

MEPA Analyst: *Anne Canaday*
 Phone: 617-626-1035

NPC

Notice of Project Change

The information requested on this form must be completed to begin MEPA Review of a NPC in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act and its implementing regulations (see 301 CMR 11.10(1)).

Project Name: Swansea Desalination Project		EOEA #: 13183
Street: Vinnicum Road/Old Providence Road		
Municipality: Swansea	Watershed: Narragansett Bay	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 4626735 Northing, 310922 Easting	Latitude: 41° 46' 18" North Longitude: 71° 16' 30" West	
Status of project construction:	10	%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 NPC May Be Obtained: Steve Barrett		
Firm/Agency: BlueWave Strategies	Street: 137 Newbury St., 7th floor	
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02116
Phone: 617-266-0505	Fax: 617-859-9889	E-mail: sbarrett@bluewavestrategies.com

In 25 words or less, what is the project change? The project change involves . . . Moving the primary pipeline route from State Route 6 to I-195; and relocating a pump station and storage tanks.
 See full project change description beginning on page 3.

Date of ENF filing or publication in the Environmental Monitor: December 31, 2003

Was an EIR required? Yes No; if yes,
 was a Draft EIR filed? Yes (Date: November 30, 2004) No
 was a Final EIR filed? Yes SFEIR (Date: February 15, 2006) No
 was a Single EIR filed? Yes (Date:) No

Have other NPCs been filed? Yes (Date(s): October 6, 2004, August 15, 2005, June 30, 2006) No

If this is a NPC solely for lapse of time (see 301 CMR 11.10(2)) proceed directly to "ATTACHMENTS & SIGNATURES" on page 4. **NO**

PERMITS / FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE / LAND TRANSFER

List or describe all new or modified state permits, financial assistance, or land transfers not previously reviewed: **This NPC includes a land transfer between the Town of Swansea and the Swansea Water District, which is subject to Article 97 of the State Constitution. (See Narrative)**

Are you requesting a finding that this project change is insignificant? (see 301 CMR 11.10(6))
 Yes No; if yes, attach justification.

Are you requesting that a Scope in a previously issued Certificate be rescinded?
 Yes No; if yes, attach the Certificate

Are you requesting a change to a Scope in a previously issued Certificate? Yes No; if yes, attach Certificate and describe the change you are requesting:

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Previously reviewed	Net Change	Currently Proposed
LAND			
Total site acreage (based on 10' wide trench)	2.85	(0.37)	2.48
Acres of land altered	2.85	(0.37)	2.48
Acres of impervious area	0	0	0
Square feet of bordering vegetated wetlands alteration	0	2,000 sf (temp)	2,000 sf (temp)
Square feet of other wetland alteration	0	0	0
Acres of non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways	N/A	N/A	N/A
STRUCTURES			
Gross square footage	0	0	0
Number of housing units	0	0	0
Maximum height (in feet)	0	0	0
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	0	0	0
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	2.30	(0.25)	2.05

* Note: the above numbers reflect the difference in pipeline routes and the corresponding environmental impacts. The tanks and pump station will be moved in kind from one upland location to another with no change of impact. For clarity, these numbers are not included in the table.

Does the project change involve any new or modified:

1. conversion of public parkland or other Article 97 public natural resources to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97? Yes No

2. release of any conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction, or watershed preservation restriction? Yes No (only that related to Article 97)

3. impacts on Estimated Habitat of Rare Species, Vernal Pools, Priority Sites of Rare Species, or Exemplary Natural Communities? Yes No

4. impact on 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 No; if yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources? Yes No

5. impact upon an Area of Critical Environmental Concern? Yes No
If you answered 'Yes' to any of these 5 questions, explain below:

The Swansea Water District (SWD) and the Town of Swansea have undertaken a mutually-beneficial land swap. SWD has provided the town with a portion of a parcel of land adjacent to Route 6 that the town had identified as the most suitable location for a new Public Safety Building, but is also protected by Article 97 of the State Constitution. In compensation, the town provided SWD with a surplus parcel of town-owned land on Old Providence Road that is suitable for locating water supply facilities associated with the desalination project. To meet the standards of Article 97, SWD has agreed to place a conservation restriction on the Old Providence Road parcel ensuring that there will be no net loss of Article 97 lands in the transaction. The legislature approved the transaction on February 28, 2008 and a copy of the law is included as Attachment D. The Conservation Restriction is included as Attachment E.

