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October 10, 2007

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

PROJECT NAME : Lawrence Gateway Project-Quadrant Area Reuse Plan
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : City of Lawrence
PROJECT WATERSHED : Merrimack River
EEA NUMBER : 10544
PROJECT PROPONENT : GenCorp Inc, City of Lawrence, and the
Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : September 10, 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 hereby determine that this project **does not require** the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

The project is an ongoing phased remediation and redevelopment of a 13.66-acre site (including the 8.6-acre GenCorp site, which involves demolition and off-site disposal of structures, excavation and off-site disposal of soils, subsurface, groundwater and raceway investigation and remediation, and land re-use for parking and open space. The project previously underwent MEPA review in 1995, when an Environmental Notification Form (ENF) was submitted, and through a subsequent Notice of Project Change (NPC). A Final Record of Decision (FROD) was issued in February 9, 1996 following review of the ENF, which granted a Waiver from requirements for preparation of an EIR. A Certificate on the prior NPC was issued June 9, 1998 with a determination that no further MEPA review was required at the time.

As described in the ENF, site assessment and remediation is being conducted pursuant to the Massachusetts Contingency Plan and under the coordinated review of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The project will require a 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) from MassDEP.

The proposed project change consists of an additional 228 parking spaces (for a total of 963 spaces) that would result in approximately 1 acre of additional impervious area. The NPC includes a traffic impact study for the proposed 963-space parking facility. The total impervious area proposed (8.1 acres) remains less than the mandatory EIR threshold and less than the overall amount of impervious area that previously existed on-site. Other project changes include a reduction in the amount of Bordering Land Subject to Flooding (BLSF) that will be impacted. According to the NPC, the reduction, from 326,700 square feet (sf) to 174,424 sf of BLSF impacts, is due to a modification of the BLSF estimate based on guidance from MassDEP.

As further detailed in the MassDEP comment letter, the proponent has not provided sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the project will meet regulatory requirements for compensatory storage with regard to the raceways. The proponent should provide revised compensatory flood calculations to MassDEP. The calculations should show that compensatory storage for the raceways will be provided to the maximum extent practicable. The proponent should provide additional storage for the raceways from the base of the raceways or mean groundwater level within the raceway to the Federal Emergency Management Act (FEMA) flood elevation, for the length of the raceways. The proponent should provide additional information and analysis, as requested by MassDEP, to address flood storage issues as part of the 401 Water Quality Certification application process

Based on review of the NPC, comments received, and consultations with relevant state agencies, I am satisfied that any outstanding issues can be addressed during state and local permit and review processes. No further MEPA review is required for the project changes proposed in the NPC.

October 10, 2007

DATE



Ian A. Bowles, Secretary

Comments Received:

10/2/07

Department of Environmental Protection, Northeast Regional Office

IAB/AE/ae