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July 25, 2008

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

PROJECT NAME : Proposed Water Supply Well  
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Main Street - Rockport  
PROJECT WATERSHED : North Coastal  
EOEA NUMBER : 14270  
PROJECT PROPONENT : Town of Rockport  
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : June 25, 2008

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).

According to the Environmental Notification Form (ENF), the proposed project consists of the development and construction of a bedrock well (RW-2) with a capacity of 406,080 gallons per day (gpd)/282 gallons per minute (gpm) that would be used from May through September of any given year. The proposed project will include the construction of a 150-square foot (sf) pump station. The well water will receive treatment to mitigate high levels of naturally occurring iron and manganese. The pump station will house a submersible pump, constant speed motor, process control equipment, and associated piping. It will include an emergency diesel generator. The new well will be designed to pump directly into Cape Pond through approximately 700 linear feet of 6-inch hose or piping that can be installed along the ground surface to minimize construction impacts. The yield of the new well will help maintain the volume levels of Cape Pond. The well is being developed to address long-term water supply needs and to augment the existing water supply sources, create flexibility and reliability in the water system, improve fire protection, meet future demands, and take pressure off the existing water supply. The Town is not proposing to increase its overall water withdrawal. The project site is approximately 11.54 acres.

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 gpd from a water source that requires new construction for the withdrawal. The Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) must approve the Pump Test Report. MassDEP has offered to approve Well RW-2 for an initial rate of 204 gpm, but allow a pump that is capable of producing 282 gpm. The Town will be allowed to pump the well at 282 gpm for a period of 60 days as a stabilization test to demonstrate that Well RW-2 can sustain the higher pumping rate that is being requested. Based on the results of this stabilization test, MassDEP could then increase the approval rate of Well RW-2 to 282 gpm. Since Cape Pond is a Great Pond, a Chapter 91 Waterways License will be required from MassDEP for existing and proposed structures within the pond. The Water Resources Commission reported that the Interbasin Transfer Act (ITA) may be triggered because the Long Beach section of Rockport discharges to the Gloucester Wastewater Treatment Facility. If the ITA is triggered by this project, the amount of the transfer could be reduced to reflect the amount of wastewater that can be transferred through the Long Beach sewer. The Town should work with WRC to resolve this issue. It should also consult with the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) to ensure that the project will not impact any rare species. The project will require an Order of Conditions from the Rockport Conservation Commission for impacts to wetland resource areas. MEPA jurisdiction is limited to those aspects of the project within the subject matter of state permits and that may have significant environmental impacts (water withdrawal and treatment and wetlands).

According to the Town, the project will impact approximately 50 sf of Bank (temporary), 50 sf of Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (temporary), and 15 sf of Land Under Water (permanent).

The Town currently is authorized by MassDEP to withdraw 0.72 million gallons per (average) day (mgd) or approximately 262.8 million gallons per year from its existing sources. The Town of Rockport's average and maximum daily demands are between 0.7 and 1.2 mgd. The addition of this proposed wellfield to its withdrawal permit would provide redundancy; it would not authorize an increase in the total volume withdrawn by the system within the current permit period. The Town's current Water Management Act Permit will expire on December 31, 2017. The Zone I is approximately 11.54 acres and will be controlled by the Town. The Zone II wellhead protection area is approximately 500 acres.

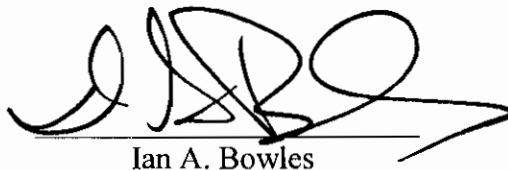
The Town conducts a leak detection survey every other year. The unaccounted-for-water in the system is approximately 12.8 percent, which is higher than the Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) recommended goal of 10 percent. The Town of Rockport's residential consumption rate is about 79.12 gallons per person per day (gpcd). The water system is 100 percent metered. Town buildings have been retrofitted with low-flow fixtures. The Town has adopted a Water Use Restriction Bylaw, based on the DEP Model Bylaw, which allows it to place restrictions on outdoor water use. It has a public education program to inform customers of the efficient use of water, and fliers are included with water bills on an

annual basis. The Town of Rockport has a Watershed Protection Overlay District regulation in place. It operates a fully-funded water system in which customers pay for the actual cost of water. The proponent has a budget of approximately \$50,000 per year to replace water meters. All master meters are calibrated annually. New construction and renovations in the Town of Rockport require builders to install low-flow toilets.

I strongly encourage the Town to incorporate the following measures as part of this project. The Town of Rockport must obtain an easement or purchase approximately 8,700 sf of the Zone I that it does not currently own. The Town should consider distributing free water conservation kits to all customers. The Zone II area for the well should be incorporated into the Town's Watershed Protection Overlay District. The Town should consider adding a seasonal price increase during hot and dry weather to its water conservation program, to discourage outdoor watering. The Town of Rockport should adopt Low Impact Development (LID) techniques that maximize infiltration, minimize the need for irrigation, and encourage water-efficient appliances. It should implement a floor drain regulation that meets the requirements of 310 CMR 22.21(2)(a)(8).

Based on a review of the information provided by the proponent and after consulting with the relevant public agencies, I find that the potential impacts of this project do not warrant the preparation of an EIR and can be adequately addressed in the MassDEP permitting process.

July 25, 2008  
Date



Ian A. Bowles

Comments received:

John Bassett and Christina Wolfe, 7/11/08  
MassDEP/NERO, 7/15/08  
MA Water Resources Commission, 7/15/08

IAB/WTG/wg  
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