

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs ■ MEPA Office

ENF

Environmental Notification Form

<i>For Office Use Only</i> <i>Executive Office of Environmental Affairs</i>	
EOEA No.:	14128
MEPA Analyst:	Beiony Angus
Phone:	617-626- 1029

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: YMCA Camp Hi-Rock Driveway	
Street: East Street	
Municipality: Mt. Washington	Watershed: Bashbish and Housatonic
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: Approximate: Beginning of driveway: 4651711.05915, 334361.1779427 End of driveway: 4651711.059159, 334361.1779427	Latitude: Longitude: Approximate: Beginning of new driveway: 42° 5' 10" N, 73° 27' 41" W End of driveway: 42° 4' 31" N, 73° 27' 11" W
Estimated commencement date: November, 2007	Estimated completion date: April 1, 2008
Approximate cost: \$1 million	Status of project design: 90-95 %complete
Proponent: Central Connecticut Coast YMCA	
Street: 1240 Chapel Street	
Municipality: New Haven	State: CT Zip Code: 06511
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Karro Frost	
Firm/Agency: New England Environmental, Inc.	Street: 9 Research Drive
Municipality: Amherst	State: MA Zip Code: 01002
Phone: 413-256-0202	Fax: 413-256-1092 E-mail: kfrost@neeinc.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 301 CMR 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): N/A

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?
 Yes (Specify DEP, NHESP) No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals:

2003 Order of Conditions from Mt. Washington Conservation Commission

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

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rare Species | <input 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 checked="" 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 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 (including Legislative Approvals) – Specify: MESA review
Total site acreage	177			
New acres of land altered		7.8		
Acres of impervious area	1.75	0.2	1.95	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		2608		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		2580		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0		
STRUCTURES				
Gross square footage	76,200	0	76,200	
Number of housing units	76	0	76	
Maximum height (in feet)	40	0	40	
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day	20	0	20	
Parking spaces	100	0	100	
WATER/WASTEWATER				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	10,000 peak	0	10,000 peak	
GPD water withdrawal	10,000	0	10,000	
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	10,000	0	10,000	
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	0	0	0	

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 The project is occurring on a piece of land with a conservation restriction held by The Nature Conservancy, however, the construction and use of the driveway is included.

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 A portion of the project lies within Estimated and Priority Habitat.) No

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: Schenob Brook ACEC) 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.)

YMCA Camp Hi-Rock in Mount Washington, MA has been in operation for over fifty years. The subject project for review is a new access driveway for the camp. The historical and only means of access to the camp was on a private way over which the YMCA held only a revocable license. The right to use that way was revoked. Prior to 2004, the YMCA owned the approximate 1000 acres of land on which the camp was located. The camp consists of 76 buildings and other traditional camp structures in the middle of the otherwise undeveloped camp land. The site locus for the proposed driveway and existing camp is illustrated in Figure 1. In 2004, the YMCA sold land to The Nature Conservancy ("TNC") and took back a long term lease of 177 acres. TNC has placed 665 acres under a conservation restriction. The proposed driveway is included in TNC's Conservation Restriction in its proposed location. As a result, there is little flexibility in changing the route of the driveway. The driveway must access the YMCA camp from the main access road in Mt. Washington (East Street). This driveway will be the only legal means of access to the camp. The existing road over the private land will remain, but the YMCA will not have any rights to travel it.

This project is located within forested land in Mt. Washington, MA. The proposed driveway route is steep and rocky. As the Mt. Washington Conservation Commission issued an Order of Conditions for the project in August, 2002, the original route of the proposed driveway has already been cleared and is visible in the 2005 aerial photograph (Figure 2). After the clearing was started, abutters to the project objected to a stream crossing near their property and the YMCA agreed to negotiate a change in the layout with the abutters, land owners, and the Town of Mt. Washington for a slightly different route for the beginning of the driveway off East St. The proposed route has now been designed to maintain a road grade of 8%, with a few short sections at 12%, and now avoids crossing the stream which flows onto the abutters' property.

The project is located within Priority and Estimated Habitat, designated by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP). Figure 3 illustrates the location of NHESP designated areas. Discussions regarding potential mitigation for impacts to rare species are on-going with NHESP.

A section of the proposed driveway (1,000 linear feet) crosses the Schenob Brook ACEC. The boundary of the ACEC in this area is the divide between Bashbish and Housatonic (Schenob Brook) watersheds. The original 2002 layout of the driveway was outlined on the USGS Bashbish Quadrangle and indicated that the proposed driveway would not cross into the ACEC. Unfortunately, when the cutting was completed for the original layout, a section crossed into the designated ACEC. This is evident on the 2005 aerial photographs accessible from MassGIS (Figure 4).

The driveway has been designed to be a balance of cut and fill, so that no material will need to be brought onto or removed from the site. Slopes in cut areas will be rock faces. In fill areas, any slope over 3:1 will be rip-rapped with a break mid-slope for the planting and seeding. Slopes less than 3:1 will be loamed, seeded and planted with native tree and shrub species.

Mitigation for the project includes wetland replication at a rate of 1.5:1 for impacted Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (3,915 SF mitigation) and stream replication for an intermittent stream that was accidentally destroyed during the clearing process. Over-cleared sections of the driveway, including a section off East Street that will now be abandoned and areas on the edges of the driveway, are proposed to be replanted with native tree species.