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May 26, 2006

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

PROJECT NAME : Boston University Student Village Project/899-925
Commonwealth Avenue
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Boston
PROJECT WATERSHED : Charles
EOEA NUMBER : 6646
PROJECT PROPONENT : The Trustees of Boston University
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : N/A

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 change is insignificant and does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report.

As described in the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR), which received a Certificate from the Secretary of Environmental Affairs on July 18, 1990, the project development program entailed the development of student and faculty housing that would accommodate 2,300 beds; an 8,500-seat arena; 100,000 square feet of academic space; 43,000 sf of commercial/retail space; and 1,425 parking spaces. The project was the subject of several Notices of Project Change (NPCs) in the intervening years and a Supplemental EIR in 2002. Phase I of the student housing, an 817-bed residence at 10 Buick Street was completed in 2001 and the Arena and Recreation Center was completed in 2005.

As described in the NPC, the project change entails a revision to the building design for the remainder of the proposed student housing, as a result of design review by the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA). The Supplemental EIR envisioned three towers of student housing containing a total of 1,483 beds and reaching 14, 16 and 18 stories in height. The NPC describes two buildings with the same number of beds, one with two towers reaching 19 and 26 stories in height, and the other still in conceptual design that will likely consist of a single tower of 21 stories and an attached low-rise structure of four stories. The ENF included both a wind

and a shadow study based on the revised project design that will be reviewed by the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA), as part of its overall review of the project.

According to the NPC, the implementation of the revised project design will minimize the project's visual impact, create more unified open space areas within the project site, reduce impervious areas, and reduce wind effects at the pedestrian level. The proponent has requested that I find this project change insignificant in accordance with the criteria set forth in the MEPA regulations at 310 CMR 11.10(6). The project change will not increase the size of the project by more than 10 percent, nor will it result in an increase in impacts of greater than 25 percent. I find that the proposed project change is insignificant, in accordance with the MEPA regulations at 310 CMR 11.10(6), and that no further review of the project under MEPA is required as a result of the proposed change. Any remaining issues can be addressed during the state and local permitting processes.

May 26, 2006
Date


Stephen R. Pritchard

SRP/RB/rb