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June 23, 2006

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

PROJECT NAME : Sterling Department of Public Works
 PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Sterling
 PROJECT WATERSHED : Wachusett
 EOE NUMBER : 13807
 PROJECT PROPONENT : Sterling Department of Public Works
 DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : May 24, 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).

The proposed project consists of a 3,700 square foot (sf) expansion to the existing Sterling Department of Public Works (DPW) facility. The proposed addition will include office space, three vehicle storage bays and a wash bay. The project also includes a new subsurface sewage disposal system designed to comply with Title V regulations. The project abuts a wetland area that is a tributary to the Wachusett Reservoir water supply system and a portion of the project is located within a watershed protection zone.

The project is undergoing review pursuant to Section 11.03(4)(b)(6) of the MEPA regulations because it involves alteration that requires a Variance in accordance with the Watershed Protection Act from the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR).

The proponent is not seeking financial assistance from the Commonwealth. Therefore, MEPA jurisdiction applies to those aspects of the project within the subject matter of required state permits with the potential to cause Damage to the Environment as defined in the MEPA regulations. In this case, MEPA jurisdiction extends to water resources.

The Environmental Notification Form (ENF) indicated that new vehicle service bays were proposed in the building addition. However, it was clarified during the MEPA site visit that

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the proposed addition will be used for vehicle storage, and not as a vehicle service area. The proposed project will improve run-off collection by providing a drainage system with an oil/water separator, and an underground holding tank to store run-off from vehicle maintenance and wash bay areas. As noted in the ENF, the holding tank is being designed in accordance with 314 CMR 18.00 Industrial Wastewater Holding Tank and Container Construction, Operation and Record-Keeping Requirements. The DPW is also planning to recycle and reuse vehicle wash-water.

The project will not result in any increase in impervious area. The office expansion is being built as a second floor above the existing DPW building, and the vehicle storage and wash bay areas are proposed in areas that are currently paved. The proposed project does not include any increase in wastewater flows, which is expected to remain at approximately 330 gallons per day. The new septic system is being installed to replace the existing cesspool, and will be designed in accordance with 310 CMR 15.00 (Title V) and the Sterling Board of Health Regulations.

The proponent should ensure that appropriate erosion and sedimentation controls are in place during construction activities to avoid and minimize any adverse impacts to wetlands and water supply resources on and near the project site.

The ENF has defined the nature and general elements of the project and proposed measures to avoid and minimize environmental impacts. I am satisfied that any remaining issues can be adequately addressed during the state and local permit and review processes. The proposed project requires no further review under MEPA.

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DATE



Stephen R. Pritchard, Secretary

Comments Received:

6/13/06 Department of Conservation and Recreation

Cc: Nancy McGrath, Department of Conservation and Recreation,
 Division of Water Supply Protection

SRP/AE/ae