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September 5, 2008

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

PROJECT NAME : Shrewsbury Landfill
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Shrewsbury
PROJECT WATERSHED : Blackstone River
EEA NUMBER : 5421
PROJECT PROPONENT : Wheelabrator Millbury Inc. and the Town of Shrewsbury
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : August 6, 2008

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (G. L. c. 30, ss. 61-62I) and Section 11.10 of the MEPA regulations (301 CMR 11.00), I have reviewed the Notice of Project Change (NPC) and hereby determine that it **does not require** the preparation of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Previous MEPA Review

As described in the Environmental Notification Form (ENF) submitted in 1985, the project consisted of a sanitary landfill that comprised roughly 172 acres to serve the Town of Shrewsbury (the Town). The Town planned for five landfill Phases for the site, and Phases I and II, in the northwestern portion of the property, were used for municipal waste disposal into the mid-1980s. The Town entered into an agreement with Signal Resco Inc. (predecessor to Wheelabrator Millbury Inc.) to use the landfill for disposal of ash residues generated at a resource recovery facility to be built in neighboring Millbury. The landfill has continued to be developed and operated by Wheelabrator Millbury Inc. (WMI) since that time. The project was previously reviewed under MEPA as an ash residue and bypass municipal waste landfill to serve the Millbury facility. The municipal landfill in Phases I and II were to be closed and capped;

Phases III and IV were to be developed as the residue landfill; and Phase V was to be used as a soil borrow area and reserved for future Town use.

On July 18, 1985, the Secretary determined that the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) was adequate. WMI developed the Millbury waste-to-energy facility and, in cooperation with the Town, the first section of the residue landfill opened in the fall of 1987. By 1997, after ten years of operation, WMI had not utilized any of the dedicated bypass municipal solid waste (MSW) capacity in the Landfill, and requested an advisory opinion as to whether using this capacity for ash residue from other resource recovery facilities would require a Notice of Project Change (NPC). The Secretary determined that no further review was required.

NPC Project Change Description

This NPC was submitted on July 31, 2008. The proponents are requesting that they be allowed to undertake the development of the Phase V portion of the landfill. Phase V will provide an estimated 4.8 million cubic yards of disposal volume and approximately 20 additional years of disposal capacity. WMI and the Town have now entered into an agreement to use the Phase V area for continued landfilling of residual wastes. The Town will continue to own, and WMI will continue to develop and operate, the Landfill.

Phase V will be developed in five sections (sections V through IX) and provide 20-25 years of disposal capacity. The last two sections (sections VIII and IX) will be built above the existing landfill contours (Phase I and II, unlined, closed 1989). During excavation of the first two sections (V and VI), a groundwater interceptor trench will be installed immediately downgradient of the old landfill (Phases I and II) to capture potential contaminated groundwater. Contaminated groundwater and leachate will be collected and conveyed to the Westborough/Shrewsbury Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) for treatment and disposal.

Phase V will be built in compliance with the Solid Waste Management Facility Regulations, 310 CMR 19.000. Phase V will allow landfilling of ash residue and bypass waste, acceptable contaminated soils, non-recyclable construction and demolition debris, permitted special wastes, and other residual wastes. Grit generated at Westborough WWTF will continue to be disposed at this landfill. The NPC states that Phase V will require a modification to the facility's Solid Waste Facility Permit. MassDEP has stated in its comment letter that the NPC will require a Permit to Construct a Large Landfill Expansion from MassDEP.

Phase V provides additional capacity for the disposal of 150 or more tons per day (tpd) of certain solid wastes. However, Phase V is entirely within the area previously site-assigned for landfill use by the Shrewsbury Board of Health in 1971. Subsequent site assignment modifications in 1985 and 2005 did not alter the capacity or the area of the original site assignment.

According to the NPC, Phase V will generate wastewater flows of 46,000 gallons per day (gpd) on average and increase the total flow from the landfill from 35,000 gpd to 81,000 gpd. The 1985 ENF presented an estimate of an average of 35,000 gallons per day (gpd) of leachate generated during normal operations. According to the NPC, since 2000, the facility has

generated and discharged an average of 49,713 gpd, with a maximum monthly average of 110,209 gpd and a minimum monthly average of 3,713 gpd. The actual wastewater flows also include approximately 2,000 gpd to 6,000 gpd from other sources, including ongoing flow from a groundwater collector trench previously installed beneath the Phase I and II landfill.

The sewer operation is currently under a permit issued to the Town of Shrewsbury by the Westborough Wastewater Treatment Plant Board, with a rolling 12-month average flow of 81,000 gpd and a daily maximum of 144,000 gpd. In 2008, MassDEP issued a Sewer Connection Permit to the Town of Shrewsbury (BOH) for the landfill sewer connection. The permit review does not include the Phase V development. The proponent must file a permit modification for Phase V. I advise the proponent to consult with MassDEP for permit application requirement associated with development of Phase V.

Conclusion

Based on a review of the information provided by the proponent and after consultation with the state permitting agencies, I find that the potential impacts of this project change do not warrant the preparation of an EIR and can be addressed through the local and state permitting processes. No further MEPA review is required.

September 5, 2008

Date



Ian A. Bowles, Secretary

Comments received:

- 08/19/2008 Town of Shrewsbury
- 08/27/2008 Department of Environmental Protection
- 08/29/2008 Worcester Department of Public Works and Parks

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