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October 11, 2006

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

PROJECT NAME : New Great Pond Water Treatment Plant
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Weymouth
PROJECT WATERSHED : Boston Harbor (Fore River)
EOEA NUMBER : 13877
PROJECT PROPONENT : Weymouth Department of Public Works
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : September 11, 2006

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.

As described in the Environmental Notification Form (ENF), the project consists of the construction of a new 233,000 square foot (sf), 4 million gallon per average day (mgd) (8 mgd maximum capacity) water treatment plant (WTP). The 34-acre site contains an existing over seventy year old, 187,000 sf WTP. The project also includes a new water pump station (addition to residuals pump station), yard piping, appurtenant structures/facilities (e.g. parking, driveways, fencing, etc), and rehabilitation of the existing raw water intake house. The existing lined residuals lagoons and residuals pump station will be reused. The proposed treatment facility includes a closed loop geothermal heating and cooling system that will be comprised of several cased boreholes extending to bedrock. Finished water will be used as the thermodynamic fluid for the treatment facility's HVAC system. The proponent will demolish the existing WTP, tanks, generator building, sedimentation basins, sodium bicarbonate silo and some ancillary asphalt paving when the new WTP is approved and operating.

The project is undergoing review pursuant to Section 11.03(5)(b)(4) of the MEPA regulations, because the project involves the construction of a new drinking water plant with a capacity of one million or more gallons per day. The project will require a Permit Approval to Construct a Water Treatment Plant (greater than 1 mgd) and may require an Emergency Engine and Turbine Environmental Results Program Certification from the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). It will require a Sewer Use Discharge Permit Application for Publicly Owned Drinking Water Treatment Plants from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA). The project must comply with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for stormwater discharges from a construction site. It will also require an Order of Conditions from the Weymouth for buffer zone impacts. Because the proponent is seeking financial assistance from the Commonwealth for the project (MassDEP State Revolving Fund), MEPA jurisdiction extends to all aspects of the project that may have significant environmental impacts.

Under the Water Management Act (WMA), the proponent is registered for an annual average withdrawal of 4.51 mgd. This average withdrawal is the total of withdrawals from the proponent's registered sources, consisting of Great Pond, four wells, and a withdrawal to supplement Great Pond from South Cove. The proponent can withdraw up to an annual average of 4.61 mgd (including the allowance for one threshold allowance currently 0.1 mgd) from one source, or combined from all other sources except the Winter Street Well #1 under its registration. The WMA registrations are scheduled for renewal on January 1, 2008.

The increase in stormwater runoff generated by the project will be mitigated by the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) by the proponent. The impervious area will increase by 2.05 acres. Existing site runoff at the site is sheet flow to the pond. The BMPs will include deep sump catch basins with hoods, which discharge to water quality swales and a constructed wetland, which is proposed to discharge adjacent to the existing wetland area north of the proposed WTP. Roof runoff will be infiltrated. The proponent will conduct an annual inspection and maintenance program for the stormwater system and a seasonal sweeping program for all paved surface within the site.

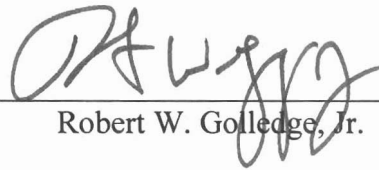
As noted in the ENF, Plymouth Gentian (*Sabatia kennedyana*), a plant species of "Special Concern" pursuant to the provisions of the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA), occurs within the lagoon area and along the shoreline. If all work remains within the limits described in the ENF, including water withdrawal and discharge rates, the NHESP does not require any further review pursuant to MESA.

In its comment letter, the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) has requested that the proponent conduct an intensive (locational) archaeological survey to identify any significant historic or archaeological resources that may be affected by the project. I ask the proponent to undertake this intensive survey and consult with MHC in order to minimize or mitigate any adverse effects.

Based on a review of the information provided by the proponent and consultation 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 properly addressed in the state and local permitting processes.

October 11, 2006

Date



Robert W. Golledge, Jr.

Comments received:

Environmental Partners Group, 9/17/06
MHC, 9/18/06
MassWildlife, 9/27/06
MWRA, 9/27/06
MassDEP/SERO, 10/2/06
MassDEP/SERO, 10/3/06
Environmental Partners Group, 10/10/06

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