



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

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May 10, 2006

## CERTIFICATE OF THE SECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS ON THE THE NOTICE OF PROJECT CHANGE

PROJECT NAME	: Berlin Farms/Assabet River Consortium
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY	: Marlborough/ and five other municipalities
PROJECT WATERSHED	: Assabet River
EOEA NUMBER	: 12348
PROJECT PROPONENT	: Berlin Frams Realty Trust/ The Assabet River Consortium
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR	: April 10, 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 determine that this project **does not require** the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

### Berlin Farms Project

The project would extend municipal sewer service to a proposed 4-lot single-family residential subdivision located on a 4.38-acre parcel of property fronting on Berlin Road in Marlborough. The proponent estimates that a total of approximately 2.0 acres of land area will be altered. The project will be served by municipal water from the City of Marlborough and municipal sewer from the City of Marlborough's Westerly Wastewater Treatment Facility at the rate of 1,320 gallons per day (gpd), respectively. The proposed project involves the construction of approximately 255 linear feet of water and sewer main extension to serve the proposed project site. The proposed project does not exceed any MEPA review thresholds. According to comments received from DEP, the relatively small amount of wastewater flow generated from the proposed project (1,760 gpd), will not result in a significant increase in wastewater flow to Marlborough's Westerly Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Assabet River Consortium – NPC/Phase I Waiver Request

The City of Marlborough, together with the Towns of Shrewsbury, Hudson, Maynard, Northborough, and Westborough have joined to form the Assabet River Consortium to prepare a Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan/Environmental Impact Report (CWMP/EIR, EOE# 12348) to address short term- and long-term regional issues relating to the wastewater treatment and disposal and nutrient loading in the Assabet River on a basin-wide basis. The goals of the CWMP/EIR are to identify environmentally sustainable treatment alternatives that respond to the communities' needs, meet water quality and public health standards, reduce phosphorous loading, and increase water levels in the Assabet River and its tributaries. The Certificate on the ENF for the Consortium required that prior to completion of MEPA review for the Consortium's CWMP, projects located within the Consortium communities that seek sewer extension permits from the DEP will also require a Phase I Waiver from the EIR requirement for the Consortium. The project proponent has requested such a Waiver in a Notice of Project Change (NPC) published in the Environmental Monitor on April 10, 2006, and has provided additional information in support of that request.

As I have recently indicated in other Certificates on NPCs for sewer extension projects located within the Consortium communities, given the progress made to the Assabet Consortium project to date, I will now require projects located within the Consortium communities that seek sewer extension permits from the DEP to file with the MEPA Office only a Notice of Project Change (NPC) to the CWMP for the Assabet River Consortium (EOEA# 12348). I anticipate that the Phase III/DEIR document will bring us closer to providing a sound basis for regional water resources decision-making that will benefit the Assabet River and the members of Consortium communities alike.

I have reviewed the waiver request and supporting information and I find that the request has merit, that the impacts from the proposed project are insignificant, that ample and unconstrained infrastructure exists to support the proposed project. Based on these facts, I hereby grant the request for a Phase I Waiver for the 4-lot residential subdivision project off Berlin Road in Marlborough.

May 10, 2006  
DATE

  
Stephen R. Pritchard, Secretary

Comments received:

04/11/06      Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection – CERO

# 12348 - Berlin Farms  
SRP/NCZ/ncz