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April 10, 2009

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

PROJECT NAME : South Hadley Landfill – Vertical Expansion
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : South Hadley
PROJECT WATERSHED : Connecticut River
EOEA NUMBER : 10620
PROJECT PROPONENT : South Hadley Landfill, LLC/Town of South Hadley
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : March 11, 2009

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (G.L. c. 30, ss. 61-62I) and Section 11.10 of the MEPA regulations (301 CMR 11.00), I have reviewed the Notice of Project Change (NPC) submitted on this project and hereby determine that it **does not require** the preparation of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

A Certificate on the Supplemental Final EIR (SFEIR) was issued on December 15, 2000 with a determination that the SFEIR adequately and properly complied with MEPA and its implementing regulations, and that no further MEPA review was required with respect to the groundwater treatment plan and the lined landfill expansion of Cells I and II.

Notices of Project Change (NPC) were subsequently filed, in December 2003, June 2004, August 2005 and May 2006. The December 2003 NPC was filed to clarify the proposed annual tonnage limit (123,240 tons per year). The June 2004 NPC described a change in the proposed maximum daily tonnage limit (from 395 to 500 tons per day), the August 2005 NPC proposed a change in the annual tonnage limit from 123,240 to 156,000 tons per day, and the May 2006 NPC proposed an expansion of the landfill footprint (referred to as Cell 2B), resulting in an additional two acres of land alteration (from 21.5 to 23.5 acres) and an increase in the maximum elevation of the landfill by 35 feet (from 355 feet to 390 feet above mean sea level). No further MEPA review was required for the proposed changes, as

further detailed in response letters from the MEPA Office (dated 12/15/2003, 6/30/2004, and 8/26/2005) and in the NPC Certificate dated June 30, 2006.

The project change as proposed in the most recent NPC consists of a vertical expansion of the existing landfill, which would increase the height by 18.5 feet to a final grade elevation of 408.5 feet above mean sea level. The modification will require construction of a mechanically stabilized earthen (MSE) berm around the perimeter of Cell 2. The proposed expansion would generate approximately 800,000 cubic yards of capacity, thereby extending the operational life of the landfill by approximately 3.33 years. The vertical expansion would cover approximately 21 acres of the existing landfill footprint. The NPC indicates that 10 acres already has a conforming liner system, whereas a new liner system would be required on top of an 11-acre portion of the existing unlined landfill area.

The project requires a Modification to Site Assignment from the South Hadley Board of Health as well as Authorization to Construct (ATC) and Authorization to Operate (ATO) Permits for the vertical expansion from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). The proposed change may require Beneficial Use Determination (BUD) permits from MassDEP for use of any regulated solid waste materials to construct the MSE berm, as well as ATC/ATO permits or permit modifications to approve the use of BUD materials at the landfill.

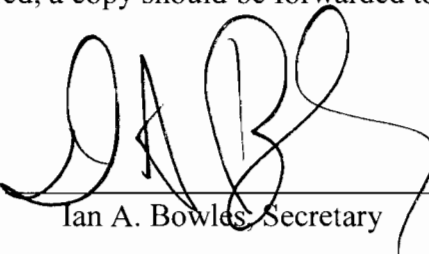
The proponent must obtain a Modification to the Site Assignment before MassDEP can issue ATC or ATO permits. The proponent should submit a new site assignment application that addresses all criteria affected by the modification, as determined by MassDEP. The proponent should include information and analysis in its permit applications to demonstrate the geotechnical stability of the landfill expansion and demonstrate that adequate financial assurance will be provided to mitigate any problems that may occur in the future.

Based on the comment letter from the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP), the proposed vertical expansion within the limits of the existing landfill boundary will not result in impacts to state-listed species. However, a lateral expansion of the landfill under consideration by the proponent may impact state-listed species. NHESP indicates it will continue consultations with the proponent regarding state-listed species studies that will be required for the potential lateral expansion. A separate NPC would be required for any proposed lateral expansion.

Based on review of the NPC and comments received, I am satisfied that any outstanding issues associated with the proposed vertical expansion can be resolved during the state and local permit and review processes. The proposed project change requires no further MEPA review. The proponent will be required to file another NPC for any lateral or other expansion proposed. I remind MassDEP to incorporate any additional mitigation that may be required into revised Section 61 Findings for the project. If revised Section 61 Findings are required, a copy should be forwarded to the MEPA Office for in accordance with 301 CMR 11.12.

April 10, 2009

DATE



Ian A. Bowles, Secretary

Comments received:

3/31/09 Department of Environmental Protection, Western Regional Office
3/31/09 Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Natural Heritage and Endangered Species
Program

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