Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Office

Environmental Notification Form

For Office Use Only

EEA#: _____

MEPA Analyst: _____

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: **Whiting Street Reservoir Dam Improvements Project**		
Street Address: **Easthampton Road (Route 141)**		
Municipality: **Holyoke**	Watershed: Connecticut River	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: **UTM Zone 18T, Easting: 695060.32, Northing: 4678878.20**	Latitude: **42.237736** Longitude: **-72.635946**	
Estimated commencement date: Fall 2021	Estimated completion date: Spring 2022	
Project Type: **Dam Improvements**	Status of project design: 90%complete	
Proponent: **David Conti, Manager, Holyoke Water Works**		
Street Address: **20 Commercial Street**		
Municipality: **Holyoke**	State: **MA**	Zip Code: **01040**
Name of Contact Person: **Melissa Coady**		
Firm/Agency: **Tighe & Bond, Inc.**	Street Address: **53 Southampton Road**	
Municipality: **Westfield**	State: **MA**	Zip Code: **01085**
Phone: **413-250-2424**	Fax:**413-562-5317**	E-mail: **MPCoady@tighebond.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)?
301 CMR 11.03(3)(b)(1)(c) – alteration of 1,000 sf or more of Outstanding Resource Waters
301 CMR 11.03(b)(1)(f) – alteration of one half or more acres of any other wetlands

Which State Agency Permits will the project require?
- *Chapter 235 Permit - MassDCR Office of Dam Safety*
- *401 Water Quality Certification - MassDEP*

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.

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total
LAND			
Total site acreage	371.8		
New acres of land altered		13.4	
Acres of impervious area	0.4	0	0.4
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0	
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		9.8	
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0	
STRUCTURES			
Gross square footage	1,010	0	1,010
Number of housing units	0	0	0
Maximum height (feet)	20	0	20
TRANSPORTATION			
Vehicle trips per day	NA	NA	NA
Parking spaces	NA	NA	NA
WASTEWATER			
Water Use (Gallons per day)	0	0	0
Water withdrawal (GPD)	0	0	0
Wastewater generation/treatment (GPD)	0	0	0
Length of water mains (miles)	0	0	0
Length of sewer mains (miles)	0	0	0

Has this project been filed with MEPA before?
☐ Yes (EEA #_____) ☒No

Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before?
☐ Yes (EEA #_____) ☒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 Project Locus (Site) comprises an approximately 371.8-acre parcel of land owned by the City of Holyoke (Parcel ID 213-00-006) off Easthampton Road (Route 141) in the City of Holyoke, Hampden County, Massachusetts. The geographical location of the Whiting Street Reservoir Dam is 42.237736 degrees north latitude and -72.635946 degrees west longitude. A USGS Site Location map is provided as Figure 1 in Attachment B. Project Drawings are provided in Attachment C.

Bound to the west by Route 141, to the north by Mt. Tom, to the east by Interstate 91, and to the south by a privately owned golf course ("Wyckoff Country Club" at the time of this application), the Site is almost entirely forested, save for those areas occupied by the reservoir and appurtenant water supply features (e.g., access roads).

The Project Site is located in the northern part of the City of Holyoke on the eastern slopes of the Mt. Tom Range. Within the Site, the Whiting Street Reservoir, an approximately 479-million-gallon manmade impoundment constructed in 1888 to provide a drinking water supply (PWS ID 1137000-02S) for the residents of Holyoke, has a surface area of approximately 117 acres. The impoundment is fed by several unnamed intermittent streams, both mapped (by USGS) and unmapped. A gravel access road extends around the perimeter of the impoundment and connects west to Easthampton Road and east to Mountain Park Road. The access road is also used by the public for hiking, running, and wildlife viewing. Fishing, hunting, picnicking, and camping are not allowed. The area surrounding the impoundment is predominantly forested with deciduous trees.

