

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs ■ MEPA Office

ENF

Environmental Notification Form

For Office Use Only
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
 EOEA No.: *14295*
 MEPA Analyst: *Aisling Eglinton*
 Phone: 617-626- *1024*

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: Ashley Lake Dam Repair Project		
Street: Washington Mountain Road		
Municipality: Washington	Watershed: Housatonic Watershed	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: UTM Zone 18, 650993.40 m E, 4694489.75 m N	Latitude: N 42.388021° Longitude: W 73.165629°	
Estimated commencement date: Fall 2008	Estimated completion date: 11/15/2009	
Approximate cost: \$1.7 million	Status of project design: 90 %complete	
Proponent: City of Pittsfield, Bruce Collingwood (Commissioner of Public Works and Utilities)		
Street: Pittsfield City Hall, 70 Allen St.		
Municipality: City of Pittsfield	State: MA	Zip Code: 01201
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Thomas Touchet		
Firm/Agency: Metcalf & Eddy, Inc.	Street: 701 Edgewater Drive	
Municipality: Wakefield	State: MA	Zip Code: 01880
Phone: 781-224-6090	Fax: 781-224-5986	E-mail: Tom.Touchet@m-e.aecom.com

- 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
- 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): -none-

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?
 Yes (MA DEP, Washington Conservation Commission, USACE, NHESP) No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals:
Washington Conservation Commission Order of Conditions

US Army Corps of Engineers (New England) Section 404 Permit
 MA DEP 401 Water Quality Certification
 MA DCR Chapter 253 Dam Repair Permit

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

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare Species | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Permits <i>(including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:</i> Massachusetts Endangered Species Act Review (MESA)
Total site acreage	7.30 (within Limit of Work) + 103.7 (Ashley Lake beyond Limit of Work at elevation 1924 (full pool))			
New acres of land altered		3.33 Upland staging areas and upland work areas within immediate limit of work (T); 0.14 expanded portion of gravel road (P) Please see below for wetland area alterations		
Acres of impervious area	0.08 existing dam wall and gate house	0.01 new dam wall face	0.09	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		15,180 for equipment staging and dam wall repair (T)		

Square feet of new other wetland alteration		500 for new dam wall in Land Under Water/Bank (P); 124,700 repair work access and temporary drawdown within immediate limit of work in Land Under Water/Bank (T); 1,600 expanded gravel roadway in Riverfront Area (P); 788,400 temporary/indirect drawdown of Ashley Lake beyond immediate limit of work in Land Under Water (T)	
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0	
STRUCTURES			
Gross square footage	3,300 existing dam wall and gate house	500 new dam wall face	3,800
Number of housing units	0	0	0
Maximum height (in feet)	0	0	0
TRANSPORTATION			
Vehicle trips per day	0	0	0
Parking spaces	0	0	0
WATER/WASTEWATER			
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	0	0	0
GPD water withdrawal	0	0	0
GPD wastewater generation/treatment	0	0	0
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	0	0	0

General Note – “P” denotes estimates of Permanent Impact upon completion of the project, “T” denotes estimates for Temporary Impacts

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: Tule Bluet Damselfly (*Enallagma carunculatum*) No

A portion of the project area is located within Estimated Habitat (EH 598) and Priority Habitat (PH 194) for the Tule Bluet Damselfly (Species of Special Concern). Based upon initial consultation with NHESP, it is anticipated that the project will not result in a taking of rare species. However, a formal MESA review will be conducted as part of the permitting effort.

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

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

Yes (Specify _____) No

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.)

Ashley Lake Dam, located in a rural wooded area in Washington, Massachusetts, has been classified as a "High Hazard" dam since loss of life and property damage will likely occur in the event of a failure. The dam is in overall poor condition and has been in need of a major rehabilitation for more than 30 years. The City of Pittsfield received a Certificate of Non-Compliance / Dam Safety Order from the MA DCR Office of Dam Safety for Ashley Lake Dam. The Dam Safety Order requires the dam to be repaired by no later than December 12, 2009.

