not typically found in a sewer line were being retrieved.

Emergency Response Timeline

Sewer lines on Pleasant Street and Pine Street began overflowing onto the street at approximately 9:30 AM. To keep sewage off of the street, the sewer department removed the cover from a manhole located between Pine Street and Pleasant Street, on the banks of the Old Swamp River (this is standard procedure and an authorized overflow location); removing the manhole cover reduced some of the strain on the system and also reduced the number of back ups of raw sewage into homes along Pleasant Street and Pine Street. The sewer department continued to clean the line until approximately 4:30 PM, at which time more powerful cleaning equipment was brought to bear. At 9:00 PM all cleaning efforts were abandoned, and it was determined that the blockage was most likely located in a different section of the pressure sewer.

On February 16th the Town determined that the line was blocked somewhere between the start of the 27-inch RCP pressure sewer on Pleasant Street and an existing grit chamber located west of Pleasant Street in the median of Route 3. The flow from Pleasant Street and Pine Street needed to be bypassed from Pleasant Street westerly

beyond the grit chamber to stop the overflows into homes on Pine Street and into the Old Swamp River.

In order to install a temporary bypass line, the existing median access roadway (an unimproved dirt path) from the high speed lane on Route 3 southbound east of Middle Street to the sewer easement in the median needed to be reconstructed and extended. A new access to the highway median from Pleasant Street was constructed in order to provide access for installation of the bypass line, and also to provide access to the existing pressure main and grit chamber so they could be cleaned and the blockage removed.

The access road was constructed with clean gravel to an average width of 14 to 16 feet. Three crossings of the Old Swamp River were required and twin 60-inch steel pipes were placed at each of the three crossings to ensure unobstructed river flow and allow for roadway construction.

To ensure future access to the sewer main for weekly inspection and periodic routine maintenance, a permanent gravel roadway is required. To minimize impacts to wetland resources and the 100-year floodplain, a roadway width of 12-feet is proposed. The three crossings of the Old Swamp River, which flows from east to west through the median, are required to access the sewer line and grit chamber. The stream crossings will be constructed with simple engineering structures (such as concrete abutments and capped with a concrete deck) and will meet the engineering requirements of the US Army Corps of Engineers under the Massachusetts Programmatic General Permit. The permanent bridges will replace the temporary stream crossings.

The Old Swamp River enters the Route 3 median approximately 300-feet west of Pleasant Street after crossing under the Route 3 southbound lanes. The river flows through the median to the west for approximately 3,000 feet before turning to the north and passing under the Route 3 northbound lanes. The Old Swamp River is tributary to Whitman's Pond, which is part of the surface drinking water supply system for the Town of Weymouth, and is thus considered to be an Outstanding Resource Water (ORW) under the Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Regulations at 314 CMR 4.04 (check cite).

Wetland and Floodplain Impacts

Emergency construction of the access roadway resulted in unavoidable alterations to jurisdictional wetland resource areas, including the following areas regulated under the Weymouth Wetlands By-Law and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act: Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW); Inland Bank; Land Under Water; and Bordering Land Subject to Flooding (BLSF). Although the Old Swamp River is perennial, and therefore Riverfront Area exists within the median, the Department of Public Works believes that this project is exempt from regulation under the Rivers Protection Act and the regulations at 310 CMR 10.58 (Riverfront Area) in accordance with the provisions at 310 CMR 10.58(6)(a):

> (a) Any excavation, structure, road, clearing, driveway, landscaping, **utility line**, rail line, airport **owned by a political subdivision**, marine cargo terminal owned by a political subdivision, bridge over two miles long, septic system, or parking lot **within the riverfront area in existence on August 7, 1996. Maintenance of such structures or areas is allowed** (including any activity which maintains a structure, roads (limited to repairs, resurfacing, repaving, but not enlargement), clearing, landscaping, etc. in its existing condition) without the filing of a Notice of Intent for work within the riverfront area, ..." (emphasis added)

Also, the DPW believes that the Riverfront Area exemption provisions of 310 CMR 10.58(6)(h) apply to the project:

> "(h) Construction, expansion, **repair,** restoration, alteration, replacement, operation **and maintenance of public** or private local or **regional wastewater treatment plants and their related structures, conveyance systems, and facilities, including utility lines.**" (emphasis added)

The town also believes that the project qualifies as a Limited Project under the Wetlands Regulations at 310 CMR 10.53(d):

> "(d) The construction, reconstruction, operation and **maintenance of underground** and overhead **public utilities, such as** electrical distribution or transmission lines, or communication, **sewer**, water and natural gas **lines** ..." (emphasis added)

The town is investigating feasible options to provide wetlands restoration and mitigation for the wetlands impacts in the median. Approximately one-third (or 11,000 square feet) of the impact to BVW will be restored through removing excess fill material and re-establishing pre-existing grades and hydrology (this results from narrowing the proposed permanent access roadway to 10-feet and restoring additional impacted areas along the roadway alignment that were cleared for construction equipment). Therefore, approximately 23,000 square feet of BVW replication will be required for the project in accordance with the performance standards at 310 CMR 10.55(4).

Additionally, approximately 41,700 square feet of the 100-year floodplain, classified as Bordering Land Subject to Flooding under the Wetlands Protection Act, has been impacted. As with impacts to BVW, a portion of this total impact will be restored to original conditions through the removal of excess fill and narrowing of the access roadway. The town is also investigating options to provide compensatory flood storage within the same reach of the Old Swamp River.

