

MEPA Analyst: *Nick ZAVOLAS*

Phone: 617-626-*1030*

# 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: Southwest Area Wastewater Treatment Improvements		EOEA #:13393
Street: Southwest Area of Agawam (see Project Description for more information)		
Municipality: Agawam	Watershed: Westfield River	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 18 06 90 988 E 46 57 665 N (central proj. area)	Latitude: 042°02'59"N	Longitude: 072°41'32"W (central proj. area)
Status of project construction: 0 %complete		
Proponent: Agawam Department of Public Works		
Street: 1000 Suffield Street		
Municipality: Agawam	State: MA	Zip Code: 01001
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this NPC May Be Obtained: David J. Popielarczyk, P.E.		
Firm/Agency: Tighe & Bond, Inc.	Street: 53 Southampton Road	
Municipality: Westfield	State: MA	Zip Code: 01085
Phone: 413-572-3233	Fax: 413-562-5317	E-mail: DJPopielarczyk@tighebond.com

In 25 words or less, what is the project change? The project change involves an increase in impacts to wetlands (BVW) from 100 sf to 4,700 sf.

See full project change description beginning on page 3.

Date of ENF filing or publication in the Environmental Monitor: 12/10/2004

Was an EIR required?  Yes  No; if yes,  
was a Draft EIR filed?  Yes (Date: 9/30/2005)  No  
was a Final EIR filed?  Yes (Date: 2/28/2005)  No  
was a Single EIR filed?  Yes (Date: )  No

Have other NPCs been filed?  Yes (Date(s): )  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.

**PERMITS / FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE / LAND TRANSFER**

List or describe all new or modified state permits, financial assistance, or land transfers not previously reviewed: **NONE**

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Are you requesting that a Scope in a previously issued Certificate be rescinded?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
<b>LAND</b>			
Total site acreage	NA	NA	NA
Acres of land altered	2.5 ac (temporary) 0.08 ac (permanent)	NA	2.5 ac (temporary) 0.08 ac (permanent)
Acres of impervious area	0.08 ac	NA	0.08 ac
Square feet of bordering vegetated wetlands alteration	100 sf	4,600 sf	4,700 sf
Square feet of other wetland alteration	40 lf (bank) 600 sf (LUW)	NA	40 lf (bank) 600 sf (LUW)
Acres of non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways	NA	NA	NA
<b>STRUCTURES</b>			
Gross square footage	~2,000 sf	NA	~2,000 sf
Number of housing units	NA	NA	NA
Maximum height (in feet)	15 ft	NA	15 ft
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>			
Vehicle trips per day	8	NA	8
Parking spaces	4	NA	4
<b>WATER/WASTEWATER</b>			
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	450	NA	450
GPD water withdrawal	NA	NA	NA
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	~3,820,800	NA	~3,820,800
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	18.6	NA	18.6

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
  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:

**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 AS PREVIOUSLY REVIEWED**

The proposed project involves the extension of sewer lines to service the southwest area of the Town of Agawam. The southwest area of Agawam is currently served by individual subsurface wastewater disposal systems (primarily septic tanks with leach fields) and is unsewered. The project area extends from the Southwick town line in the west to Shoemaker Lane in the east and from North Street Extension in the north to the Connecticut State line in the south, and includes the unsewered portion of North West Street that extends north of North Street Extension. The Project Area is depicted on Figure 1-2 and a copy is provided in Attachment 2 of this NPC and the overall USGS site locus (February 2006) and the Phase I USGS Site Locus (March 2009) are provided in Attachment 4. This area is characterized by forested areas, farmlands, and medium and low-density residential uses.

Many of the developed residential neighborhoods are experiencing problems related to failing septic systems. Research of wastewater issues, including a survey of neighborhood residents, review of Board of Health records, review of soil and groundwater information, and water quality sampling and analysis, indicates that there is a need for sewage disposal improvements. Neighborhoods were ranked based on this research. Neighborhoods ranked as high priority (i.e. greatest need for wastewater disposal improvements) are located throughout the project area.

Extension of the sewer system to service the project area was initially recommended in the 1972 *Report on Sanitary Sewer System Expansion*, prepared by Tighe & Bond. Additional sewage collected would be treated at the Bondi's Island Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) located in Agawam. Agawam's allocation to this regional WWTF is 8.2 million gallons per day (mgd). The projected future average wastewater disposal generation within the project area at full build-out is approximately 1.0 mgd. Combined with the current average wastewater flows from the sewered portion of Town, Agawam's total average wastewater directed to the WWTF will be approximately 3.8 mgd, and well within the Town's sewage treatment allocation of 8.2 mgd.

The Proposed Project consists of the expansion of Agawam's municipal sewer system to serve the southwest region of the community. Several alternatives were analyzed before choosing the Preferred Alternative. The sewer routes and pump stations have been located and designed to minimize impacts to sensitive resource areas. The Proposed Project is depicted on Figures 1-1 and 1, as well as 1-2 in Attachments 4 and 2, respectively and involves:

- Installation of approximately 18.6 miles of sewer main, primarily in existing roadway rights-of-way
- Construction of four new pump stations (South West Street, White Fox Road, Barry Street and Pine Street)

The largest pump station, which would be located on Pine Street in the southeastern portion of the project area, is expected to be a built-in-place facility with a separate wetwell and drywell and a built-in-place superstructure to house the equipment, instrumentation, controls, and a standby generator. The remaining pumping facilities (located on South West Street across from Pheasant Hill Drive, White Fox Road, and Barry Street) are substantially smaller and are expected to be submersible, suction lift, or package wetwell/drywell facilities.

