

For Office Use Only
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
MEPA Analyst: *Bill Gage*
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X1025

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: Flood Mitigation Facilities for City of Peabody		EOEA #: 14251	
Street: Multiple Locations			
Municipality: Peabody		Watershed: North Coast	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:		Latitude: 42° 31' 32"	
		Longitude: 70° 55' 26"	
Status of project construction:		0 %complete	
Proponent: City of Peabody			
Street: 24 Lowell Street			
Municipality: Peabody		State: MA	Zip Code: 01960
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this NPC May Be Obtained:			
Doug Vigneau			
Firm/Agency: Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.		Street: 2 Washington Square	
Municipality: Worcester		State: MA	Zip Code: 01604
Phone: 508-752-1001	Fax: 508-752-1276	E-mail: dvigneau@vhb.com	

In 25 words or less, what is the project change? The project change involves the inclusion and consideration of the Strongwater Brook watershed and potential for enhanced upstream storage in the Goldthwaite Brook watershed as integral components of the Flood Mitigation Facilities for the City of Peabody.

See full project change description beginning on page 3.

Date of ENF filing or publication in the *Environmental Monitor*: May 21, 2008

Was an EIR required? Yes No; if yes,
 was a Draft EIR filed? Yes (Date:) No
 was a Final EIR filed? Yes (Date:) 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: Potential State Permits for Strongwater and Goldthwaite Brook Watershed Projects - 401 Water Quality Certificate; Chapter 91 Waterways License; **Financial Assistance:** M.O.R.E. Grant (among others).

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Are you requesting that a Scope in a previously issued Certificate be rescinded?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: Inclusion of potential flood mitigation projects into the overall hydrologic analysis of tributary watersheds to the North River watershed basin.

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Previously reviewed	Net Change	Currently Proposed
LAND			
Total site acreage	6.6	730 ¹	736.6
Acres of land altered	2.0	0	0
Acres of impervious area	0	0	0
Square feet of bordering vegetated wetlands alteration	TBD	TBD	TBD
Square feet of other wetland alteration	TBD	TBD	TBD
Acres of non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways	0	0	0
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	0	0	0
Parking spaces	0	0	0
WATER/WASTEWATER			
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	0	0	0
GPD water withdrawal	0	0	0
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	0	0	0
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	0	0	0

1 - Strongwater Brook Watershed Area - At this time the specific acreage of work area(s) and area(s) of potential disturbance are unknown. This NPC filing is to disclose the potential Scope of Work for additional flood mitigation or Low Impact Development projects within the overall North River watershed that will be in addition to the hydraulic improvements already presented in the ENF.

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).

As most recently reviewed, the plan for flood mitigation in the Peabody Square area concentrated primarily on the downstream area of confluence of Proctor Brook and Goldthwaite Brook, which comprise the two largest watershed/drainage areas contributing flow to the Peabody Square area at their confluence with the North River. To reduce the frequency and extent (depth and breadth) of flood events in downtown Peabody, the Plan presented in the ENF includes three Project components. Project 1 consists of cleaning the debris and accumulated sediment from the original stretch of Goldthwaite Brook in the Foster Street area and more significantly, the provision for additional capacity for stormwater flow through the construction of two, 4' X 10' box culverts for a distance of approximately 1,950 linear feet (lf) from 100 feet east of Wallis Street to its confluence with the North River. Project 2 consists of widening approximately 1,600 lf of the North River from the terminus of Project 1 to the Howley Street Bridge over the North River; Project 3 is an Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) sponsored project that involves work in both Peabody and the City of Salem. With the assistance of AECOM, the City of Peabody's design engineer for Projects 1 and 2, the ACOE is conducting a Feasibility Study including the potential to widen the North River for a distance of approximately 3,100 feet (400 feet in Peabody and 2,700 feet in Salem) or constructing a by-pass channel to facilitate passage of high volume storm events. Refer to Attachment B - Figure 1 - *North River Sub-watershed Areas*, which depicts the watersheds tributary to the North River and the general locations of Projects 1, 2 and 3.

