



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Deval L. Patrick
GOVERNOR

Timothy P. Murray
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Ian A. Bowles
SECRETARY

Tel: (617) 626-1000
Fax: (617) 626-1181
<http://www.mass.gov/envir>

May 23, 2008

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

PROJECT NAME: Lagoon and Brook Sediment Removal
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY: Framingham
PROJECT WATERSHED: AsSuCo
EEA NUMBER: 14227
PROJECT PROPONENT: General Motors Corporation
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR: April 23, 2008

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

As described in the Environmental Notification Form (ENF), the project involves environmental remediation to be conducted in accordance with the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP) at a former General Motors facility in Framingham, MA. The remedial activities include dewatering and removal of impacted sediment from a former settling lagoon (the Lagoon) and a portion of Beaverdam Brook. The purpose of the project is to achieve a condition of No Significant Risk (NSR) at the site in accordance with the MCP by removing sediment impacted with site-related oil and/or hazardous material (OHM) that is associated with potentially significant toxicity to ecological receptors. A total of approximately 2,500 cubic yards (cy) of sediment will be removed from the Lagoon and approximately 2,300 cy from Beaverdam Brook. The project is anticipated to be conducted over an approximately two to three month period, including mobilization and demobilization.

General Motors sold the majority of the former Framingham Assembly Plant property located at 63 Western Avenue to Adesa Corporation in 1994, as well as a portion of primarily wetlands to CSX Corporation. MassDEP Release Tracking Numbers (RTNs) assigned to the site are 3-3490 for the Lagoon and 3-4356 for the Brook. The Proponent has been conducting MCP response actions for the site in accordance with Administrative Consent Orders with Penalty (ACOP) for the Lagoon and the Brook. The Phase II Comprehensive Site Assessments (CSAs) completed in 2006 provided extensive site characterization including wetland delineation; sediment, surface water, soil, groundwater, geotechnical and/or chemical analysis; and ecological and human health risk assessments.

Jurisdiction

The project is undergoing review pursuant to the following sections of the MEPA regulations: 301 CMR 11.03(3)(b)(1)(d) because it will result in the alteration of greater than 5,000 square feet (sf) of Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW), and 301 CMR 11.03(3)(b)(1)(f), because it will result in the alteration of more than ½ an acre of “any other wetlands”. The project requires a a Category 2 Programmatic General Permit (PGP) from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE); a 401 Water Quality Certificate from the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP); an Order of Conditions from the Framingham Conservation Commission; and a Framingham Land Clearing and Earthworks Permit. The Proponent is not seeking financial assistance from the Commonwealth for the project. Therefore, MEPA jurisdiction applies to those aspects of the project within the subject matter of required permits or state agency review. In this case, MEPA jurisdiction is limited to issues related to wetlands and hazardous waste.

Review of the ENF

The ENF contained a discussion of alternative methods of remediation that were considered during the development of the MCP Phase III Remedial Action Plan including on and off-site treatment, consolidation and on-site disposal/long-term management, and removal and off-site disposal at permitted disposal facilities. The preferred alternative outlined in the ENF proposes a combination of sediment removal, stabilization and off-site disposal and the treatment and on-site discharge of potentially impacted surface water. The ENF and accompanying materials provided a detailed discussion of remediation activities for the Brook and Lagoon.

The depth of impacted sediment in Brook overlying native silt till ranges from approximately 1 to 3 feet. According to the ENF, extensive vegetation will have to be removed from the Brook and areas that are used to access the Brook as part of the sediment removal activities. The remedial actions in the Brook will include the following activities:

- Clearing and grubbing;
- Installation of erosion and sedimentation control measures;
- Bypass or diversion of the Brook;
Sediment removal, stabilization, off-site transportation and disposal;
- Water treatment and discharge; and
- Restoration activities.

Removal of material from the Lagoon will involve the following steps:

- Installation of erosion and sedimentation control measures;
Permanent plugging of the discharge structure which historically provided gravity discharge from the Lagoon to the Brook with a sewer plug and cement-bentonite grout;
Dewatering of Lagoon to an on-site wastewater treatment facility for treatment and discharge to the Brook;
- Excavation of wet sediment and loading into container trucks for transport to an on-site sediment management facility for dewatering and solidification prior to transportation and off-site disposal. Hydraulic dredging and partial in situ sediment stabilization may be used as part of the remediation activities.

An on-site Wastewater Treatment Facility will be constructed and operated to manage impacted stormwater, surface water and groundwater generated from remediation areas. Wastewater will be generated from the following activities: Brook excavation, Lagoon dewatering, sediment dewatering, equipment and vehicle decontamination, personal decontamination and other miscellaneous sources. Treatment may include settling and filtration to remove suspended solids, metals removal by clarification/flocculation, and activated carbon to provide polishing. The Proponent expects the total volume of wastewater to be treated to be 3.1 million gallons, or approximately 70,000 to 140,000 gallons per day during the construction period of the project. Monitoring of treated wastewater will be performed to verify compliance with discharge criteria prior to discharge to the Brook.

OHM-impacted sediment removed from the Brook and the Lagoon will be staged, dewatered, and tested prior to transportation and off-site disposal. The Proponent anticipates that approximately 4,800 cubic yards (cy) of impact sediment will be treated. Wet sediment will be transported to a Sediment Management Facility constructed outside the limits of work areas and the 100-year floodplain. Sludge and/or sediment generated from the Wastewater Treatment Facility will also be managed by stabilization if required, and transported off-site for disposal. The stabilized sediment and debris will be characterized prior to off-site disposal by representative sampling and chemical analysis.

The project will result in the following impacts to wetland resource areas. All impacts are temporary in nature:

- 27,600 sf of BVW
37,000 sf/2,600 linear feet (lf) of Bank
- 57,000 sf of Land Under Water
- 77.800 sf of Riverfront Area
- 133,000 sf of Bordering Land Subject to Flooding (BLSF)

The Proponent has filed a Notice of Intent (NOI) for the project with the Framingham Conservation Commission pursuant to the Limited Project provisions of the Wetlands Protection Act at 310 CMR 10.53(3)(q). The Proponent should note that MassDEP will require the preparation of a wildlife habitat analysis during wetlands permitting.

Conclusion

The impacts of the project within MEPA jurisdiction do not warrant the preparation of an EIR. I conclude that no further MEPA review is required. The Proponent may resolve any remaining issues during the state and local permitting processes.

May 23, 2008
Date



Ian A. Bowles

Comments received:

5/13/2008 Department of Environmental Protection, Northeast Regional Office

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