

<i>For Office Use Only</i>	
<i>Executive Office of Environmental Affairs</i>	
EOEA No.:	<u>13351</u>
MEPA Analyst:	<u>Rick Bourke</u>
Phone:	617-626- <u>1130</u>

ENF

Environmental Notification Form

The information requested on this form must be completed to begin EPA review in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, 301 CMR 11.00.

Project Name: Acushnet Lateral Sewer Extension		
Street: Various Streets within the Town of Acushnet		
Municipality: Acushnet	Watershed: Buzzards Bay	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: N/A – Various Locations	Latitude: N/A – Various Locations	Longitude: N/A – Various Locations
Estimated commencement date: Fall 2004	Estimated completion date: Multiple Phases - 2014	
Approximate cost: \$24 Million	Status of project design:	20 %complete
	Phase I – 100	%complete
Proponent: Town of Acushnet Board of Public Works (BPW)		
Street: 130 Main Street, Partings Way Building		
Municipality: Acushnet	State: MA	Zip Code: 02743
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Abigail Charest		
Firm/Agency: Earth Tech	Street: 196 Baker Ave.	
Municipality: Concord	State: Ma	Zip Code: 01742
Phone: 978-371-4188	Fax: 978-371-2468	E-mail: abigail.charest@earthtech.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): State Revolving Fund (SRF)

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, Possible NPDES construction

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 checked="" 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
LAND				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License <input type="checkbox"/> 401 Water Quality Certification <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MHD or MDC Access Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Water Management Act Permit <input type="checkbox"/> New Source Approval
Total site acreage	29			
New acres of land altered		1 acre of pump stations		
Acres of impervious area	0	Approx. 0.2	Approx. 0.2	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		Temporary and less than 5,000 sq.ft.		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		0		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0		
STRUCTURES				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/ Extension Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Other Permits <i>(including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:</i> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Gross square footage	0	Approx. 1560	Approx. 1560	
Number of housing units	0	0	0	
Maximum height (in feet)	0	9	9	
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day	0	0	0	
Parking spaces	0	0	0	
WASTEWATER				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	0	0	0	
GPD water withdrawal	0	0	0	
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	Approx. 547,520 gpd to onsite systems	Connect to collection system	Approx. 547,520 to collection system	
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	Existing Onsite systems	Approx. 30 miles	Approx. 30 miles	

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

The Massachusetts Endangered Species Act Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) was consulted with for this project and the proposed Phase One project. Included in Attachment F are the correspondence letters to NHESP and the NHESP proposed Phase One project response.

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

The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) was consulted with for this project and the proposed Phase One project. Included in Attachment E are the correspondence letters to MHC and the MHC response letter regarding the proposed Phase One project.

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.*)

The proposed sewer extension project will include approximately 129,190 feet of 6- to 15-inch gravity sewers, 7,920 feet of low pressure sewers, nine pump stations, 16,050 feet of force main in the same trench with gravity sewer and 2,100 feet of force main in it's own trench. This work will be performed under four phases, as outlined below. The proposed extension areas will connect to existing collection systems in Acushnet and New Bedford. Preliminary pipe layouts in the extension areas and existing sewage collection systems are shown on the Environmental Constraints Plan in Attachment A, the Project Plan in Attachment B, and the Site Locus map in Attachment C.

The objective of this sewer extension project is to alleviate existing and potential short- and long-term problems with on-site sewage disposal systems in specific areas of the Town. Review of Title 5 inspection records maintained at the Board of Health offices revealed 50 failed on-site sewage disposal systems, 14 cesspools, and 19 locations with high groundwater within the Town. The Board of Health reports a very high incidence of sewage odor complaints in the project area and has determined through dye testing that on-site wastewater disposal systems are impacting water quality in catch basins and storm drain collection pipes. There are also significant reports of widespread sewage backups into basements of private homes in the project area, especially during wet seasons. The areas identified for this sewer extension project encompasses the largest concentrations of these need indicators. These areas, also, have small lot sizes that limit the property owners' ability to rehabilitate or replace on-site systems in accordance with the Title 5 regulations.

This extension project will provide environmental, aesthetic, and public health benefits by eliminating on-site disposal systems in areas of shallow groundwater and documented concentrations of system failures that can result in exposed sewage and sewage by-products, and where small lot sizes and poor soils limit the potential for replacement or rehabilitation of systems to meet the current Title 5 regulations.

