



**Environmental
 Notification Form**

<i>For Office Use Only</i>	
<i>Executive Office of Environmental Affairs</i>	
E.OEA No.:	<u>13029</u>
MEPA Analyst:	<u>Arthur Popsley</u>
Phone:	617-626- <u>1029</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: Reactivation of the Buckmaster Pond Groundwater Supply/New Water Treatment Plant		
Street: High Street in Westwood for well; Winter St. in Norwood for treatment plant		
Municipality: Westwood and Norwood	Watershed: Neponset	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: UTM 19 315675E 4675129N (Well)	Latitude: 42° 12' 31" north (Well)	
	Longitude: 71° 13' 58" west	
Estimated commencement date: 2003	Estimated completion date: 2005	
Approximate cost: \$5.2 million	Status of project design: 5 %complete	
Proponent: Town of Norwood		
Street: Town Hall, 566 Washington Street, P.O. Box 40		
Municipality: Norwood	State: MA	Zip Code: 02062
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: John C. Yaney, P.E.		
Firm/Agency: Fay, Spofford & Thorndike	Street: 33 Broad Street, 5th Floor	
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02109
Phone: 617-723-8882	Fax: 617-723-9995	E-mail jyaney@fstinc.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. _____) 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): **Town is investigating potential funding sources, but to date there has been no commitment of funding to the project.**

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

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: **(1) Order of Conditions from Westwood and Norwood ConComs, and (2) Individual Section 404 Permit with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.**

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

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare Species | <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater | 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"/> Superceding 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Management Act Permit <input checked="" 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> <u>Bureau of Resource Protection Drinking Water Program Permits</u>
Total site acreage	33			
New acres of land altered				
Acres of impervious area	0	0.21	0.21	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		500+/-		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		5000		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0		
STRUCTURES				
Gross square footage	150	2500	2650	
Number of housing units	0	0	0	
Maximum height (in feet)	10	10	20	
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day	2	8	10	
Parking spaces	0	4	4	
WATER/WASTEWATER				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	0	400	400	
GPD water withdrawal	0	1.0 mgd*	1.0 mgd*	
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	0	30,000	30,000	
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	0.0 mi**	0.2 mi**	0.2 mi**	

*Maximum amount. Exact amount to be determined as a result of the Water Management Act process.

**Represents only pipeline length between Winter Street and new water treatment plant.

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

See maps from Massachusetts Natural Heritage Atlas in Attachment 5

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.)

This project has two key components, namely (1) reactivation of Norwood's well at Buckmaster Pond in Westwood and construction of a new pumping structure with appropriate equipment there, (2) construction of a new water treatment plant to treat raw water from that well at a location near the former landfill on Cemetery Street in Norwood. After treatment, the water will be fed into Norwood's existing water distribution system. The existing 10-inch and 12-inch pipelines between Buckmaster Pond and the approximate location of the water treatment plant will be rehabilitated, as necessary. A short section of new piping will be required to connect the new treatment plant to existing piping in Winter Street. (See Attachments 1, 2, and 3)

Presently, Norwood purchases all of its water from the MWRA, with it being delivered through 6.5 miles of a single 36-inch pipeline. There is concern about the reliability of the Town's water supply. An interruption of flow in this pipeline could, in less than a day, empty Norwood's water storage tanks and leave the Town without any water for its consumers, its hospitals, and for fire protection. It would not take a catastrophe to interrupt flow in this pipeline. A stuck valve or shutdown required to repair a leak could impact the water supply. And, there are no backup supplies. Neighboring communities rely on limited groundwater supplies and have little if any water to spare. The events of September 11, 2001 have made it even more evident that Norwood's present water supply arrangements are vulnerable to interruption. Redevelopment of the Buckmaster Pond well will help to ensure the continuation of water supply in the event of the loss of the MWRA supply.

