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October 25, 2007

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

PROJECT NAME:	Sutton Wellfield Water Treatment Plant
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY:	Sutton
PROJECT WATERSHED:	Blackstone River
EOEA NUMBER:	14106
PROJECT PROPONENT:	Whitinsville Water Company
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR:	September 25, 2007

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 (EIR).

Project Description

According to the Environmental Notification Form (ENF), the project involves the construction of a new water treatment plant (WTP) at the Whitinsville Water Company's (WWC) Sutton Wellfield, located off Mendon Road in Sutton. The WWC serves a population of approximately 14,000 in Northbridge and approximately 1,100 additional customers in parts of Sutton. The water supply is classified as a groundwater supply which depends on a series of five reservoirs to recharge the groundwater near the WWC's two tubular wellfields, the Sutton Wellfield and the Whitin Wellfield. The Sutton Wellfield consists of a series of driven wells (55 wells of 2.5" diameter and 4 wells of 3" diameter) interconnected by a suction header to a vacuum priming system located in a pump station, where two pumps lift the well water approximately 190 feet to the WWC's storage and distribution system.

Based on evaluations conducted in 2005, the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) determined that the groundwater extracted from the Sutton Wellfield is under the influence of surface water and therefore at risk of waterborne diseases, per the Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations (310 CMR 22.00). In June of 2006, MassDEP issued an Administrative Consent Order (ACO) mandating that water from the Sutton Wellfield be brought into compliance with the Surface Water Treatment Rule (SWTR), thereby requiring that a treatment plant be constructed and operational by September 2009.

The new WTP will be constructed 500 feet to the north of the existing pump station within a partially cleared area surrounded by woodland. Approximately 500 linear feet of water main will be installed to transport raw water to the WTP and a parallel line will transport finished water from the WTP to a connection point near the existing pump station. The project will require the installation of approximately 400 linear feet of new pavement. The WTP will be a single-story, pre-engineered metal building.

Jurisdiction

This project is subject to review pursuant to Section 11.03(4)(b)(4) of the MEPA regulations because it involves the construction of a new drinking water treatment plant with a capacity of more than 1,000,000 gallons per day (gpd). The project requires the following permits and/or approvals from MassDEP: BRP WS 24 (Permit to Construct Treatment Facility) and BRP WP 64a (Title 5 Permitting – Approval of a Tight Tank). The project also requires an Order of Conditions from the Sutton Conservation Commission.

The Proponent is not seeking financial assistance from the Commonwealth. Therefore, MEPA jurisdiction applies to those aspects of the project within the subject matter of required or potentially required state permits with the potential to cause Damage to the Environment. In this case, MEPA jurisdiction extends to water, wastewater and wetlands.

Review of the ENF

The WWC holds a Water Withdrawal Permit (#9P-2-12-216.01) allowing a maximum daily withdrawal of 980,000 gallons per day (gpd). The proposed WTP will have the capacity to treat 1.08 million gpd. The WTP will use dual-media pressure filtration to treat the water. S olids from process wastes will be separated in a clarifier constructed adjacent to the WTP. Solids will be pumped to two sludge drying beds, approximately 40' x 70', for drying prior to disposal by landfill. According to the Proponent, the sludge beds will not be lined. The Proponent should consult with MassDEP regarding the need for a Groundwater Discharge Permit if the sludge beds are unlined.

The Proponent's selected location for the WTP minimizes the amount of tree clearing required while providing a suitable geotechnical/structural foundation for the building. The project site may be within the 100-year floodplain; the Proponent should note comments from

the Department of Conservation and Recreation regarding State Building Code requirements for structures within an A-zone. The Proponent will develop a stormwater management system for the project site for submittal to the Sutton Planning Board and Conservation Commission.

The WTP and sludge drying beds have been sited to avoid direct wetland impacts. The extension of the access road and water pipes will cross an intermittent stream located between the existing pump station and the proposed WTP. The intermittent stream acts as an emergency spillway from Reservoir 4; currently flow is conveyed through five side-by-side culverts underneath the existing dirt road. The arrangement of these culverts makes the installation of the water pipes within the existing road alignment difficult. Therefore, the Proponent proposes to install the water pipes beneath the bed of the intermittent stream approximately 20 feet downstream of the culvert's outlet. The Proponent will conduct the excavation and installation when there is no streamflow in the channel to minimize adverse impacts. According to the ENF, the installation of the pipes will result in temporary impacts to 800 square feet of Bank. The Proponent intends to file a Notice of Intent with the Sutton Conservation Commission under the Limited Project provisions of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act at 310 CMR 10.53(3).

The WTP will be unmanned and therefore will generate very little domestic sewage (less than 40 gallons per day). The Proponent considered a new connection to the municipal sewer; however this would have required the construction of several miles of new sewer main. The Proponent also considered constructing a septic system on-site; however this would have placed the septic within immediate proximity to a public water supply. The Proponent proposes in the ENF to install a 2,000 gallon tight tank on the site. Wastes from the tight tank will be pumped out and transported to an approved off-site wastewater treatment plan for disposal approximately once per month.

Conclusion

Based on a review of the information provided by the proponent and after consultation with the relevant public agencies, I find that the potential impacts of this project do not warrant the preparation of an EIR. No further MEPA review is required.

October 25, 2007
Date

Ian A. Bowles

Comments Received:

10/11/2007 Department of Environmental Protection, Central Regional Office
10/15/2007 Department of Conservation and Recreation

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