

# ENF Environmental Notification Form

<i>For Office Use Only</i> Executive Office of Environmental Affairs	
EOEA No.:	<u>13924</u>
MEPA Analyst:	<u>Holly Johnson</u>
Phone:	<u>617-626-1023</u>

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: <i>Rivet Well Field Public Water Supply Development</i>		
Street: <i>North Main Street (State Route 105)</i>		
Municipality: <i>Acushnet</i>	Watershed: <i>Buzzards Bay</i>	
Universal Tranverse Mercator Coordinates: <i>341,434.079E; 622,977.733N</i>	Latitude: <i>41.7447</i>	Longitude: <i>-70.9069</i>
Estimated commencement date: <i>Spring 2007</i>	Estimated completion date: <i>August 2009</i>	
Approximate cost: <i>\$5,507,605</i>	Status of project design:	<i>10</i> %complete
Proponent: <i>City of Acushnet – Board of Public Works</i>		
Street: <i>122 Main Street</i>		
Municipality: <i>Acushnet</i>	State: <i>MA</i>	Zip Code: <i>02743</i>
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: <i>Wendy Coffin</i>		
Firm/Agency: <i>Woodard &amp; Curran</i>	Street: <i>980 Washington St, Suite 325</i>	
Municipality: <i>Dedham</i>	State: <i>MA</i>	Zip Code: <i>02026-6797</i>
Phone: <i>888-265-8969</i>	Fax: <i>781-251-0847</i>	E-mail: <i>wcoffin@woodardcurran.com</i>

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): *Neither financial assistance, nor land transfer from an agency of the Commonwealth is requested or anticipated.*

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?

Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_)  No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: *Town of Acushnet Building Permit and Conservation Commission Determination of Applicability and/or Order of Conditions for work in the buffer of Boundary Vegetated Wetland of New Bedford Reservoir.*

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Management Act Permit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Source Approval <input type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/ Extension Permit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Permits (including Legislative Approvals) – Specify: <u>Interbasin Transfer</u>
Total site acreage	41.7*			
New acres of land altered		0.74		
Acres of impervious area	0	0.014	0.014	
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		
<b>STRUCTURES</b>				<input type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/ Extension Permit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Permits (including Legislative Approvals) – Specify: <u>Interbasin Transfer</u>
Gross square footage	0	600	600	
Number of housing units	0	0	0	
Maximum height (in feet)	0	15	15	
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>				<i>*This includes the 14.5 acre well field property and 27.2 Town owned access property</i>
Vehicle trips per day	0	2	2	
Parking spaces	0	1	1	
<b>WASTEWATER</b>				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	0	0	0	
GPD water withdrawal	0	432,000	432,000	
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	0	0	0	
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	0	2.8	2.8	

**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 well field site is near PH 128 and EH 840 (Eastern Pond Mussel) and PH 291 and EH 707 (Eastern Box Turtle), which are indicated on Attachment 6 – DEP Priority Resource Map.*

**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 *Rock walls on the site will not be disturbed.*

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 proposed project is development of a Town of Acushnet municipal water supply. The project is needed to provide the Town of Acushnet with its own independent water supply source. Acushnet currently purchases all of the water for the public drinking water system under an agreement with the City of New Bedford Water Department. The new water source is proposed to consist of a well field of five gravel packed production wells.*

*The well field site is on the Town owned Rivet Property, on the east side of the New Bedford Reservoir on the Acushnet River, approximately three miles north of the village area, as shown on Attachment 3. The well field site, of 14.5 acres, is at the westerly end of an existing gravel road that provides access from North Main Street. The road crosses a second 27.178 acre parcel of Town owned land. The existing conditions at the site are shown on the Existing Conditions Plan - Attachment 1. DEP Priority Resources in the project area as shown on the MASSGIS website are shown on Attachment 6. The site is densely to sparsely wooded. The only development on either lot is the gravel access road and the test and monitoring wells that have been recently installed at the northeasterly corner of the well field lot as shown on the Attachment 1. Field testing of five gravel packed wells at the site has identified the well field as an adequate and healthful source of drinking water to meet the majority of the water supply demand of the water system's customers. The Town proposes to reduce the quantity of water purchased from New Bedford by the amount that will be withdrawn from the proposed Rivet Well Field, but expects to continue to "import" an average of 143,000 gallons per day (gpd) water from New Bedford, under its current agreement to meet present day and peak demand periods. The proposed wells are approximately 250 feet from the normal high water line of the reservoir and the adjacent property to the south, and are within 20 feet, at the closest point, of vegetated wetlands that border the reservoir. Potential and estimated state listed species habitat areas are described and located in the attached baseline environmental assessment completed by Normandeau Associates, Falmouth, MA, in November 2006. The Town expects to develop the well field during the 2007 construction season, with all associated water supply appurtenances completed the following year.*

