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March 22, 2007

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

PROJECT NAME: Section 97A Water Main Extension  
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY: East Boston & Revere  
PROJECT WATERSHED: Boston Harbor  
EOEA NUMBER: 13970  
PROJECT PROPONENT: Massachusetts Water Resources Authority  
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR: February 20, 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 Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) is planning to construct a new 16-inch, 3,000 foot water main in Bennington Street in Revere and East Boston. The project is part of the MWRA's Integrated Water Supply Improvement Program to improve the reliability and quality of the water supply, and to meet the requirements of the federal Safe Water Drinking Water Act. A small portion of Bennington Street in which the proposed water pipe will be located is within the Rumney Marshes Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

The new Section 97A watermain extension will begin in Bennington Street near the Belle Isle Marsh Inlet and end at the MWRA Meter 99 adjacent to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) bridge over the Blue Line. The new pipeline for the Northern

High Service area will provide a redundant supply to Meter 99, which is presently supplied by a 16-inch unlined cast iron water main called Section 55 that was constructed in 1931. The new pipeline connection to Meter 99 which serves Orient Heights will also provide an emergency connection point to the Boston Water and Sewer Commission's low-pressure water distribution system which serves part of East Boston and Logan Airport.

### Jurisdiction

The project is subject to review pursuant to Section 11.03(11)(b) of the MEPA regulations because the proponent is a state agency and because a portion of the project site is located within a designated Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The project requires a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Construction Permit from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); a Street Opening Permit from the Massachusetts Highway Department (MHD); a MBTA License; an 8m Permit from the MWRA; Orders of Conditions from the Revere and Boston Conservation Commissions; a Street Occupancy Permit from the Boston Transportation Department; a Street Opening Permit from the Boston Department of Public Works; a Grant of Location from the Boston Public Improvement Commission; and approval from the Boston Water and Sewer 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.

### Review of the ENF

The MWRA studied several alternative pipeline routes during project planning and dismissed from further consideration those with significant wetland impacts or technical difficulties involving construction. The proponent's preferred alternative is located within the Bennington Street right-of-way where there are existing active and inactive pipes. The pipeline construction will use the cut-and-cover method and will cross the existing MBTA bridge. Construction will occur on one side of the paved road and then move into the grassed area between the curb and sidewalk. A shallow trench will be excavated, the pipe installed, and the site backfilled and paved within a short time. Pursuant to City of Boston regulations, excavated material will be transported offsite and the trench will be filled with clean material.

Only 350 feet of the 3,000 feet pipeline will cross through the ACEC. This section of the Rumney Marshes ACEC is known as Belle Isle Marsh. The waterbodies and associated wetlands of the Rumney Marshes ACEC are designated as Outstanding Resource Waters (ORWs) under the Massachusetts Surface Water Quality regulations. The portion of the project within the ACEC is within the street right-of-way where both active and inactive water mains and other utilities are located. Approximately 250 feet of the proposed pipeline will be located within the A2 flood zone. The project will impact 250 feet of Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage. The proponent will file Notices of Intent with the Boston and Revere Conservation Commissions pursuant to the Limited Project provisions of the Wetlands Protection Act at 310 CMR 10.24(7)(b).

According to the ENF, Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented during construction to avoid adverse impacts to wetland and water resources. Strawbales, inlet catch basin protection and siltation fence will be used to trap sediments and prevent them from entering resource areas. The proponent should note specific comments from the Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) ACEC program regarding proposed BMPs.

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 state and local permitting processes. No further MEPA review is required.

March 22, 2007  
Date

  
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Ian A. Bowles

Comments Received:

- 3/8/2007 Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee
- 3/12/2007 Department of Conservation and Recreation, Area of Critical Environmental Concern Program

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