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February 10, 2006

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

PROJECT NAME: Shutesbury Roadway Reconstruction Project
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY: Shutesbury
PROJECT WATERSHED: Chicopee and Connecticut River
EOEA NUMBER: 13710
PROJECT PROPONENT: Massachusetts Highway Department
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 (EIR).

As described in the Environmental Notification Form (ENF), the Massachusetts Highway Department (MHD), in conjunction with the Town of Shutesbury, is proposing to reconstruct Leverett, Cooleyville and Prescott Roads from Pratt Corner Road east to Route 202, a distance of 2.8 miles in Shutesbury. Leverett, Cooleyville and Prescott Roads are classified as Major Rural Collectors within the project area. In numerous locations throughout the project area the roads are structurally deteriorated, and the existing road base is insufficient and/or exhibits poor drainage characteristics. The project is part of MHD's Footprint Roads Pilot Program, which was established to help towns preserve and enhance historic character, environmental assets and other unique community characteristics when implementing necessary roadway improvements.

The project is undergoing review pursuant to Section 11.03(6)(b)(2)(a) and 11.03(6)(b)(2)(b) of the MEPA Regulations because it involves the maintenance of a roadway that will alter bank or terrain located ten or more feet from the existing roadway for one-half or more miles, and because the project will result in the removal of more than 5 public shade trees

measuring fourteen or more inches in diameter breast height (dbh). The project requires a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); a Category 1 Programmatic General Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA); a 401 Water Quality Certificate from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP); and an Order of Conditions (OOC) from the Shutesbury Conservation Commission. Because the proponent is a state agency, MEPA jurisdiction is broad and extends to all aspects of the project that may cause significant damage to the environment.

The rehabilitation of the roadways will consist of crushing, pulverizing and blending the existing pavement structure and a specified depth of the underlying sub-base material. This material will be reused as sub-base material for the new pavement structure, which will consist of a 3 ½ inch base course, a 1 ¾ inch binder course, and a 1 ¾ inch top course. In some of the denser residential areas, reclaimed material will be temporarily removed to allow for the excavation and removal of the underlying material. The result will be a roadway profile 4 to 8 inches lower than the existing roadway profile, which will address some of the drainage problems. The proponent should note comments from DEP with regard to the crushing of asphalt on site and should comply with the proper notification requirements.

The proposed work will result in the removal of 13 public shade trees in order to improve sight distance. The Town of Shutesbury Tree Warden will hold public hearings for each proposed tree removal. Following comments from the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the proponent should consult with DCR prior to the marking of the trees slated for removal.

The project also includes extensive drainage improvements. The existing closed drainage systems will be completely replaced, and new Cape Cod berms will be installed along the roadway edges to control roadway runoff and direct it to new deep sump catch basins. In several areas, an open drainage scheme is being proposed, with vegetated water quality swales conveying and dissipating stormwater. A bio-retention basin is proposed at the junction of Cooleyville and Prescott Roads to help better direct and treat stormwater.

Portions of the roadway are adjacent to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW) associated with the Quabbin Reservoir, which is considered an Outstanding Resource Water (ORW). Catch basins discharging to ORWs will be equipped with hoods and sumps. Stormwater will be treated to one inch in areas where discharge is directed to an ORW. A 401 Water Quality Certificate is required for any discharge to an ORW. The Town of Shutesbury will assume responsibility for maintenance of stormwater structures, cleaning of catch basins and street sweeping. The proponent has received an Order of Conditions (OOC) from the Shutesbury Conservation Commission for the project (DEP #286-0190). A special condition of the OOC stipulates that the proponent must provide the Conservation Commission with a maintenance schedule for the cleaning of catch basins and sediment basins.

Portions of the proposed work will impact jurisdictional wetland resource areas. The roadway reconstruction and the installation of drainage structures will temporarily impact the 100-foot buffer zone and approximately 40,369 square feet (sf) of previously disturbed

Riverfront Area. The culvert replacements will permanently impact 15 sf of BVW, 85 linear feet of Bank and will convert 482 sf of Land Under Water (LUW) to culvert bottom. A 160 sf wetland replication area is proposed at the corner of Montague and Leverett Roads in order to mitigate for the permanently impacted 15 sf of BVW. The two perennial stream culvert replacements were designed in compliance with the General Standards defined in the Massachusetts River and Stream Crossing Standards.

Near Route 202, the roadway travels through DCR-owned land. The ENF states that MHD and the Town of Shutesbury have coordinated extensively with DCR with regard to the proposed roadway reconstruction. DCR's Division of Water Supply Protection has provided comments on the ENF in support of the project.

The proponent has consulted with the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) with regard to the project's impacts on historic resources pursuant to the terms of the 2004 Massachusetts Statewide Programmatic Agreement for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. MHC has issued concurrence that the project will have No Adverse Effect on properties that are listed or may be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Based on a review of the information provided by the proponent and after consultation with the relevant public agencies, I find that the potential impacts of this project do not warrant further MEPA review.

February 10, 2006

Date



Stephen R. Pritchard

Comments received:

1/27/2006 Department of Conservation and Recreation

1/31/2006 Department of Environmental Protection, Western Regional Office

SRP/BA/ba