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July 21, 2006

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

PROJECT NAME	: King's Brook Crossing/Assabet River Consortium
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY	: Shrewsbury/ and five other municipalities
PROJECT WATERSHED	: Assabet River
EOEA NUMBER	: 12348
PROJECT PROPONENT	: Michael Venicasa/Assabet River Consortium
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR	: June 21, 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).

Project Description

As described in the Notice of Project Change (NPC), the project entails the construction of a 14-unit residential development, consisting of seven separate buildings, on a 5.02-acre parcel of property located off Old Mill Street in Shrewsbury. According to the proponent, the project will result in the alteration of the 100-foot wetland buffer area for the installation of a gravity sewer pipe and a portion of the proposed stormwater management system. The project's potable water demand (3,080 gallons per day (gpd)), and wastewater flow (3,080 gpd) will be served by the Town of Shrewsbury's municipal water supply and wastewater collection systems, respectively. The wastewater flow from the project will be conveyed to the Westborough Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility for treatment and disposal via a sewer extension from the project site to the Town of Shrewsbury's existing sewer collection system located off Everett Avenue. According to the comments received from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Westborough Regional Treatment Facility accepts an average flow of approximately 4.6 million gallons per day (mgd) and has a designed capacity of approximately 7.68 mgd.

Assabet River Consortium

The Town of Shrewsbury is developing a Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP) as part of the Assabet River Consortium (EOEA# 12348). The Certificate on the ENF for the Consortium established a Special Review Procedure (SRP) and required the filing of four documents:

- Phase I - Existing and Proposed Conditions and Needs Analysis;
- Phase II - Development of Screening of Wastewater Alternatives;
- Phase III - Evaluation of Most Feasible Options (Draft CWMP/EIR); and
- Phase IV, Presentation of Recommended Plan (Final CWMP/EIR).

The Certificate on the ENF for the Consortium's CWMP also required that, prior to completion of review under MEPA for the CWMP, projects located within the Consortium communities that seek sewer extension permits from DEP will also require a Phase I Waiver from the EIR requirement for the CWMP. The member communities of the Consortium, with guidance and input from DEP, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and public commenters, have made significant progress on the CWMP, which represents an innovative approach to wastewater planning in Massachusetts. Phase I, for which I issued a Certificate in June 2001, identified existing conditions and analysed wastewater management needs. On August 15, 2002, I issued a Certificate for Phase II, which included the development and screening of wastewater management alternatives to address the needs defined in the Phase I document. In June 2005, the Consortium, with the support of DEP, EPA, and public commenters, filed a Notice of Project Change (NPC) to describe the Consortium's proposed changes to the forthcoming Phase III Report - Evaluation of Most Feasible Options (Draft CWMP/EIR); and the Phase IV Report - Presentation of Recommended Plan (Final CWMP/EIR).

Based on a review of the information provided by the proponent and after consultation with the relevant public agencies, I find that the potential impacts of this project do not warrant further MEPA review. In a separate Draft Record of Decision (DROD) to be issued today, I propose to grant a Phase I Waiver to allow construction of the project to proceed in advance of the completion of the Assabet River Consortium's CWMP. Notice of the availability of the DROD for additional public review and comment will appear in the August 8, 2006 issue of the Environmental Monitor for fourteen days.

July 21, 2006

DATE



Stephen R. Pritchard, Secretary

Comments received:

07/10/06      Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection – CERO

NPC #12348 – King's Brook Crossing, Shrewsbury  
SRP/NCZ/ncz