

ENF Environmental Notification Form

EOEA No.: 12789
 MEPA Analyst: Bill Gage
 Phone: 617-626-1025

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: New Lunenburg Primary School		
Street: 1401 Massachusetts Avenue		
Municipality: Lunenburg	Watershed: Nashua	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: Zone 19: 278,331 East, 4,719,699 North	Latitude: 42 35' 52" North Longitude: 71 42' 07" West	
Estimated commencement date: Spring, 2003	Estimated completion date: Fall, 2004	
Approximate cost: \$10,280,000	Status of project design: 70% %complete	
Proponent: Dodson Associates, Landscape Architects and Planners		
Street: P.O. Box 160 (463 Main Street)		
Municipality: Ashfield	State: MA	Zip Code: 01330
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Brock Cutting, Principal		
Firm/Agency: Dodson Associates	Street: P.O. Box 160 (463 Main Street)	
Municipality: Ashfield	State: MA	Zip Code: 01330
Phone: (413) 628-4496 x. 15	Fax: (413) 628-3216	E-mail: brock@dodsonassociates.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)) | <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):
Funding for school construction from Massachusetts Department of Education for

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

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: Notice of Intent (Local), Sewer Connection Permit (Local), Development Plan Review (Local), Curb-Cut/Road Opening Permit (Mass. Highway Dept.),

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 REVIEW IN PROCESS) 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.)

A) The project site consists of a cleared 6.5 Ac. area of former cornfield bordered by 7.7 Ac. of mixed woodland to the North and 2.2 Ac. of bordering vegetated wetlands in pockets to the East, West and North. The only existing frontage is onto Massachusetts Ave (Rt. 2A). The cornfield has slopes of 2-8% while the woodland slopes steeply to the North. The site is bordered on the east and west by old stone walls with mature hardwood trees located along them.

B) On-site alternatives for a primary school of the required size are very limited due to the long, narrow shape of the parcel and the wetlands that ring the site. There is barely enough room for a two story school (to match the surrounding zoning limit of 38') plus the playing fields, play areas, parking and detention areas required by a school of this size. There is not a lot of room to move the building around - especially if good daylighting is a priority in the school design as it is here. This is due to studies showing 10 to 15% higher learning rates in schools that get good natural light into all classrooms.

Off-site alternatives for locating the school outside of prime farmland have been exhaustively researched and studied for over two years. This proposed site is the fourth that the consultants did site visits and evaluation reports on. These four sites were the only sites available during a two year period that could meet the program requirements developed for the new primary school. Of the four sites evaluated this site had by far the least impacts on adjacent wetlands and the lowest percentage of wetland area actually on the site. One of these other sites was located on the same Woodbridge fine sandy loam soil type and was much wetter. Another site (the "Stone Farm" site) would have required massive grading immediately adjacent to an existing stream and wetlands as well as several wetlands crossings.

C) On- site mitigation methods consist of the sedimentation and wetlands impact controls listed in the NOI included in the ENF as an appendix. Replication of wetlands filled to allow the entrance road crossing are being replicated at 150% of the filled area. All construction will be has been held outside of a 30' "no work" buffer around all wetland resources. The mature hardwood trees and stone walls that they line have been preserved as buffers to abutting uses. Additional plantings of native understory trees and shrubs are proposed to further screen abutting properties and to keep children out of the wetlands areas.

At the request of the Mass. Highways District #3 Traffic Engineer the entry to the school drive has been designed with three lanes so as to allow dedicated turning lanes in each direction as vehicles exit. A flashing yellow light with creation of a slower speed school zone will alert drivers on Massachusetts Ave. to slow and watch for vehicles exiting or entering. An easement has been obtained by the Town to create an emergency access road over abutting property to the West. This allows alternate access in the event of fire or other emergency should the main access drive be blocked.