The following areas of the Town, were identified as having a substantial need for wastewater disposal improvement due to the issues identified below:

PHASE I

Area 1A, is primarily a residential area located north of the existing collection system in the Village Center along the northwest side of Main Street. This location was assigned a high priority because its small area encompasses six properties with failed systems, two of which were also found to have shallow groundwater, and one existing cesspool. In addition, 59 residents in this area have signed petitions requesting investigation of sewer extension into their neighborhood. Lot sizes in the area are generally small, averaging less than 26,000 square feet (sf), with only seven of 96 lots (7.3%) large enough to comply with the Town's current 60,000 square foot minimum size requirement; and little potential exists for cluster system siting. Extension of sewers to this area would serve approximately 95 properties, and require one connection to the existing

Village Center collection system.

Area 1B, along the New Bedford City line at the north end of Nye's Lane, is also relatively small and is predominantly residential. Three properties in this area have documented sewage disposal system failures, one of which also reported shallow groundwater; shallow groundwater was also reported at two additional lots. Twenty residents in this area signed petitions requesting the Town to investigate a sewer extension. Lot sizes in this area are all small, averaging approximately 12,150 sf, and there are few open areas available for possible cluster system siting. Extension to this area would serve approximately 20 properties, and require a single connection directly to the New Bedford collection system.

Area 1C, "wraps" around the existing system to the east of Area 1A and to the east and southeast of the existing Village Center sewer system. This area is larger than Area 1A and 1B. The majority of properties in the area are residential, with some small businesses. It encompasses twelve locations with failed subsurface disposal systems, one of which also reported shallow groundwater, an additional location with documented high groundwater, and five existing cesspools. Lot sizes in this area are small as well. Extension to this area would serve approximately 270 properties, and require two connections to the existing Village Center collection system.

PHASE II

Area 2, is primarily a residential area located north of the existing collection system in the Nye's Lane Area. This location was assigned a high priority because its area encompasses nine properties with failed subsurface disposal systems, two of which were also found to have shallow groundwater that could interfere with repairs of existing systems. Lot sizes in the area average approximately 43,000 square feet (sf), with thirty-three of 228 lots (11.4%) large enough to comply with the Town's current 60,000 square foot minimum size requirement. Extension of sewers to this area would serve approximately 300 properties and requires one connection to the New Bedford collection system.

Area 3 is located in South Acushnet at the south end of South Main Street and is predominantly residential. Five properties in this area have documented sewage disposal system failures, all of which, reported shallow groundwater, and three of which, include cesspools. Lot sizes in this area are small, averaging approximately 25,000 sf, limiting the potential for constructing leaching systems in conformance with current Title 5 Regulations. Only 17 of 310 lots (5.5%) exceed the Town's current 60,000 square foot minimum size requirement. Extension to this area would serve approximately 300 properties, and requires one connection directly to the existing Acushnet collection system.

PHASE III

Area 4, is located along the New Bedford City Line, south of the Nye's Lane Area. The majority of properties in the area are residential. It encompasses six locations with failed subsurface disposal systems, two with documented high groundwater. Lot sizes at five of the six failed systems are small. Lot sizes in this area are generally small, averaging 36,000 sf, with 14 of 303 (4.6%) larger than 60,000 sf. Three of these large lots and total 131 acres or approximately half of the overall area. Extension to this area would serve approximately 300 properties, and requires one connection to the existing Acushnet collection system.

Area 5, is in the eastern portion of the original Village Center area. The majority of properties in the area are residential. It encompasses nine locations with failed subsurface disposal systems, and three locations with existing cesspools. Lot sizes in this area are on average larger than in the previously mentioned areas, averaging 58,500 sf with 46 of 385 (11.9%) larger than 60,000 sf. Extension to this area would serve approximately 500 properties, and requires three connections to the existing Acushnet collection system.

PHASE IV

Area 6, is located in the southeast corner of Acushnet. It has been noted by the Town Health Agent that high groundwater might create a sewage disposal challenge in this area. Lot sizes in this area are generally larger than in previous areas, with 14 of 361 properties (3.9%) exceeding 60,000 sf in area, and an overall average lot size of 106,000 sf. Extension to this area would serve approximately 550 properties, and requires one connection to the existing Acushnet collection system.

In addition, the Proponent is filing a request for a Phase One Waiver for this project. The proponent believes that a Phase One Waiver for Areas 1A, 1B and 1C is merited based on the "Determinations for a Phase One Waiver" criteria set forth at 301 CMR 11.11. The extent of the proposed Phase One project area boundaries were primarily based on need, but also refined by surveys mailed to the residents in the need areas. The survey results were tabulated and there were 108 residents that marked they were not interested in sewer and 30 residents that marked they were interested in sewer. Those residents that marked they were interested in the new sewer construction were marked as a priority for the Phase One project. Examples of the survey are included as Attachment G. The Phase One Waiver is detailed in a letter sent to Secretary Ellen Roy Herzfelder and included in Attachment H.