

*For Office Use Only*  
 Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

EOEA No.: 14130  
 MEPA Analyst Aisling Eglington  
 Phone: 617-626-1024

# ENF

## Environmental Notification Form

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: American Polymers Inc. Cooling Water		
Street: 235 Old Webster Road		
Municipality: Oxford	Watershed: French River	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:	Latitude: 42.11671 Longitude: -71.89703	
Estimated commencement date: 1968	Estimated completion date: 1968	
Approximate cost: \$0	Status of project design: 100 %complete	
Proponent: American Polymers Inc.		
Street: 11 Buffum Dam road		
Municipality: Oxford	State: MA	Zip Code: 01540
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Richard Lavengood,		
Firm/Agency: RELCO Engineering	Street: 293 Jarvis Ave.	
Municipality: Holyoke	State: MA	Zip Code:
Phone: 413 538 5277	Fax: 413 538 5510	E-mail: relave@comcast.net

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: No  
 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): NA

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

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: NPDES permit

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Management Act Permit <input type="checkbox"/> New Source Approval
Total site acreage	6.2			
New acres of land altered		0		
Acres of impervious area	2.1	0	2.1	
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>				<input type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/ Extension Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Other Permits (including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:
Gross square footage	6400	0	6400	
Number of housing units	0	0	0	
Maximum height (in feet)	30	0	30	
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>				
Vehicle trips per day	0			
Parking spaces	NA			
<b>WASTEWATER</b>				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	800,000	0	800,000	
GPD water withdrawal	800,000	0	800,000	
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	NA			
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	NA			

**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.*)

Since 1968 American Polymers and its predecessors have taken water from Buffum Pond to cool its processes. This is done under a permit jointly issued by the EPA and the Massachusetts DEP. American Polymers manufactures crystal polystyrene and high impact polystyrene. These polymerization processes are exothermic.

There is an intake near the dam by Old Webster Road. American Polymers takes water in, circulates it through its plant then puts it back in to Buffum Pond. 80,000 gallons per day of contact cooling water are used to cool the polystyrene strands. The remainder of the water is used in non-contact cooling. Nothing is added to the water except heat. All the water that comes out of the plant is put into a cooling pond, which removes some of the heat by evaporative cooling. The water is then returned to Buffum Pond 200 feet upstream from where it is taken out.

DEP has recently issued a determination finding that the withdrawal from Buffum Pond is not non-contact cooling water. American Polymers disagrees with this determination and is the process of conducting further engineering studies to confirm this. However, and without waiving any of its rights to prove otherwise and to withdraw its application in the future, American Polymers has nonetheless agreed to apply for a permit for the withdrawal from Buffum Pond under the Water Management Act. Since American Polymers and its predecessors have withdrawn water from Buffum Pond since 1968, there will be no new environmental impacts related to this project