Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs ■ MEPA Office

ENF Environmental Notification Form

For Office Use Only *Executive Office of Environmental Affairs*
EOEA No.: 13843
MEPA Analyst: Nick Zavolas
Phone: 617-626-1030

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: Contract For Ultraviolet Disinfection Installation At Wellfield No.2		
Street: Worcester Road – Route 12		
Municipality: Town of Sterling	Watershed: Nashua	
Universal Tranverse Mercator Coordinates:	Latitude:42° 25' 18.66" Longitude: 71° 46' 26.32"	
Estimated commencement date: 9/1/06	Estimated completion date:9/1/07	
Approximate cost: $700,000	Status of project design: 95 %complete	
Proponent: Louis A. Manring – Superintendent of Public Works		
Street: 171 Worcester Road, PO Box 537		
Municipality: Sterling	State: MA	Zip Code: 01564-0537
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Dennis P. Boucher		
Firm/Agency: Fay, Spofford & Thorndike	Street: 5 Burlington Woods	
Municipality: Burlington	State: MA	Zip Code: 01803
Phone: 781-221-1238	Fax: 781-229-1115	E-mail: Dboucher@fstinc.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 301CMR 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): DEP Drinking Water State Revolving Fund – Project No. DWSRF2855 - $700,000

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

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: DEP Source Approval

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

☐ Land	☐ Rare Species	☐ Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands
☒ Water	☐ Wastewater	☐ Transportation
☐ Energy	☐ Air	☐ Solid & Hazardous Waste
☐ ACEC	☐ Regulations	☐ Historical & Archaeological Resources

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total
LAND			
Total site acreage	.115		
New acres of land altered		0	
Acres of impervious area	.068	0	.068
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	2000	0	2000
Number of housing units	0	0	0
Maximum height (in feet)	NA		
TRANSPORTATION			
Vehicle trips per day	1	2	3
Parking spaces	2	0	2
WASTEWATER			
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	NA		
GPD water withdrawal			
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment			
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)			

State Permits & Approvals

- ☒ Order of Conditions
- ☐ Superseding Order of Conditions
- ☐ Chapter 91 License
- ☐ 401 Water Quality Certification
- ☐ MHD or MDC Access Permit
- ☐ Water Management Act Permit
- ☐ New Source Approval
- ☐ DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/ Extension Permit
- ☐ Other Permits (*including Legislative Approvals*) – Specify:

_____

_____

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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 Description

The Town of Sterling seeks to install a three-well wellfield to replace Wellfield #1 and Well #2. The pumping capacity at this location has decreased as the wells have deteriorated with age. The Town has two approved water supply withdrawal points at this site. Wellfield No. 1 consisted of twelve (12) small diameter, shallow wells constructed in 1934. The wells were connected to a vacuum pump formerly located in the existing pump station building. In 1954, the Town constructed Well No. 2, a gravel-packed well, approximately 50 feet from the well field. The Town pumped the two sources concurrently until 1971 when the Town put the wellfield on standby status and relied more on its new water supply wells in West Sterling. Historical production records indicate that the Town pumped the Wellfield No.1 and Well No. 2 at a combined rate in excess of the currently proposed rate.

The project will improve public health and safety through increasing the reliability of the Town of Sterling's water supply. The Town currently utilizes wells in one general area in West Sterling that have a common watershed. One catastrophic event in this watershed such as either a hazardous materials spill, a flood along the Stillwater River, or a primary water main failure could affect all of these wells. The watershed for Wellfield #2 is separate and would not be affected.

The Town seeks no additions to its total withdrawal volume. All of the Town's withdrawal points are in the Nashua River Basin. This project will allow the Town more diversity in how it obtains water, but not in how much it uses.

B. Alternatives:

The Town relies on Wells 03G, 04G and 05G in West Sterling for most of its water supply. All three wells are within 200 feet of each other in the same general area off of Redemption Rock Road. A catastrophic event or system failure could leave the Town without water. This project seeks only to improve system reliability by providing a back up supply should something affects those three wells. Any alternative must aim for the same result. This requires a water supply source with a watershed that does not overlap with the West Sterling wells.

A new well at another location represents a potentially feasible alternative. An alternative well supply would require exploration for a new source, well testing, land acquisition, wellhead and watershed protection, and New Source Approval to duplicate the current project. The costs would be significantly greater. The proposed location already has an installed connection to the distribution system, and a building for controls and power. A different withdrawal point would require construction of these three elements. The source location, permitting and construction would add at least a five year delay. The finding of another source is not assured. The Town has conducted exploration activities over the last few years, installing test wells on both Town and State (DCR) property. No location was tested with equivalent potential to support a new well.

The environmental impact and impact on others are considered to be similar to the proposed alternative.

Demand reduction commonly represents an alternative to a new water supply source. The Town has a leak detection program and already has a very low percentage of unaccounted water. It also has conservation and demand management policies in place. However, the need for this project is independent of water demand. These approaches to reduce water use cannot add redundancy in supply needed for system reliability and consequent public health.

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 _x_ 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:

	Existing	Change	Total
Footprint of buildings	.046	0	.046
Roadways, parking, and other paved areas	.068	0	.068
Other altered areas (describe)	_____	_____	_____
Undeveloped areas	_____	_____	_____

B. Has any part of the project site been in active agricultural use in the last three years?
___ Yes _x_ 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 _x_ 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: