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August 22, 2008

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

PROJECT NAME : Holden Public Safety Facility  
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Holden  
PROJECT WATERSHED : Nashua  
EEA NUMBER : 14287  
PROJECT PROPONENT : Town of Holden  
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : July 23, 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).

As described in the Environmental Notification Form (ENF), the project consists of the construction of a new public safety facility (combined Fire and Police) on a 2.89-acre town-owned parcel of land located on Route 122A (Main Street) in Holden. Existing conditions on the project site include the current Fire Department building, a private residence that will be acquired by the Town, a fire training area, and stockpiles of debris and fill material from the Department of Public Works. The rear (north) of the site abuts freight railroad tracks and is within the 400-foot, 200-foot and 100-foot buffer zones of off-site wetlands, ponds and Tannery Brook. Portions of the site are under the jurisdiction of the Watershed Protection Act and the Wetlands Protection Act.

Proposed conditions include maintaining the existing Fire Department building for storage of auxiliary vehicles and the construction of a new 32,500 square foot (sf) combined police and fire facility. The site plan presented in the ENF included a total of 143 parking spaces, designed for use by first responders, staff, police vehicles, and visitors. A portion of the parking area will overlap with training areas for the Fire Department and will also be used to support parking needs associated with the proposed Community Room to be included in the Public Safety Building.

Estimated project impacts associated with the project include the introduction of 1.45 new acres of impervious area, resulting in a total coverage of 2.20 acres on the 2.89-acre site. The project includes 92 additional parking spaces, bringing the site total to 143 spaces. Total water demand from the project will be approximately 2,856 gallons per day (gpd), while estimated total wastewater flows will be 1,500 gpd. As indicated at the MEPA site consultation session, no work is proposed within wetland resource areas or the 100-foot buffer zone to wetland resource areas as defined in the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The project will require the cutting of twelve (12) living public shade trees within the roadway right-of-way.

### Jurisdiction

The project is undergoing MEPA review pursuant to Section 11.03(4)(b)(6) and Section 11.03(6)(b)(2)(b) because the project requires a State agency action and will result in alteration requiring a variance in accordance with the Watershed Protection Act and removal of five or more public shade trees within the roadway right-of-way. The project will require both a variance and a sewer connection permit from the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The project will also require a Curb Cut Permit, a Road Opening Permit, and a Signal Permit from the Massachusetts Highway Department (MassHighway). The project must submit a complete application of BRP WM 09 – Approval of NPDES Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans for Construction of Industrial General Permits Discharging to Outstanding Resource Waters (ORWs) – to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). Finally, approval under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit will be needed from the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

The Proponent is investigating additional funding sources, which may include State funds. Because State funding may be involved, MEPA jurisdiction for this project is broad and extends to all aspects of the project that are likely, directly or indirectly, to cause Damage to the Environment as defined by the MEPA regulations.

### Water Resources

The project will require a variance from the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) because alteration is proposed within the 200-foot Primary Protection Zone, the proposed project will increase impervious surfaces over the 10% threshold, and the project contemplates storage of liquid petroleum products not connected with a residential use. As part of the DCR

variance application process, the proponent should address DCR's concerns related to the handling of stormwater on-site and prepare an alternatives analysis related to the layout of the proposed parking area.

### Traffic

The project will require a Curb Cut, a Road Opening, and a Signal Permit from MassHighway. The proponent indicated at the MEPA site consultation session that they have met with MassHighway District #3 officials in advance of the ENF filing. Anticipated improvements include a reworking of the existing traffic signal in front of the Fire Station to address relocated traffic patterns at the new Public Safety Building driveway. Sidewalks and other pedestrian improvements should also be accommodated within the design. I encourage the proponent to continue to evaluate overall project parking needs and strive to further reduce impacts within the 200-foot Watershed Protection Act Primary Protection Zone through a reduced parking program, pervious pavement or grassed "reserve" parking areas, or reconfigured parking layouts.

The ENF states that 12 living public shade trees located within the roadway right-of-way will be removed to facilitate building construction. I encourage the proponent to mitigate this loss of shade trees in their landscaping plans and in coordination with the Town of Holden.

### Wastewater

The project will generate a total of 1,500 gallons per day (GPD) of wastewater and require a total of 2,856 GPD of water usage. As part of the project, the proponent will remove the septic systems associated with the existing fire station and the adjacent single-family house. The Public Safety Facility will be connected to a sewer line which ultimately discharges in the City of Worcester. This sewer line is under the jurisdiction of DCR, therefore approvals must be obtained for connection to the interceptor sewer.

### Stormwater

The project site is located within a drainage area to the Wachusett Reservoir, a Class A Public Water Supply. MassDEP has noted that surface water resources that may receive stormwater discharges from the site, during and after construction, include wetland resource areas and Warren Tannery Brook; all are surface waters designated as Outstanding Resource Waters (ORWs). The project will be required to prepare a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).

The ENF stated that Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented for erosion control and stormwater management. Below grade stormwater conveyance systems will be used, consisting of mechanical separation of oil/gas and sediment, deep sump catch basins and underground stormwater detention/infiltration areas. The project should comply with MassDEP

Stormwater Management Regulations as applicable. The Proponent has stated that they will continue to investigate the use of bioswales and other vegetated infiltration, as well as other low impact development techniques (LID) as design is advanced. I acknowledge that some of the project goals, i.e. the potential use of geothermal wells and fire training activities may conflict with the use of pervious pavement in the lower parking areas. I encourage the proponent to look at ways to further reduce impervious area within the 200-foot and 400-foot protection zones of the Massachusetts Watershed Protection Act. As part of the DCR variance process and the NDPES SWPPP, the proponent should address issues related to the storage of petroleum products on-site, vehicle washing, or other potential stormwater discharges that may affect regulated areas.

### Construction Period Impacts

The proponent should take measures to reduce potential demolition and construction period impacts (including but not limited to noise, vibration, dust, and traffic flow disruptions). The proponent must comply with MassDEP's Solid Waste and Air Quality Control regulations during construction. I encourage the proponent to incorporate construction waste recycling activities as a sustainable measure for the project. The proponent should consult with MassDEP for appropriate standards and guidelines for managing construction waste.

Based on the information in the ENF and after consultation with relevant public agencies, I find that no further MEPA review is required at this time. The project may proceed to State permitting.

August 22, 2008  
Date

  
For Tan A. Bowles

### Comments received:

08/11/2008 Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection – CERO  
08/11/2008 Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)

IAB/HSJ/hsj