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August 22, 2008

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

PROJECT NAME : U.S. Army BRAC 2005 Realignment Action at Fort
Devens - Combined Support Maintenance Shop (CSMS) on
Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) Property
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Ayer
PROJECT WATERSHED : Nashua River
EEA NUMBER : 14282
PROJECT PROPONENTS : U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : June 11, 2008

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (G. L. c. 30, ss. 61-62I) 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 project consists of construction of a 93,255-square foot (sf) Combined Support Maintenance Shop (CSMS), a 4,385 sf unheated storage building, a 16,053 sf Class IX storage building, a military equipment parking area to store 274 wheeled and 29 tracked vehicles, 125 trailers, and 98 privately-owned vehicles. The proposed facilities will be located on a 27.4-acre portion of the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) property abutting the Devens 3700 area on Barnum Road. The proposed facilities will replace existing facilities and will require demolition of 12 buildings.

The project does not meet or exceed thresholds for a mandatory EIR. The project is undergoing environmental review because it requires a right-of-entry from the Commonwealth and appeared to exceed the threshold at Section 11.03(1)(b)(2) because it would result in creation of five or more acres of new impervious area (based on pre-filing consultations). The demolition and reconstruction proposed will result in creation of impervious area in currently undeveloped portions of the site and removal of impervious cover in other areas. However, the Environmental

Notification Form (ENF) indicates that the project overall will result in a decrease of approximately seven acres of impervious area.

The project falls within the boundaries of the Devens Regional Enterprise Zone and requires local fire, utility, and building permits from the Devens Enterprise Commission (DEC) and the Massachusetts Development Finance Agency (MassDevelopment). The proposed project will require a right-of-entry approval from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Therefore, MEPA jurisdiction is broad and extends to all aspects of the project with the potential to cause Damage to the Environment as defined in the MEPA regulations. The proponent is coordinating with the Department of Capital Asset Management (DCAM) on the right-of-entry agreement, which will be signed by the Governor of Massachusetts.

The ENF includes a copy of the Supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Supplemental EA provides additional detail on the proposed project as well as the Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) Complex proposed for construction at the adjacent Devens 3700 area. The U.S. Army issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed AFRC and CSMS with a determination that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was not required. The FONSI noted that an ENF would be submitted for the CSMS due to the requirement for a right-of-entry from the Commonwealth.

The project is located within a Zone II aquifer protection area. The project has been designed to avoid the Zone I wellhead protection area around the Devens and Ayer Grove Pond wellfields. Stormwater runoff will be reduced compared to existing conditions due to a decrease in overall impervious surfaces from approximately 25 acres to 18 acres.

The proponents have committed in the ENF to the following measures to avoid and minimize, or mitigate environmental impacts:

- Vehicle shop floor drains will convey flow through an oil-water separator prior to discharge to sanitary sewer and discharges will meet requirements for acceptance by the Devens Wastewater Treatment Facility;
- The military equipment parking area will be paved and all stormwater will be directed away from the Zone I protection area;
- Best Management Practices (BMPs), such as drip pans under stored vehicles, will be implemented to minimize contamination of stormwater;
- Stormwater will be retained and infiltrated on-site and runoff from paved surfaces will be treated on-site prior to discharge;
- Erosion and sedimentation controls will be implemented during site preparation, earthworks and construction.

The project requires local sewer authority approval for the proposed sewer connection. The project site is located with a Zone II of two community Public Water Supply wells (Ayer, Grove Pond Well #1 and #2). All sewer lines and appurtenances located within Zone II of any public water supply resource should be designed and constructed for maximum water-tightness.

The ENF indicates that stormwater discharges may enter Cold Spring Brook or Grove Pond. The ENF notes that a construction National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit will be obtained. As noted in the MassDEP comment letter, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) must be developed by the proponent as a requirement of the NPDES Construction General Permit (CGP) in accordance with 40 CFR 122. Grove Pond has been designated by MassDEP in the Final Massachusetts 2006 Integrated List of Waters (as a Category 5 surface water that does not meet Massachusetts surface water quality standards and is impaired by the presence of metals). The proponent should consider erosion, sediment and stormwater management control measures to minimize discharge of metals in stormwater to Grove Pond as part of the SWPPP. Any future design of post-construction stormwater management systems for the proposed construction project should consider the designation of Grove Pond as a Category 5 impaired surface water.

I have determined that the ENF has sufficiently defined the nature and general elements of the project and its potential impacts, and proposed measures to avoid and minimize or mitigate impacts. Based on review of the ENF and comments received, and consultation with state agencies, I find that the project as described in the ENF does not warrant the preparation of an EIR.

August 22, 2008

DATE


for Ian A. Bowles, Secretary

Comments Received:

8/6/08 Montachusett Regional Planning Commission

8/7/08 Department of Environmental Protection - Central Regional Office

8/11/08 Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program

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