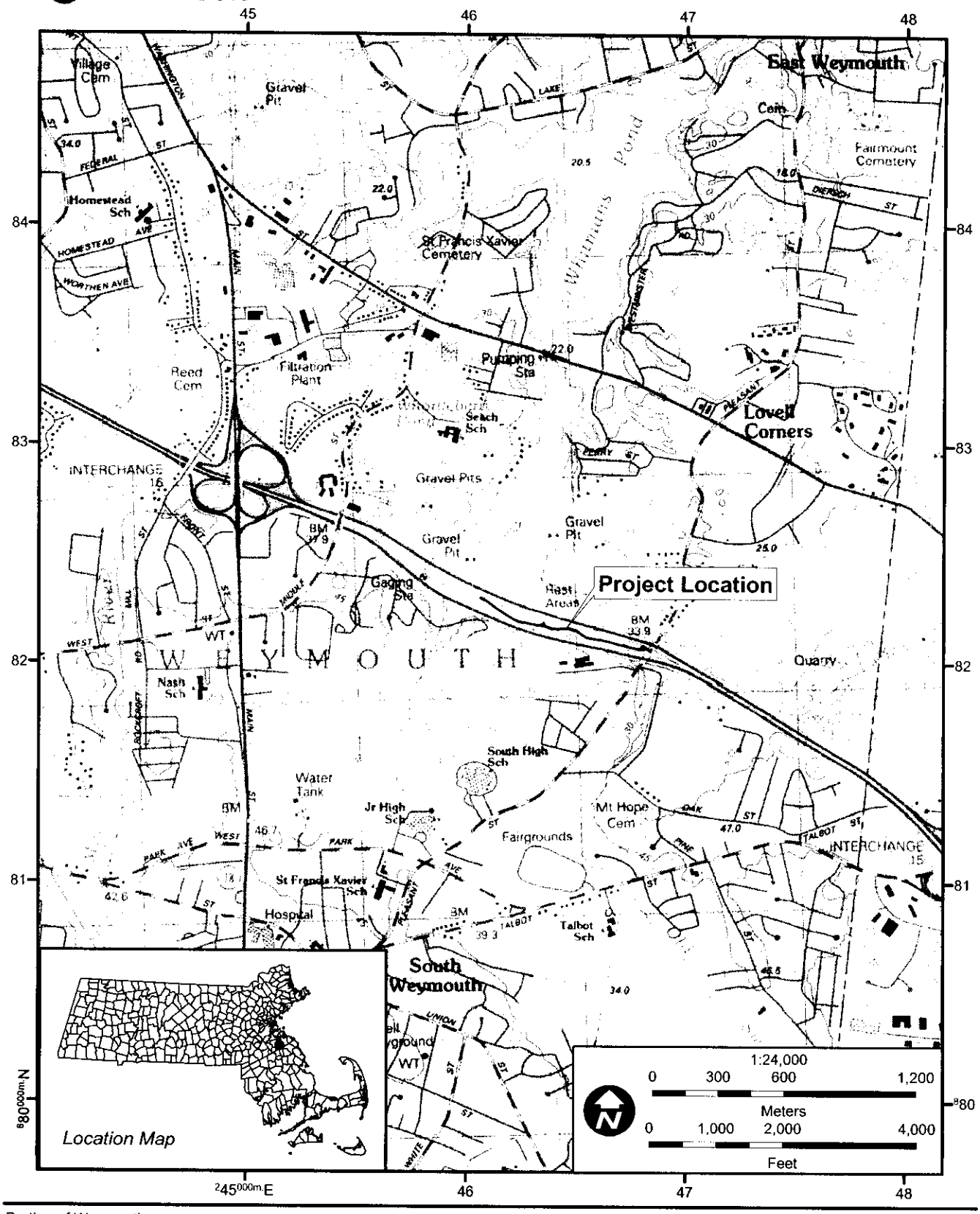
It is important to note that the town does not own the land within the highway median, it is controlled by the Massachusetts Highway Department and the department is being consulted on possible wetlands and floodplain mitigation opportunities within the median and any potential impacts to the preliminary design of the Route 3 South Transportation Project in the area.

Alternative Access to Sewer Line

There is no feasible alternative to access the sewer line that will not result in wetlands alterations and three crossings of the Old Swamp River, even use of the historic access from the high speed lane of Route 3 Southbound. The existing sewer line, which predates the construction of Route 3 in the 1950s, extends along the proposed roadway alignment in the median and there are several manholes and a grit chamber for which the town is required to maintain access for inspections and routine maintenance.

As noted, the Department of Environmental Protection has notified the town in a letter dated June 21, 2005 that the town should "maintain all easements to allow accessibility for crews and equipment wherever sewer work is to be performed. Proper access includes access that may be necessary for routine inspections and cleaning as well as access to perform I/I investigation work, provide emergency repairs, sewer rehabilitation, and sewer improvements." (See the complete letter in Attachment 4 to this ENF.)

EarthTech



Portion of Weymouth
7.5' USGS quadrangles.
Scanned quadrangles supplied by EOEA, MassGIS.
Date of quads: 1984.
10,000 Meter Grid Massachusetts State Plane NAD83.

Figure 1
Site Locus Map
Weymouth Emergency Action for Sewer Overflow
Weymouth, Massachusetts