



**Environmental
 Notification Form**

For Office Use Only
 Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
 EOEA No.: 13818
 MEPA Analyst: Ann Canaday
 Phone: 617-626-1035

The information requested on this form must be completed to begin MEPA Review in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, 301 CMR 11.00.

Project Name: <i>Swansea Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan</i>		
Street: <i>N/A</i>		
Municipality: <i>Swansea</i>	Watershed: <i>Mt. Hope/Narragansett Bay and Taunton River</i>	
Universal Tranverse Mercator Coordinates: <i>TBD</i>	Latitude: <i>TBD</i>	Longitude: <i>TBD</i>
Estimated commencement date: <i>May 2005</i>	Estimated completion date: <i>TBD</i>	
Approximate cost: <i>TBD</i>	Status of project design:	<i>0</i> %complete
Proponent: <i>Town of Swansea, Board of Selectmen</i>		
Street: <i>81 Main Street</i>		
Municipality: <i>Swansea</i>	State: <i>MA</i>	Zip Code: <i>02777</i>
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: <i>Susan E. Guswa</i>		
Firm/Agency: <i>Tighe & Bond, Inc.</i>	Street: <i>53 Southampton Road</i>	
Municipality: <i>Westfield</i>	State: <i>MA</i>	Zip Code: <i>01085</i>
Phone: <i>(413) 562-1600</i>	Fax: <i>(413) 562-5317</i>	E-mail: <i>seguswa@tighebond.com</i>

- Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)?
 Yes No
- Has this project been filed with MEPA before?
 Yes (EOEA No. _____) No
- Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before?
 Yes (EOEA No. _____) No *TBD*
- Is this an Expanded ENF (see 301 CMR 11.05(7)) requesting:
- a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8)) Yes No
 - a Special Review Procedure? (see 301CMR 11.09) Yes No
 - a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11) Yes No
 - a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11) Yes No

Identify any financial assistance or land transfer from an agency of the Commonwealth, including the agency name and the amount of funding or land area (in acres): *The Town received \$350,000 of State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan funding for Phase I and Phase II of this planning project. The Town anticipates applying for SRF loans for subsequent planning and construction portions of the project.*

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?
 Yes (Specify *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, RI Dept. of Environmental Management*) No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: *It is not yet known what permits will be required as part of the construction for wastewater improvements. The required permits will be determined once the wastewater alternatives have been evaluated and selected in subsequent phases of this project.*

Which ENF or EIR review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03):

This project is in the planning phase. The extent of work and whether any threshold is met or exceeded is unknown at this time. The threshold that is most likely to be met is the wastewater threshold. The other potential thresholds may include Land; Rare Species; Wetlands, Waterways & Tidelands; Transportation; and Historical & Archaeological Resources.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare Species | <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wastewater | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Air | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid & Hazardous Waste |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACEC | <input type="checkbox"/> Regulations | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical & Archaeological Resources |

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total	State Permits & Approvals
LAND				<input type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License <input type="checkbox"/> 401 Water Quality Certification <input type="checkbox"/> MHD or MDC Access Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Water Management Act Permit <input type="checkbox"/> New Source Approval <input type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/Extension Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Other Permits (including Legislative Approvals) – Specify: <u>TBD based on selected alternative(s).</u>
Total site acreage	TBD			
New acres of land altered		TBD		
Acres of impervious area	TBD	TBD	TBD	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		TBD		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		TBD		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		TBD		
STRUCTURES				
Gross square footage	TBD	TBD	TBD	
Number of housing units	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Maximum height (in feet)	TBD	TBD	TBD	
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day	TBD	TBD	TBD	
Parking spaces	TBD	TBD	TBD	
WATER/WASTEWATER				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	N/A	N/A	N/A	
GPD water withdrawal	N/A	N/A	N/A	
GPD wastewater generation/treatment	900,000*	1,200,000*	300,000*	
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	0	TBD	TBD	

*Estimated existing and 20-year projected flows for high and moderate need areas. These areas are currently served primarily by on-site wastewater treatment systems, but off-site solutions are recommended. Refer to Executive Summary and Phase I Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan, Phase I for more information.

CONSERVATION LAND: Will the project involve the conversion of public parkland or other Article 97 public natural resources to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97?

Yes (Specify _____) No

Will it involve the release of any conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction, or watershed preservation restriction?

Yes (Specify _____) No

RARE SPECIES: Does the project site include Estimated Habitat of Rare Species, Vernal Pools, Priority Sites of Rare Species, or Exemplary Natural Communities?

Yes (Specify _____) No **To be determined**

HISTORICAL /ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Does the project site include any structure, site or district listed in the State Register of Historic Place or the inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth?

Yes (Specify _____) No **To be determined**

If yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources?

Yes (Specify _____) No **To be determined**

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN: Is the project in or adjacent to an Area of Critical Environmental Concern?