STRUCTURAL DEFICIENCIES OBSERVED:

- The visible portions of the downstream section of stone masonry face are in poor condition
- Voids were measured in the downstream masonry face and significant leakage was observed flowing from voids at several locations
- The concrete forming the upstream face of the stone masonry section is in poor condition
- Concrete is spalling and eroded, particularly in the zone of normal pool fluctuation
- The concrete appears to be undermined near the left end of the left section
- Leakage was observed through the spillway and the left spillway channel wall is dislodged

PROPOSED PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Since a temporary drawdown of Ashley Lake is necessary to facilitate repair activities, drawdown below normal annual low levels is anticipated to begin in September 2008 (following appropriate approvals). Once levels are reduced from an estimated annual low of elevation 1920 feet to elevation 1914 feet (a lowering of Ashley Lake by 6 feet below mean annual low), an abandoned roadway in the lake will be exposed, separating Ashley Lake into two portions: a small portion at the northern end of the lake adjacent to the immediate limit of work and a much larger portion of Ashley Lake located south of the immediate limit of work. The smaller pool near the dam wall will then be completely dewatered to facilitate repair activities (to elevation 1907). The majority of Ashley Lake to the south will remain filled with water to elevation 1914 and provide bypass flow through the existing spillway via two 24-inch bypass pipes. Thus, the spillway will continue to provide flow to the wetland system located to the north of New Lenox Road, north of the project

site.

Once drawdown and dewatering activities are completed and the bypass flow system is in place in late March 2009, dam repair activities are anticipated to begin on April 1, 2009. Project activities are anticipated to include: clearing of up to one acre of upland to accommodate a staging area and truck turn-around; resurfacing and slight widening of the existing gravel access road to the site (New Lenox Road) with crushed stone/gravel to accommodate the larger vehicles required for the dam work; removal of existing tree stumps and trees within an approximate 50-foot band downgradient of the dam wall/toe of slope to minimize conductivity by tree roots and to facilitate inspections; temporary removal of sediment near dam wall footing and temporary stockpiling within nearby dewatered area in limit of work; removal of loose debris and addition of a one-foot thick face of concrete to dam wall and two-foot thick face of concrete to spillway; repair of gatehouse structure and overflow channel wall; replacement of sediment near dam wall footing; re-pointing of the dam wall face on the downstream side (where necessary); and restoration of temporarily disturbed wetland resource areas within the limit of work.

PROPOSED PROJECT IMPACTS

All project impacts are temporary in nature with the exception of the addition of the new dam wall face (a direct impact of 500 square feet within Bank/Land Under Water) and slight widening (by approximately three feet) of the existing gravel road to accommodate construction vehicles, a portion of which is located within Riverfront Area (1,600 square feet) associated with the dam spillway creek. However, the roadway widening will occur within existing upland areas. Temporary wetland resource area impacts include Bordering Vegetated Wetland on the downgradient side of the dam and Land Under Water/Inland Bank on the upgradient side of the dam wall. Indirect temporary impacts will include the lowering of Ashley Lake Dam below mean annual low flow levels (from elevation 1920 feet to elevation 1914 feet) during project activities (April – November, 2009) to facilitate repairs on the upgradient side of the dam wall.

MINIMIZATION AND MITIGATION FOR POTENTIAL PROJECT IMPACTS

Impact minimization and project mitigation includes the use of Best Management Practices, appropriate erosion and sedimentation control devices, spill prevention practices, prohibition of waste materials in wetland resource areas, and restoration of temporarily impacted wetland resource areas upon completion of project activities. The project team is currently in discussions with the US Army Corps of Engineers, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, and Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program to further reduce proposed project impacts, particularly during the drawdown phase of the project.

PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1: No-Action Alternative

A "No-Action" alternative would result in no repairs to the Ashley Lake Dam. As indicated above, the Ashley Lake dam has been in need of a major rehabilitation for more than 30 years and is classified as a "High Hazard" dam. The Certificate of Non-Compliance / Dam Safety Order issued for the dam the MA DCR Office of Dam Safety requires the dam to be repaired by no later than December 12, 2009. Therefore, the no-action alternative would constitute non-compliance with the Dam Safety Order, thus this alternative has been dismissed.

Alternative 2: Repair of the Existing Ashley Lake Dam (Recommended Alternative)

Repair of the existing dam entails a temporary drawdown of Ashley Lake to facilitate equipment access, equipment mobilization and repairs within upland and wetland resource areas, followed by restoration of temporarily impacted areas. The option to repair the existing dam wall and gate house structure minimizes environmental impacts due to the length of drawdown and direct project activities since impacts from repair activities are significantly less (spatially and temporally) than the entire replacement of the dam wall and gatehouse structure. The repair of the dam and gatehouse structure has been chosen as the preferred alternative.

Alternative 3: Replacement of the Dam

Complete replacement of the dam wall and gatehouse structure would involve dewatering for longer periods of time and require more equipment for longer lengths of time within wetland resource areas. This

alternative would represent a significant increase in both environmental impacts and cost over the Recommended Alternative; therefore it has been eliminated.

Please see Attachment A for further project details.

LAND SECTION – all proponents must fill out this section

I. Thresholds / Permits

A. Does the project meet or exceed any review thresholds related to **land** (see 301 CMR 11.03(1))
 Yes No; if yes, specify each threshold:

II. Impacts and Permits

A. Describe, in acres, the current and proposed character of the project site, as follows:

	<u>Existing</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Total</u>
Footprint of buildings	<u>0.006</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.006</u>
Roadways, parking, and other paved areas	<u>0.45</u>	<u>0.14</u>	<u>0.59</u>
Other altered areas (describe)	<u>0.07</u>	<u>0.01</u>	<u>0.08</u>
Undeveloped areas	<u>110.47</u>	<u>0.15</u>	<u>110.32</u>

Notes:

Permanent impacts: Footprint of buildings includes the gatehouse, which is the only building on the site. Areas for roadways include the existing pervious gravel roadway (New Lenox Road) and proposed slight expansion of portions of the pervious gravel roadway. Expansion of the roadway is included in both the roadway change value and the undeveloped area change value. Any disturbed surfaces beyond the width of the expanded roadway to the limit of work will be restored to existing conditions to the maximum extent practicable. Other permanently altered areas include the existing dam wall with the addition of 0.01 acres for the new dam wall face.

B. Has any part of the project site been in active agricultural use in the last three years?
 Yes No; if yes, how many acres of land in agricultural use (with agricultural soils) will be converted to nonagricultural use?

C. Is any part of the project site currently or proposed to be in active forestry use?
 Yes No; if yes, please describe current and proposed forestry activities and indicate whether any part of the site is the subject of a DEM-approved forest management plan:

D. Does any part of the project involve conversion of land held for natural resources purposes in accordance with Article 97 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97? Yes No; if yes, describe:

