



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

IAN A. BOWLES
SECRETARY

Tel: (617) 626-1000
Fax: (617) 626-1181
<http://www.mass.gov/envir>

August 10, 2007

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

PROJECT NAME : Hillside Plastics Expansion
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Turners Falls
PROJECT WATERSHED : Connecticut
EOEA NUMBER : 14057
PROJECT PROPONENT : Hillside Plastics, Inc.
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : July 11, 2007

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA)(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).

Project Description

As described in the Environmental Notification Form (ENF), the proponent proposes to construct an expansion of an existing 40,000 square foot (sf) light-industrial manufacturing facility on an industrial-zoned 35-acre site located off Millers falls Road in Turners Falls. The project includes the construction of a 30,000 sf expansion of an existing light manufacturing and warehouse building, approximately 40 new employee surface parking spaces, a new truck loading bay, and a 4-acre gravel trailer storage area to be located immediately to the south and upgradient of the existing facility. The proposed project is estimated to generate approximately 160 new additional vehicle trips on the average weekday. The project's additional potable water supply needs (3,100 gallons per day (gpd), 7,240, gpd total) and additional wastewater flows 1,033 gpd, 2,405 gpd total) will be serviced by the Town of Montague.



MEPA Jurisdiction

The project is undergoing review pursuant to 11.03 (2)(b)(1) of the MEPA regulations because it will result in the alteration of designated significant habitat. The project will require review and a Conservation and Management Permit from the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP). The project may require a 401 Water Quality Certification from MassDEP. The project must comply with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for stormwater discharges from a construction site of over one acre. The project will also require an Order of Conditions from the Montague Conservation Commission for potential impacts to wetland resource areas and buffer zones. MEPA jurisdiction is limited to the subject matter of the state permit required, including: land alteration, wetlands and rare species.

Rare Species

According to the information provided in the ENF, the Eastern Box Turtle (*Terrapene carolina*), a state protected species of special concern, has been found within the proposed project site. In their comments, the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) indicated that the proponent has worked closely with NHESP to develop appropriate mitigation that will address the protection of state-protected rare species within the proposed project site. In consultation with NHESP, the proponent has committed to place a Conservation Restriction (CR) on approximately 17-acres portion of the project site which was found to contain rare species habitat, and to implement appropriate measures to protect the Eastern Box Turtle during project construction.

Wetlands / Stormwater

The project site contains a section of an unnamed intermittent stream which runs south along the entire western boundary of the project site. The project will require an Order of Conditions (OOC) from the Montague Conservation Commission for proposed alterations to approximately 15,000 sf of wetlands buffer area to accommodate the proposed construction of the trailer storage area, and stormwater management best management practices (BMPs).

The project has been designed to meet MassDEP's Stormwater Management Policy standards and practices and will include a perimeter swale to be located along the north side of the proposed trailer storage area to intercept stormwater runoff and allow for natural filtration and aeration. The proponent has also proposed to locate a drainage swale and stormwater detention basin north and downgradient of the new trailer storage area with overflow piping to bordering vegetated wetlands (BVW) located off-site. The project's stormwater management plan should include a maintenance program for the drainage system to ensure its effectiveness. This maintenance program should outline the actual maintenance operations, responsible parties, and back-up systems.

I ask that the project proponent incorporate spill containment provisions in the final project design to ensure that surface spills of petroleum products that could occur during project construction and/or during normal operation of the light-industrial manufacturing facility can be contained and removed prior to release into the environment.

Construction Period

The proponent should analyze construction-period impacts, including temporary impacts to air quality, erosion, sedimentation and wetlands impacts, the extent of any blasting and/or earth movement (quantities and time periods) and impacts on wildlife resources.

Based on a review of the information provided by the proponent, a review of the comment letters, 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.

August 10, 2007

Date



Ian A. Bowles, Secretary

Comments received:

- 08/02/07 Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) –WERO
- 08/01/07 Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP)
- 07/31/07 Connecticut River Watershed Council (CRWC)
- 07/31/07 Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority

ENF #14057
IAB/NCZ/ncz