



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>

September 21, 2007

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

PROJECT NAME : Norumbega Reservoir Project
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Weston
PROJECT WATERSHED : Charles
EEA NUMBER : 9636
PROJECT PROPONENT : Massachusetts Water Resources Authority
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : August 22, 2007

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 have reviewed the Notice of Project Change (NPC) submitted on this project and hereby determine that it **does not require** the preparation of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

A Certificate on the Supplemental Final EIR (FEIR) was issued on August 14, 1998 with a determination that the FEIR adequately and properly complied with MEPA. The project reviewed at that time consisted of water supply improvements including a covered storage tank, two valve chambers (valve chamber N2, located to the south of the storage tank and valve chamber N3 located at the southeast corner of Schenk's Pond). Overall wetlands impacts associated with the project were estimated at 90,550 square feet (sf).

As described in the NPC, the project change is an increase of 7,218 sf in impacts to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW), which is due to new wetlands that have developed in the vicinity of valve chambers N2 and N3. These wetlands impacts were not anticipated in the FEIR since the areas in question did not support BVW at that time. As further detailed in the comment letter from the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), impacts and mitigation associated with the Norumbega covered storage tank were permitted by MassDEP under a Variance including a 401 Water Quality Certification (issued August 26, 1999). MassDEP notes

that the work proposed in the NPC is a necessary part of the project and consistent with the activities proposed at the time of the FEIR filing. However, additional information on impacts and alternatives will be required during permitting as further detailed below and in the MassDEP comment letter.


The NPC discusses alternatives to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts. Major elements of the water supply infrastructure are already established and the NPC concludes that is not feasible to relocate the interconnection system at this point. As described in the NPC, the valve chamber locations were initially chosen in order to minimize wetlands impacts and alternative locations considered would result in similar or increased resource impacts. In order to reduce impacts, valve chamber N3 has been relocated approximately 50 feet to the southwest and a ship's ladder, rather than a standard stairway, is proposed for access to valve chamber N3. The proponent has committed to erosion and sedimentation controls to avoid impacts beyond the work zone, restoration of areas of temporary impact, and on-site, in-kind mitigation for the additional 7,218 sf of BVW impacts.

In addition to the BVW impacts identified in the NPC, MassDEP notes in its comment letter that 36,000 sf of Land Under Water (LUW) at Schenck's Pond will be impacted by the construction of valve chambers to connect the Hultman Aqueduct and MetroWest Tunnel. Total impacts to LUW will be less than the amount previously authorized in August 1999. The proponent will need to re-file applications under both the Wetlands Protection Act and 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) Program and recalculate impacts from the currently proposed project. The proponent should include an alternatives analysis in the Notice of Intent (NOI) and 401 WQC applications as further detailed in the MassDEP comment letter. The alternative analysis should include an analysis of the feasibility of placing a portion of the pipe on a trestle within Schenck's Pond.

Based on review of the NPC, comments received and consultation with relevant state agencies, I find that the potential impacts of the project change do not warrant preparation of a Supplemental EIR. I am satisfied that outstanding issues can be resolved during the state and local permit and review processes. No further MEPA review is required for the project at this time.

September 21, 2007

DATE



Ian A. Bowles, Secretary

Comments received:

- 9/04/07 Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee
- 9/11/07 Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
- 9/11/07 Ingeborg Uhler

IAB/AE/ac