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June 22, 2007

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

PROJECT NAME: Riverdale Water Supply  
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY: Northbridge  
PROJECT WATERSHED: Blackstone River  
EOEA NUMBER: 14034  
PROJECT PROPONENT: Riverdale Water Company  
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR: May 23, 2007

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). While the project does not require further review at the MEPA level, the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) has noted that many issues related to water supply were inadequately addressed in the Environmental Notification Form (ENF). I expect that the proponent will resolve these issues in the MassDEP permitting process.

Project Description

According to the ENF, the project involves the construction of a 12-inch diameter water supply well. The site of the proposed well is an approximately 48 acre parcel located in Northbridge, MA owned by James M. Knott, Sr. The site is bounded to the west by the Blackstone River, to the north by the Blackstone River and residential properties, to the east by Quaker Street and residential properties, and to the south by residential and undeveloped land. The property was historically used as a gravel pit but has been vacant for some time. The proposed well will service the Riverdale Mills Corporation (RMC) with potable water for

industrial and sanitary needs and 22 apartments located on Quaker Street owned by the Riverdale Realty Trust and James M. Knott, Sr. The project site is mapped as Priority and Estimated Habitat for three species protected pursuant to the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA).

### Jurisdiction

This project is subject to review pursuant to Section 11.03(4)(b)(1) of the MEPA regulations because it involves a new withdrawal of 100,000 or more gallons per day (gpd) from a water source that requires new construction for the withdrawal. The project requires the following permits and/or approvals from MassDEP: BRP WS 17 (Application for Approval to Site a Source Greater than 70 Gallons per Minute (GPM)); BRP WS 18 (Application for Approval to Conduct a Pumping Test for a New Source 70 GPM or Greater); BRP WS 19 (Application for Approval of Pumping Test Report for a New Source 70 GPM or Greater); BRP WS 20 (Approval to Construct Source Greater than 70 GPM); and BRP WM 03 (Water Management Act Permit Application). The project also requires review from the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP). At the local level, the project requires a Building Permit and a Trenching Permit from the Town of Northbridge and will likely need an Order of Conditions from the Northbridge Conservation Commission.

The proponent is not seeking financial assistance from the Commonwealth. Therefore, MEPA jurisdiction applies to those aspects of the project within the subject matter of required or potentially required state permits with the potential to cause Damage to the Environment. In this case, MEPA jurisdiction extends to water withdrawal, wetlands and rare species.

### Water Supply

MassDEP states in its comments that the ENF did not adequately address Water Supply and Water Management Act (WMA) issues. The proponent has not provided a clear statement of the volume of water needed and for what purposes. According to the ENF the maximum pumping rate for the supply well is 432,000 gallons per day (gpd), however MassDEP states that it has not yet established the well's maximum pumping rate. MassDEP will review the pump test report to determine the well's potential impacts upon environmental receptors, such as wetlands and streamflow. Following approval of the final pump test report, the plans and specifications for construction of the permanent pumping facilities, including any necessary treatment, must be submitted to MassDEP for review.

The RMC has an existing WMA permit that authorizes withdrawal of 0.3 million gallons per day (mgd) from wells on the property for industrial purposes. A new withdrawal source may be added to the existing permit through a WMA permit amendment, BRP WM 02. A new WMA permit will be required for a change in use, from industrial use to public water supply use.

The Riverdale Realty Trust owns 22 apartments located on Quaker Street with a current residential population of 78. According to information submitted with the ENF, the Trust purchases 0.7 million gallons per year (MGY) of municipal water for the apartments and the Riverdale Mills Corporation purchases 2.91 MGY of water. The RMC's potable water need is estimated to be 3.6 MGY and the industrial water need is approximately 99 MGY. MassDEP states that water supply demand is based on proposed site uses, not on the production capacity of the well. The proponent must therefore supply more detailed information on water demand. Title 5 design flows should be used to estimate demand from the apartment buildings and metered records should be used to determine projected withdrawals from the RMC.

The proponent has delineated the proposed Zone II around the supply well. Once the Zone II receives approval from MassDEP, the Town of Northbridge and the Riverdale Water Company should incorporate the new Zone II into the Town's Water Resource Protection Overlay District (WRPOD).

### Wetlands

The proponent has delineated the wetland resource areas at the project site and submitted a delineation report with the ENF. The boundaries of wetlands at the site have not been confirmed by the Northbridge Conservation Commission in an Order of Resource Area Delineation. According to the report submitted with the ENF, four distinct wetland resource areas occur on the site along with an extensive section of the Blackstone River and a large pond. The man-made pond is located approximately 75 feet to the west of the proposed well. The pond is approximately 1,200 feet long and 300 feet wide.

According to the ENF, the proponent has appeared before the Northbridge Conservation Commission regarding the project's impacts to wetland resource areas. Given the proximity of wetland resources to the proposed well and the project site's location within Priority and Estimated Habitat, it is very likely that the project requires review by the Conservation Commission for compliance with the Wetlands Protection Act and its regulations (MGL c. 131, § 40 and 310 CMR 10.00). A letter from the Northbridge Conservation Commission to MassDEP that was submitted with the ENF indicates that the Commission is in the process of considering whether the project qualifies as a limited project under 310 CMR 10.53. I direct the proponent and the Northbridge Conservation Commission to consult with wetlands staff at MassDEP's Central Regional Office to determine permitting requirements for the well's potential impacts to wetland resources.

### Rare Species

As indicated by NHESP, the project site is mapped as Priority and Estimated Habitat for the following species:

Arrow Clubtail (*Stylurus spiniceps*): Threatened

- Wood Turtle (*Glyptemys insculpta*): Special Concern
- Tall Nut-Sedge (*Scleria triglomerata*): Endangered


Because the project site contains Priority Habitat, the proposed well requires review through a direct filing with NHESP for compliance with MESA and the Wetlands Protection Act. The proponent should contact NHESP for guidance on the MESA filing. In addition, NHESP has stated in correspondence to the proponent that the Blackstone River supports a wide variety of warmwater fisheries. During construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) for erosion and sedimentation control must be implemented.

### Conclusion

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 the preparation of an EIR. The proponent should work closely with MassDEP and NHESP during the permitting process to resolve outstanding issues outlined in this Certificate. No further MEPA review is required.

June 22, 2007

Date



Ian A. Bowles

Cc: Marielle Stone, Department of Environmental Protection, CERO  
Everose Schuler, NHESP  
Northbridge Conservation Commission  
7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA 01588

### Comments Received:

6/11/2007 Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program  
6/12/2007 Department of Environmental Protection, Central Regional Office

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