

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900

Boston, MA 02114-2524

MITT ROMNEY
GOVERNOR

KERRY HEALEY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

STEPHEN R. PRITCHARD
SECRETARY

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

April 7, 2006

CERTIFICATE OF THE SECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS ON THE THE NOTICE OF PROJECT CHANGE

PROJECT NAME : The Village at Orchard Meadows/Assabet River Consortium

PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Shrewsbury/ and five other municipalities

PROJECT WATERSHED : Assabet River

EOEA NUMBER : 12348

PROJECT PROPONENT : Joseph Farrell/ The Assabet River Consortium

DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : March 8, 2006

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (G. L., c. 30, ss. 61-62H) and Section 11.06 of the MEPA regulations (301 CMR 11.00), I determine that this project **does not require** the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Project Description

As described in the Notice of Project Change (NPC), the project consists of the construction of 4 additional residential condominium units to the previously reviewed The Village at Orchard Meadows, a 110-unit residential condominium retirement community constructed by the proponent 2001 (EOEA #12406). According to the proponent, the project change will result in approximately 880 gallons per day (gpd) of additional potable water demand, and generate approximately 880 gpd of additional wastewater flow. The proposed project change will be served by the Town of Shrewsbury's municipal water supply system, and wastewater collection and conveyance system.


Assabet River Consortium

The Town of Shrewsbury is developing a Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP) as part of the Assabet River Consortium (EOEA# 12348). The Certificate on the ENF for the Consortium established a Special Review Procedure (SRP) and required the filing of four documents: Phase I, Existing and Proposed Conditions and Needs Analysis; Phase II, Development of Screening of Wastewater Alternatives; Phase III, Evaluation of Most Feasible Options (Draft CWMP/EIR); and Phase IV, Presentation of Recommended Plan (Final CWMP/EIR). The Certificate on the ENF for the Consortium also required that prior to completion of MEPA review for the Consortium CWMP, projects located within the Consortium communities that seek sewer extension permits from the DEP will also require a Phase I waiver from the EIR requirement for the Consortium. The member communities of the Consortium, along with DEP, EPA, and public commenters, have made significant progress to this project on this innovative approach to wastewater planning in Massachusetts. Phase I, for which I issued a Certificate in June 2001, included a definition of existing conditions and an analysis of wastewater management needs; On August 15, 2002, I issued a Certificate for Phase II, which included the development and screening of wastewater management alternatives to address the needs defined in the Phase I document. In June 2005, the Consortium, with the support of DEP, EPA, and public commenters, filed a Notice of Project Change (NPC) with the MEPA Office to describe the Consortium's proposed changes to the forthcoming Phase III Report - Evaluation of Most Feasible Options (Draft CWMP/EIR); and the Phase IV Report - Presentation of Recommended Plan (Final CWMP/EIR).

Given the progress made to this project to date, I will now require projects located within the Consortium communities that seek sewer extension permits from the DEP to file with the MEPA a Notice of Project Change (NPC) to the CWMP for the Assabet River Consortium (EOEA# 12348). I anticipate that the Phase III/DEIR document will bring us closer to providing a sound basis for regional water resources decision-making that will benefit the Assabet River and the members of Consortium communities alike.

Based on a review of the information provided by the proponent and after consultation with the relevant public agencies, I find that the potential impacts of this project do not warrant further MEPA review.

April 7, 2006
DATE


Stephen R. Pritchard, Secretary

Comments received:

03/20/06 Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection – CERO
NPC #12348 – Village at Orchard Meadows , Shrewsbury
SRP/NCZ/ncz