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October 11, 2006

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

PROJECT NAME : Canton Septage Facility Project
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Canton
PROJECT WATERSHED : Neponset
EOEA NUMBER : 13871
PROJECT PROPONENT : Department of Public Water
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : August 25, 2004

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 hereby determine that this project **does not require** the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report.

As described in the Environmental Notification Form (ENF), the project involves the installation of a 5,000-gallon septage grit underground holding tank that will be connected to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's (MWRA) sewer system via an existing manhole located in Neponsett Street. The .13-acre project site is located within an existing sewer easement area of a 187-acre parcel of property owned by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) in Canton. As described in the ENF submittal, licensed septage haulers use this site to dispose of hauled septage waste to the MWRA sewer system. The proposed project will reduce the amount of sand and grit entering into the MWRA's sewer system.

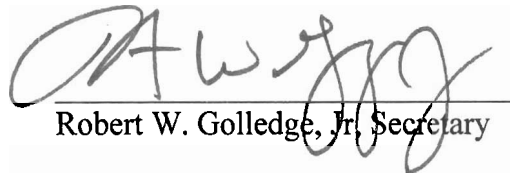
The project is undergoing review pursuant to Section 11.03 (11)(b) of the MEPA regulations because the project is located within the Fowl Meadow Area of Critical Environmental Concern (Fowl Meadow ACEC). The project will require an Order of Conditions from the Canton Conservation Commission, and hence a Superseding Order from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) if the local Order were appealed. The project also requires an 8M Land Use Permit from MWRA, and a Temporary Construction Permit from the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The proponent may be required to obtain a Scientific Collection Permit from NHESP to handle state-listed species encountered within the project site during construction.

Rare Species:

In their comments, the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) indicated that the project site abuts priority habitat and actual habitat for the Blanding's Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingi*) a state protected threatened species. According to NHESP, if construction activities occur between April 1 and October 31 the proponent must completely surround the limit of work with a silt fence to prevent turtles from entering the work site as they become active in spring. The bottom of the silt fence must be buried in a 4-6 inch deep trench and encircle the project work site. NHESP has also recommended that any state-listed turtles found within the enclosure be released in appropriate habitat near, but outside, the construction area prior to the start of work. A Scientific Collection Permit is required to handle state-listed species, and any state-listed species encountered shall be reported to the NHESP through a Rare Animal Observation Report within ten days of the observation.

The proponent can resolve any remaining issues regarding the technical specifications of the septage grit facility with the Canton Conservation Commission and the MWRA. The environmental impacts on the site should prove minimal. I conclude that no further MEPA review is required. The review of the ENF has served to demonstrate that the impacts of the project do not warrant the preparation of an EIR.

October 11, 2006
Date



Robert W. Gollidge, Jr., Secretary

Comments received:

10/04/06 Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Habitat (NHESP)
10/02/06 Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) - SERO

RWG/NCZ/ncz
ENF #13871