



**Environmental
Notification Form**

For Office Use Only
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
EOEA No.: 14058
MEPA Analyst: Bill GAGE
Phone: 617-626-1025

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: Sale, Lease or Transfer of Rights to the Dever Wells, from the Commonwealth to City of Taunton		
Street: Crane Avenue North		
Municipality: City of Taunton	Watershed: Taunton River Basin	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 19 323519E 4646941N (Well 1)	Latitude: N41° 57' 24" (Well 1)	Longitude: W71° 07' 46"
Estimated commencement date: May 2007	Estimated completion date: 2010	
Approximate cost: \$2 million (TBD in study)	Status of project design:	0 %complete
Proponent: City of Taunton, Massachusetts		
Street: City Hall, 15 Summer Street		
Municipality: Taunton	State: MA	Zip Code: 02780
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Jessica Beebe		
Firm/Agency: CDM	Street: 56 Exchange Terrace	
Municipality: Providence	State: RI	Zip Code: 02903
Phone: 401-751-5360	Fax: 401-751-5499	E-mail: beebejc@cdm.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 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):

The project involves a sale, lease or transfer of rights to the water supply wells of the former Dever State School, from the Division of Capital Asset Management (DCAM) to the City of Taunton, for water supply purposes. Exact area of land involved will depend upon the nature of the transfer and on wellhead locations and protection areas, but could be as little as <1 acre to as much as approximately 25 acres. The ongoing study is being funded in part by a \$150,000 grant from the Commonwealth to the City, per Ch. 139 of the Acts of 2006, line item 2200-0100. Taunton intends to apply for future funding assistance from the State Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) for any future-phase study costs and for replacement water supply facilities (funding amount currently unknown).

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

Yes (Specify _____) No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals:

Federal: None **Local: Orders of Conditions from Taunton Conservation Commission**

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 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 checked="" 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
LAND				<input checked="" 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> Transfer of existing Water Management Act permit to Taunton (DEP/BRP WM-01) DCAM site access license for test well exploration If SRF funding received, then BRP WS-32 permit needed for Distribution System Modifications If asbestos determined to be present in old well stations, then BWP AQ-04 and -06 will be needed for demolition
Total site acreage	Approx 25			
New acres of land altered		0.1		
Acres of impervious area	Approx 1	±0.3	Approx 1.3	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		None		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		None		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		None		
STRUCTURES				
Gross square footage	Apprx 3000	No net change	Apprx 3000	
Number of housing units	None	None	None	
Maximum height (in feet)	Approx 15	None	Approx 15	
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day	One	None	One	
Parking spaces	None	None	None	
WATER/WASTEWATER				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	N/A	N/A	N/A	
GPD water withdrawal	Existing WMA permit is 0.20 mgd	None	Existing permit to be transferred	
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	About 1.2 miles of water mains exist between wells and tank.	A new main of about 0.2 mile to be considered to connect to City system.	Net total to depend upon which existing mains are abandoned.	

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: **The wells are in the Canoe River Aquifer ACEC.**) 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 Dever Wells are located on the property of the Paul A. Dever State School in the City of Taunton, Massachusetts. They were constructed in the 1940s to serve the water supply needs of the Dever campus, which was originally the Camp Myles Standish military base serving about 100,000 persons. Following a decline in usage of this property in recent years, the Commonwealth has been making arrangements for future usage of the property. Chapter 395 of the Acts of 2002 (copy included in Attachment 5) establishes that the Commonwealth, acting through the Division of Capital Asset Management (DCAM), will convey certain lands from the Dever facility to the Taunton Development Corporation.

Section 11 of that Act addresses the wells and aquifers on this property. That Section establishes that the “wells and aquifers located on the property shall be authorized and reserved for use as a municipal water supply through a sale, lease, or transfer of rights upon agreement with the proper state authorities.” The section authorizes the Commonwealth to enter into “agreements, leases or license agreements” with the City for installation and operation of water supply and treatment facilities on the subject property. The City operates a regional water supply system which serves the City of Taunton; plus certain streets in Lakeville, Berkley, Norton, Raynham, and Middleborough; and sells water to the North Dighton and MCI/Bridgewater public water systems.

The Dever Wells are within the Canoe River Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). MEPA regulations state that an ENF is needed for “any project within a designated ACEC” which requires a permit, hence the filing of this ENF.

