



MASSACHUSETTS WATER RESOURCES AUTHORITY

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Frederick A. Laskey
Executive Director

May 16, 2007

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MEPA

Secretary Ian A. Bowles
Attn: MEPA Office
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston MA 02114

**Re: Section 61 Finding
Blue Hills Covered Storage Project – EOE #12187
Quincy, Massachusetts**

Dear Mr. Bowles:

Attached, please find the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's Section 61 Finding for the Blue Hills Covered Storage Project located in Quincy, Massachusetts. The MWRA has committed to substantial mitigation measures associated with all aspects of the proposed project and finds that, with the implementation of the proposed mitigation measures, all feasible means and measures to avoid or minimize damage to the environment as a result of construction and operation of the Blue Hills Covered Storage Project will have been taken.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Hornbrook".

Michael J. Hornbrook
Chief Operating Officer

Massachusetts Water Resources Authority Section 61 Finding

Massachusetts Water Resources Authority
Blue Hills Covered Storage Project
(EOEA # 12187)

These findings for the Blue Hills Covered Storage Project have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c. 30, Section 61 and 301 CMR 11.00. On March 16, 2001 and December 31, 2001 the Secretary of Environmental Affairs issued Certificates (EOEA #12187) stating that the project's Single Environmental Impact Report dated January 31, 2001 and Final Environmental Impact Report dated November 15, 2001 complied with the MEPA statute and regulations.

The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) finds that the Single Environmental Impact Report dated January 31, 2001 and the Final Environmental Impact Report dated November 15, 2001 depicting the impacts from the Blue Hills Covered Storage Project are accurate and complete. The MWRA has committed to substantial mitigation measures associated with all aspects of the proposed project and finds that, with the implementation of the mitigation measures outlined in these documents, all feasible means and measures to avoid or minimize damage to the environment as a result of construction and operation of the Blue Hills Covered Storage Project will have been taken. The impacts of the project and the mitigation measures are summarized in the attached table *Impact and Mitigation Summary*.

Impact and Mitigation Summary

Category	Impact	Mitigation
Topography, Geology, and Soils	Filling of a portion of the reservoir and re-contouring of the surrounding slopes.	Landscaping, establishment of upland meadow, restoration of woodland area and restoration and enhancement of the remaining portion of the reservoir as a new public access and recreation area.
Reservoir and Watershed Management	Replacing a portion of the existing open reservoir with a covered distribution storage tank and altering the watershed area; modifying spillways.	Discharge rates of water leaving the project area to the northwestern and northeastern wetlands will approximate flow rates presently occurring for the 2-year, 10-year and 100-year storm events. This will continue to provide water to these wetland areas. A monitoring program will be initiated to ascertain the condition of the restored reservoir. Results of the analysis will be provided to permitting agencies and the DCR and made available to the public.
Water Supply	Added active covered distribution storage capacity to the MWRA System, which will increase the safety and reliability of the public water supply.	None required.
Wetlands, Wildlife and Fisheries	Filling portion of existing reservoir and permanently impacting 8.7 acres of Land Under Water and 2,210 feet of inland bank, most of which is paved stone rip-rap.	<p>Proposed mitigation for impacts include creation of a new public access recreational area by refilling of the remaining portion of the reservoir with water and enhancement of the shoreline to improve fish and wildlife habitat. The enhancement will include the addition of an aquatic shelf along the southern and western shoreline of the reservoir.</p> <p>The enhancement plan also includes the creation of a peninsula extending from the southwest portion of the reservoir. The peninsula will be designed to support wet meadow and wetland scrub/shrub habitats.</p> <p>The creation of an approximately 10,000 square feet vegetated wetland habitat adjacent to the restored reservoir.</p> <p>The restored reservoir will no longer be used for public water supply and its operation and maintenance will no longer be exempt from the provisions of the Wetlands Protection Act.</p>
Upland Vegetation and Wildlife	Disruption of approximately 1.47 acres of upland woodland habitat, 0.3 acres meadow habitat, and 0.1 acres of scrub/shrub habitat.	The burying of the tanks, associated landscaping, and upland restoration will result in the creation of approximately 7.4 acres of upland meadow. Restoration or creation of 1.47 acres of upland forest equal the amount disturbed by the project.

Category	Impact	Mitigation
Traffic and Transportation (during operations)	None.	None required.
Construction	Habitat disruption during construction, potential for erosion, traffic, noise, wildlife, and dewatering impacts.	Habitat restoration, traffic routes prescribed, limited operating hours, erosion controls, wildlife exclusion fence, noise and dust controls, dewatering rate limits, and endangered species training program for on-site workers. Emission control devices will be provided for stationary construction equipment.
Scenic, Open Space, and Recreation	Filling of reservoir and topographic changes, communications antenna.	New recreational access and pedestrian safety will be provided by a new path along the restored portion of the reservoir. The proposed design will create an improved visual resource as seen from the road and from adjacent trails, a valuable open space, and an improved recreational resource. The communications equipment shed will be positioned along the southern portion of the site. The equipment shed will be clad with an architectural stone or brick veneer. The existing chain link fence surrounding the south side of the site will be removed and 8-foot high black fences will surround the access hatches on the tank roof, valve vaults and communications equipment shelter and antenna.
Historic and Archaeological Resources	None likely.	Ongoing coordination with Massachusetts Historic Commission.