



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION
100 CAMBRIDGE STREET, BOSTON MA 02114

**Request for Determination of Applicability
Under the Interbasin Transfer Act
MGL Chapter 21 Section 8b-8d**

**Turners Falls Fire District
Hannegan Brook Well**

**WRC Decision
12 July 2007**

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Turner's Falls Fire District (TFFD) is proposing to develop the Hannegan Brook Well in the Connecticut River basin section of the town of Montague. Water from this well will be used exclusively within the Town of Montague, however a small portion of Montague (Miller's Falls), is sewerred to the Town of Erving's wastewater treatment plant in the Millers River basin. An estimated maximum of 50,000 gallons per day (gpd) of water therefore will cross a town line and a basin line. (See attached map.) This amount is based on the total wastewater transfer from Millers Falls to Erving. Future growth in this area is not expected to increase this amount of transfer to the Erving wastewater treatment plant. In fact, the last several years of wastewater meter data indicate the volume of actual transfer has been even less, at approximately 41,000 gpd (0.04 mgd).

The proposed capacity of the Hannegan Brook Well is 1 million gallons per day. TFFD is proposing to construct this well in order to provide added operation flexibility to its system. Currently, the Water Department draws its water from two wells located at one site (Tolan Farm) in Montague. The proposed Hannegan Brook Well will also provide a backup supply should the Tolan Farms well ever become inoperable in the future.

Because the amount of water to be transferred is very small, and because the location of the Erving wastewater discharge point is very close to the Connecticut River basin line, TFFD and WRC Staff have been discussing options available under the Interbasin Transfer Act (ITA).

Facts relating to this situation:

- According to information provided by DEP, TFFD's approved capacity for its active wells is 3.26 mgd. Of this, the DEP approved capacity from the existing Well No.1 is 1.1 mgd.
- This approved volume was established prior to the effective date of the ITA (March 1984).

- Addition of the Hannegan Brook Well will increase TFFD's total capacity by 1 mgd, for a total active capacity of 4.26 mgd.
- The capacity of the existing Well No.1 has significantly decreased, by about 0.58 mgd, due to siltation of the screen. It has been determined that cleaning of the screen is not practical and there are no plans to attempt to restore the lost capacity.
- TFFD will request in writing that DEP reduce the approved safe yield of Well No. 1 in its Zone II delineation by 50,000 gallons per day, from 1.1 million gallons per day to 1.05 million gallons per day.
- By this action, there will be no net increase in interbasin transfer.

Based on these facts, WRC Has determined, by an eight to zero (8-0) vote (unanimous of those present), that the ITA is not applicable to this proposal if the following actions are taken by Turners Falls Fire District:

1. TFFD must provide documentation that it has requested DEP reduce the approved safe yield of Well No. 1 in its Zone II delineation by 50,000 gallons per day, from 1.1 million gallons per day to 1.05 million gallons per day, and that DEP has agreed to this.
2. TFFD must provide copies of the Annual Statistical Reports, required by DEP, to WRC Staff, to document that the capacity of its active sources does not exceed 4.21 mgd. These reports must be provided by the last business day of February, every year, for as long as the Hannegan Brook Well is operational (i.e., not officially abandoned according to DEP's procedures).
3. If for any reason other than a DEP Emergency Declaration, TFFD uses its sources at a pumping rate greater than 4.21 mgd, the ITA will apply retroactively and TFFD will be required to file an application for the full amount of the increase in interbasin transfer from the Connecticut River basin.