



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

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March 22, 2007

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Ian A. Bowles
SECRETARY

<http://www.mass.gov/envir>

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

PROJECT NAME : Ferry Street Wellfield No. 2
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Ferry Street - Marshfield
PROJECT WATERSHED : South Coastal
EOEA NUMBER : 13972
PROJECT PROPONENT : Marshfield Department of Public Works
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).

According to the Environmental Notification Form (ENF), the proposed project consists of the construction of eight 8-inch naturally developed wells within the Little's Creek Aquifer, a 1,000 square foot (sf) pumping/ treatment facility, and the extension of an existing gravel access road from Ferry Street. The proposed wells are estimated to have a capacity of 720,000 gallons per day (gpd) (average day)/262.8 million gallons per year (gpy). The proposed wells are being developed to provide local control, and add capacity, flexibility, and reliability to the water supply system. The project includes the installation of about 1,100 linear feet of an 8-inch diameter water main from the new wells cross-country to the distribution system. The water treatment plant will utilize lime for Ph adjustment and ultra violet light disinfection. The project site is approximately 49 acres and contains the Ferry Street Well No. 1.

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 gpd from a water source that requires new construction for the withdrawal. The Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) will need to approve the Pumping Test Report. The project will also require a New Source Approval, a Permit to Construct, Approval to Construct a Water Treatment Facility of less than 1 million gpd, and a Water Management Act Permit Amendment from MassDEP. It

may be subject to Federal Consistency Review with the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management (MCZM) office. The project may need to comply with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for stormwater discharges from a construction site. On September 8, 2005, the proponent received an Order of Conditions from the Marshfield Conservation Commission for the well construction. The proponent must also obtain another Order of Conditions for the Treatment Building, which is proposed to be located within a 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 and treatment).

Existing site runoff is sheet flow. The project will create approximately 1,000 sf of impervious area. Runoff from the proposed driveways and parking areas and roof will be sheet flow. The proponent currently obtains its potable water (average day – 3.3 million gpd) from sixteen wells. The existing Water Management Act registration for the existing wells expires on August 31, 2010. The Zone I (about 17.84 acres) is controlled by the proponent. The estimated Zone II area for the new well field is approximately 1,425 acres.

The proponent encourages water conservation awareness within the community through its annual consumer confidence report. It offers leak-detecting materials and water-saving devices free of charge to its customers. The proponent sponsors water conservation educational programs in the public schools. It provides conservation bill stuffers annually in water bills. The proponent sponsors a “conservation day in the park,” and it communicates with neighboring municipalities in their efforts to jointly implement water conservation programs. Leak detection is conducted typically on 40 miles of water mains. In 2006, a private company surveyed the entire water distribution system of approximately 200 miles and detected leaks totaling an estimated 58 million gallons per year. The most recent estimate of unaccounted-for-water loss is about seven percent. The proponent provides an annual master-meter calibration, and it accounts for authorized unmetered water usage (main breaks, fire fighting and training, distribution system flushing, and irrigation of Town fields). The water system is 100 percent metered. The proponent tests meters every two years and replaces meters that are ten years old.


The proponent has a mandatory water ban program. The mandatory water ban is an “odd-even” system with hand-held watering only and the Town can institute a full-time outdoor watering ban if needed. The proponent has an increasing block rate pricing structure and is fully funded by water system revenue. It has a floor drain regulation that meets the requirements of 310 CMR 22.21(2)(a)(8).

There are several steps that the proponent could take to strengthen this program. The proponent should consider adding a seasonal price increase during hot and dry weather to its water conservation program to discourage outdoor watering. In addition, the Town of Marshfield

should establish the necessary zoning controls for the proposed Zone II and should adopt Low Impact Development (LID) techniques that maximize infiltration, minimize the need for irrigation, and encourage water-efficient appliances.

The proponent should evaluate the potential for groundwater drawdown, induced infiltration, and potential impacts to adjacent wetlands due to altered hydrology for MassDEP's and MCZM's review. It should also develop a monitoring plan of sufficient duration to evaluate the impacts from pumping activities.

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.



Ian A. Bowles

March 22, 2007
Date

cc: Paul Anderson, DEP/CERO

Comments received:

MA Division of Marine Fisheries, 3/7/07
MCZM, 3/8/07
Amory Engineers, 3/9/07
MassDEP/SERO, 3/9/07

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