Most impacts associated with the project will be confined to existing roadway rights-of-way. Off-site impacts, including impacts to sensitive resources such as wetlands, state-listed species habitat, and potential archaeological resources, have been minimized through sewer routing and design. Wetland resource areas at potential pump station locations were field identified, confirming that pump stations can be constructed without direct impact to these resources.

#### **(B) MATERIAL CHANGES TO THE PROJECT AS PREVIOUSLY REVIEWED**

In the FEIR Certificate issued on April 14, 2006 for the Agawam Southwest Area Wastewater Treatment Improvements Project, proposed impacts to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW) were 100 sf. Since that time, the Town of Agawam has been coordinating with the Massachusetts Highway Department (MHD) regarding the details of installing the sewer line along the southern embankment of Route 57, from South Westfield Street to Shoemaker Lane. In order to address MHD's concerns and requirements, an additional 4,600 sf of BVW impacts are proposed, for a project total of 4,700 sf. This additional wetlands impact is temporary for construction access, and the wetland will be restored in place (i.e. *in situ*)

#### **(C) SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES PER 301 CMR 11.10(6)**

The following discussion provides information relevant to the Secretary's consideration of environmental consequences per 301 CMR 11.10(6).

**301 CMR 11.10(6)(a):** Expansion in the physical dimensions of a project of 10% or more – Not Applicable

**301 CMR 11.10(6)(b):** Increase in the level of impacts previously reviewed of 25% or more of the level specified in any review threshold – The proposed project results in an increase from 100 sf of BVW impacts as previously reviewed in the FEIR, by an additional 4,600 sf of BVW impacts to address MHD requirements along the Route 57 layout between South Westfield Street and Shoemaker Lane, for a project total of 4,700 sf of BVW impacts. Plans illustrating the currently proposed sewer layout, identified as Sheets 3, 4, and 5 of 13 dated March 2009, are provided in Attachment 3 of this NPC. The BVW cumulative impacts are greater than 25% of the previously reviewed estimate. However, the impacts remain below the review threshold for BVW impacts set forth at 301 CMR 11.03(3)(b)1.d., do not result in additional state Agency Action, and do not meet or exceed any review thresholds that were not previously met or exceeded.

**301 CMR 11.10(6)(c):** Change in the expected date for commencement of the project, commencement of construction, completion date, or schedule – The FEIR indicated an anticipated construction commencement date of Spring 2006. Currently, the Town of Agawam anticipates commencement of construction during the Summer of 2009. The change in commencement date is the result of ongoing coordination with the MHD regarding the proposed sewer alignment along Route 57, between South Westfield Street and Shoemaker Lane, as well as efforts to secure funding for the project. These activities resulted in a delay in the preparation and submittal of a Notice of Intent (NOI) under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (MAWPA; M.G.L. c. 131, § 40) to the Agawam Conservation Commission. The NOI was submitted to the Conservation Commission on March 26, 2009 and that the public hearing process is currently ongoing.

**301 CMR 11.10(6)(d):** Change of the Project Site – Not Applicable

**301 CMR 11.10(6)(e):** New application for a permit or new request for financial assistance or land transfer – Not Applicable

**301 CMR 11.10(6)(f):** For a project with net benefits to the environment, any change that prevents or materially delays realization of such benefits – Not Applicable

**301 CMR 11.10(6)(g):** For a Project involving a lapse of time, changes in the ambient environment or information concerning the ambient environment. The Proponent may include in a Notice of Project Change an explanation of why the Secretary should deem the change in the Project or the lapse of time to be insignificant in terms of its environmental consequences, with specific reference to these factors and other relevant information. – A “lapse of time” has not occurred relative to the proposed project. As documented above, the Town of Agawam has continued their efforts to coordinate with the MHD relative to the project design along Route 57, between South Westfield Street and Shoemaker Lane. At the direction of the MHD, the proposed alignment has been shifted to an intermediate point along the roadway embankment within MHD’s right-of-way. The coordination process with the MHD began in January 2006 and is ongoing, with the most recent permit application dated January 7, 2009.

#### **(D) MITIGATION MEASURES**

The Town of Agawam and the MHD have coordinated design of the sewer layout to minimize wetland impacts to the extent practicable. Wetlands (i.e. BVW) along Route 57 that will be temporarily impacted during construction of the sewer main in the state highway layout due to the footprint of the proposed construction access road will be restored in place (i.e. *in situ*) at a ratio of 1:1. An *Inland Wetland Replication Plan* has been prepared in accordance with 310

CMR 10.55 and the *Massachusetts Inland Wetland Replication Guidelines* (MADEP, 2002). A copy of the Plan was submitted as part of the NOI and is provided in Attachment 6 of this NPC.

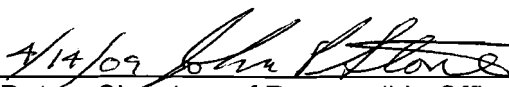
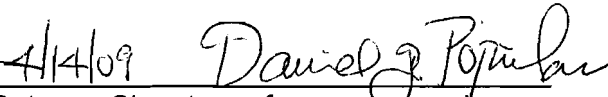
As the proposed project changes do not trigger new state Agency Action, no changes to Section 61 findings are proposed.

**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><u>4/14/09</u> </p> <p>Date      Signature of Responsible Officer             or Proponent</p>	<p><u>4/14/09</u> </p> <p>Date      Signature of person preparing             NPC (if different from above)</p>
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John P. Stone

David J. Popielarczyk, P.E.

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Name (print or type)

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Name (print or type)

Town of Agawam, DPW  
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Firm/Agency

Tighe & Bond, Inc.  
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