

*For Office Use Only*  
*Executive Office of Environmental Affairs*

EOEA No.: 13866  
 MEPA Analyst: Anne Canada  
 Phone: 617-626-1035

# 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.

<b>Project Name: Airport Vegetation Management GEIR Update</b>		
Street:		
Municipality: <b>Statewide</b>	Watershed: <b>N/A</b>	
Universal Tranverse Mercator Coordinates: <b>N/A</b>	Latitude: <b>N/A</b>	
	Longitude:	
Estimated commencement date: <b>on going</b>	Estimated completion date: <b>N/A</b>	
Approximate cost: <b>N/A</b>	Status of project design: <b>N/A</b> %complete	
Proponent: <b>Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission with MA DEP and Massport</b>		
Street: <b>State Transportation Bldg, Ten Park Plaza, Rm. 3510</b>		
Municipality: <b>Boston</b>	State: <b>MA</b>	Zip Code: <b>02116</b>
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: <b>Denise Garcia</b>		
Firm/Agency: <b>Mass. Aeronautics Comm.</b>	Street: <b>Ten Park Plaza, Rm. 3510</b>	
Municipality: <b>Boston</b>	State: <b>MA</b>	Zip Code: <b>02116</b>
Phone: <b>617-973-8881</b>	Fax: <b>617-973-8889</b>	E-mail: <b>Denise.Garcia@state.ma.us</b>

- 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. **8978 & 12092**)  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):  
**Many of these activities are funded by the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission.**

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

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals:  
Conservation Commissions (various) – Orders of Conditions  
FAA - funding

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

**\* - potential site specific impacts**

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> New Source Approval <input type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/ Extension Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Other Permits <i>(including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:</i>
Total site acreage	N/A			
New acres of land altered		N/A		
Acres of impervious area	N/A	None	N/A	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		Site specific		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		Site specific		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		N/A		
<b>STRUCTURES</b>				
Gross square footage	N/A	None	N/A	
Number of housing units	N/A	None	N/A	
Maximum height (in feet)	N/A	None	N/A	
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>				
Vehicle trips per day	N/A	None	N/A	
Parking spaces	N/A	None	N/A	
<b>WATER/WASTEWATER</b>				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	N/A	None	N/A	
GPD water withdrawal	N/A	None	N/A	
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	N/A	None	N/A	
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	N/A	None	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 Site specific \_\_\_\_\_ )  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 Site specific \_\_\_\_\_ )  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 Site specific \_\_\_\_\_ )  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.*)

This GENF/GEIR Update provides an Update to MEPA on the ongoing Statewide Vegetation Management Program (SVMP) for vegetation management at airports in Massachusetts, as controlled by the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission (MAC) and the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport). This Update is submitted in response to the request of the Secretary of Environmental Affairs in the Certificate (EOEA #12092) issued in January of 2000 relative to a previously required Update on the implementation of the SVMP. The SVMP program has been conducted over the past 12 years, following the guidance developed under the Generic Environmental Impact Report (Certificate issued in October 15, 1993; EOEA #8978).

The Secretary's Certificate on the 1999 GENF required an update GENF to be filed with MEPA in 2005. In an effort to respond to the January 2000 Certificate, the GENF narrative:

- summarizes the SVMP program and MEPA regulatory history;
- provides an update on MAC activities since the last Update to the GEIR;
- identifies the past, ongoing and future VMP activities at the various airports;
- addresses the specific issues noted in the 2000 Certificate; and
- discusses how the SVMP program is anticipated to proceed in the future from both an operational and regulatory/public review process.

The Certificate on the 1993 GEIR indicated that the objective of the first update document (1999 GEIR Update/Expanded GENF Airport Vegetation Management) was to "... evaluate the effectiveness of [the resultant limited project provision to the WPA Regulations] and to provide all those involved...the opportunity to evaluate it based on actual field experience." In response, the attached GENF narrative is essentially a progress report on the SVMP activities at the airports in Massachusetts where vegetation management has been proceeding under VMP projects controlled by MAC and Massport. These airports currently include: Beverly Airport, Fitchburg Airport, Hanscom Airport, Lawrence Airport, Mansfield Airport, Marshfield Airport, New Bedford Airport, North Adams (Harriman-West) Airport, Norwood Airport, Orange Airport, Southbridge Airport, and Taunton Airport. A review of the annual wetland monitoring reports for these airports consistently documents a lack of adverse impact to wetland resources and wildlife. Instead, the monitoring reports have documented the recovery of the wetlands and the establishment of viable, although altered, wildlife habitat. Information is also provided on the regulatory review at these airports and anticipated VMP projects at other airports.

In addition to a review of the program based on field experience, the January 2000 Certificate identified certain issues to be addressed under the SVMP program. These issues, which are addressed in the GENF narrative, include:

- the use of an Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) approach for the development of new VMPs, and the extension of the IVM methods into the upland areas of airports under both new and existing VMP airports;
- the evaluation of wildlife habitat at airports under new VMPs and existing VMP monitoring efforts, including mitigation and enhancement opportunities for new VMP efforts, with improved reporting of this information;
- the evaluation of invasive species of vegetation at airports under new VMPs and existing VMP monitoring efforts, including management efforts for new VMP efforts, with improved reporting of this information;
- the continued development of annual VMP Status Reports; and
- the development of an interagency (MAC, Massport, FAA, & DEP) Guidance Document for Conservation Commissions on the VMPs.

In addition to responding to the Secretary's request for a 2005 update to the GENF/GEIR, some additional goals have been developed as part of this filing. After 12 years of experience in successfully implementing the SVMP program on a Statewide basis, MAC and Massport believe that the purposes of MEPA's involvement have been well proven. MEPA provided the initial platform for MAC, Massport, and DEP, with input from Conservation Commissions and the environmental community, to cooperatively develop a regulatory and oversight process for vegetation management at airports. With the program's "coming of age", there is now a well-defined process for: developing airport VMPs, conducting public review and permitting, implementation and ongoing maintenance, and finally monitoring the effectiveness of airport VMPs. The ongoing experience of monitoring the effectiveness of VMPs at the 10 airports has refined the process of Integrated Vegetation Management, and allowed the evolution and use of BMPs to minimize environmental impacts.

The goal of the GENF is not only to provide an update to the SVMP program to MEPA, but also to document the effectiveness of the program, which exists with both internal and external checks and balances, with oversight processes that provide for continuing agency and public review, and provide protection for the environment of the airport. At this point in the program's growth and with the completion of this filing, we believe that periodic MEPA updates to the 1993 GEIR beyond this point will not provide additional environmental benefit. While the SVMP program will continue to mature as additional experience is gained over the next many years, such improvements in the program will occur readily under the regulatory processes which mandate permitting and coordination with Conservation Commissions, DEP, DCR, NHESP, and DFA. This process was most recently described and codified in the interagency MAC/Massport/FAA/DEP Guidance Document to Conservation Commissions (Appendix E). These various processes provide ample incentive to avoid, minimize and mitigate environmental impacts, and therefore, improve VMP methodologies as the new information and methodologies become known.

Subsequent to this filing, the conduct of individual VMP projects will occur in response to aviation safety requirements, the statewide environmental regulatory framework, and budget local airport priorities, always following the standards of the established SVMP protocols established by MAC and Massport, as well as maintaining full compliance with MEPA, WPA and other environmental regulatory requirements.