



# *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

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October 26, 2006

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

PROJECT NAME : Municipal Supply Well at Test Well Site 27-03  
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Brewster  
PROJECT WATERSHED : Cape Cod  
EOEA NUMBER : 13882  
PROJECT PROPONENT : **Brewster** Water Department  
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : September 26, 2006

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (G. L. c. 30, ss. 61-62H) and Section 11.03 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 900 gallon per minute (gpm) yield gravel packed water supply well, an 864 square foot (sf) concrete well pumping station, enhancement of an existing access road, and installation of a water main and electrical conduits. The purpose of the proposed well is to create flexibility and reliability in the water system. The new well will provide redundancy in case of emergencies and mechanical breakdowns and is intended to provide enhancements to water quality and reduce local environmental impacts from prolonged pumping of existing wells.

The project site is within 140 acres of land controlled by the Brewster Water Department; located within the larger 835-acre Punkhorn Parklands. This property is managed by the Brewster Conservation Commission and Water Department for the purposes of conservation, water supply, and passive recreation. The project does not require an increase in presently permitted withdrawal levels and the proponent owns all of the land within the Zone I of the proposed well. A portion of the project site contains Priority Habitat, identified by the

Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP), for the Eastern Box Turtle (*Terrapene carolina*).

The well site will be located at the site of Test Well 27-03, located approximately 1,500 feet east of West Gate Road. Access to the well will be provided along an existing dirt access road extending from West Gate Road. This existing dirt access road will be enhanced with gravel. Approximately 1.3 miles of 12-inch water main will be installed within the access road and continue westerly down Black Duck Cartway, to Cranview Road, to Slough Road, where it will tie in to the existing water distribution system. Electricity will be provided to the project site from the south, installed underground along West Gate Road and the proposed well access road.

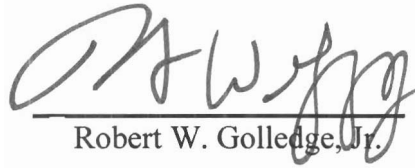
The project is undergoing review pursuant to Section 11.03 (4)(b)(1) because the project requires a state permit and it consists of a new water withdrawal of 100,000 or more gallons per day (gpd). The project requires an amendment to an existing Water Management Act (WMA) permit and a New Source Approval by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). It has been determined by NHESP that permitting under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) will not be required if appropriate mitigation efforts are undertaken by the project proponent.

The proponent has undertaken extensive hydrogeologic modeling as part of the Prolonged Pumping Test Report (the Report), submitted to MassDEP for review in association with the well permitting process. This Report included calculation of the Zone II wellhead protection area for Test Well 27-03, potential drawdown impacts, and groundwater contour modeling. The proponent utilized data collected from numerous observation wells to conclude that the proposed water withdrawals would not have a significant impact on adjacent pond areas. This assessment included impact to Hinckley and Upper Mill Pond, water bodies identified by the Division of Marine Fisheries to contain anadromous and catadromous fisheries.

NHESP has indicated that a portion of the site includes Priority Habitat for the Eastern Box Turtle, a state-protected rare species listed under MESA. NHESP has determined that the completion of the test well and pumping station will not result in a "take" of the Eastern Box Turtle. However, NHESP did express concern about the protection of Eastern Box Turtles during trenching of the water main and electrical power. Therefore, based upon the explicit recommendation of NHESP, the proposed project must take steps to avoid impacts to the Eastern Box Turtle during certain phases of the proposed project. The proponent should conduct the water main and electrical line construction during lower activity and/or typical inactive period of the turtles (November 1 through April 1). If trenching must occur during the turtle activity period (April 2 through October 31), the proponent must contact NHESP to discuss measures for protecting Eastern Box Turtles during earthwork (e.g. biologist monitor, back-filing trenches daily, etc.).

Based on the information in the ENF and after consultation with relevant public agencies, I find that the potential impacts of the project and appropriate mitigation can be addressed during the permitting process. No further MEPA review is required.

October 26, 2006  
Date



Robert W. Golledge, Jr.

Comments received:

- 10/10/2006 Division of Fisheries and Wildlife – Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program
- 10/12/2006 Division of Marine Fisheries
- 10/13/2006 Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection – SERO
- 10/13/2006 Watershed Hydrogeologic

RWG/HSJ/hsj