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June 16, 2006

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

PROJECT NAME : Upper Neponset Valley Relief Sewer
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Boston (West Roxbury)
PROJECT WATERSHED : Charles River
EOEA NUMBER : 11928
PROJECT PROPONENT : Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA)
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : N/A

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 change is insignificant and does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report.

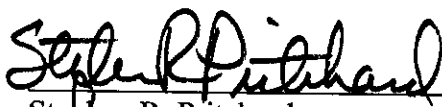
As described in previous Certificates, the project involves construction of substantial improvements to the wastewater conveyance systems serving West Roxbury, Newton, Brookline and Dedham. The project is intended to increase the conveyance capacity of the existing MWRA Sections 530 through 526. In adequate capacity in the existing system has resulted in surcharging and sanitary sewer overflows that discharge into residences, wetlands and waterways, and ultimately to the Charles River. The project was subject to a mandatory Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and completed review under MEPA in February 2003.

According to the NPC, the project change entails temporarily altering lane geometry and traffic operations on the VFW Parkway to allow the project contractor to (1) perform daytime construction, and (2) occupy the roadway around the clock between the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's commuter railroad bridge near West Roxbury High School and Corey Street, thereby reducing nighttime noise impacts. There is no material change proposed to the project itself.

Although the proposed change will result in temporary traffic diversions over a four-month period, they will reduce the overall duration of this phase of project construction by approximately 2.5 months and provide relief from nighttime construction noise to adjacent residents. As construction of the project has proceeded, nighttime noise levels are generating many complaints from nearby residents. Although construction will continue at night, the shortened construction period resulting from implementation of this change will reduce overall nighttime noise impacts by reducing the construction period for this segment of the project. This section of the VFW Parkway is under the control of the City of Boston and both the Boston Transportation Department and the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services have submitted letters in support of the proposed change.

The MWRA has requested that I find this project change is insignificant, in accordance with the MEPA regulations at 310 CMR 11.10(6). Based on the information presented in the NPC, I hereby find that the proposed project change is insignificant, and that no further review of the project under MEPA is required as a result of the proposed change.

June 16, 2006
Date


Stephen R. Pritchard

Comments received:

05/11/06 Boston Transportation Department
05/26/06 Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services