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January 20, 2006

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CERTIFICATE OF THE SECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
ON THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL NOTIFICATION FORM

PROJECT NAME : D&D Cranberry Bog  
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : 125 South Street - Hanson  
PROJECT WATERSHED : Taunton River  
EOEA NUMBER : 13698  
PROJECT PROPONENT : South Street Realty Trust  
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : December 21, 2005

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (G. L. c. 30, ss. 61-62H) and Section 11.06 of the MEPA regulations (301 CMR 11.00), I determine that this project **does not require** the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

According to the Environmental Notification Form (ENF), the proposed project consists of the proponent obtaining a Water Management Act (WMA) Withdrawal Permit for an existing 14.5 -acre cranberry bog with the potential to include a future expansion of the bog by 3.5 acres. The proponent withdraws approximately 130,000 gallons per day (gpd) or 47.2 million gallons per year (mgpy) from an existing on-site surface reservoir. The bogs are irrigated with a sprinkler system. The irrigation water is recovered to the reservoir for reuse through dikes, culverts, and flumes via a closed-loop tailwater recovery system. The future expansion of the bog would be located in an upland area. The project site consists of a cranberry bog operation on approximately 40 acres.

The project is subject to review pursuant to Section 11.03(4)(b)(1) of the MEPA regulations because the project requires a new withdrawal of 100,000 or more gallons per day (gpd) from a water source that requires new construction for withdrawal. It will need a WMA Withdrawal Permit from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The proponent is subject to an Administrative Consent Order (ACOP) (SE-05-F003)

for failure to obtain a WMA approval for its existing bog. The project must comply with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for stormwater discharges from a construction site. It will need to obtain an Order of Conditions from the Hanson Conservation Commission for the potential bog expansion into an upland area (within the buffer zone). MEPA jurisdiction is limited to those aspects of the project within the subject matter of state permits and that may have significant environmental impacts (wetlands and water withdrawal).

The proponent currently obtains 130,000 gpd from an existing reservoir. It is proposing to increase its withdrawal to 160,000 gpd or 58.7 mgpy. As part of its ACOP, the proponent has developed a Farm Plan in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to conserve water usage.

Based on a review of the information provided by the proponent, a review of the comment letters, and after consultation with DEP, I find that the potential impacts of this project do not warrant the preparation of an EIR.

January 20, 2006

Date

  
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Stephen R. Pritchard

cc: Sharon Stone, DEP/SRO

Comments received:

DEP/SERO, 12/21/05

DEP/SERO, 1/11/06

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SRP/WG/wg