*Following development of the well field, a pump house and a water transmission line will be constructed. The pump house will be a one-story structure with a footprint of approximately 600 square feet, and be located as shown on Attachment 2 – Proposed Site Conditions. The pump house will contain the necessary production well pump controls, and disinfection and corrosion control treatment equipment. The 12-inch diameter water transmission pipeline will follow the alignment of North Main Street, approximately 7,800 feet, to Leonard Street where it will cross approximately 4,700 feet to a place near Middle Street, where it will connect to the existing distribution system. Development of the pump house and transmission main are expected to occur during the 2008 - 2009 construction seasons.*

*We submit that the development of the Rivet Wellfield does not require an EIR due to the fact that the total withdrawal volume is moderate and potential impacts will be manageable in terms of resource protection*

measures that will be fully addressed in the respective state regulatory permitting reviews under DEP New Source Review, DEP Water Management Act, and WRC Interbasin Transfer. This finding of not requiring an EIR is consistent with past MEPA decisions, notably those for the Dedham-Westwood Water District Fowl Meadow well (EOEA #8626) and Mansfield Witch Pond well No. 10 (EOEA #11483). In both of those cases, the proponent worked closely with the state permitting agencies to address all comments made to the ENF, as well as subsequent detailed agency comments pertaining to the hydrogeological modeling performed, pumping test results, and operational conditions, such as monitoring of groundwater levels and streamflow gauging, determined as necessary to assure resource protection. In both of these specific cases, the wells were approved and have been operating in accordance with their respective permits and applicable operational conditions.

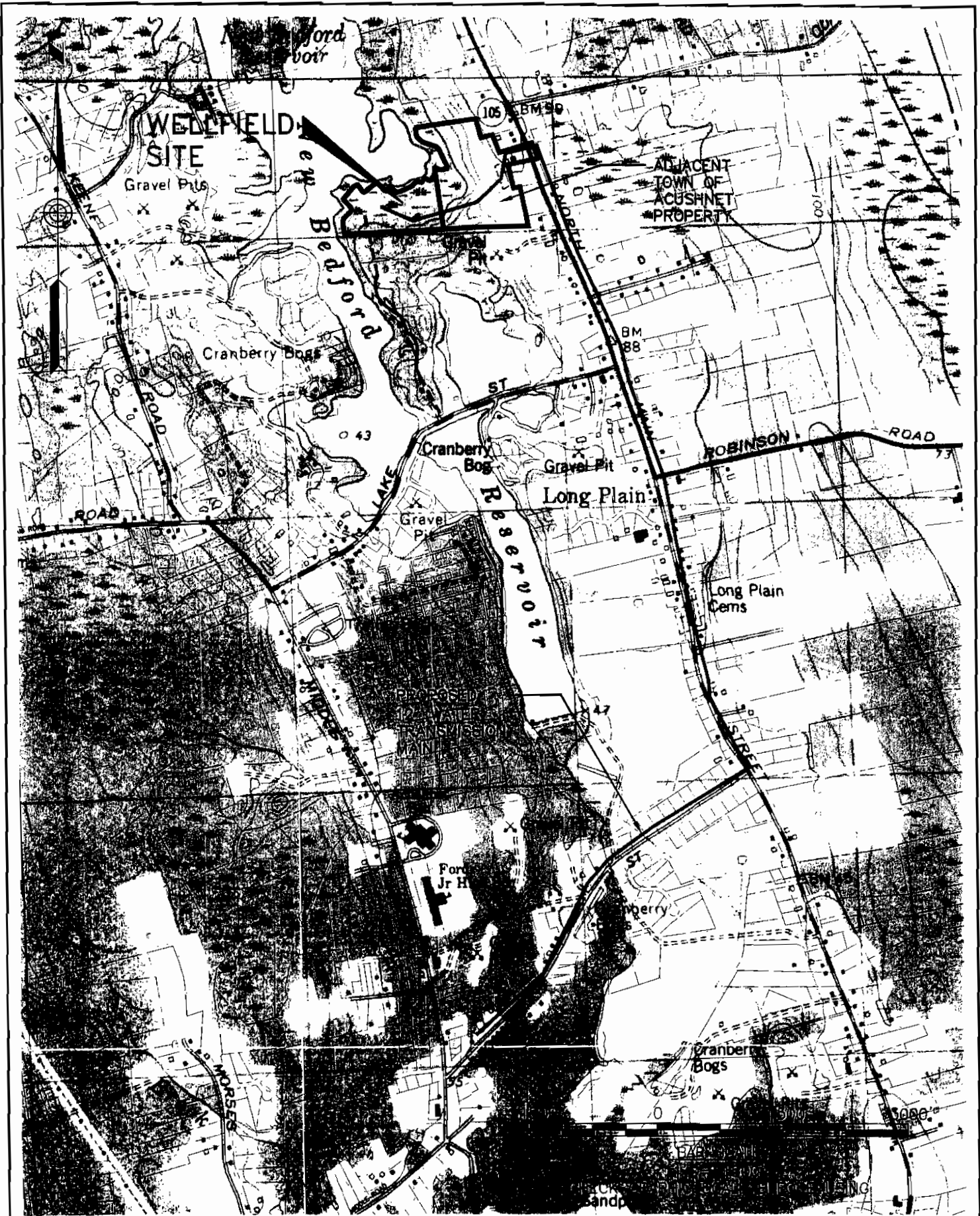
Two alternatives to the proposed Town of Acushnet municipal water supply project have been identified. One is development of a public well field at an alternate location. The second, "No Action" alternative is to continue to purchase all drinking water from the neighboring City of New Bedford public water supply system.

