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August 25, 2006

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

PROJECT NAME : Wareham Comprehensive Wastewater Management
Plan
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Wareham
PROJECT WATERSHED : Buzzards Bay
EOEA NUMBER : 12562
PROJECT PROPONENT : **Town of Wareham/BRT Wickets LLC**
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : July 25, 2006

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (G. L. c. 30, ss. 61-62H) and Section 11.10 of the MEPA regulations (301 CMR 11.00), I have reviewed the Notice of Project Change (NPC) submitted on this project and determine that it **does not require** further MEPA review.

The project originally consisted of the preparation of a Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan, which indicated the priority areas to receive municipal sewer system installation. The project included upgrading the existing Wareham Water Pollution Control Facility and the extension of the sewage collection system to 12 disposal needs areas. The Point Independence/Eagle Avenue area was indicated as an area currently serviced by the existing sewer collection system. On December 14, 2001, the Secretary determined that the Single Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was adequate.

This NPC was submitted for MEPA review on July 5, 2006. The proponent seeks to add one new single family home, which would be constructed on Wickets Island in Onset Bay. Wickets Island was not included in the original Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP) EIR. However, the CWMP indicated that the planning area for it was the entire town. The proponent for the single family home on Wickets Island submitted a separate Environmental Notification Form (EOEA #13693) for this project. On January 6, 2006, the Secretary issued a Certificate that determined that this project does not require the preparation of an EIR. In this Certificate, the proponent was informed that it would have to submit an NPC for the town's CWMP before the proposed single family home can be connected to the sewer system.

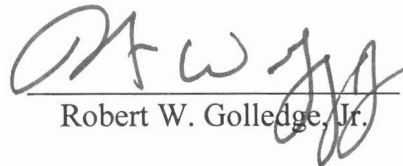
The proponent's utility/sewer pipeline construction to service the proposed home will be tied directly to an existing sewer manhole on Eagle Avenue at Point Independence. The proponent proposes to install a horizontal directionally drilled utility conduit from the mainland to Wickets Island. The proponent estimates that the project will generate approximately 770 gallons per day of wastewater. According to the proponent, the Wareham Water Pollution Control Facility (WWPCF) has sufficient capacity to accommodate the proposed expansion of the wastewater service area to include Wickets Island.

The utility conduit installation is estimated to impact the following wetland resource areas: approximately 2,230 sf of Coastal Beach (includes tidelands); 32 sf of Coastal Dune; 2 linear feet/130 sf of Coastal Bank; 982 sf of Land Under the Ocean; 1,250 sf of Land Containing Shellfish; and 2,270 sf of Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage. These are temporary impacts and no direct or long-term adverse impacts to wetland resource areas are anticipated.

In its comment letter, DEP states that the WWPCF has limited remaining available capacity when the Town completes the sewer system to the current 12 priority needs areas. DEP states that there is sufficient area on the island for an on-site septic system and that such a system should be utilized on the island.

Based on a review of the information provided by the proponent, a review of the comment letters, and after consultation with the state agencies, DEP has sufficient permitting authority to determine whether this project should be permitted to connect to the Wareham wastewater system. No further MEPA review is required for the Wareham Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan.

August 25, 2006
Date


Robert W. Golledge, Jr.

cc: Sharon Stone, DEP/SERO

Comments received:

DEP/SERO, 8/15/06

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RWG/WTG/wg