



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900

Boston, MA 02114-2524

MITT ROMNEY
GOVERNOR

KERRY HEALEY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

ROBERT W. GOLLEDGE, JR.
SECRETARY

Tel. (617) 626-1000
Fax. (617) 626-1181
<http://www.mass.gov/envir>

November 24, 2006

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

PROJECT NAME : Bellingham Comprehensive Wastewater Resources
Management Plan/Depot Court Sewer Extension
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Bellingham
PROJECT WATERSHED : Blackstone River
EOEA NUMBER : 11602
PROJECT PROPONENT : Bellingham Housing Authority
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : October 25, 2006

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 change **does not require** additional MEPA review.

Project Description

The project change consists of connecting an existing elderly housing facility to the Bellingham sewer system for eventual treatment and discharge at the Woonsocket, Rhode Island Wastewater Treatment Facility. The development contains nine buildings with six septic systems. Currently, the housing facility is discharging wastewater to two failing septic systems. The proposed sewer system extension will include a pump station within the northeast area of the project site, 1,400 linear feet of 4" PVC forcemain on Depot Street and North Main Street and 1,000 linear feet of gravity sewer. The proponent has explored alternatives to a sewer connection including repair and/or replacement of existing systems to address the environmental and public health threat posed by existing conditions.

The NPC is being reviewed in the context of the Bellingham Comprehensive Wastewater Resources Management Plan (CWRMP) (EOEA #11602). The project site was not identified as a "Wastewater Needs Area" by the CWRMP and, therefore, required the filing of an NPC. The project change does not meet or exceed any review thresholds for filing of an Environmental Notification Form (ENF). It requires a Sewer Connection Permit from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and an Order of Conditions from the Bellingham Conservation Commission for work within the buffer zone to wetlands. The Town of Bellingham Water and Sewer Commission has approved the sewer connection permit. Comments from MassDEP indicate support for the proposed connection based on the inadequacy of soils on the site. MassDEP has not requested any additional analysis of wastewater issues.

Based on a review of the NPC, the comments received and consultation with public agencies, I am satisfied that the environmental impacts of the project change do not warrant the preparation of a Supplemental EIR. No further MEPA review is required.

November 24, 2006
Date


Robert W. Golledge, Jr.

Comments received:

11/14/06 Department of Environmental Protection/Central Regional Office
(MassDEP/CERO)

RWG/CDB/cdb