

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

ENF

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs ■ MEPA Office

Environmental Notification Form

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| <i>For Office Use Only</i> | |
| <i>Executive Office of Environmental Affairs</i> | |
| EOEA No.: | <u>13767</u> |
| MEPA Analyst: | <u>Bill GAGE</u> |
| Phone: | 617-626- <u>1025</u> |

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: Dartmouth Sewer Extension Project | | |
| Street: Subarea 6A - Bayview Area: portions of Gulf Road and West Smith Neck Road; Beach Avenue, Bayview Avenue, Bourne Place, Milky Way, Salt Creek Road, Dutra Avenue, Dyke Lane, Degaris Avenue, North Lane. Subarea 4A: Cedar Dell Lake Area: portions of Old Westport Road and Lucy Little Road; Alden Avenue, Lamb Street, Charles Street, Weaver Street, Pond Street, Juniper Street. (Note: Subarea 4A also contains Sharon Ave, Snowberry Drive, Croft Place, Delphic Place and Delta Avenue. These roads were included in the previous ENF filing as part of Subarea 4.) | | |
| Municipality: Dartmouth | Watershed: Buzzards Bay | |
| Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: | | |
| Subarea 4A | Subarea 6A | |
| Start: 332448.98 E/4611258.93 N | 335581.32 E/4605312.42 N/UTM19 NAD83 | |
| End: 331941.16 E/4609750.62 N | 337190.82 E/4604185.46 N/UTM19 NAD83 | |
| Latitude: | Subarea 4A | Subarea 6A |
| Start | 41°38'07.7"N | 41°34'57.3"N |
| End | 41°37'18.4"N | 41°34'22.0"N |
| Longitude: | | |
| Start | 71°00'41.9"W | 70°58'20.7"W |
| End | 71°01'02.3"W | 70°57'10.1"W |
| Estimated commencement date: Subarea 6A: July 2006 and Subarea 4A: March 2007 | Estimated completion date: Subarea 6A: September 2007 and Subarea 4A: September 2008 | |
| Approximate cost: Subarea 6A: \$4.8 million and Subarea 4A: \$2.6 million | Status of project design: Subarea 6A: 95% complete and Subarea 4A: 10% complete | |
| Proponent: Department of Public Works | | |
| Street: 759 Russell Mills Road | | |
| Municipality: Town of Dartmouth | State: MA | Zip Code: 02748-1172 |
| Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Mary Ellen Radovanic | | |
| Firm/Agency: Earth Tech, Inc. | Street: 196 Baker Avenue | |
| Municipality: Concord | State: MA | Zip Code: 01742-2167 |
| Phone: (978) 371-4122 | Fax: (978) 371-2468 | E-mail: Maryellen.radovanic@earthtech.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 Nos. 6883 and 10835) No

An ENF for the Dartmouth Facilities Plan was filed in December 1987 (EOEA No. 6883). An ENF for the Dartmouth Sewer Expansion Project, which involved sewer installation in 11 subareas, was filed in July 1996 (EOEA No. 10835). This ENF is for sewer installation in two additional subareas.

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): State Revolving Fund for construction phase at approximately \$6.8 million (Subarea 6A: \$4,450,000 and Subarea 4A: \$2,350,000)

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?

Yes (Specify _____) No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: Local Order of Conditions, Local Building Permit, DEP Sewer Connection /Extension Permit, NPDES MA Construction Stormwater General Permit, Chapter 91 License (potential) Conservation & Mgt Permit (potential)

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

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions (potential) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License (potential) <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/ Extension Permit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Permits (including Legislative Approvals) – Specify: <u>MESA/Conservation & Mgt. Permit (potential)</u> |
| Total site acreage | 5.91 | | | |
| New acres of land altered | | 0.44 | | |
| Acres of impervious area | 5.45 | 0.02 | 5.47 | |
| Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration | | 0 | | |
| Square feet of new other wetland alteration | | Subarea 6A: 36,162 ft ² of temporary impact to LSCSF | | |
| Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways | | 0 | | |
| STRUCTURES | | | | |
| Gross square footage | 0 | Approximately 1,050 ft ² total four pump stations | Approximately 1,050 ft ² total for four pump stations | |
| Number of housing units | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Maximum height (in feet) | 0 | Approximately 20 ft each | Approximately 20 ft each | |

| TRANSPORTATION | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| Vehicle trips per day | 0 | 8 (2 per pump station per day) | 8 (2 per pump station per day) |
| Parking spaces | 0 | 4 (1 per pump station) | 4 (1 per pump station) |
| WASTEWATER | | | |
| Gallons/day (GPD) of water use | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GPD water withdrawal | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GPD wastewater generation/treatment | 0 | 85,300 GPD 6A: 55,000 GPD 4A: 30,300 GPD | 85,300 GPD 6A: 55,000 GPD 4A: 30,300 GPD |
| Length of water/sewer mains (in miles) | 0 | 6.72 mi. 6A: 4.01 mi. 4A: 2.71 mi. | 6.72 mi. 6A: 4.01 mi. 4A: 2.71 mi. |

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

Subarea 6A: None

Subarea 4A: Three small portions of Subarea 4A overlap NHESP mapped Priority Habitats of Rare Species; two portions of Subarea 4A overlap NHESP Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife. However, the pipeline component of the project is exempt as a utility for which all associated work is within ten feet from the edge of existing paved road. Only a small pump station is just within the boundary of a mapped Priority Habitat of Rare Species.

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.)

