



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900

Boston, MA 02114-2524

MITT ROMNEY
GOVERNOR

KERRY HEALEY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

STEPHEN R. PRITCHARD
SECRETARY

Tel. (617) 626-1000
Fax. (617) 626-1181
<http://www.mass.gov/envir>

February 10, 2006

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

PROJECT NAME : Lowell Power Generators Project
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Lowell
PROJECT WATERSHED : Merrimack River
EOEA NUMBER : 13705
PROJECT PROPONENT : Lowell Power Generators, LLC
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : January 11, 2006

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 hereby determine that this project **does not require** the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report.

As described in the Environmental Notification Form (ENF), the proposed project consists the construction of a peaking power generating facility, consisting of two natural gas fired combustion turbines with low sulfur distillate oil as back-up fuel. The proposed project will be located on a 6.1-acre site adjacent to the existing power generating facility in Lowell, which was reviewed under MEPA project # 12251. The turbines will have a total, nominal capacity of 99 megawatts to provide power during peak electric demand periods and to support the transmission grid during emergencies and system imbalances.

The project is undergoing review pursuant to Section 11.03 (7) (b) (1) of the MEPA regulations, because the project involves the construction of a new electric generating facility with a capacity of 25 or more MW. The project will require a New Source Approval permit and a possible Sewer Connection permit from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Because the proponent is not seeking financial assistance from the Commonwealth for the

project, MEPA jurisdiction extends to those aspects of the project that are within the subject matter of required permits and that may cause significant Damage to the Environment. In this case, MEPA jurisdiction exists over energy and air quality issues.

The proposed project serves to provide a new, clean source of peaking electrical generation in an area of Massachusetts where electric generating capacity is in short supply, which compromises reliability. Although the project will be a new, non-major source of air pollutants, the project meets the Best Available Control Technology (BACT) requirements for air pollutants. The project will use clean fuels, add-on emission controls, and low emitting turbines to meet the requirements for BACT.

The proponent must comply with the federal New Source Performance Standard for stationary gas turbines. The ENF indicates that the project will fall below applicable thresholds for federal National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for stationary gas turbines. DEP will require, however, the proponent to perform US EPA approved screening computer dispersion modeling to demonstrate compliance with the applicable National and Massachusetts Ambient Air Quality Standards. I encourage the proponent to contact DEP's Division of Air Quality Control about these and any other air quality issues.

I also strongly encourage the proponent to commit to implement all feasible noise attenuation measures given the close proximity of the proposed facility to the Tanner Street and Canada Street neighborhoods.. The proponent must also demonstrate that the project will comply with DEP's Noise Policy. DEP will require the proponent to file a BWP AQ SFP-3, Supplemental Form for Survey of Noise Potential.

The review of the ENF has served to adequately disclose the potential impacts and mitigation associated with this project. Based on a review of the ENF, the comment letter, and consultation with the relevant public agencies, I find that the impacts of the project do not warrant further MEPA review. The proponent can resolve the remaining issues associated with state and local agencies as the project progresses into the permitting process.

February 10, 2006

Date



Stephen R. Pritchard

Comments received:

01/31/06 Department of Environmental Protection, NERO

01/31/06 Northern Middlesex Council of Governments

SRP/ACC/acc