

*For Office Use Only*  
*Executive Office of Environmental Affairs*  
 EOE No.: 13282  
 MEPA Analyst: Nick ZAVOLAS  
 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:<br>Echo Hill South Association Ponds                                     |   |                           |
| Street: off Stony Hill Road  |   |                           |
| Municipality: Amherst  | Watershed: Connecticut River                              |                           |
| Universal Tranverse Mercator Coordinates:  | Latitude: 72° 28' 38.92" W<br>Longitude: 42° 21' 57.10" N |                           |
| Estimated commencement date: July 2004   | Estimated completion date: August 2005                    |                           |
| Approximate cost: \$25,000   | Status of project design: 100% %complete                  |                           |
| Proponent: Echo Hill South Association, Inc.   |   |                           |
| Street: c/o Robert Tuthill, P.O. Box 852   |   |                           |
| Municipality: Amherst  | State: MA   | Zip Code: 01004           |
| Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained:<br>Karro A. Frost |   |                           |
| Firm/Agency: New England Environmental, Inc.   | Street: 9 Research Dr.                                    |                           |
| Municipality: Amherst  | State: MA   | Zip Code: 01002           |
| Phone: (413) 256-0202  | Fax: (413) 256-1092                                       | E-mail: kfrost@neeinc.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 301 CMR 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): N/A

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?  
 Yes (Specify DEP, Army Corps of Engineers)  No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: Notice of Intent (filed 2/25/04)  
USACOE Permit (filed 3/1/04)  
401 Water Quality Certification (filed 2/25/04)

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 checked="" 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  |
|--|------------|-----------|---------|--|
| <b>LAND</b>  |            |           |         | <input type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions<br><input type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions<br><input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License<br><input type="checkbox"/> 401 Water Quality Certification<br><input type="checkbox"/> MHD or MDC Access Permit<br><input type="checkbox"/> Water Management Act Permit<br><input type="checkbox"/> New Source Approval<br><input type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/ Extension Permit<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other Permits<br><i>(including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:</i> |
| Total site acreage   | 20.9 acres |           |         |  |
| New acres of land altered                                      |            | 1.5 acres |         |  |
| Acres of impervious area                                       | 0 acres    | 0 acres   | 0 acres |  |
| Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration     |            | 0 SF      |         |  |
| Square feet of new other wetland alteration                    |            | 56,830 SF |         |  |
| Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways |            | 0 acres   |         |  |
| <b>STRUCTURES</b>  |            |           |         |  |
| Gross square footage   | N/A        |           |         |  |
| Number of housing units  | N/A        |           |         |  |
| Maximum height (in feet)                                       | N/A        |           |         |  |
| <b>TRANSPORTATION</b>  |            |           |         |  |
| Vehicle trips per day  | N/A        |           |         |  |
| Parking spaces   | N/A        |           |         |  |
| <b>WATER/WASTEWATER</b>  |            |           |         |  |
| Gallons/day (GPD) of water use                                 | N/A        |           |         |  |
| GPD water withdrawal   | N/A        |           |         |  |
| GPD wastewater generation/ treatment                           | N/A        |           |         |  |
| Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)                         | 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 (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.*)

(a) Project Site: The project site is three man-made ponds located to the north of Stony Hill Road and west of Cranberry Lane in Amherst, MA. The ponds have filled in since their creation in the early 1900's, and the Lower or southern-most pond becomes two ponds during low flow conditions. An unnamed stream flows into the Upper Pond, which then overflows to the Middle and Lower Ponds.

(b) On and off-site alternatives:

The primary purposes of this project is to improve the water quality and restore the two ponds to their original conditions. As such, other than the first alternative listed below, and a no-work alternative, there are no other off-site alternatives.

One alternative to accomplish this goal is for the project proponents to work with both the Town of Amherst DPW and the Town of Pelham DPW to make changes in the handling of stormwater which flows into the ponds and their upstream watershed, which they are doing. However, improvements in water quality flowing into the ponds will not remove the sediment which has already started to fill these ponds with sediment.

A second alternative is to search the watershed for actively eroding areas to be stabilized. Most of the land surrounding the ponds has been disturbed in the past but is now stable. There are no active eroding sites within the watershed.

A no-work alternative will allow the ponds to continue to fill with sediment, gradually become Bordering Vegetated Wetlands, and shrink in size.

Another alternative to increase the depths of the ponds would be to construct dams at the pond outlets to raise the water levels within the ponds which would potentially increase the likelihood that these ponds would be able to support fish. This alternative does not provide any improvements to the water quality of the ponds.

The proposed dredging alternative will restore the original pond depths and allow fisheries to be restored in the ponds. It will also remove nutrient laden sediment from the pond systems and provide a mechanism for reducing sediments from entering the ponds with the sediment trap in the Upper Pond at the inlet stream.

(c) Potential on-site and off-site mitigation measures for each alternative: No potential mitigation measures have been identified. The two wetland resource areas which will be impacted, Bank and Land Under Water, will remain at the site. Vegetated aquatic shelves, approximately 5 feet wide, will be left near the pond shore in the Upper Pond, and in a section of the Lower Pond. The aquatic shelves will provide food and sheltering habitat for wildlife using the ponds. The Middle Pond is predominantly vegetated with Reed Canary Grass on the Bank and into the shallow water at the pond edges. Given its aggressively invasive nature, this species is proposed to be removed where it occurs in the Lower and Middle Ponds.