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November 8, 2007

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

PROJECT NAME: Saint Gobain Expansion
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY: Northborough/Marlborough
PROJECT WATERSHED: Assabet River
EEA NUMBER: 14114
PROJECT PROPONENT: Saint Gobain
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR: October 9, 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

As outlined in the Environmental Notification Form (ENF), the project involves the expansion of the existing Saint Gobain research facility located on Goddard Road in Northborough, MA. The Proponent, Saint Gobain, is an international manufacturer of high performance materials. The Saint Gobain North American research and development headquarters is located at the Northborough campus. The Proponent seeks to add an additional 240,000 square feet (sf) of additional gross floor area to the existing facility. The project also involves the construction of 730 new parking spaces. The project will be constructed in phases. Phase 1, consisting of 76,400 sf will be constructed first. The remaining buildings will be constructed over the next ten years.

The project site consists of four parcels at 9 and 10 Goddard Road in the Town of Northborough and the City of Marlborough. The 25.1-acre project site is abutted by Route 290 to the northwest; another commercial facility, Sepracore, Inc. to the northeast; a New England Power parcel to the southwest; and Goddard Road to the southeast. The existing facility is located on 9 Goddard Road and includes a series of connected buildings with a total footprint of 96,918 sf. 10 Goddard Road is located across from 9 Goddard Road and is currently wooded. This parcel will be used to construct additional parking necessary to service the site.

Jurisdiction

The project is undergoing review pursuant to Section 11.03(6)(b)(15) of the MEPA regulations because it will result in the construction of more than 300 new parking spaces at a single location. The project will require a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction Activities Permit from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); an Indirect Access Permit from the Massachusetts Highway Department (MassHighway); and Site Plan Approval and an amendment to an existing Groundwater Overlay District permit from the Town of Northborough.

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 traffic.

Review of the ENF

The project will result in the alteration of 5.2 acres of land and the creation of 4.0 acres of new impervious surface. There is an existing perennial stream with associated Riverfront and Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW) on the 10 Goddard Road parcel. All proposed work for the project is located outside of the Riverfront and 100-foot buffer zone to BVW. The ENF contained a drainage report and a discussion of how the project will comply with the Department of Environmental Protection's (MassDEP) Stormwater Management Policy. As noted in comments from MassHighway, the Proponent should make every effort to retain and infiltrate stormwater onsite and avoid connections to the state highway drainage system.

Based on the Institute of Traffic Engineers (ITE) land use code for manufacturing, the project at full build is anticipated to generate 810 new vehicle trips per day, for a total of 1,340 trips for the fully expanded facility. Because the project site abuts I-290, an Indirect Access Permit from MassHighway is required. The project site has not been the subject of MEPA review before. The Proponent submitted a Traffic Impact and Access Study (TIAS) with the ENF to evaluate the traffic impacts of the site with existing and proposed conditions at full-build. The TIAS indicates that the project will have minimal impact on the local roadway network and that the projected peak hour level of service (LOS) at nearby intersections will not be degraded from the No-Build to Build condition.

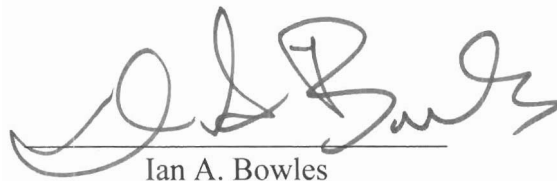
Currently, access to the site is provided via two full access/egress unsignalized driveways along Goddard Road. As proposed in the ENF, additional driveways will be constructed on Goddard Road across from the existing west site driveway and on Waterford Drive. A crosswalk is proposed across Goddard Road to accommodate pedestrians that will utilize the proposed parking area on the southern side of Goddard Road.

To ensure the safe and efficient flow of traffic to and from the site, the Proponent will ensure that signage and vegetation does not compromise adequate site distance at driveways. The Proponent will manage vegetation at the intersection of Hudson Street and Solomon Pond Road to enhance visibility. Possible additional improvements to the Hudson Street and Solomon Pond Road intersection will be addressed during local permitting.

Conclusion

I have determined that the ENF has sufficiently defined the nature and general elements of the project and has proposed measures to avoid and mitigate environmental impacts. I am satisfied that any remaining issues can be adequately addressed during the state and local permitting and review process. The proposed project, as described in the ENF, requires no further review under MEPA.

November 8, 2007
Date



Ian A. Bowles

Comments Received:

- 11/1/2007 Department of Environmental Protection, Central Regional Office
- 11/1/2007 Executive Office of Transportation

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