

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs ■ MEPA Office

**ENF Environmental Notification Form**

<i>For Office Use Only</i> <i>Executive Office of Environmental Affairs</i>	
EOEA No.:	<u>13062</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: New Elementary and Middle Schools Berkshire Hills Regional School District	
Street: Monument Valley Road	
Municipality: Great Barrington	Watershed: Housatonic River
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 18 637764E/46 77806N	Latitude: 42 14' 30" N Longitude: 73 19' 30" W
Estimated commencement date: Summer 2003	Estimated completion date: January 2005
Approximate cost: \$22,500,000.00	Status of project design: 100% complete
Proponent's Agent: Kenneth W. Peregou O'Boyle Cowell, Blalock & Associates, Inc.	
Street: 521 S.Riverview Drive	
Municipality: Kalamazoo	State: MI Zip Code: 49004
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Jack Komer, Director of Operations	
Firm/Agency: Berkshire Hills Regional School District	Street: 662 Stockbridge Road
Municipality: Great Barrington	State: MA Zip Code: 01230
Phone: (413) 528 2410	Fax: (413) 528 6016 E-mail: jkomer@bhrs.org

- 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?  Yes  No
  - a Special Review Procedure?  Yes  No
  - a Waiver of mandatory EIR?  Yes  No
  - a Phase I Waiver?  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):

Application for funding has been made to the Massachusetts School Building Assistance program; if approved, the amount will be determined by SBA. District has also applied for a *Green School Design and Construction Grant* from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC); if approved, the amount will be determined by MTC.

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

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_)  No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: Order of Conditions related to wetlands.

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

- |  |                                       |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" 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
<b>LAND</b>				<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Source Approval: Water Supply Well. <input type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/ Extension Permit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Permits (including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:
Total site acreage	36.1 acres			
New acres of land altered		26.7 acres		
Acres of impervious area	0	5.3 acres	5.3 acres	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		<265 SF		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		0		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0		
<b>STRUCTURES</b>				BRP WS33 : Water
Gross square footage	1,500	167,350	168,850	-
Number of housing units	0	0	0	BRP WP18: Sewer
Maximum height (in feet):	0	M.S.: 34' Elem: 47'	M.S.: 34' Elem: 47'	NPDES
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>				
Vehicle trips per day	970	918	1,888	
Parking spaces	0	256	256	

<b>WASTEWATER</b>			
Gallons/day (GPD)of water use	14,960	13,040	28,000
GPD water withdrawal	14,960	13,040	28,000
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	14,960	13,040	28,000
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	0	0.23/0.36	0.23/0.36

**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

The existing house on the Middle School site may be remodeled for use as offices for BHRSD, but the School Committee has not taken a decision to make any changes to the house. A *Project Notification Form* has been submitted to Massachusetts Historical Commission requesting evaluation of the project site; its response is attached.

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.*)

Berkshire Hills Regional School District proposes to construct a new Elementary School on a (15.5 acre site) and a new Middle School on a (20.6 acre site). The project sites are located north of Great Barrington, Massachusetts, on opposite sides of Monument Valley Road.

The proposed Elementary School site is located east of Monument Valley Road, while the Middle School site is west of the road. Together this property is approximately 1,500 feet wide and 2,170 feet long. The Middle School is

bound by Massachusetts Highway Route 7 on the west, while the Elementary School site contains about 4.7 acres of jurisdictional wetlands along its eastern edge and Konkapot Brook to the east of the site.

The majority of the project site is rolling open land. The ground cover at the Elementary site consists of grasses and herbaceous plants in the open land as well as forested and shrub/scrub wetland. The ground cover at the Middle School site consists of open land, mixed evergreen and deciduous successional forest. The Middle School site also contains two depressions which the Town of Great Barrington has determined to be non-jurisdictional wetlands. The Middle School site was severely disturbed in the past by a significant gravel mining operation.

The Project Site's topography varies from a high of about 920 feet above sea level in the south west corner and a low of about 848 feet above sea level at the south east portion of the site. Stormwater runoff from the Project Site drains to the east; initially to jurisdictional wetlands on the Elementary site, then to Konkapot Brook farther east.

Key natural and man-made features on and adjacent to the Project Site include a regulated wetland on the east portion of the site totaling 5 acres. An adjacent man made feature is the existing Monument Mountain Regional High School just north of the Project Site. Also in the southeast corner of the Project Site is an existing residence and barn. Across Massachusetts Highway Route 7 to the west is the Monument Mountain Reservation which contains hiking trails and look-out points.

According to the US Department of Agriculture Resource Conservation Service Soil Survey of Berkshire County, the predominant soil types located on the Project Sites are Oakville Loamy Sand (OaB), Oakville Loamy Sand (OaC), Oakville Loamy Sand (OaD), and Freedom fine Sandy loam (FrA). Oakville Loamy Sand (OaB 3-8% slope) is the only soil located on both school sites. It is gently sloping with rapid permeability. A small portion of the South west corner of the Middle School site contains Oakville Loamy Sand (OaC 8-15% slope). This soil is found on steep slopes with rapid permeability and erosion hazards. Oakville Loamy Sand (OaD 15-25% slope) is located only on a small portion of the Elementary site in the Southwest. This is an extremely sloping soil that is well drained with rapid permeability throughout. Freedom fine Sandy loam (FrA 0-3% slope) is found only on the Elementary School site within the jurisdictional wetland. This soil is nearly level with poor drainage and a seasonally high water table October through June.

Alternative Sites Over the last several years the School District looked at many alternative sites, none of which met their criteria for a variety of reasons and were therefore rejected. Another alternative considered was to construct a combined elementary and Middle School on the North East corner of the existing Monument Mountain Regional High School site. This was rejected due to the scale of the building which would not provide the safe and convenient small scale atmosphere needed for younger children.

On Site alternatives - The chosen site is divided into two sections, one for each school. The Elementary School site offered few alternatives because of limited space between the road and jurisdictional wetlands. Another limitation placed by the seller was that the building be located north of the "Restriction Line" as indicated in order to help preserve the view from Monument Mountain. The Middle School site has topographic constraints due to extensive gravel mining done on the site in the past. One condition of the seller for this site was that a one hundred fifty to one hundred seventy five foot buffer along Route 7 be preserved and protected. This buffer serves as a visual buffer for Route 7 travelers as well as visitors on Monument Mountain and people on the school site. All of these factors provided very few alternative for site layouts.

The Preferred Elementary School Alternative was designed to accommodate the new school building while also The Elementary School building consists of 86,035 square feet and is for the pre-kindergarten through fourth grades. The building consists of two stories of classrooms on the north side and three stories on the south side to accommodate adequate space for the gymnasium and cafeteria. The building is located on the western edge of the site due to the seller's restriction line to the south and the jurisdictional wetlands on the eastern portion of the site. The main entry drive is located south of the building and is accessed by Monument Valley Road. A parent drop off/visitor parking area is combined with teacher/administrative parking and separated by the main entry drive. This parking lot has 110 spaces as well as a long landscape island with trees to shade cars, and a landscaped island with trees in the turnaround. The service and delivery area is located to the south of the building. A lower

elementary playground is located east of the building. Close to the playground and east entry of the building contains a concrete plaza space complete with picnic tables and landscaping beds will be included. The bus staging area is located to the north of the building where 14 angled parking bus spaces are provided along with paved play items. Basketball courts, a painted United States Map and games utilize the staging area when buses will not be present. Adjacent to the bus staging is an upper elementary playground. Deciduous trees will be utilized throughout the site to provide shade and screening especially in the parking lot. Small evergreen shrubs and perennials are included along main entries and sidewalks providing a pleasant transition to the building.

The Preferred Middle School Alternative was designed to accommodate the new school and associated site development while preserving the 150'-175' forested buffer along Massachusetts Highway Route 7, as well as an existing depression on the east portion of the site. The depression will be used for educational and associated site development purposes as well as the stormwater management systems. The Middle School building consists of 81,314 square feet and is for grades five through eight. The building is two stories with tall spaces for the gymnasium and cafeteria. The building is located in the middle of the 20.6 acre site. The main entry drive is located east of the building and is accessed from Monument Valley Road. A parent drop off/visitor parking area is located just off the main entry, with a landscaped island in the center of the turnaround, east of the building. The service and delivery area is accessed by the entry drive and is located north of the building. The staff parking lot is located to the west of the building. This has 120 parking spaces as well as a combined event parking and paved play area, including basketball courts. To the immediate west of the paved play is the playground equipment area, with swings and climbing structures. A concrete picnic area connects the playground and paved play areas to the sidewalk adjacent to the building. The bus staging occurs along a bus drive located south of the main entry drive. Here 14 parallel spaces provide bus parking and a turnaround with a landscaped island. Deciduous trees were utilized throughout the site to provide shade around the building and within the parking locations. Evergreen trees will be utilized in large masses along the southern edge of the site to provide screening. Small shrubs and perennials are utilized at main entrances to the building to provide a pleasing transition from the outdoors in. The Middle School will include a geothermal heating/cooling system, including about 72 closed loop wells approximately 200'-300' deep.