The most significant progress to the Project since the filing of the ENF is the City's successful permitting effort and initiation of the cleaning and restoration of the original Goldthwaite Brook in the Foster Street area (a.k.a. the 'original Foster Street culvert'). The Secretary's Certificate on the

ENF recognized the importance of cleaning this length of both open and closed culvert conveying Goldthwaite Brook and the City worked closely with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to facilitate the issuance of a 401 Water Quality Certificate for this work. The cleaning and restoration of Goldthwaite Brook at Foster Street will be completed in July 2009. In addition to this specific effort, the City is conducting a North River watershed-wide clean up of its watercourses. The Peabody Department of Community Development in conjunction with Department of Public Services is spearheading a city-wide program of trash and debris removal from all watercourses throughout the City. This effort is both aesthetic and educational. The City is instituting a new operations and maintenance plan to keep watercourses clean of accumulated trash and debris and free flowing.

This Notice of Project Change is filed for inclusion of the Strongwater Brook (sub)watershed as an integral part of the overall hydraulic modeling and evaluation of opportunities for flood control and water quality improvement for the North River watershed. The ENF filed for the three Projects identified above did not specifically include potential flood mitigation projects in the Strongwater Brook watershed, which enters the North River east of Howley Street. While this tributary is downstream of Peabody Square, it has a direct effect on, and contributes to the flood elevation in the North River. Additionally, the City has identified several areas throughout the Strongwater Brook watershed and newly identified areas in the Goldthwaite Brook watershed where there exists the potential for enhanced upstream storage.

In addition to the introduction of the Strongwater Brook watershed as a study area under the ongoing MEPA review of flood mitigation alternatives, Attachment A – *Compilation of Scopes of Work* includes several additional study area scopes of work for which the City seeks comment. These Scopes describe potential projects that have multiple components of stormwater management that are likely to result in improved overall management of stormwater in the North River watershed. These Projects go beyond the over-riding goal of reducing flooding in the downtown area by incorporating water quality improvements as well. These projects could potentially provide benefits beyond storage and conveyance of stormwater for downtown and localized flood control, including; increased localized recharge, wetlands restoration, reduction of uncontrolled runoff, reduced erosion, improved water quality as well as potential aesthetic improvements and educational opportunities through the use of Low Impact Development (LID) practices for stormwater management.

Specifically, this NPC presents the proposed scope of services and modeling efforts planned in the Strongwater Brook watershed to analyze the effects of potential upstream improvements at several locations, including: increased storage at Meadow Pond at Swampscott Road/Adelaide Avenue and within the wetland complex west of Meadow Pond; several potential LID projects in the vicinity of the Welch School; and, improvements along the channel between Clement Avenue and Pleasant Street to reduce flooding in the Pierpont Street/Fountain Street area. Refer to Attachment B - Figure 2 – *Strongwater Brook Watershed Project Locations*, which depicts the general locations of these potential projects.

In addition to the Strongwater Brook watershed improvement measures, the City has identified several specific locations within the Goldthwaite Brook watershed that have the potential to enhance upstream storage to slow the release of stormwater flows and lessen the impact of storm events on receiving waters as well as provide better water quality control and overall improved stormwater management at a localized level. These areas for potential stormwater management

improvements include; Perkins Street at Allens Lane (at Higgins Middle School); Summit Avenue Retention Basins; Christian Books Retention Ponds; Technology Drive/Centennial Park Retention Ponds; and, Scouting Way Culvert. Please refer to Attachment B - Figure 3 – *Goldthwaite Brook Watershed Project Locations*, which depicts the general locations of these potential projects. New England Civil Engineering Corporation (NECE) has completed a draft a report entitled *Goldthwaite Brook Detention Basin Optimization Project*, which has targeted four (4) locations for potential enhancement at Centennial Drive, Technology Drive, and Summit Avenue. The draft report is included herein for consideration.

As stated above, the significance of the Project Change involves the expansion of the Project with regards to the inclusion of potential flood mitigation and/or stormwater management improvement Projects in the Strongwater Brook watershed and the Goldthwaite Brook watershed. The purpose of the Project Change is to provide an opportunity for public and regulatory comment on the City's approach for analyzing the environmental effects of these Projects. The City plans to file a subsequent Notice of Project Change that may include a Request for Waiver for Project 1 as well as some combination of smaller improvements Projects within the sub-watersheds contributing flow to the North River. The City understands fully its responsibility to meet all regulatory performance standards and holds that any projects proposed for advancement will result in net benefits to the environment. To that end, it is requested that comments be received on the Scope of Work included in Attachment A – *Compilation of Scopes of Work*.