

Environmental Notification Form

For Office Use Only

EEA#: 16234

MEPA Analyst: Alex Strysky

The information requested on this form must be completed in order to submit a document electronically for review under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, 301 CMR 11.00.

Project Name: **Resiliency Improvements at Watershops Pond Dam**

Street Address: **1 Allen Street**

Municipality: **Springfield**

Watershed: **Connecticut River Subbasin**

Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
18T 701533E, 4663454N

Latitude: **42.09731**

Longitude: **-72.56290**

Estimated commencement date: **10/01/20**

Estimated completion date: **07/30/22**

Project Type: **Dam Resiliency Improvements**

Status of project design: **25 %complete**

Proponent: **City of Springfield Dept. of Parks, Buildings, and Recreation Management**

Street Address: **200 Trafton Road**

Municipality: **Springfield**

State: **MA**

Zip Code: **01108**

Name of Contact Person: **Tom Jenkins**

Firm/Agency: **GZA GeoEnvironmental Inc.**

Street Address: **1350 Main St., Suite 1400**

Municipality: **Springfield**

State: **MA**

Zip Code: **01103**

Phone: **413-726-2121**

Fax: **413-732-1249**

E-mail: **thomas.jenkins@gza.com**

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

Yes No

If this is an Expanded Environmental Notification Form (ENF) (see 301 CMR 11.05(7)) or a Notice of Project Change (NPC), are you 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

(Note: Greenhouse Gas Emissions analysis must be included in the Expanded ENF.)

Which MEPA review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03)?

- 11.03 (3)(a)1.b. alteration of ten or more acres of any other wetlands
- 11.03 (3)(b)1.b. alteration of 500 or more linear feet of Bank

Which State Agency Permits will the project require?

- MA DCR ODS Chapter 253 Dam Safety Permit
- MassDEP/City of Springfield Wetlands Protection Act Notice of Intent / Order of Conditions

- *MassDEP Section 401 Water Quality Certification – Dredge and Fill*

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:

No State funding assistance has been provided for this Project, nor are any land transfers part of the Project. Not applicable.

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total
LAND			
Total site acreage	307		
New acres of land altered		0	
Acres of impervious area	17.80 ac	0.04 ac (1,940 SF)	17.84 ac
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		Up to 429,000 SF	
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		Up to 7,373,850 SF	
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0	
STRUCTURES			
Gross square footage	305 SF	0	305 SF
Number of housing units	N/A	N/A	N/A
Maximum height (feet)	N/A	N/A	N/A
TRANSPORTATION			
Vehicle trips per day	N/A	N/A	N/A
Parking spaces	N/A	N/A	N/A
WASTEWATER			
Water Use (Gallons per day)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Water withdrawal (GPD)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wastewater generation/treatment (GPD)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Length of water mains (miles)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Length of sewer mains (miles)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Has this project been filed with MEPA before? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (EEA # _____) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (EEA # _____) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION – all proponents must fill out this section

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Describe the existing conditions and land uses on the project site:

The proposed Project involves resiliency improvements to Watershops Pond Dam. Watershops Pond Dam (NID# MA 00569) is located at N 42.09731 latitude, W -72.56290 longitude in the City of Springfield, Massachusetts, at the westerly extent of Watershops Pond, nestled within a complex of historic industrial buildings that, from 1855 to 1968, constituted the “Water Shops” of the federal Springfield Armory, now referred to locally by its street address: 1 Allen Street. The concrete and masonry gravity dam has a concrete ogee overflow spillway with a hydraulically-operated Bascule gate along its crest and impounds the Mill River. The Bascule gate can be used to regulate the pool elevation of Watershops Pond and has controls housed in a concrete control house on the left abutment of the dam. Masonry training walls flank both sides of the dam, where the pond narrows in the approach to the dam and then from the dam to the large arch span over the channel created by the downstream industrial building and then toward the Allen Street bridge, which is approximately 200 ft downstream of the dam. The dam also has two sluice gates which are operated from a platform accessed from the right abutment (note that all discussions of right and left are identified as the direction when facing downstream). In addition, there are two penstock openings and head gates which are no longer used, which are adjacent to the dam along the right abutment / training wall. The dam is classified as a Large-sized structure with a High hazard potential, based on the criteria set forth in the Massachusetts Dam Safety Regulations. The dam and Watershops Pond are owned and maintained by the City of Springfield, through its Department of Parks, Buildings, and Recreation Management.