With the assistance of Sen. Mark Pacheco, several meetings among various State and City officials have taken place since fall 2006 on this topic. Participating entities have included not only DCAM and the City, but also the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA), the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Division of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the Department of Mental Retardation (DMR), and CDM (the City’s water system engineering consultant). These efforts resulted in an agreed-upon Scope of Services for a study to provide information needed for the ultimate use of the Dever Wells by the City. The Scope of Services is included in Attachment 6. The preparation of this ENF is one of the first tasks in the scope. This work is being funded by a grant from the Commonwealth (Chapter 139 of the Acts of 2006, line item 2200-0100)

and by funding provided by the City of Taunton.

The Dever Wells are currently operated by the Commonwealth under the auspices of a Water Withdrawal Permit issued by DEP. The permit is included in Attachment 7. Wells Nos. 1, 2 and 3 are all listed as water supply sources in the current permit. The former Well No. 4 has not been used for decades and is no longer considered a water supply source. The permitted average annual withdrawal from the Dever Wells is 0.20 million gallons per day (mgd). Each well also has an "approved yield", which is the most that can be withdrawn in any one day. These limits were established by DEP in 2001 (see Attachment 7), and are 0.18 mgd, 0.00 mgd, and 0.30 mgd for Wells Nos. 1, 2 and 3 respectively, for a total of 0.48 mgd. (No approved yield was established for Well No. 2.) The existing permit includes various other conditions, including wetlands monitoring requirements. Actual withdrawals in the most-recent years have been less than the permitted amount because of reduced activity on the Dever campus; at this time only Well No. 1 is being operated to meet the campus's needs.

When the Camp Myles Standish military base was developed, there were many facilities near Well No. 1 (including a hospital area), but fewer facilities near Well No. 2 and none near Well No. 3. Over the years, those facilities were removed, and the area of the three wells now appears as an undeveloped woodland. Various wetlands and surface water bodies are located near the wells, most notably Watson Pond near Well No. 3.

The proposed actions that are likely to be implemented regarding the Dever Wells are as follows. The scope of the upcoming study was structured and developed in part using these assumptions.

- The existing wells are among the oldest active wells in the Commonwealth, and the facilities are in poor condition. Small-diameter test wells will be installed at locations near Well No. 1 and Well No. 2. The intent is to locate suitable sites for replacing both of these wells, within a distance acceptable to DEP for these new wells to be considered "replacement wells".
- Part of the upcoming CDM study is to determine replacement water supply facilities and to develop cost estimates. At the present time, it is expected that two replacement gravel-packed wells with submersible pumps and motors will be constructed. It is assumed that the three existing pumping station/chemical feed buildings would be removed, and the existing wells decommissioned. One new centralized replacement station would be constructed at a location to be determined along the existing water mains that connect to Wells Nos. 1 and 2, probably in proximity to Well No. 1. The station would include chemical treatment facilities, and various hydraulic, electrical, and control facilities. Various existing Dever water mains and one Dever water tank would be utilized to the degree possible; it is expected that short segments of new main will be needed to connect the replacement wells to the existing mains, and the Dever water system to the City system. The cost that appears on the first page of this ENF is a placeholder – no estimates have been developed at this time.
- The State has expressed a preference that Well No. 3 be abandoned. Of the three wells, Well No. 3 is expected to have the most significant potential environmental impacts, because of its proximity to Watson Pond. Watson Pond is the centerpiece of a State Park, with significant recreational use. Therefore, Well No. 3, despite having the largest approved yield of the three wells, will be abandoned and not replaced.
- The existing Water Withdrawal Permit for the Dever Wells will be transferred from the Commonwealth to the City. The permitted withdrawal will remain at 0.20 mgd. The total approved yield of 0.48 mgd will be transferred to the two replacement wells, and the existing Zone II groundwater protection zone will be retained. At the time of the permit transfer the City will assume responsibility for wetland monitoring in accordance with the permit conditions. The existing permit will remain in effect until its expiration on February 28, 2010. On that date, all water withdrawal permits in the Taunton River Basin expire. The City, like all permittees, will need to apply for a new permit to continue use of its supply sources.
- The Zone I area (the area within 400 feet of either of the two replacement wells) will remain undeveloped except for water system facilities. Legal arrangements will be made for City access and utilities to the replacement wells and station. The nature of the agreement between the Commonwealth and City is yet to be determined, but will be in accordance with the previously-cited provisions of Chapter 395.