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May 10, 2006

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

PROJECT NAME : Sewer Extension Project
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Bayview & Cedar Dell Lake Areas - Dartmouth
PROJECT WATERSHED : Buzzard's Bay
EOEA NUMBER : 13767
PROJECT PROPONENT : Dartmouth Department of Public Works
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 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 6.72 miles of sewer mains, including gravity sewers, force mains, and low-pressure sewers in the Bayview and Cedar Dell Lake Areas. The goal is to provide relief to failing septic systems and improve long-term water quality in areas with small lot sizes and soils that are not suitable to on-site septic systems. The project would include a sewer main in the following Bayview Area streets (Subarea 6A): portions of Gulf Road and West Smith Neck Road, Beach Avenue, Bayview Avenue, Bourne Place, Milky Way, Salt Creek Road, Dutra Avenue, Dyke Lane, Degaris Avenue, and North Lane. It would include a sewer main in the following Cedar Dell Lake Area streets (Subarea 4A): portions of Old Wetport Road and Lucy Little Road, Alden Avenue, Lamb Street, Charles Street, Weaver Street, Pond Street, and Juniper Street. Subarea 4 also contains Sharon Avenue, Snowberry Drive, Croft Place, Delphic Place, and Delta Avenue. The Cedar Dell Lake Area is located almost entirely within the Aquifer Zone II of some of Dartmouth's most productive wells. These roads were included in the previous ENF filing as part of Subarea 4 (EOEA #10835) that included the installation of sewers in eleven subareas of Dartmouth. This project is for sewer installation in two additional subareas. In the 1980's, the proponent developed a Facilities Plan for its wastewater system (EOEA #6883) that required no EIR. The proponent has excess capacity at its wastewater treatment facility.

The project includes the construction of four approximately 250 sf, self-priming pumping

stations at Gulf Street, West Smith Neck Road, Sharon Avenue, and Lucy Little Road. The sewer lines would connect to the existing sewer system's force mains that will carry the sewage to the Dartmouth Wastewater Treatment Facility (DWWTF).

The project is subject to MEPA review pursuant to Sections 11.03(2)(b)(1), 11.03(3)(b)(1)(f), and 11.03(5)(b)(3)(b) because the project includes the alteration of a designated significant habitat, the alteration of 0.5 or more acres of any other wetland, and the construction of one or more new sewer mains five or more miles in length. The project will require a Sewer Extension Permit and a Chapter 91 License from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). It may require a Conservation and Management Permit under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) from the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP). The project must comply with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for stormwater discharges from a construction site. On March 27, 2006, the Dartmouth Conservation Commission (DCC) issued an Order of Conditions for Subarea 6A. The proponent will need to obtain an Order of Conditions from the DCC for impacts to buffer zones in Subarea 4A. Since the proponent is seeking funding from the Commonwealth for the project (State Revolving Fund), MEPA jurisdiction extends to all aspects of the project that may have significant environmental impacts..

According to the proponent, the project will temporarily impact 36,162 square feet (sf) of Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage (LSCSF) for Subarea 6A. In Subarea 4A, the proponent estimates that it may temporarily impact approximately 40,000 sf of buffer zone.

Some of the sewer pipes, manholes, and pumping stations are proposed within 100-year flood zones. The proponent will be waterproofing and flood proofing its sewers, manholes, and pumping stations where necessary.

The project is estimated to generate approximately 85,300 gallons per day (gpd) of average daily wastewater flow. This estimated flow includes existing and proposed residential units in the area to be sewered. The DWWTF has a capacity of 4.2 million gallons per day (mgpd), and it has recent average flows of 3.2 mgpd.

The recent NHESP Atlas shows a Priority Habitat of Rare Species polygon overlapping the northwest corner of the Sharon Road neighborhood. A small pumping station might be located beyond the existing right-of-way. The proponent will utilize every practical means to avoid or minimize damage to sensitive species and habitats in order to prevent a taking.

Based on a review of the information provided by the proponent, a review of the comment letters, 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 within the state and local permitting processes.

May 10, 2006
Date


Stephen R. Pritchard

cc: Sharon Stone, DEP/SERO

Comments received:

MCZM, 4/20/06

MassWildlife, 4/21/06

MA Division of Marine Fisheries, 4/27/06

DEP/SERO, 4/28/06

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SRP/WTG/wg