

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs ■ MEPA Office

ENF

Environmental Notification Form

For Office Use Only
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

EOEA No.: 12952
 MEPA Analyst: Arthur Pogsley
 Phone: 617-626-1029

The information requested on this form must be completed to begin MEPA Review in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, 301 CMR 11.00.

Project Name: Town of Lee, Massachusetts Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade and Expansion		
Street: 379 Pleasant Street		
Municipality: Lee	Watershed: Housatonic (USGS 01100005)	
Universal Tranverse Mercator Coordinates: ZONE 18 46 82 614N 6 45 039E	Latitude: 42° 17'12" N Longitude: 73° 14'25" W	
Estimated commencement date: 11/98	Estimated completion date: 6/05	
Approximate cost: \$12,000,000	Status of project design: 30%complete (as-bid for design-build)	
Proponent: S E A Consultants Inc.		
Street: 2080 Silas Deane Highway, Suite 302		
Municipality: Rocky Hill	State: CT	Zip Code: 06067
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: William N. Hardy, P.E.		
Firm/Agency: S E A Consultants Inc.	Street: 2080 Silas Dean Highway, Suite 302	
Municipality: Rocky Hill	State: CT	Zip Code: 06067
Phone: (860) 563-7775, Ext. 124	Fax: (860) 563-6744	E-mail: Bill.Hardy@seacon.com

- Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)?
 Yes No
- Has this project been filed with MEPA before?
 Yes (EOEA No. _____) No
- Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before?
 Yes (EOEA No. _____) Not Sure
- Is this an Expanded ENF (see 301 CMR 11.05(7)) requesting:
- a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8)) Yes No
 - a Special Review Procedure? (see 301 CMR 11.09) Yes No
 - a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11) Yes No
 - a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11) Yes No

Identify any financial assistance or land transfer from an agency of the Commonwealth, including the agency name and the amount of funding or land area (in acres): **N/A**

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?
 Yes (Specify _____) No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: **NPDES, Local building and construction trade permits, Order of Conditions - Lee Conservation Commission**
 Which ENF or EIR review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03):

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare Species | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wastewater | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Air | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid & Hazardous Waste |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACEC | <input type="checkbox"/> Regulations | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical & Archaeological Resources |

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total	State Permits & Approvals
LAND				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 401 Water Quality Certification <input type="checkbox"/> MHD or MDC Access Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Water Management Act Permit <input type="checkbox"/> New Source Approval <input type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/ Extension Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Other Permits (including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:
Total site acreage	15 ac.			
New acres of land altered		--		
Acres of impervious area	1.4 ac.	0.2 ac.	1.6 ac.	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		0		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0		
STRUCTURES				
Gross square footage	3,200 SF	7,600 SF	10,800 SF	
Number of housing units	N/A			
Maximum height (in feet)	20'			
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day	N/A			
Parking spaces	N/A			
WATER/WASTEWATER				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	N/A			
GPD water withdrawal	N/A			
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	1.0 MGD	0.5 MGD	1.5 MGD	
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	N/A			

CONSERVATION LAND: Will the project involve the conversion of public parkland or other Article 97 public natural resources to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97?

- Yes (Specify _____) No

Will it involve the release of any conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation

restriction, or watershed preservation restriction?

Yes (Specify _____) No

RARE SPECIES: Does the project site include Estimated Habitat of Rare Species, Vernal Pools, Priority Sites of Rare Species, or Exemplary Natural Communities?

Yes (Specify _____) No

HISTORICAL /ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Does the project site include any structure, site or district listed in the State Register of Historic Place or the inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth?

Yes (Specify _____) No

If yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources?

Yes (Specify _____) No

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN: Is the project in or adjacent to an Area of Critical Environmental Concern?

Yes (Specify _____) No

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project description should include (a) a description of the project site, (b) a description of both on-site and off-site alternatives and the impacts associated with each alternative, and (c) potential on-site and off-site mitigation measures for each alternative (You may attach one additional page, if necessary.)

