

*For Office Use Only*  
*Executive Office of Environmental Affairs*  
EOEA No.: 13502  
MEPA Analyst: *Beiony Angus*  
Phone: 617-626-1024

# ENF Environmental Notification Form

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: <b>Turners Falls Municipal Airport 20-year Improvement Plan</b>		
Street: <b>Millers Falls Road</b>		
Municipality: <b>Montague</b>	Watershed: <b>Connecticut River</b>	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: <b>N 3,041,880 E 381,005 (UTM 18/USGS Greenfield Quad)</b>	Latitude: <b>42°35'29" N</b>	Longitude: <b>72°31'22" W</b>
Estimated commencement date: <b>June 2006</b>	Estimated completion date: <b>2019</b>	
Approximate cost: <b>\$11,200,000</b>	Status of project design: <b>5 %complete</b>	
Proponent: <b>Turners Falls Municipal Airport</b>		
Street: <b>One Avenue A</b>		
Municipality: <b>Montague</b>	State: <b>MA</b>	Zip Code: <b>01376</b>
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: <b>Armand J. Dufresne, Senior Airport Planner</b>		
Firm/Agency: <b>Gale Associates, Inc.</b>	Street: <b>15 Constitution Drive</b>	
Municipality: <b>Bedford</b>	State: <b>NH</b>	Zip Code: <b>03110</b>
Phone: <b>(603) 471-1887</b>	Fax: <b>(603) 471-1809</b>	E-mail: <b>ajd@gainc.com</b>

- 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. \_\_\_\_\_)  No
- 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 301CMR 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): Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission (approximately \$1,270,000 over 20 year planning period)

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

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: **Environmental Impact and Site Plan Review (Montague Planning Board)**

Which ENF or EIR review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03):

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rare Species | <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water           | <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater              | <input checked="" 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
<b>LAND</b>				<input type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Permits <i>(including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:</i> Conservation Permit
Total site acreage	236 AC			
New acres of land altered		26.55 AC		
Acres of impervious area	13.39 AC	6.39 AC	19.78 AC	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0.00 SF		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		0.00 SF		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0.00 SF		
<b>STRUCTURES</b>				
Gross square footage	23,158 SF	39,168 SF	62, 326 SF	
Number of housing units	0	0	0	
Maximum height (in feet)	25 feet	0	25 feet	
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>				
Vehicle trips per day	75	8	83	
Parking spaces	30	2	32	
<b>WATER/WASTEWATER</b>				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	27 gallons	0 gal	27 gallons	
GPD water withdrawal	N/A	N/A	N/A	
GPD wastewater generation/treatment	300 gpd	0 gpd	300 gpd	
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	N/A	N/A	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 (Estimated Habitat of Rare Species \_\_\_\_\_ )  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.)

Turners Falls Municipal Airport is a small general aviation airport owned by and located entirely within the Town of Montague, Massachusetts. The airport consists of 235.97 acres, a 3013-foot long, paved runway (Runway 16-34) running from northwest to southeast, a full-length paved parallel taxiway, a main aircraft parking apron (6) aircraft parking spaces, a smaller apron (west apron) with 3 parking spaces, a small airport terminal building, and various hangars for storing aircraft. The airport does not currently have a fueling facility or an aircraft repair facility, although a fueling facility is planned for the future. Airport topography is generally flat with some undulation in topography east and north of the runway.

The proposed project(s) covered by this ENF include several different airport improvements for the years 1998 through 2019. These improvements have been identified by various airport-planning studies. These improvements are motivated by the need for compliance with current FAA standards, improved operational efficiencies, noise abatement, airport security, and the airport's desire to become financially self-sufficient. The suite of planned improvements include:

- Reconstruction of Runway 16-34 (shift runway 35 feet and the parallel taxiway 20 feet to the east to avoid archaeological site)
- Extend the runway and parallel taxiway 187 feet to the north and 1,000 feet to the south for a new runway length of 4,200 feet
- Reconstruction of turf runway safety areas (150 feet wide centered on runway centerline and 300 feet beyond each runway end)
- Excavating and regrading of existing ground obstructions to the FAR Part 77 imaginary surfaces
- Removal of vegetative obstructions (trees) to the airport's protected imaginary surfaces (all upland clearing on airport property – approximately 30 acres)
- Construction of an aircraft run-up ramp
- Installation of an obstruction light on Country Hill, Wendell State Forest
- Installation of an aboveground aviation fuel storage and fueling facility
- Construction of a snow removal equipment building
- Construction of a corporate aviation hangar
- Construction of one 6-unit box hangar and associated taxiway with 20-space auto

- parking spaces to serve all existing hangars
- Relocation and construction of airport access drive and 35-space parking lot to serve airport terminal building and proposed T-hangars (20 T-hangars)
- Relocation of airport terminal building
- Reserving area for parachute and jump school facilities with associated unpaved aprons and taxiway/taxilane on northeast end of airfield
- Reserving area for two (2) 10-unit, nested T-hangars with associated aprons and taxilanes
- Completion of airport perimeter fence (approximately 3,500 linear feet)
- Acquisition of two abutting properties for aviation use (Pioneer Aviation parcel and Tri-State parcel)

Together these projects constitute the airport's 20-year improvement plan.

The proposed projects have been planned in full awareness of potential archaeological and rare species issues at the airport. A Paleo-Indian archaeological site is located on airport property, and the sponsor has taken steps to avoid impacting the site by relocating the runway and parallel taxiway centerlines further to the north. A small hillside located on the north side of the runway on the southern edge of the airport property indicates favorable habitat for the Eastern Box turtle. No turtles or evidence of turtles was found during several rare species surveys of the site. The open portions of the airport have been surveyed for state listed grassland birds that have been identified in several rare species surveys. A significant portion of the airport's northern side is forested and not suitable for the species identified.

The cumulative effects of the proposed airport improvement projects include temporary impacts to Estimated Habitat of Rare Species (grassland birds) through the relocation of the runway 35 feet to the north and relocation of the taxiway 20 feet to the north, both actions are motivated by the need to avoid negative impacts to the archaeological site. Permanent alteration of grasslands will occur through the construction of the runway/taxiway extension, construction of the turf safety areas, aircraft runup area, construction of the parachuting area, and construction of the two 10-unit T-hangar buildings. However, in total, an increased amount of grassland habitat will be created by the proposed improvements. Permanent impacts to the grasslands may be mitigated through the conversion of forest to grasslands. The clearing of some forested areas are necessary to clear the airport's protected imaginary surfaces (airspace) and these cleared areas may be converted to grasslands suitable for the state listed species identified. Other improvements to the terminal area (corporate flight facility, SRE building, relocated terminal building and parking, and construction of the 6-unit box hangar and associated parking lot and apron) are on previously disturbed or developed lands.

To allow the extension of the runway, the hillside located to the north of the Runway 34 end must be excavated. This action will potentially disrupt potential eastern box turtle habitat. However, this area will be restored to suitable turtle habitat conditions once the earth removal is completed.

The airport has developed its preliminary conceptual plans to avoid and minimize known potential impacts to rare species habitat to the maximum extent practicable. As part of the airport's coordination efforts with the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP), the airport will further refine its plans to ensure minimal impacts. If impacts cannot be avoided, a mitigation plan will be developed in

**coordination with NHESP to adequately address rare species habitat issues, and achieve permit compliance. The airport has a long history of cooperation with numerous governmental and non-governmental interests in the protection of rare species, a record it expects to expand into the future.**