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June 30, 2006

CERTIFICATE OF THE SECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
ON THE
THE NOTICE OF PROJECT CHANGE and DRAFT RECORD OF DECISION

PROJECT NAME : Pinehaven Drive Sewer Expansion
Project/Assabet River Consortium
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Northborough/ and five other municipalities
PROJECT WATERSHED : Assabet River
EOEA NUMBER : 12348
PROJECT PROPONENT : Town of Westborough/The Assabet River
Consortium
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 determine that this project **does not require** the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). As Secretary of Environmental Affairs, I have reviewed this project pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (M.G.L. c.30, ss. 61-62H) and Section 11.11 of the MEPA regulations (301 CMR 11.00), and hereby **propose to grant a waiver** (as defined below), allowing the project to proceed to the state permitting agencies without requiring the completion of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Pinehaven Drive Sewer Expansion Project

The proposed project consists of the construction of approximately 1.50 miles of 8” gravity sewer main within the Pinehaven Drive area in Northborough. The proposed Pinehaven Drive project area has been designed to serve and 95 existing single family houses and the Lincoln Street Elementary School and includes Pinehaven Drive, Woodlawn Street, Shady Lane Avenue, Jay Avenue, Sunny Hill Road, Leland Avenue, and a portion of Lincoln Street.

The proposed project will not impact bordering vegetated wetland resource areas. Approximately 500 lf of sewer main and a proposed pump station will be located within the 100-ft buffer zone of a wetland resource area. A Notice of Intent was submitted to the Town's Conservation Commission has conducted its hearing, and has issued an Order of Conditions. The proposed project does trigger any required EIR thresholds. According to the information provided in the NPC, the project will be served by municipal water from the Town of Northborough, and municipal sewer from the Town of Westborough's Wastewater Treatment Facility at the rate of 29,800 gallons per day (gpd).

Assabet River Consortium – NPC/Phase I Waiver Request

The of Town of Northborough, together with the Towns of Hudson, Maynard, , Shrewsbury, Westborough, and the City of Marlborough, 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 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 May 24, 2006 and has provided additional information in support of that request.

As described in the NPC, the Pinehaven Drive Area was identified as an area of need (Sewer Needs Area #3D, 6) by the Town of Northborough in its Phase I – Needs Analysis portion of the CWMP/EIR (March 2001). The Town of Northborough had recommended the construction of sewers to resolve this area's need for sewage treatment in the Phase II - Alternatives Analysis portion of the CWMP/EIR (May 2002). The relatively small amount of additional wastewater flow generated from the proposed project (29,800 gpd), will not result in a significant increase in wastewater flow to the Town of Westborough's Wastewater Treatment Facility. Lastly, the construction of this project will not constrain the Town of Northborough and the Assabet River Consortium from exercising any option in its plans to comply with National Pollutant Discharge and Elimination (NPDES) standards and improve the quality of wastewater discharge to the Assabet River.

I anticipate that DEP's permit review process will require the proponent to commit to removing Infiltration and Inflow (I/I) from the municipal sewer line to help offset the additional flows anticipated from the proposed project. I strongly encourage the proponent to work with the 95 residential property owners and the Lincoln Street Elementary School located within the Pinehaven Drive project area to install low flow fixtures in each residence upon connection to the municipal sewer line.

I have reviewed the waiver request and supporting information and I find that the request has merit, that the impacts of Phase I are insignificant, that ample and unconstrained infrastructure exists to support Phase I, and that implementation of Phase I does not require implementation of future phases or limit potential mitigation for future phases. Based on these facts, I hereby grant the request for a Phase I waiver for the Pinehaven Drive Sewer Expansion Project in Northborough. Therefore, I propose to grant the waiver subject to the aforementioned findings and conditions. This Draft Record of Decision (DROD) shall be published in the next issue of the *Environmental Monitor* for a fourteen-day comment period, after which I shall reconsider, modify, or confirm the waiver.

June 30, 2006

DATE



Stephen R. Pritchard, Secretary

Comments received:

05/30/06 Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection – CERO

NPC & DROD #12348 – Pinehaven Drive, Northborough
SRP/NCZ/ncz