Preliminary investigation of another well site was completed in 1996. The area of investigation designated the Hamlin Street site, off Hamlin Street in the southern portion of the Acushnet River basin. The test well revealed that an adequate but inferior quality supply was available at that site. Additionally, the site offered no water supply or environmental advantages, and because the property was in a more densely populated area of Town an 11-acre Zone I would have to be purchased by the Town before the source could be developed, and the site posed greater constraints in terms of securing the Zone II land use controls for aquifer protection. All these factors led to this alternative being removed from further consideration.

Acushnet currently purchases its water from the City of New Bedford Water Department. Under the existing scenario the Town has minimal control over the treatment, age, pressure, flow, or cost of drinking water delivered to its consumers. Moreover, the long-term reliability and availability of this outside water supply source is impossible to predict, thereby impacting the Town's ability to plan and manage its future growth. Maintaining this status quo for water supply, effectively the "No Action" alternative is considered not to be a viable option because of its absence of long-term reliability, fiscal predictability and planning basis.

The Town currently owns, operates and maintains the distribution system that serves the residences and business of the Town that are served by the public water system. The water system service area is shown on Figure 4. The Town has made improvements to the water distribution system in recent years and has reduced the amount of unaccounted for water use by half from 15 percent in 1999 to 7.4 percent in 2005. Per capita water use, including commercial and industrial users was 78 gallons per day (gpd) in 1999; in 2005 the per capita water use rate was 75.6 gpd. The residential water demand figure was 65 gpd in 2005, up slightly from 61.6 gpd in 1999, which is well below the state recommended standard. Throughout its period of purchasing water from New Bedford, Acushnet has shown environmental and operational responsibility for managing the water supply it has received from New Bedford and would apply the same high level of stewardship with its own water supply source.

The potential impacts of developing a well field on the Rivet Property will be evaluated in detail, including development and application of a computer hydrogeologic model of the aquifer as part of the respective New Source and Water Management Act permit applications to be undertaken by the agencies having jurisdiction over water supplies and wetlands. A full 8-day pumping test was performed of this source and its results are the basis of the resources and baseline habitat assessment performed by Normandeau Assoc. (see attached). Any operational conditions necessary to minimize potential impacts will be defined during the agency permit process, as was done in the two prior MEPA reviews noted above. In particular, it is expected that the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Division of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), Water Resources Commission (WRC), and Division of Inland and Marine Fisheries (DMF) will each play a key role in determining what mitigation, if any, is needed to minimize or avoid adverse impacts on groundwater levels, and to protect downstream reservoir levels and instream flows associated habitats and resource function of state listed protected species. Due to the highly specialized and focused resources of concern for this type of project (i.e., well field withdrawal rate; ground and surface water levels; instream flows) we believe that the scientific review and public hearing processes required for these individual state permits will adequately address the questions of potential impacts highlighted in this report as was done by MEPA and the state agencies in the previous cases noted herein.



**WOODARD & CURRAN**  
Engineering Science Operations

**WELLFIELD SITE**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

JOB NO: 212715.09  
DATE: DEC. 2006  
SCALE: 1"=1500'

MEPA ENF

ATTCH 3

DESIGNED BY: WHC  
DRAWN BY: JOE

CHECKED BY: WHC  
21271509-U003\_5-RPT.dwg