



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Executive Office of Environmental Affairs*  
*100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900*  
*Boston, MA 02114*

Deval L. Patrick  
GOVERNOR

Timothy P. Murray  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Ian A. Bowles  
SECRETARY

Tel: (617) 626-1000  
Fax: (617) 626-1181  
<http://www.mass.gov/envir>

April 6, 2007

CERTIFICATE OF THE SECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
ON THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL NOTIFICATION FORM

PROJECT NAME : Crescent Street and East Street Water Treatment Facilities  
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : East Bridgewater  
PROJECT WATERSHED : Taunton  
EOEA NUMBER : 13985  
PROJECT PROPONENT : **East Bridgewater** Department of Public Works  
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : March 7, 2007

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (G. L. c. 30, ss. 61-62H) and Section 11.03 of the MEPA regulations (301 CMR 11.00), I hereby determine that this project **does not require** the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

As described in the Environmental Notification Form (ENF), the project consists of the construction of two water treatment plants (WTP) to treat water from five existing wells to allow the pumping of wells without introducing elevated levels of iron and manganese into the water distribution system. In addition, approximately 32,600 linear feet (lf) of water main will be replaced within portions of Chestnut, Crescent, Bridge, Belmont, Summer and Bedford Streets. The proposed East Street WTP will be located near the existing Well No. 5 and treat water from that Well, while the Crescent Street WTP will be located near the existing Well No. 2 and will treat water from Well Nos. 1 thorough 4. Based upon information provided in the ENF and supplemental information provided by the Town's consultant (Stantec comment letter dated March 27, 2007), the project will result in the disturbance of 4,800 square feet (sf) of Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVWs). Approximately 3,300sf to 3,600sf of this disturbance will be temporary in nature, while 1,200sf to 1,500 sf of disturbance will be permanent. Additionally,

13,000 sf of temporary impact to Riverfront Area and 13,000 sf of temporary impact to Bordering Land Subject to Flooding will occur during the construction period.

Approximately 2.32 miles of new transmission mains and 32,600 lf of replacement water mains will be installed to accommodate the new WTPs and upgrade existing infrastructure. As presented in the ENF, approximately 400 lf of water main will be cross country, while the remainder will be placed within an existing NSTAR easement, or within existing roadway rights of way (within pavement or shoulder). Each WTP will be 4,480 sf in area and will contain access driveways, limited parking, stormwater management basins, and backwash wastewater lagoons (30,000 gallons per day capacity). The project will not result in an increase in water withdrawals within the Town of East Bridgewater.

The project is undergoing review pursuant to Section 11.03 (4)(b)(4) because the project requires a state permit and will involve the construction of a new drinking water treatment plant with a capacity of 1,000,000 or more gallons per day (GPD). The project requires an Approval to Construct a Facility to Treat One Million Gallons per Day or Greater (BRP WS 24) from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). The project will also require an Order of Conditions from the East Bridgewater Conservation Commission, and in the case of an appeal, a Superseding Order of Conditions from MassDEP. The project will also require a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). Furthermore, based upon revised information provided by the Town's consultant, it does not appear that the project will require a 401 Water Quality Certificate from MassDEP, or a Programmatic General Permit from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (U.S. ACOE). However, I remind the proponent that the project should be carefully monitored as final design is completed to ensure that if these permits are necessary, they are obtained prior to commencement of construction.

The project will be financed in full or in part by State Revolving Funds issued by the Commonwealth. This project has been approved for funding on the 2007 Final State Revolving Fund (SRF) Clean Water Intended Use Plan. Therefore, MEPA jurisdiction for this project is broad and extends to all aspects of the project that are likely, directly or indirectly, to cause Damage to the Environment.

### Water

The project will involve the construction of two WTPs to improve the water quality of the East Bridgewater water supply system so that the Town can meet the Lead and Copper Action Levels that MassDEP indicates the Town has been exceeding. While the project will replace approximately 32,600 lf of existing water mains and construct two, 4,480 sf WTPs with associated new water mains, the project will not result in an increase in water withdrawal. MassDEP has stated that the East Bridgewater Water Department is currently withdrawing volumes in compliance with its Water Management Act authorizations. Under existing conditions, the East Bridgewater Water Department is required to complete a distribution system flushing two to three times a year to reduce customer complaints regarding water quality; this flushing process uses approximately 10 million gallons per year. As indicated at the MEPA site

consultation session, the project is part of a 25-year master plan prepared for the Town to address aging infrastructure and to improve overall customer service.

The ENF included a discussion of project alternatives, including the construction of only one WTP, and alternate layouts within the NSTAR easement. Furthermore, the Town has investigated the use of directional drilling techniques to reduce temporary and permanent impacts to wetland resource areas. Connection of existing wells to the Crescent Street WTP will require the installation of 400 lf of cross country water main and 4,700 lf of cross country water main within the NSTAR easement. While placement of the water mains within a gravel access roadway within the NSTAR easement would have been a preferred and environmentally superior option to the proposed alternative, due to constraints placed on right of way usage by NSTAR, the Town must place the water mains within 10' of the easement boundary. This alternative will lead to greater temporary and permanent impact to wetland resource areas, of which the Town proposes to minimize and mitigate through the use of directional drilling. It is my understanding the NSTAR has preliminarily agreed that the proposed alternative meets their right-of-way use design standards.

