



# *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 21, 2006

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

PROJECT NAME : Wastewater Facilities Plan Update  
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Plainville  
PROJECT WATERSHED : Ten Mile River/Taunton River  
EOEA NUMBER : 13757  
PROJECT PROPONENT : Plainville Sewer Commission  
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : March 22, 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 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 a Wastewater Facilities Plan Update for the Town of Plainville. The Plainville Water and Sewer Department commissioned the 2005 Update to re-evaluate the Town's wastewater needs, which were documented in the 1983 Wastewater Facilities Plan. The Town is proposing to expand its sewer system by 8.9 miles to three of six unsewered areas (referred to in the Update as sub-area 2, sub-area 3 and sub-area 5) of Plainville. Two of the three areas were previously recommended for sewerage (sub-area 2 and sub-area 3) in the 1983 report. The project includes a sewage pump station, with a capacity of 288,000 gallons per day (gpd), on the north side of Mirimichi Street. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$10.34 million.

The project will be constructed in two phases. Phase I includes sub-area 2 and sub-area 3 and is scheduled to be constructed from 2006 to 2009. Phase II includes sub-area 5 and is scheduled to be constructed from 2008 to 2010. The majority of the project will be constructed within existing roadway rights-of-way (ROW). Approximately 1,500 linear feet (lf) of sewers off of South Street will require cross-country installation that will occur in the buffer zone to

wetlands. Current average daily flow for Plainville is approximately 469,000 gpd and the current peak daily flow is 1,400,000 gpd. The proposed plan would increase average daily flow to 569,450 gpd and the peak daily flow to 1,545,150 gpd. The Plan describes mitigation measures to avoid, minimize and mitigate construction period impacts.

The project is undergoing MEPA review pursuant to Section 11.03 (5)(b)(3)(b) and (5)(b)(4)(a) because it requires a state permit and consists of construction of one or more new sewer mains five or more miles in length and new discharge to a sewer system of 100,000 or more gpd of sewage. The project requires a Sewer Connection Permit from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and an Order of Conditions from the Plainville Conservation Commission (and, hence, a Superseding Order from DEP if the local Order is appealed). The project may also require a Conservation and Management Permit from Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP).

The Update includes an analysis of alternatives for each of the 6 sub-areas identified in the Update and discusses the criteria by which they were evaluated (e.g. cost, operating and maintenance requirements, and environmental impacts). It indicates that approximately 60 to 70 percent of the land in Plainville is classified by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) as having moderate to severe limitations in terms of effluent disposal and would require intensive site preparation to overcome soil conditions where soils are poor or house lots are small (1/2 acre or less in size). As noted previously, two of these three areas are part of long-term planning by the Town for sewerage. The Town has emphasized that the extension of sewers in sub-area 5 is due in large part to concerns about protecting a newly created water supply source at Mirimichi Lake.

The wastewater flows noted above are consistent with the regulatory and legal limitations that the Town of Plainville is subject to. Since 1972, sewage from Plainville has been distributed to North Attleborough for treatment and discharge by the North Attleborough Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF). The Town of Plainville and the Town of North Attleborough renegotiated an Intermunicipal Sewer Agreement in July 2005. The agreement stipulates that the two connections to North Attleborough (measured at Moran Street and Kelley Boulevard) cannot exceed a combined average daily flow rate of 1,060,000 gpd. The peak daily flow rate cannot exceed 4,710,000 and cannot be longer than two hours in duration. Future wastewater flows will be constrained by these limits and the design capacity of the North Attleborough WWTF.

The Update acknowledges a significant problem with Infiltration/Inflow (I/I) into the system that has contributed to exceedances of its flow limits. The Update notes that on twelve occasions, from January 2002 through October 2005, its average daily flow increased by a factor of two or three times and flow limits were exceeded. The Update outlines studies it has conducted to assess the problem and actions taken to date to reduce these flows. DEP and the North Attleborough Board of Public Works have noted the importance of addressing I/I because the unnecessary treatment and processing of this extraneous flow wastes resources, energy and money.

To address this issue, the Update outlines a plan for I/I reductions including dye testing of inflow sources, smoke testing of sewers, and rehabilitation of manholes and pipe joints. Calculations for future flows assume a 50 percent reduction in I/I; however, the proposed plan appears rather modest in terms of expenditures and no improvements are identified after 2006 although the planning horizon for this Update extends to 2025. The Intermunicipal Sewer

agreement includes triggers for requiring investments in I/I under certain conditions. In addition, DEP has sufficient authority to address this issue and has indicated that reviews and permitting of plans and projects will identify I/I removal as a priority.

In previous and ongoing reviews of the Town of North Attleborough's Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP) (EOEA #11869), the importance of I/I reduction for this system has been emphasized and such reductions will continue to be required. I expect that both communities will work constructively to produce significant reductions in I/I.

The Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program indicate that the Bridle Shiner (*Notropis bifrenatus*), is located near the area of work. The Bridle Shiner is listed as a Species of Special Concern pursuant to the MA Endangered Species Act (MESA) (M.G.L. c.131A). To protect this species, erosion control barriers should be used throughout construction in this area. In addition, if any work is proposed beyond ten feet of paved roads, the project will require a MESA filing.

The review of the ENF has served to adequately disclose the potential impacts and mitigation associated with this project. Based on the information in the ENF and after consultation with relevant public agencies, I find that the potential impacts of the project are not significant enough to warrant the preparation of an EIR. Any outstanding issues can be addressed during project permitting. No further MEPA review is required.

April 21, 2006

Date

  
Stephen R. Pritchard

Comments received:

4/11/06	Department of Environmental Protection Southeast Regional Office (DEP SERO)
4/7/06	Department of Fish and Game (DFG)/Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP)
4/10/06	Town of North Attleborough/Board of Public Works

SRP/CDB/cdb