The objectives of this project are to upgrade and expand the existing wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) for the Town of Lee, Massachusetts in order to meet current effluent limits and to provide additional hydraulic capacity to meet current and future wastewater flows. The existing WWTF was constructed and commissioned in the late 1960's and much of the processes and equipment that make-up the plant are in poor condition and have extended beyond their useful service life of approximately 20 years. The original plant was designed with an average daily flow (ADF) of 1.0 million gallons per day (mgd). At present, the existing WWTF operates at or slightly above its design capacity. The existing plant operates without significant backup systems at several key processes, which severely limits the flexibility of the WWTF and failure of any of these aged systems would severely debilitate the efficiency of the facility. Such failures would adversely impact the environment and residents downstream of the WWTF discharge.

The general project area is onsite at the existing WWTF. The project will provide a more reliable, efficient, and code compliant wastewater treatment facility for the town. The improvements for the WWTF consist primarily of the following:

- Installing a new influent pumping station;
- Installing a new headworks facility for screening and grit removal;
- Installing a new septage receiving station;
- Modifying the facility's activated sludge process;
- Installing a new disinfection facility;
- Upgrading the sludge processing and handling equipment;
- Installing new pumps, motors, and controls to increase treatment and energy efficiency and improve the reliability of wastewater treatment, and;
- Other related improvements.

The proposed improvements will update the existing WWTF and all appurtenant equipment to provide a reliable operation to meet current and future effluent limits and wastewater flows. Treatment upgrades will improve the removal of solids, address nutrient removal, and provide

disinfection options to meet current permit limits defined by the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The proposed improvements will provide vital backup treatment processes, increased sludge handling and storage capabilities, a safe work environment for facility personnel and establish a general level of comfort for the population effected by the water quality of the plant effluent.

In order to meet current effluent limits provided in the approved NPDES permit issued October 4, 2000 several treatment alternatives were evaluated. The treatment alternatives primarily consisted of several modifications of the current activated sludge process. Each treatment alternative was evaluated on its ability to treat increased wastewater flows, meet stricter effluent limits, and the need to restrict the discharge of nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus). Based on the criteria, a membrane bioreactor technology manufactured by Zenon Environmental Services, Inc. was determined to be the most favorable and cost effective option.

Improvements to the operational efficiency will minimize potential adverse impacts such as sewage bypasses and improve the overall quality of the effluent discharged to the Housatonic River. This will improve current conditions in the river by preserving and improving its water quality, designated uses, aesthetics, aquatic life, and protect other environmental resources.

The ultimate goal of the proposed improvements is to improve water quality within the Housatonic River and to preserve its recreational value. The Housatonic River is on the DEP, "303(d) List" of, stressed waters due to the presence of PCB and pathogens. The pathogens are partly attributed to several WWTF discharges located throughout its reach, including the WWTF located in Lee. An area immediately downstream of the facility is designated as a habitat for rare wildlife and is used extensively for boating, fishing and other recreational activities for many residents throughout Massachusetts and Connecticut. Improvements to the effluent quality will work, in time, toward the maintenance of designated uses (i.e. recreation, fishing, canoeing) of the Housatonic River. The project will eliminate potential facility malfunctions experienced in the past and thereby significantly reduce adverse impacts on sensitive areas within the river basin.

The project will provide additional capacity for the removal of solids, reduce oxygen demand within the river, and reduce nutrients and pathogens. Improved removal of organics, fecal coliform, and pathogens will ensure the effluent from the plant will not decrease current water quality standards in the Housatonic River. Furthermore, it is anticipated that the improvements will provide a positive impact on the water quality and reduce pollutant loading of parameters cited in the DEP "303(d) List".

LAND SECTION – all proponents must fill out this section

I. Thresholds / Permits

A. Does the project meet or exceed any review thresholds related to **land** (see 301 CMR 11.03(1))
 Yes **No**; if yes, specify each threshold:

II. Impacts and Permits

A. Describe, in acres, the current and proposed character of the project site, as follows:

	<u>Existing</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Total</u>
Footprint of buildings	0.07 ac.	0.17 ac.	0.24 ac.
Roadways, parking, and other paved areas	0.23 ac.	0.22 ac	0.45 ac.
Other altered areas (describe)	--	--	--
Undeveloped areas	--	--	--

B. Has any part of the project site been in active agricultural use in the last three years?
 Yes **No**; if yes, how many acres of land in agricultural use (with agricultural soils) will be converted to nonagricultural use?