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February 22, 2007

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

PROJECT NAME: Salisbury New Source Well 8
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY: Salisbury
PROJECT WATERSHED: North Coastal
EOEA NUMBER: 13951
PROJECT PROPONENT: Town of Salisbury Department of Public Works
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR January 23, 2007

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).

Project Description

According to the Environmental Notification Form (ENF), the proposed project involves the construction of a municipal water supply well in the vicinity of two existing wells located off Lena Mae's Way in Salisbury, MA. The well is needed due to significant growth in the Town of Salisbury and the population influx to the Salisbury Beach area during the summer. Average daily demand in maximum months has increased from 1.16 million gallons per day (mgd) in 2000 to 1.23 mgd in 2002. In 2002, Salisbury purchased 9.76 million gallons from the Town of Amesbury to meet the summer demand. The Town anticipates that water demand will continue to increase and place a severe burden on its three current sources, Wells Nos. 5, 6, and 7. The proposed Well No. 8 will be a gravel packed well and will provide redundancy to the Town of Salisbury's water system in addition to increased capacity to reduce future purchases of water from nearby towns.

Jurisdiction

This project is subject to review pursuant to Section 11.03(4)(b)(1) of the MEPA regulations because it involves a new withdrawal of 100,000 or more gallons per day (gpd) from a water source that requires new construction for the withdrawal. The project requires the following permits and/or approvals from the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP): BRP WS 17 (Application for Approval to Site a Source Greater than 70 Gallons per Minute (GPM)); BRP WS 18 (Application for Approval to Conduct a Pumping Test for a New Source 70 GPM or Greater); BRP WS 19 (Application for Approval of Pumping Test Report for a New Source 70 GPM or Greater); BRP WS 20 (Approval to Construct Source Greater than 70 GPM); and BRP WM 03 (Water Management Act Permit Application). No other state or local permits are required for the project. Because the proponent is not seeking state financial assistance for the project, MEPA jurisdiction extends to the subject matter of the state permits involved.

Review of the ENF

As part of a Town-wide sand and gravel exploration program undertaken in May of 2004, a total of six new 2 ½-inch diameter steel casing observation wells were installed in an area to the north of the Town's Wells Nos. 5 and 6. Based upon the results of the 2004 exploratory drilling programs and the fact that no other high- or medium-yield aquifers were identified, the proposed new source Well No. 8 will be a gravel packed well located in the vicinity of Wells 5 and 6 on Lena Mae's Way.

A prolonged pumping test was performed on the proposed Well No. 8 in March and May of 2006. A report entitled "BRP WS 19 Source Final Report – Application for Approval of Pumping Test Report for a New Source 70 GPM or Greater" was submitted to MassDEP in October 2006 and is currently under review. The proponent anticipates that the permitted production volume of Well No. 8 will be 230 gallons per minute (gpm). Wells Nos. 5 and 6 will be 378 gpm and 436 gpm respectively. The final combined extraction rate for Wells Nos. 5, 6 and 8 was calculated to be approximately 1,044 gpm. Following approval of the final report, the plans and specifications for construction of the permanent pumping facilities, including any necessary treatment, must be submitted to MassDEP for review.

According to the ENF and the Source Final Report, the pumping of the wells is not anticipated to have an adverse affect on wetland resource areas in the vicinity of the project site. There are several wetland resource areas near Wells Nos. 5, 6 and 8 and based on the United States Geological Survey topographic map submitted with the ENF, an unnamed perennial stream runs through the project site. Well No. 8 is located outside of jurisdictional resource areas and the project does not require review by the Salisbury Conservation Commission.

The proponent has also submitted a Water Withdrawal Permit to MassDEP to establish Well No. 8 as an authorized withdrawal point. The Town is seeking a slight increase of 0.03 MGD over the 0.81 MGD that it is currently authorized to withdraw on an annual average basis under its Water Management Act registration. MassDEP is presently reviewing the permit

application and will evaluate the well's potential impacts upon environmental receptors, such as wetlands and streamflow.

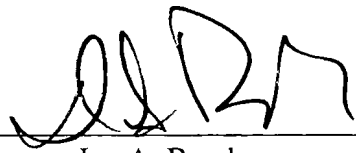
The proponent should note comments from MassDEP regarding ownership and control of the Zone I for Well No. 8, the 400-foot protective radius around the well. According to MassDEP's comments on the ENF, a small portion of the Zone I northwest of Well No. 8 is not currently owned or controlled by Town of Salisbury Department of Public Works. Acquisition of land or rights in land for water supply purposes requires MassDEP approval (BRP WS 26) and a public hearing. Control of the Zone I is generally established via easement and conservation restriction, as described in MassDEP's Drinking Water Program Policy # 94-03A. Model conservation restriction language is available from MassDEP. In addition, the Town must implement zoning and non-zoning controls that meet the requirements of 310 CMR 22.21(2) to protect the Zone II for Wells Nos. 5, 6, and 8 from incompatible land uses before MassDEP will grant final approval for Well No. 8 to be placed on-line. Wellhead protection typically is accomplished by adopting a combination of Groundwater Protection District zoning or health regulation and a Floor Drain health regulation.

Conclusion

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 the preparation of an EIR and can be adequately addressed in the MassDEP permitting process. No further MEPA review is required.

February 22, 2007

Date



Ian A. Bowles

Comments Received:

2/12/2007 Department of Environmental Protection, Northeast Regional Office

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