Project Background

The Town of Dartmouth developed a Facilities Plan in the late 1980's. The associated ENF was submitted to MEPA and noticed in the Environmental Monitor on December 28, 1987 (EOEA #6883). The Secretary determined that no EIR was required. In July 1996 an ENF (EOEA # 10835) was filed for installation of sewers in eleven subareas of the town. These projects have been

completed, with the exception of a portion of Subarea 4, which has been expanded and is discussed in this ENF. Recently, the Town has consulted with DEP regarding high septic system failure rates in the Bayview and Cedar Dell Lake neighborhoods. Bayview is adjacent to Apponagansett Bay, which recent studies have found to have nutrient loading issues. Cedar Dell Lake neighborhood is within a DEP-approved Zone II for a public water supply, as well as in the vicinity of a number of private drinking water supply wells. Both neighborhoods have small lot sizes, homes between 30 and 120 years old, and soils that are not generally suitable for on-site septic systems. DEP agreed with the Town that expanding the existing sewer system to provide service to these two areas was an appropriate means of dealing with potential long-term water quality impacts. The Town is developing a Project Evaluation Report (PER) for submittal to DEP to provide supplemental information relative to the proposed areas, and a copy is included herein as Attachment 4. The Town's existing wastewater treatment facility has excess capacity within its permitted flows to accommodate the estimated flows from the Bayview and Cedar Dell Lake areas.

Prior to this submittal, guidance from MEPA was sought as to the most appropriate method of filing. MEPA indicated that as long as the project exceeded one or more thresholds, then an ENF would be the most appropriate approach given the timeframe since the original Facilities Plan/ENF in 1987.

Project Site

Subarea 4A consists of two neighborhoods – the Sharon Road/Delta Ave area already presented in the 1996 ENF, and the Lucy Little Road/Alden Avenue area adjacent to Cedar Dell Lake. The Sharon Road area is discussed because the boundaries of the Subarea 4 sewer service area have been revised to extend to the Lucy Little Road/Alden Avenue neighborhood. As this portion was not reviewed in the 1996 ENF it is presented herein. The revised area, referred to in this submittal as Subarea 4A, is comprised of the Sharon Road and Lucy Little Road neighborhoods. The Cedar Dell Lake area is located almost entirely within Aquifer Zone II of some of Dartmouth's most productive wells.

Proposed sewers in Subarea 4A (including Sharon Road) consist of installing approximately 9,000 linear feet of 8-inch diameter PVC gravity sewers; 500 linear feet of 1-1/2-inch PVC low pressure sewers; 2 self priming pumping stations; and 4,800 linear feet of 6-inch diameter HDPE force main. The proposed sewer extension will provide a long term wastewater solution for the area residents and further protect the Town's aquifer. Many of the homes in the area are 30 to 60 years old, with a Title 5 System inspection failure rate of about 40 to 50 percent. The homes were built for seasonal use, but over the years have been converted to year-round use. The lots are small, and predominant soils in the area include well drained pervious sands and gravels. In some areas there is a seasonally high groundwater table. Currently 7 homes are under orders to repair their failed septic systems, 23 homes have upgraded their septic systems within the past 10 years. The Sharon Road area is also discussed herein because more a recent NHESP Atlas shows a Priority Habitat of Rare Species polygon overlapping the northwest corner of the neighborhood. The pipeline component of the project is exempt from 321 CMR 10 because it involves the installation of utility lines for which all associated work is within ten feet from the edge of existing paved roads. However, a small pump station may extend beyond the ROW. This issue will undergo further study with the NHESP. The Town will use all practical means and measures to avoid or minimize damage to sensitive species and habitats, and to prevent a taking.

Subarea 6A is the Bayview neighborhood in the southeast section of Dartmouth (see Figure 1 in Attachment 1, Site Locus). Bayview is comprised of homes that are 30 to 120 years old. Proposed sewers in Subarea 6A consist of installing approximately 12,225 linear feet of 8-inch, 10-inch and 12-inch diameter PVC gravity sewers; 2,195 linear feet of 1-1/2-inch and 2-inch diameter PVC low pressure sewers; 2 self priming pumping stations; 6,735 linear feet of 6-inch diameter HDPE force main; and a bridge crossing. Subarea 6A was included in the Facilities Plan discussion as part of a larger area that encompassed the adjacent Birchfield area. The Birchfield/Bayview area was referred to in the Facilities Plan as Subarea 6. The Facilities Plan recommended that the Bayview/Birchfield neighborhoods pursue septic system rehabilitation because "on average" the lot sizes were sufficient to accommodate that approach. Upon closer examination, it has become apparent that the large lots are predominantly in the Birchfield area, and there is in fact insufficient land available for septic system rehabilitation in the Bayview neighborhood. Thus Bayview has been separated from Birchfield and is referred to in this submittal as Subarea 6A. Based on Board of Health records, 21 homes in Subarea 6A are under order to repair their failed septic systems. Twenty three homes have upgraded their septic systems within the past ten years, and approximately 20 percent of those upgrades have required property line variances. In addition, ledge and shallow soils have required a tight tank solution for one waterfront home as well.

Some homes in Subarea 6A are within flood hazard areas. In accordance with the MEPA Certificate for the ENF (EOEA 10835), the town implemented "appropriate regulatory control mechanism for structures currently located or proposed to be located in velocity zones." Specifically, Section 19.408(C) of the Dartmouth Zoning Laws was adopted at Town Meeting on May 27, 1997.

The zoning bylaw states that "The applicant shall certify to the Building Commissioner through the Board of Health that the site is able to support the proposal based on a subsurface sewerage disposal system which could be installed in full compliance with 310 CMR 15.00." The goal of this bylaw is to prevent inappropriate construction in areas of the floodplain district.