



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>

June 23, 2006

DRAFT RECORD OF DECISION

PROJECT NAME :35 Shawmut Road Office Building \Canton
 Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan
 PROJECT MUNICIPALITY :Canton
 PROJECT WATERSHED :Boston Harbor
 EOE A NUMBER :12297/12172
 PROJECT PROPONENT : JMS Realty Trust, James and Thomas Salah
 DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR :April 10, 2006

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (G. L. c. 30, ss. 61-62H) and Section 11.10 of the MEPA regulations (301 CMR 11.00), I hereby propose to **grant** a Phase I Waiver to allow an initial phase of the project to proceed, pending the preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the project.

Project History:

The Town of Canton is preparing a Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan (CWRMP) to determine the most effective disposal methods for existing and future wastewater disposal flows within the town. Approximately 60% of Canton is connected to the existing sewage collection system, which discharges to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) system. The remainder of the Town uses individually owned on-site Title 5 septic systems. The Town plans to extend sewer service to unsewered areas and to increase potable water supplies through construction of a new well, Well #9, to meet anticipated future demand.

In May 2004, the Town of Canton submitted a Phase I report as required by a Special Review Procedure for MEPA review created in accordance with 301 CMR 11.09. The Phase I document defined the wastewater disposal needs of the community and included a proposed scope for the Phase II report. The Phase I report included a needs analysis that identified high needs areas and neighborhoods where on-site wastewater disposal may not be a realistic long-term option. The Phase I report also indicated that Infiltration/Inflow (I/I) is a significant wastewater problem.

In addition, as a condition for approval of an increase in the interbasin transfer rate, the WRC required that the Town of Canton offset withdrawals from Well #9 that are discharged out of the Neponset River Basin on a 2:1 basis. The Secretary's Certificate (June 14, 2004) on the Phase I Report, required the proponent to submit a Phase I Waiver Request to the MEPA Office for any future proposals for sewerage in the Town prior to the completion of an approved CWRMP/Final EIR under the Waiver provisions at 301 CMR 11.11.

Phase I Waiver Request:

Pursuant to Section 11.10 (2) of the MEPA Regulations, the proponent filed a Notice of Project Change (NPC) requesting a Phase I Waiver Request (Phase I Waiver) to construct a three-story, 51,000 square sf office building on a 2.14-acre development parcel (#25 Shawmut Road), abutting the eastern boundary of the proponent's 35 Shawmut Road property in the Shawmut Industrial Park, and thereby allowing its construction to proceed in advance of the Town of Canton's preparation of its CWMP. According to the information provided in the Phase I Waiver Request the project will be served by the Town of Canton's municipal water supply system and municipal sewer collection by the Town of Canton for treatment by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's (MWRA) Deer Island Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF).

Section 11.11 (4) of the MEPA regulations provides that the Secretary may waive grant a partial waiver of a mandatory EIR review threshold that will allow the proponent to proceed with phase one of the project prior to preparing an EIR, based on a determination that:

1. the potential impacts of phase one of the project, taken alone, are insignificant;
2. ample and unconstrained infrastructure facilities and services exist to support phase one of the project;
3. the project is severable, such that phase one does not require the implementation of any other future phase of the project or restrict the means by which potential environmental impacts from any other phase of the project may be avoided, minimized or mitigated; and
4. the agency action on phase one will contain terms such as a condition or restriction in a permit, contract or other relevant document approving or allowing the agency action, or other evidence satisfactory to the Secretary, so as to ensure due compliance with MEPA and 301 CMR 11.00 prior to commencement of any other phase of the project.

Findings

I have carefully reviewed the Phase I Waiver Request, supporting documentation, and written comments.

1. As described by the proponent, the project has been designed to meet DEP's Stormwater Management Policy standards and practices. In their comments, DEP has requested that the proponent provide additional information describing the proposed Stormwater Management Plan in greater detail. As a condition of my approval of this Phase I Waiver Request, I will require that the proponent provide additional information to DEWP to satisfactorily demonstrate that the project design meets DEP's Stormwater Management Policy standards and practices. The proponent should submit a copy of the project's Stormwater Management Plan to the MEPA Office of the file.

The proponent will need to employ appropriate erosion and sedimentation control measures during project construction. The proposed project will not impact bordering vegetated wetlands resource areas.

2. The wastewater flows from the three-story, 51,000 square sf office building (approximately 3,450 gpd) will be serviced by the Town of Canton's municipal sewer collection for treatment by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's (MWRA) Deer Island Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF). According to the proponent, the Town's sewer collection system and MWRA's treatment system have the capacity to accommodate the additional total wastewater flows anticipated from the five individual sewer expansion infill projects.
3. As a condition of my approval of the Phase I Waiver Request, I am requiring that the proponent work closely with the Town of Canton to develop and implement an infiltration/inflow (I/I) removal program to enable sewer extension applicants to commit to the 4:1 removal of I/I (13,770 gpd) to mitigate the proposed project's water supply and wastewater impacts.

The Town of Canton's Phase II submittal to the MEPA Office must include a detailed description of Canton's I/I program. The proponent will also need to satisfactorily address DEP's comments pertaining to the project's proposed stormwater management plan.

The project will require a Sewer Extension Permit from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). I anticipate that DEP's permit review process will contain terms such as a condition or restriction so as to ensure due compliance with MEPA and 301 CMR 11.00. Based on these findings, it is my judgment that the phase one waiver request does have merit, does meet the tests established in 301 CMR 11.11, and will serve to advance the interests of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act.

Therefore, I propose to grant the Phase I Waiver subject to the aforementioned findings and conditions. This Draft Record of Decision (DROD) shall be published in the next issue of the *Environmental Monitor* for a fourteen-day comment period, after which I shall reconsider, modify, or confirm the waiver.

June 23, 2006

DATE

Stephen R. Pritchard, Secretary

Comments received:

04/27/06 Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)
05/04/06 Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection – NERO
05/04/06 Massachusetts Highway Department (MHD)

DROD – #12297/12172 – #35 Shawmut Road Office Building, Canton
SRP/NCZ/ncz