

For Office Use Only
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

EOEA No.: 12776
MEPA Analyst: Nick Zambias
Phone: 617-626-1030

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: Boston Water and Sewer Commission Materials Handling Facility		
Street: Perimeter Road, University of Massachusetts, Boston		
Municipality: Boston	Watershed: Boston Harbor	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: North: 4686615 East: 19331729	Latitude: 42° 18' N	Longitude: 71° 02' W
Estimated commencement date: July 2003	Estimated completion date: July 2004	
Approximate cost: \$10,000,000	Status of project design: Preliminary Design 90%complete	
Proponent: Boston Water and Sewer Commission		
Street: 980 Harrison Avenue		
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02119-2540
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Charlie Jewell		
Firm/Agency: Boston Water and Sewer Commission	Street: 980 Harrison Avenue	
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02119-2540
Phone: (617) 989-7000	Fax: (617) 989-7749	E-mail: JewellC@bwsc.org

- Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)?
 Yes
- Has this project been filed with MEPA before?
 Yes (EOEA 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)) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| A Special Review Procedure? (see 301CMR 11.09) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| A Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| A Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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): The Boston Water and Sewer Commission will be exchanging an approximately 9.5 acre site at Calf Pasture for a 3.0 acre site on the University of Massachusetts, Boston campus.

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 Permits include: Building Permit, Street Opening permit, Building Occupancy Permit. State Permits: DEP Post-Closure Use Permit, DEP Sewer Extension Permit, MWRA Industrial Use Permit. No Federal Permits are required.

Which ENF or EIR review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03): None

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare Species | <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/ Extension Permit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Permits <i>(including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:</i> <u>Post-Closure Use Permit</u> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Total site acreage	3.0			
New acres of land altered		3.0		
Acres of impervious area	0.0	1.5	1.5	
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	0	37,500	37,500	
Number of housing units	0	0	0	
Maximum height (in feet)	0	40	40	
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day	0	31	31	
Parking spaces	0	4	4	
WATER/WASTEWATER				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	0	300	300	
GPD water withdrawal	0	0	0	
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	0	5,035	5,035	
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	0	0	0	

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.)

Introduction

The Boston Water and Sewer Commission (Commission) is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the wastewater, drainage and water distribution systems in the City of Boston. The maintenance function includes the periodic removal of materials that accumulate in the sewer and drain systems. The proper handling of the materials is a vital component in maintaining the wastewater and drainage infrastructure of the City of Boston in good working order.

In 1999, the Commission was issued a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater permit by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Under its NPDES permit, the Commission must prevent the discharge of pollutants to and from its drainage systems. The cleaning of the drainage systems, particularly catch basins, has the added benefit of significantly decreasing the discharge of pollutants into receiving waters in the City. To effectively handle the materials generated by the Commission's operations, a new Materials Handling Facility is needed to consolidate the materials and manage their disposal at a landfill or other permitted solid waste facility.

Background

The Commission has used the site of the former Calf Pasture pumping station on Columbia Point in Dorchester for over 20 years to handle catch basin, drain and sewer cleanings and trench excavate.

The Calf Pasture site has been used during this time to store pipes, hydrants, water meters and other construction material, such as sand, gravel, stone and cold patch asphalt. Two years ago, the Commission constructed covered bins that it currently uses for temporary storage of catch basin, drain and sewer cleanings, trench excavate in order to improve handling of this material.

Proposed Future Operations

The Commission is proposing to relocate most of the current operations to a site on the University of Massachusetts (UMass)-Boston campus about 1,000 feet west of its current operation. UMass and the Commission signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the exchange of a parcel of land on the campus for the pumping station and its land in January 1999. UMass will renovate the pumping station, which is a historic structure, and use the building as a new center for environmental research.

