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October 26, 2006

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

PROJECT NAME	: 44 Oakland Avenue Sewer Extension Project /Assabet River Consortium
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY	: Shrewsbury/ and five other municipalities
PROJECT WATERSHED	: Assabet River
EOEA NUMBER	: 12348
PROJECT PROPONENT	: Michael Plante/The Assabet River Consortium
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR	: September 26, 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 determine that this project **does not require** the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The proponent has requested a Phase I Waiver to allow the first phase of the project to proceed, pending the preparation of a Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP)/Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project. The Phase I Waiver Request was presented within the Notice of Project Change submittal (NPC).

In a Draft Record of Decision (DROD), also issued today, I have proposed to **grant** a Phase I Waiver with conditions allowing the proposed 44 Oakland Avenue Sewer Extension project to proceed while the DEIR for the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan is being prepared.

Project History

The Town of Shrewsbury, together with the Towns of Marlborough, Hudson, Maynard, Northborough, and Westborough have joined to form the Assabet River Consortium to prepare a Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan/Environmental Impact Report (CWMP/EIR, EOEA# 12348) to address short term- and long-term regional issues relating to the wastewater treatment and disposal and nutrient loading in the Assabet River on a basin-wide basis.

The goals of the CWMP/EIR are to identify environmentally sustainable treatment alternatives that respond to the communities' needs, meet water quality and public health standards, reduce phosphorous loading, and increase water levels in the Assabet River and its tributaries. The Certificate on the ENF for the Consortium required that prior to completion of MEPA review for the Consortium CWMP, projects located within the Consortium communities that seek sewer extension permits from the MassDEP will also require a Phase I waiver from the EIR requirement for the Consortium. The project proponent has requested such a waiver in a Notice of Project Change (NPC) published in the Environmental Monitor on September 26, 2006 and has provided additional information in support of that request.

I note that all development projects located within the Consortium communities requesting municipal sewer service must satisfactorily demonstrate: 1) that the proposed project is located in an area proposed for municipal sewer; 2) an on-site solution is not feasible; and 3) the proponent has committed to contribute to ongoing infiltration and inflow removal (I/I) projects within the Town of Shrewsbury and will provide mitigation (2 - 4:1) for every gallon of wastewater generated by the proposed project and exported out of the basin, before being allowed to connect to the sewer system.

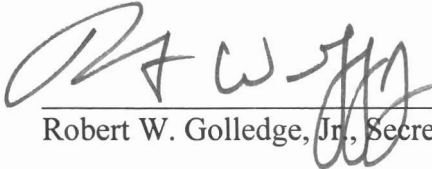
NPC/Phase I Waiver Request - 44 Oakland Avenue Sewer Extension Project:

The proposed project involves the construction of approximately 136 linear feet (lf) of new 8 inch sewer line within the Oakland Avenue right-of-way to connect to the existing municipal sewer main in the Main Street right-of-way to service one single-family residential house (#44 Oakland Avenue) in Shrewsbury. According to the proponent, the project's water supply needs and wastewater flows (330 gallons per day (gpd)) will be served by municipal water from the Town of Shrewsbury and municipal sewer from the Town of Westborough's Wastewater Treatment Facility, respectively.

I anticipate that the MassDEP's permitting process will include a thorough review of the proposed project and the Phase I Waiver requirements pertaining to the adequate capacity of Westborough's Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) to serve the project's wastewater flows, the suitability of the on-site soils to accommodate an on-site Title 5 treatment system, and the proponent's mitigation commitments. I have reviewed the Phase I Waiver request and supporting information and I find that the relatively small amount of wastewater flow generated from the proposed project (330 gallons per day (gpd)), will not result in a significant increase in wastewater flow Westborough's WWTF.

Based on these facts, I hereby propose to grant the request for a Phase I Waiver for the 44 Oakland Avenue Sewer Extension Project in Shrewsbury.

October 26, 2006
DATE



Robert W. Golledge, Jr., Secretary

Comments received:

09/8/06 Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection – NERO

Phase I Waiver #12348 – 44 Oakland Avenue Sewer Extension Project, Shrewsbury
RWG/NCZ/ncz