

For Office Use Only
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

EOEA No.: 14152
MEPA Analyst: Briony Angus
Phone: 617-626-1029

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.

Project Name: Hall Brook Dam Removal and Proactive Environmental Restoration		
Street: Near Intersection of West Street & Gilead Street		
Municipality: Adams	Watershed: Hoosic River	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 653778 E 4720601 N	Latitude: 42.6244° N	Longitude: 73.1248° W
Estimated commencement date: 7/15/2008	Estimated completion date: 9/30/08	
Approximate cost: \$300,000	Status of project design:	90 %complete
Proponent: Hall Brook Holding, LLC c/o Michael E. Scott, Esq., Nutter, McClennen, and Fish, LLP		
Street: 155 Seaport Boulevard		
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02210
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: David M. Leone, P.E.		
Firm/Agency: GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.	Street: One Edgewater Drive	
Municipality: Norwood	State: MA	Zip Code: 02062
Phone: 781-278-3700	Fax: 781-278-5701	E-mail: dmleone@gza.com

Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)?

Yes

No

The project exceeds the mandatory EIR threshold for Wetlands, Waterways and Tidelands as it involves a structural alteration of a dam that will cause a decrease in the impoundment capacity (under flood conditions only). However, we are requesting a waiver of the EIR requirement for this project on the grounds that the impoundment is entirely filled in with sediment, the dam impounds no water under normal conditions, and the dam is in "Unsafe" condition. In addition, the proposed project will reestablish the natural channel through the former impoundment.

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): None.

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

Yes (See Permitting Agencies below) No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals:

- Order of Conditions – Adams Conservation Commission;
- 404 Clean Waters Act – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers;
- 401 Water Quality Certification -- MA DEP;
- Chapter 253 Dam Safety Permit;
- Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) Project Notification Form

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 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
LAND				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Permits <i>(including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:</i> <u>Chapter 253 Dam Safety Permit</u> <u>MHC Project Notification Form</u> <u>Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Permit</u>
Total site acreage	0.87			
New acres of land altered		0.39		
Acres of impervious area	0.03 (Dam)	-0.03 (Dam removal)	0.00	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		9,200 sf		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		4,800 sf Land Under Water)		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		N/A		
STRUCTURES				
Gross square footage	1,100 sf (Dam)	-1,100 sf (Dam Removal)	0	
Number of housing units	0	0	0	
Maximum height (in feet)	24 ft (Dam)	-24 ft (Dam Removal)	0	
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Parking spaces	N/A	N/A	N/A	
WATER/WASTEWATER				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	N/A	N/A	N/A	
GPD water withdrawal	N/A	N/A	N/A	
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	N/A	N/A	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 _____) 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.*)

(See Appendix A – Site Narrative & Photographs for a more detailed discussion and Alternatives Analysis)

(a) Reportedly built in 1886, Hall Brook Dam is a 24-ft high, 135-ft. long, stone masonry and concrete structure, located within a densely populated residential and commercial area near downtown Adams. The dam is classified as an Intermediate Size, Significant Hazard Class (Class II) structure by the Massachusetts Office of Dam Safety. The dam is also rated as being in “Unsafe” condition and an outstanding Dam Safety Order was issued on June 7, 2008 to conduct studies leading to the permanent removal or reconstruction of the dam.

(b) The alternatives evaluated for this project include the following options. Note that off-site alternatives do not apply to this dam site:

1. No Action – Not recommended due to outstanding Dam Safety Order and the potential threat to public safety that the dam poses in its current condition.

2. Dam Reconstruction – Not recommended since the dam is no longer used for any purpose. The impoundment is completely filled in with sediment. The deficiencies at the dam would require complete reconstruction, in GZA’s opinion, which would likely not be cost-effective for the dam’s Owner, Hall Brook Holding, LLC.

3. Dam Removal – Recommended as it would provide an overall environmental benefit, remove the dam’s hazard potential, and relieve the Owner of the obligation to maintain the dam going forward.

(c) Removal of the dam is anticipated to be an overall environmental benefit and will remove a potential safety hazard. On-site mitigation includes re-establishment of the free-flowing stream channel, channel restoration through the former impoundment, and wetland and upland seeding and plantings in the disturbed areas.

Additional information on the project is provided in the Figures and Appendices attached herein.