The Division of Municipal Services of MassDEP's Southeast Regional Office has indicated full support of the project as presented in the ENF. I encourage the Town to continue to implement its 25-year master plan for infrastructure, and to support efforts to educate its customers with regard to water conservation.

#### Wetlands

The project will result in the disturbance of 4,800 sf of Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVWs). Approximately 3,300 sf to 3,600 sf of this disturbance will be temporary in nature, while 1,200 sf to 1,500 sf of disturbance will be permanent. Permanent impact will be associated with areas of BVWs fill in conjunction with the installation of gate valves adjacent to four NSTAR transmission towers. Additionally, 13,000 sf of temporary impact to Riverfront Area and 13,000 sf of temporary impact to Bordering Land Subject to Flooding (BLSF) will occur during the construction period. Impact to Riverfront Area and BLSF reflects a worst case estimate associated with the replacement of water mains within right-of-ways, as all wetland areas have yet to be field delineated along the entire replacement route.

The construction of public utilities such as water distribution lines may be considered a limited project in accordance with 310 CMR 10.53(3)(d). The Town must demonstrate that all reasonable alternatives have been explored, adverse impacts have been minimized, and proper mitigation measures provided as part of the Notice of Intent filing. The Town indicated at the MEPA site consultation session that the majority of wetland impacts will be temporary, flood storage capacities will not be reduced, and that the Riverfront Area performance standards can be met. Additionally, the Town has proposed wetland mitigation in the form of wetlands replication at a ratio of between 1:1 and 1.5:1. Since the Town has proposed wetland replication areas that are not immediately adjacent to (but within the same wetland system) the area of fill, I strongly encourage the Town to work with the Conservation Commission to ensure the viability of proposed mitigation efforts and consistency with wetland replication policy guidelines.

### Rare Species

The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) has identified a small portion of the project site located within *Priority* and *Estimated Habitat* as indicated in the 12<sup>th</sup> Edition of the *MA Natural Heritage Atlas*. Therefore, the project will require review through a direct filing with NHESP for compliance with the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA 321 CMR 10.00) and/or the Wetlands Protection Act (WPA 310 CMR 10.00). However, as stated in the NHESP comment letter, based upon preliminary project review, NHESP is not currently concerned about the proposed activity within these habitats because of the use of directional drilling. The Town should comply with NHESP permitting requirements outlined in MESA and the WPA, and utilize directional drilling construction methodologies within *Priority and Estimated Habitats* to avoid impact to sensitive habitat areas.

### Stormwater

Proposed water main replacement within existing right-of-ways will be “in-kind” replacement, and is not anticipated to alter stormwater flows or infrastructure capacity. The Town will be required to prepare a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan in accordance with a NPDES Construction General Permit which should outline measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate erosion or sedimentation associated with construction activities. The Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan should specifically address techniques to control stormwater runoff erosion or sedimentation both at the WTP construction sites, as well as for water main replacement within area roadways.

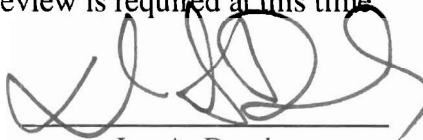
The WTP construction sites will utilize Low Impact Design (LID) stormwater techniques to collect and convey stormwater runoff from the WTP building and parking areas. LID techniques presented in the ENF include infiltration of roof runoff for groundwater recharge, extended detention basins, and vegetated water quality swales. The Town has noted that since the project will increase impervious surfaces within the 100 foot buffer zone to BVWs, the MassDEP Stormwater Policy will apply. Therefore, the Town must demonstrate compliance with the MassDEP Stormwater Policy during the Notice of Intent review process with the East Bridgewater Conservation Commission.

### Historical

The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC), subsequent to a review of the Inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth, has determined that there are no recorded historic or archaeological resources within the new water treatment facility areas of potential effect, including previously disturbed utility easements. Furthermore, the replacement of existing water mains will take place within existing town right-of-ways in previous disturbed areas. MHC concluded that the project will not impact significant historic or archaeological resources.

Based on the information in the ENF and after consultation with relevant public agencies, I find that the potential impacts of the project and appropriate mitigation can be addressed during the permitting process. No further MEPA review is required at this time.

April 6, 2007  
Date



Ian A. Bowles

Comments received:

03/14/2007 Massachusetts Historical Commission  
03/19/2007 Christopher Kohl  
03/21/2007 **Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife** – Natural Heritage and  
Endangered Species Program  
03/27/2007 Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection – SERO  
03/27/2007 Stantec (on behalf of the proponent)  
04/02/2007 Old Colony Planning Council

IAB/HSJ/hsj