PROJECT CHANGE DESCRIPTION (attach additional pages as necessary). The project change description should include:

- (a) a brief description of the project as most recently reviewed
- (b) a description of material changes to the project as previously reviewed,
- (c) the significance of the proposed changes, with specific reference to the factors listed 301 CMR 11.10(6), and
- (d) measures that the project is taking to avoid damage to the environment or to minimize and mitigate unavoidable environmental impacts. If the change will involve modification of any previously issued Section 61 Finding, include a proposed modification of the Section 61 Finding (or it will be required in a Supplemental EIR).

- (a) **Project Description: The Swansea Water District (SWD) is proposing to construct a desalination facility on the Palmer River capable of producing up to 1.3 million gallons per day of potable drinking water to solve chronic water supply problems in the Town of Swansea. The project includes utilization of the Palmer River as source water, a water treatment facility approximately two miles inland to the east, dual pipelines for conveyance of raw water and brine concentrate between the river and the treatment plant, and ancillary water supply facilities including pump station and storage tanks.**

- (b) Project Changes:** This Notice of Project Change (NPC) addresses two changes to the project: (1) a modified pipeline route, and (2) new locations for the primary Pump Station, raw water tank, and concentrate tank. No changes in intake or discharge design or operations are proposed.

The main east-west route of the pipeline will be shifted from Route 6 to Interstate 195 to decrease the distance of the pipeline, and minimize construction-related impacts on traffic. Moving the primary pump station from a location adjacent to the Palmer River salt marsh to an upland location 1,500 feet inland will lessen potential incidental construction-related impacts on salt marsh. In addition, an unavoidable, temporary impact on 2,000 square feet of wetlands is disclosed, which has resulted from detailed engineering associated with a short segment of pipeline whose fundamental route is not proposed to be changed.

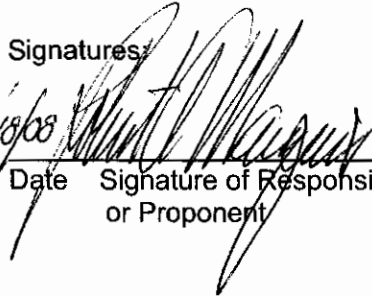
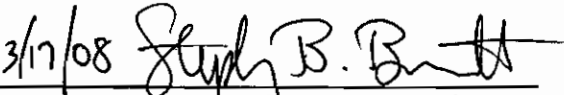
- (c) Significance of Proposed Changes:** Impacts of the project will be decreased as a result of these changes. In particular, traffic and land disturbance will be decreased, and activity near the salt marsh will also be decreased.
- (d) Mitigation:** The proposed changes have been proposed, in part, to avoid and minimize environmental impacts. Impacts to freshwater wetlands will require an Order of Conditions as a limited project under the MA Wetlands Protection Act. SWD will work with the Swansea Conservation Commission to ensure that impacts are restored and monitored.

ATTACHMENTS & SIGNATURES

Attachments:

1. Secretary's most recent Certificate on this project
2. Plan showing most recent previously-reviewed proposed build condition
3. Plan showing currently proposed build condition
4. Original U.S.G.S. map or good quality color copy (8-1/2 x 11 inches or larger) indicating the project location and boundaries
5. List of all agencies and persons to whom the proponent circulated the NPC, in accordance with 301 CMR 11.10(7)

Signatures:

<p>1/18/08 </p>	<p>3/17/08 </p>
Date	Date
Signature of Responsible Officer or Proponent	Signature of person preparing NPC (if different from above)
Robert A. Marquis	Stephen Barrett
Name (print or type)	Name (print or type)
Swansea Water District	BlueWave Strategies
Firm/Agency	Firm/Agency
700 Wilbur Avenue	137 Newbury Street, 7 th floor
Street	Street
Swansea, MA 02777	Boston, MA 02116
Municipality/State/Zip	Municipality/State/Zip
508-676-9097	617-266-0505
Phone	Phone