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.: 13639
MEPA Analyst: Briony Angus
Phone: 617-626-1029

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: Gilden Dam Breaching		
Street: Hancock Road (Route 43)		
Municipality: Williamstown	Watershed: Hoosic	
Universal Tranverse Mercator Coordinates:	Latitude: 42.63751 Longitude: -73.27538	
Estimated commencement date: September 2005	Estimated completion date: October 3, 2005	
Approximate cost:	Status of project design: 100 %complete	
Proponent:Lilian Gilden		
Street: 67 Duck Pond Road		
Municipality: Glen Cove	State: NY	Zip Code: 11542
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Shannon Boomsma		
Firm/Agency: White Engineering, Inc	Street: 55 S. Merriam Street	
Municipality: Pittsfield	State:MA	Zip Code:01201
Phone: 413-443-8011	Fax: 413-443-8012	E-mail: WhiteEng@aol.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): N/A

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

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: Order of Conditions expected DEP File #343-448

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

- [x] Land
- [ ] Water
- [ ] Energy
- [ ] ACEC
- [ ] Rare Species
- [ ] Wastewater
- [ ] Air
- [ ] Regulations
- [x] Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Solid & Hazardous Waste
- [ ] Historical & Archaeological Resources

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total
LAND			
Total site acreage	40 acres ±		
New acres of land altered		21 acres ±	
Acres of impervious area	0	0	0
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		938,267 SF ±	
Square feet of new other wetland alteration			
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0	
STRUCTURES			
Gross square footage	N/A		
Number of housing units	N/A		
Maximum height (in feet)	N/A		
TRANSPORTATION			
Vehicle trips per day	N/A		
Parking spaces	N/A		
WATER/WASTEWATER			
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	N/A		
GPD water withdrawal	N/A		
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	N/A		
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	N/A		

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:

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.*)

The property is an 88 acre parcel located on the east side of Route 43 in Williamstown, MA just north of the Hancock town line. The property has been in the Gilden family since 1978. The family constructed a gravel driveway through the right of way to access the majority of the land east of the West Branch of the Green River. The river crossing was made by a timber bridge. The pan handle part of the property west of the river was wetlands fed by a culvert under Route 43. This intermittent stream feeds into the West Branch of the Green River north of the bridge location. The remaining land of Gilden is woodlands and meadows with a second intermittent stream flowing from the mountain side. The property has never been built on. Approximately 10 years ago the wooden bridge collapsed and beavers moved in. It appears that several generations of beavers have occupied this area and maintained the approximately 400 feet long dam on the south side of the driveway. The dam has backed up water almost to the Hancock border for a width of at least 400-ft. Approximately that of the 100-Year Floodplain. The beavers have been removed in the past year.

The proposed work is the breaching of this dam to allow safe access to the upland portion of the property and to restore the river to its natural channel. Alternative access to the property has been considered however not feasible. There is no other frontage owned by the Gildens. Access would need to be through an agreement with the northerly neighbor. However, this application is for the breaching of the beaver dam to restore the water in the river to its unobstructed flow patterns and velocity. The dammed river is currently occupying the 100 Year Floodplain for the river potentially resulting in property damage if a 100-year flood event occurs. The Green River is a cold water fishery and downstream of this site is an estimated habitat area. The temperature is increased and elemental make-up of the water is altered by the shallows and reduction of flow rates through the dammed area. Not allowing the river to return to its channel and flow patterns may detrimentally effect the fish and wildlife populations downstream.

The beaver dam will be removed gradually initially in the river. A fence line of heavy gauge wire fencing will be constructed downstream of the dam with silt fence along the fence. As the dam is removed approximately 6" of height at a time the fence will be cleaned of any sediments released from behind the dam. The proposed work will be done by hand as there is no access to the site other than by foot. The proposed fencing will retain the sediments on the subject property and minimize the potential for downstream sedimentation.

At the completion of the work it is anticipated that the area will be a defined river bed for the West Branch

of the green River with braided intermittent stream through a shrub swamp type wetland which all feed into the West Branch of the Green River just north of this property.