Describe the proposed project and its programmatic and physical elements:

To meet current dam safety regulations, the existing undersized spillway will be removed and replaced with a larger one. The existing spillway, a portion of the earthen embankment, and the existing outlet culverts and headwall will be demolished and removed to allow for the construction of the replacement spillway. The replacement concrete spillway will be cast in place with a weir length of 120 feet. The existing three (3) concrete box culverts outletting from the spillway beneath the access road with heights of 1.8, 2.0, and 2.5 feet will be replaced with a single three-foot-high by three-foot-wide concrete culvert. Rubble will be installed along the Bank downstream from the culvert to stabilize slopes. The right training wall of the new spillway will be located in approximately the same location as the right training wall of the existing spillway, and the spillway weir will extend northerly into the earthen dam embankment. Concrete cutoff walls will be constructed perpendicular to the proposed training walls. Concrete stairs are proposed on either side of the spillway to provide access for maintenance.

Two eight-foot-wide by four-foot-high culverts will be installed on the northeast side of the spillway beneath the gravel access road, and will outlet to the unnamed perennial stream located downstream of the spillway. To limit erosion and withstand heavy flows, the portion of the unnamed perennial stream located downstream of the two proposed eight-foot-wide by four-foot-high culverts will be stabilized using a combination of rubble placement and cross-vanes.
Two (2) maple trees will be removed along the west side of the gravel access road, north of the proposed spillway to allow room for staging and stockpiling areas. A potential stockpile area is also proposed in a maintained lawn area adjacent to a monument as shown on Sheet C-002 of the Project Drawings. Erosion control barriers will be installed downgradient of stockpiles and staging areas.

The proposed drawdown is to elevation 381.0 feet. The estimated amount of exposed LUW is 9.4 acres. The purpose of the drawdown is to provide a dry work environment for the construction of the new spillway supplemented by a cofferdam to protect against fluctuations in the water level due to storm events. The drawdown is also necessary to move the water away from the upstream stone masonry wall of the dam. Since the stone masonry wall is mostly dry-laid, water will travel through the open joints in the stone and discharge into the work area. Moving the water surface away from the wall will minimize the potential for this to occur.

A temporary cofferdam will be installed at the limits of work within the Whiting Street Reservoir to create an isolated (i.e., dry) work area. The isolated work area will be dewatered by means of pumping trapped water to a sedimentation facility (e.g., dewatering treatment sediment trap) outside the limits of the active work area. The contractor will be required to adequately treat all water prior to its discharge from the isolated work area.

Excavated materials will be stockpiled on-site for eventual reuse and off-site disposal. Soil stockpiles will be contained by erosion control measures to prevent sedimentation. Rock stockpiles may also be temporarily stockpiled on-site during construction. The stockpiles will be stored in an upland area and will be surrounded by erosion control barriers, as necessary.

Refer to the Project Narrative provided in Attachment A for additional details.

NOTE: The project description should summarize both the project's direct and indirect impacts (including construction period impacts) in terms of their magnitude, geographic extent, duration and frequency, and reversibility, as applicable. It should also discuss the infrastructure requirements of the project and the capacity of the municipal and/or regional infrastructure to sustain these requirements into the future.

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 Proponent has considered a number of alternatives for completing and meeting the proposed project goals with the preferred alternative providing a balance of protection of public health and safety, project cost, and construction-period impacts.

Table 3-1 summarizes the considered project alternatives described in greater detail in Section 3 of the Project Narrative provided in Attachment A.

Table 3-1
Impacts and Benefits Comparison of Project Alternatives

Alternative	***Anticipated Benefits***	***BVW Impacts (sf)***	***Other Wetland Impacts[1] (sf)***	***Qualitative Environmental Impacts***	***Practicality / Feasibility Concerns***
No Action	*No immediate direct wetland resource area impacts*	*0*	*0*	*Risk of potential dam failure and damage to downstream infrastructure and property*	*Non-compliance with Dam Safety Regulations; economic strain due to continued repairs; continued safety hazard*