Yes (Specify _____) No

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project description should include (a) a description of the project site, (b) a description of both on-site and off-site alternatives and the impacts associated with each alternative, and (c) potential on-site and off-site mitigation measures for each alternative (*You may attach one additional page, if necessary.*)

(a) Project Description – The Executive Summary from the *Swansea Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan, Phase I (May 2006)* is attached to this ENF as Appendix C and a CD-ROM containing the full report is attached to this ENF as Appendix D.

The scope for the CWMP for Swansea contains two phases: I) Needs Analysis and Alternatives and Site Identification and II) Recommended Plan. The objectives of Phase I are to assess the condition of the current wastewater infrastructure in the Town, determine location of need for alternatives to the current systems, identify alternative approaches, and screen potential in-town and regional locations for suitability of existing and new infrastructure to meet the needs. The result of the Phase I analysis is a short list of alternatives that will be further evaluated in Phase II.

Swansea does not have any centralized municipal wastewater infrastructure or connection to regional systems despite very dense population centers, poor soils, and high groundwater. Development in the Town is served by on-site septic tanks and leach fields. Evidence of failing systems and potential contamination of surface water bodies has prompted the Town to undertake this study.

Needs Analysis – Wastewater management needs for the entire Town were determined. The Town was divided into 38 study areas and evaluated relative to the following criteria: existing on-site wastewater disposal problems; lot size; soil permeability; depth to groundwater; and proximity to water resource areas (surface water bodies, wetlands, drinking water supplies). Each criterion was weighted based on potential impact to public health and the environment. Each lot was scored relative to the criteria, and an average score for each study area was determined. Study areas were classified as either high, moderate, or low need areas.

Wastewater Management Alternatives – Three categories of wastewater management alternatives were evaluated:

1. Decentralized (on-site, innovative/alternative and cluster) – systems <10,000 gallons per day
2. Community (satellite and centralized) – systems >10,000 gallons per day
3. Regional – connection to adjoining communities

Continued use of decentralized systems is recommended for low need areas. High and moderate need areas require off-site wastewater alternatives either by community or regional systems. Total 20-year design flows from the high and moderate need areas are estimated to be 1.2 million gallons per day (mgd).

Short-Listed Community Treatment and Groundwater Discharge Sites - A multi-phased screening approach was used to identify the potential sites: 1) physical constraints; 2) environmental and land use constraints; and 3) field investigation. Four sites plus the Bushee Road Wellfield were identified in Swansea for potential wastewater treatment facilities and groundwater disposal systems as shown on the Recommended Wastewater Disposal Sites figure in Appendix C. The limited number of available sites is due to the poor soils and high groundwater that are ubiquitous throughout Swansea. The total capacity for the potential groundwater disposal sites is approximately 0.2 MGD (four sites) with another 0.5 MGD potentially available at the Bushee Road Wellfield.

The Bushee Road Wellfield has four active public supply wells for the Swansea Water District. Additional study is required to: 1) refine the capacity estimate; 2) determine travel time to the wells; 3) develop long-term water table management alternatives including continued well pumping, importing fill, or utilizing an innovative disposal technology such as wick wells. The SWD has indicated that they would consider abandoning the wells if they can successfully replace the supply with a desalinization facility. If the wells are no longer used for public water supply, it would be possible to use them to provide a source of blend water for the brine waste from the planned Swansea desalinization facility.

Short-Listed Regional Alternatives – Three regional facilities including the East Providence, RI WWTF, and Somerset, MA WWTF and Fall River WWTF were identified as favorable alternatives for regional solutions. Flow to the East Providence, RI WWTF would travel through Barrington, RI's collection system. Preliminary communications with the communities has occurred and will be ongoing as evaluation of the alternatives continues. In order to accommodate the flow from the high and moderate need areas, regional alternatives need to be part of the recommended plan for Swansea. The locations of the regional facilities are shown on the Recommended Wastewater Disposal Alternatives figure in Appendix C. An interbasin transfer from Mt. Hope/Narragansett Bay Watershed to the Taunton River Watershed may be triggered.

The Phase II CWMP will include evaluation of discharging raw wastewater into the host community's collection system or sending effluent from a new treatment plant in Swansea to existing discharge points in Somerset or Fall River. Sewer routing will be evaluated including in-street, cross-country and cross-Bay (Swansea to Fall River) alignments.

(b) On-site and off-site alternatives and impacts: Project alternatives are discussed in the CWMP Phase I Report in Appendix D. Section 6 describes the project alternatives and potential impacts. Section 7 presents the groundwater discharge siting evaluation, which included screening for environmental impacts. Project impacts relative to the MEPA evaluation criteria will be determined in Phase II of the CWMP.

(c) Mitigation measures: Since the project is in the planning phase, potential mitigation measures relative to the MEPA evaluation criteria have not yet been determined.