The Commission proposes to construct a new facility which will consist of a building where the catch basin cleanings from storm drains and combined sewers will be unloaded onto a tipping floor and into separate bays. The cleanings will be left in the bays for a limited period of time to allow free water to drain. Drainage from catch basin cleanings will be discharged through a particle separator to a sanitary sewer. A front-end loader will be used to load materials into trucks or containers for hauling to an approved solid waste disposal landfill. There are no plans to process the materials at the facility. Cleanings from sanitary and combined sewers will also be unloaded onto a tipping floor into a separate bay. The facility will also handle trench excavate, which is soil, concrete, broken pipe and asphalt that is removed when a pipe or other structure is installed. It is estimated that the facility will handle approximately 100 tons per day (tpd) of catch basin cleanings, two tpd of sewer cleanings, and 35 tpd of trench excavate. The facility will also have a scale to weigh trucks, a small office of approximately 1,050 square feet with back-up computer space and rest room, and approximately 3,000 square feet of storage space for construction materials.

The Commission's intends to operate the facility in a manner that protects public health, safety and the environment. The design will include fencing, landscaping and berms to minimize visual impacts to the neighbors and abutters, and the building will have a brick façade to match UMass' buildings. While odors have not been an issue at the existing facility, the Commission will investigate incorporating an odor control system to treat ventilation air from the building.

The proposed facility is a continuation and significant improvement over the temporary facility that has operated for over two years with no complaints or problems. The catch basin, drain and sewer cleanings to be handled at the new facility will be generated entirely by the Commission's operations.

Water and Wastewater

The Commission estimates that the facility will require approximately 300 gallons per day (gpd) of water for washdown of the facility's floor and drains as well as for restroom facilities. The Commission estimates that the facility will generate approximately 5,035 gpd of wastewater. Approximately 285 gpd will be generated from the washdown of the floor and use of restroom facilities and 4,750 gpd of wastewater will result from dewatering of the catch basin cleaning.

Transportation

The Commission's current facility has an estimated 32 round trip vehicle and truck trips a day or 64 one way vehicle and truck trips, excluding employees, to the Calf Pasture facility to handle the

cleanings and trench excavate and to pick up the construction material. The Commission estimates that the new facility will generate about 31 round trip vehicle and truck trips a day or 62 one way vehicle and truck trips, including employees that will work at the facility. Because these trips will be to a facility that is in close proximity to its existing operation, the Commission does not expect a change in the overall traffic impact on Columbia Point.

Commission trucks using the current Calf Pasture transfer station enter the facility using Mount Vernon Street. The Commission has reviewed available studies that state there are 850 trips to UMass. The Commission will work with UMass to develop an entrance to the facility that minimizes the impact that trips to the facility will have on existing trips to UMass. It should be noted that storage of pipes, hydrants and water meters, and the resulting truck trips, have been relocated to the Commission's new building at 980 Harrison Avenue.

Noise and Air Quality

The facility does not exceed the review thresholds relative to noise or air quality. Operational noise will be generated at the facility by a front-end loader and truck traffic accessing the site. The operations of loading, unloading, and handling the materials with the loader will be entirely enclosed within the proposed building. The facility will be designed to minimize visual impacts to the neighborhoods and abutters with berms and landscaping as well as building materials similar to those used by UMass. The site will be excavated so that the building and other operations are below the elevation of the Boston College High School's athletic fields to the greatest extent possible.

The nearest existing residential units are over 500-feet away from the proposed facility. At 400 feet, it is estimated that the facility will generate about 60 decibels of noise, which is equivalent to a normal conversation. This level of noise is entirely generated by the trucks accessing and leaving the building.

CJ Mount Vernon Street LLC, has proposed to construct two multi-family residential buildings that together will have approximately 303,000 square feet of space with 333 units of rental housing. The proposed housing site adjoins the Materials Handling Facility site to the north. Based upon the site plan submitted in the Project Impact Report, the nearest building will be about 150 feet away. At 150 feet, it is estimated that the facility will generate about 73 decibels of noise.

The proposed facility is in close proximity to the Commission's existing operation that is conducted entirely outside of a building. The proposed facility will allow future operations to be conducted inside an enclosed building. It may incorporate an odor control system to treat ventilation air from the facility. Therefore, the Commission anticipates an improvement in the overall noise and air quality impacts on Columbia Point.