Buckmaster Pond in Westwood began providing water supply to Norwood in 1885. In 1912, the Ellis Avenue groundwater supply in Norwood was also developed, at which time the Buckmaster Pond surface water supply was relegated to supplemental supply status. In 1949, Norwood conducted groundwater exploration around Buckmaster Pond and identified a site for groundwater supply potential. The Buckmaster Pond well was constructed in 1951, along with pumping and water treatment equipment, after studies indicated that the underlying aquifer could support the development of a gravel-wall well. By the mid-1950s, the yield available from its groundwater supplies could not meet demands and, in 1957, the Town became a member of the MDC, the forerunner of the MWRA. With the MDC as its primary supply, the Town relegated the Ellis Avenue wells supply to standby status and continued to operate the Buckmaster Pond well to supplement the MDC during

periods of high demand. However, by the late 1970s, the Buckmaster Pond well and pumping equipment had been in service for over 25 years and were no longer reliable. At the same time, the well was found to be contaminated and could no longer be used until the source of contamination was identified and a treatment plan evaluated. A study determined that it was technically but not financially feasible to restore the well, since the cost of purchasing water from the MDC was quite low. Although not in service, testing of the well continued. Similarly, the Ellis Avenue wells were found to be contaminated. Subsequent studies determined the magnitude and extent as well as the source of the Buckmaster Pond well contamination. Groundwater monitoring wells were installed and a pump test was conducted. Further study culminated in a 1995 report that determined it was technically feasible to treat the contaminated water. At the same time, with MWRA water costs rapidly rising, it was also determined it was now financially feasible to restore the Buckmaster Pond well water supply. A more-recent 2002 financial study has determined that re-activating this well will save the Town over \$14 million, or an average of \$836 per household, over a 23-year period in comparison with the costs of MWRA water. A redeveloped well at Buckmaster Pond will not replace the MWRA supply. However, it can supplement it by being able to supply 30 percent of the Town's daily water needs at considerable savings to the consumers.

Buckmaster Pond is located off High Street (Route 109) in Westwood. The Town of Norwood owns a 31-acre parcel including the pond and some bordering land on Pond Street. Access to the well is from High Street, across a parcel that is owned by the Town of Westwood. Westwood has granted Norwood an easement across this parcel to use, maintain, and repair the well.

The existing pumping station structure and all of its internal equipment must be replaced. When originally installed, the well and pumping station were located on the western shore of the pond. Some time later, gravel mining occurred southwest of the well, altering the shoreline and leaving the well, pumping station, and well discharge piping on a narrow strip of land that is often completely under water during times of high water levels in the pond. There is a gravel road used to access the well on this strip of land, with the roadway having an elevation of approximately 178 feet msl. Redevelopment of the well will result in the need to raise the elevation of this 500-foot access road to an elevation of approximately 183 feet msl, which is approximately one foot above the elevation of the floodplain. This raising of the roadway elevation will make the new pumping facilities more readily accessible, especially during times of high water. Preliminary engineering calculations indicate that the volume of water that will be displaced in elevating this roadway will be more than offset by the volume of water that will be associated with the drawdown in pond elevation once pumping for water supply is resumed.

The Town will also be required to obtain ownership or control (via conservation restriction) of all land that falls within the Zone I (400-foot) radius of the well. Very little, if any, private property is affected by this requirement.

The new water treatment plant will need to occupy one acre of land, an area that because of limitations in allowed use, etc. is much larger than that available on the shore of Buckmaster Pond. Accordingly, the plant is proposed to be sited on Town-owned land in Norwood, with the exact operating parameters of the plant to be determined through a master plan study and hydraulic analysis of the Town and its water distribution system along with treatment plant piloting. The treatment plant site is on Cemetery Road, off Winter Street, in Norwood nearby to the former landfill. A preliminary site plan for the treatment plant is included with this ENF, but the exact location on this site where the treatment plant will be situated will be subject to further refinement. The Town also owns several other parcels of land in this general area along Winter Street. However, site visits to these locations determined that all but the selected location contain large areas of wetlands that would make siting a treatment plant on them impractical.

The environmental analysis is one component of a larger on-going effort to bring the Buckmaster Pond well back on line. Other components include a habitat study, a water treatment plant siting study, a water treatment plant pilot study, a Buckmaster Pond drawdown study, a water system master plan and hydraulic study, permit acquisition, engineering design, and construction. Many of the issues associated with this project, such as the maximum allowable pumping rate, wetland impacts, etc. will be settled according to the requirements of the many permits that will ultimately have to be obtained from the various state, federal, and local agencies.

The Water Resources Commission and the Department of Environmental Protection view this project as the "restoration of an existing well" since the Buckmaster Pond well was never formally abandoned. They have stated in letters (see attached) to the Town and to the Town's engineering consultant that, accordingly, "If the restored capacity does not exceed 1 mgd, restoring it to active use will not require review and approval under the Interbasin Transfer Act." The project is being designed with recognition of this limitation.