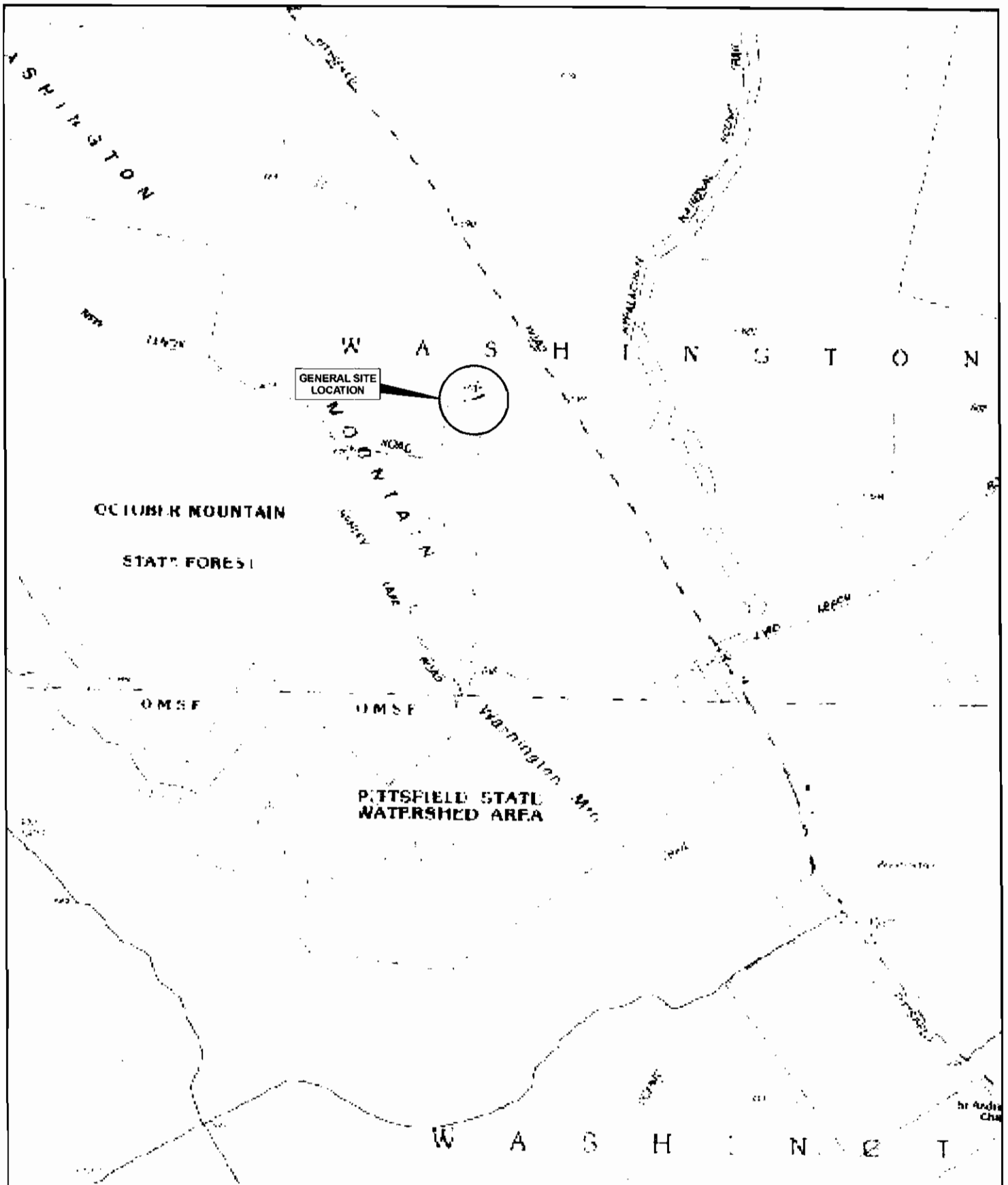
E. Is any part of the project site currently subject to a conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction or watershed preservation restriction? Yes No; if yes, does the project involve the release or modification of such restriction?

F. Does the project require approval of a new urban redevelopment project or a fundamental change in an existing urban redevelopment project under M.G.L.c.121A? Yes No; if yes, describe:

G. Does the project require approval of a new urban renewal plan or a major modification of an existing urban renewal plan under M.G.L.c.121B? Yes No; if yes, describe:

H. Describe the project's stormwater impacts and, if applicable, measures that the project will take to comply with the standards found in DEP's Stormwater Management Policy:

No changes to stormwater flows are anticipated for this project. However, erosion controls and Best Management Practices will be employed within the limit of work throughout project construction activities. See attached site plans for further details.



SOURCE: MassGIS Statewide USGS
Seamless Mosaic



**FIGURE 1: SITE LOCUS MAP
ASHLEY LAKE DAM REPAIR PROJECT SITE
WASHINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS**