

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.:	<i>13828</i>
MEPA Analyst:	<i>Ann Canada</i>
Phone: 617-626-	<i>1035</i>

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: Acton Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan (CWRMP)		
Street: Town-wide		
Municipality: Acton	Watershed: SuAsCo River	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: N/A	Latitude: N/A	Longitude: N/A
Estimated commencement date: N/A*	Estimated completion date: N/A*	
Approximate cost: N/A*	Status of project design:	10 %complete
Proponent: Town of Acton		
Street: 472 Main Street		
Municipality: Acton	State: MA	Zip Code: 01720
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Bob Rafferty		
Firm/Agency: Woodard & Curran	Street: 35 New England Bus Ctr, STE 180	
Municipality: Andover	State: MA	Zip Code: 01810
Phone: 978-557-8150	Fax: 978-557-7948	E-mail: brafferty@woodardcurran.com

* The estimated commencement date, duration of construction and cost estimates depend on the design options chosen for each Needs Area of the Town. See the Supplemental Narrative for more information.

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. 11781) No

Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before? **N/A**
 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input 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): DEP SRF Loan

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

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: None required for CWRMP Adoption.

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 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/Extension Permit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Permits <i>(including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:</i> <u>DEP approval of CWRMP.</u>
Total site acreage	N/A			
New acres of land altered		N/A		
Acres of impervious area	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		N/A		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		N/A		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		N/A		
STRUCTURES				
Gross square footage	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Number of housing units	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Maximum height (in feet)	N/A	N/A	N/A	
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Parking spaces	N/A	N/A	N/A	
WATER/WASTEWATER				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	N/A	N/A	N/A	
GPD water withdrawal	N/A	N/A	N/A	
GPD wastewater generation/treatment	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	N/A	N/A	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.)

Due to the complexity of the project, its regulatory history, and the number of design options to address water and wastewater management specific to different areas of the Town of Acton, a more detailed "Supplemental Narrative" is attached to this ENF, with an abbreviated project description provided below.

The project site is the Town of Acton as shown in Figure 1. In 1998, the Town's proposed construction of the Middle Fort Pond Brook Sewer Project required MEPA review. The MEPA Certificate issued for that project under EOEA No. 11781 established a phased planning process and a Special Procedure for the preparation and review of a town-wide water environmental/water resources management plan.

A Phase 1 Definition of Needs Report assessed overall environmental conditions, evaluated water resources (drinking, ground water, surface water, and wastewater) quality and quantity, and identified areas in need for alternative wastewater disposal solutions in Acton. The Phase 1 report identified 15 Needs Areas as shown in Figure 2, and was prepared and submitted to MEPA in 2004. The Secretary's Certificate in 2004 directed the Town of Acton to continue its phased studies of town-wide wastewater facilities and comprehensive water resources planning, and to prepare an Expanded ENF to be submitted as the next phase of the state review.

In Phase 2, Acton completed a Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan (CWRMP) report that addresses the planning process for town-wide water resources management with the evaluation of alternatives as part of a 20-year plan for water resources protection in Acton. This included an assessment of Acton's wastewater disposal needs and an evaluation of the potential structural and non-structural systems and technologies for a range of on-site, localized, centralized and decentralized solutions.

The Phase 2 report scope of work was to:

- Assess town-wide wastewater management needs to update all related plans;
- Evaluate alternative solutions, techniques and technologies, costs and funding, environmental impacts, management approaches, project delivery systems and institutional arrangements;
- Pair candidate technologies/solutions with Needs Areas;
- Provide a detailed Action Plan with recommended actions, costs, and scheduling based on town approved priorities; and,
- Prepare conceptual-level designs and program outlines for the recommended plan.

The Phase 2 development process was documented through Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings. The CAC held 8 committee meetings and 4 public information meetings, and gave 3 presentations to Town boards and 1 presentation to Town Meeting over 22 months. The comprehensive nature of this report is due to input received from the CAC and residents, and the Town's long standing commitment to protecting its water resources, which is exemplified by the contributions from staff, Town officials, consultants, and residents to this study.

The Phase 2 study assessed the 15 Needs Area groupings developed in Phase 1. The areas were refined based on topography, underlying geology, and socio-economic boundaries, such as traditional neighborhood limits and economic growth areas. Rankings were further developed using technical and non-technical criteria. Non-technical criteria included the ability to implement solutions; projected growth, especially economic growth in areas designated for growth; optimization of the current wastewater infrastructure and wastewater treatment facility (WWTF); and water reuse (reclaimed water use) and recharge of groundwater/aquifers. Rankings were finalized through CAC involvement by identifying the criteria most important to each Needs Planning Area, followed by prioritization of solutions. Figure 3 shows the priority ranking of the Needs Planning Areas.

Potential solutions were identified that addressed the needs criteria and resolved environmental and public health concerns. The CAC then ranked the solutions, identifying preferred solutions for each Needs Planning Area that reflected the community's goals for each area. For areas outside of Needs Areas, which is the majority of Acton, the Phase 2 study recommended continued reliance on onsite wastewater systems (do nothing) under the existing management framework.

The Phase 2 study led to recommendations of viable solutions for the Needs Planning Areas, including (singly or in combination) the following:

- Continued reliance on onsite wastewater systems ("no action") in suitable locations but with a town-driven management system that includes expanded monitoring and stricter treatment standards – this includes shared systems;
- Cluster collection and treatment systems, including use of existing in-town private treatment facilities, which can include private entities and private/public solutions;
- Expansion of the Middle Fort Pond Brook sewer system with treatment and disposal at the existing Adams Street treatment facility to address high priority areas and optimize the operation of the system; and
- Continued monitoring of new technologies and opportunities for new solutions over the course of the 20-year planning period.

The current wastewater disposal system for the majority of the parcels in Acton will remain unchanged. The recommended plan is a combination of extensions of the existing sewers, cluster systems using existing private treatment systems and possible public/private solutions, shared systems between neighbors where appropriate, and the establishment of wastewater management districts. Figure 4 illustrates the town-wide CWRMP framework developed from these studies.

Based upon the detailed studies for the Phase 1 and 2 analyses and assessments, the Town of Acton has provided a full environmental and impact assessment, including the comparative evaluation of alternatives, assessment of impacts and mitigation measures, and identification of elements where future changes could require re-assessment of the plan's findings and recommendations. Such re-assessment may also require re-filing with MEPA should any significant change result. We believe that the Phase 2 study, together with the extensive CAC process, outreach, public meetings, and public comment already carried out for the Acton CWRMP adequately and fully addresses the MEPA process and should be approved by having met the objectives stated in the Secretary's Certificate. We, therefore, respectfully request that the Secretary accept the Phase 2 CWRMP and grant Acton the right to submit the document to DEP for final approval without requiring an EIR.

LAND SECTION – all proponents must fill out this section

I. Thresholds / Permits

A. Does the project meet or exceed any review thresholds related to **land** (see 301 CMR 11.03(1))
 Yes No; if yes, specify each threshold:

II. Impacts and Permits

A. Describe, in acres, the current and proposed character of the project site, as follows:

	<u>Existing</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Total</u>
Footprint of buildings	<u> N/A </u>	<u> N/A </u>	<u> N/A </u>
Roadways, parking, and other paved areas	<u> N/A </u>	<u> N/A </u>	<u> N/A </u>
Other altered areas (describe)	<u> N/A </u>	<u> N/A </u>	<u> N/A </u>
Undeveloped areas	<u> N/A </u>	<u> N/A </u>	<u> N/A </u>

B. Has any part of the project site been in active agricultural use in the last three years?
 Yes No; if yes, how many acres of land in agricultural use (with agricultural soils) will be converted to nonagricultural use?

C. Is any part of the project site currently or proposed to be in active forestry use?
 Yes No; if yes, please describe current and proposed forestry activities and indicate whether any part of the site is the subject of a DEM-approved forest management plan:

D. Does any part of the project involve conversion of land held for natural resources purposes in accordance with Article 97 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97? Yes No; if yes, describe:

E. Is any part of the project site currently subject to a conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction or watershed preservation restriction? Yes No; if yes, does the project involve the release or modification of such restriction? Yes No; if yes, describe:

F. Does the project require approval of a new urban redevelopment project or a fundamental change in an existing urban redevelopment project under M.G.L.c.121A? Yes No; if yes, describe:

G. Does the project require approval of a new urban renewal plan or a major modification of an existing urban renewal plan under M.G.L.c.121B? Yes No ; if yes, describe:

H. Describe the project's stormwater impacts and, if applicable, measures that the project will take to comply with the standards found in DEP's Stormwater Management Policy: There will be no changes to the storm water systems currently in place.

I. Is the project site currently being regulated under M.G.L.c.21E or the Massachusetts Contingency Plan? Yes No ; if yes, what is the Release Tracking Number (RTN)?

J. If the project is site is within the Chicopee or Nashua watershed, is it within the