For the purposes of this submittal to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Office, the “Project site” has been identified as the entirety of Watershops Pond, plus a 100-foot buffer around the pond, as all potential anticipated impacts would fall within this area.

Watershops Pond is a 192.6± acre impoundment of the Mill River. The North and South branches of the Mill River converge at the upstream end of Watershops Pond. The Mill River downstream of the dam is highly channelized, with left and right sidewalls of the same brownstone masonry evident at the dam and the Watershops. There is a small dam located approximately 5,000 feet downstream of Watershops Pond Dam, below which the river enters a pressure conduit constructed by the U.S. Corps of Engineers in the 1940s as part of the Connecticut River Flood Control System. The watershed to the pond is approximately 33.1 square miles.

A Locus Map of the dam area and Aerial Photos of Watershops Pond and the dam area are included in Attachment 1 – EENF narrative. This attachment also includes more detailed description of the site and site elements. Project area photos showing existing and historical conditions are also included with this submittal as Attachment 3.

Describe the proposed project and its programmatic and physical elements:

Based on the findings of prior periodic inspection reports, discussions with the City of Springfield, and the findings and recommendations of the “Renewables Feasibility Report” prepared for the City, the City envisions the proposed Resiliency Improvements at Watershops Pond Dam Project to include the following elements:

- *Repair or replacement of the existing operator platform and walkway*
- *Repair or replacement of existing railings and the installation of hazard warning signage*
- *Installation of new security fencing at critical access points*
- *Replacement of the two (2) existing sluice gates and their appurtenant features*
- *Permanent closure of the two penstock openings at the right abutment of the dam*
- *Replacement of the existing Bascule-type movable crest gate, including all operating mechanisms and control systems, and provisions for adequately conveying the Inflow Design Flood to the extent practicable*
- *Replacement electrical service which does not require entry into privately-owned buildings for access*
- *General masonry repairs to the downstream training walls owned by the City of Springfield, and the right upstream training wall from the dam to the upstream steel bridge*
- *Replacement of the upstream left training wall and including provision of a wider access route capable of supporting vehicular traffic to facilitate operations and maintenance of the dam and gate controls*
- *Vegetation and tree removal and control*
- *As necessary, angled tie-down anchors in the downstream dam face to meet regulatory requirements for dam stability*

The Project is a water resources improvement project and will not change traffic or infrastructure demands. There is ample and unconstrained infrastructure available, as discussed further in this submittal.

The Project is being funded by the City of Springfield with the assistance of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development - CDBG Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Grant B-13-DS-25-0002. All CDBG-DR work must be completed by September 2022.

A more complete discussion of the Project and potential impacts is included in Attachment 1 – EENF narrative, including a discussion of Greenhouse Gas Emissions, as required by MEPA.

Describe the on-site project alternatives (and alternative off-site locations, if applicable), considered by the proponent, including at least one feasible alternative that is allowed under current zoning, and the reasons(s) that they were not selected as the preferred alternative:

The following alternatives were considered in the development and ongoing design of the proposed Project, namely the following:

- *Alternative No. 1 – No Action*
- *Alternative No. 2 – Dam Removal*
- *Alternative No. 3 – Dam Maintenance*
- *Alternative No. 4 – Full Resiliency Improvements/Full Dam Rehabilitation
(PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE)*

A detailed Alternatives Analysis and discussion of potential impacts and how the alternatives meet or fail to meet the Project objectives, is included in Attachment 1.

Summarize the mitigation measures proposed to offset the impacts of the preferred alternative:

Proposed mitigation measures are discussed in detail in Attachment 1 – EENF Narrative.

If the project is proposed to be constructed in phases, please describe each phase: