

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.:	<u>14353</u>
MEPA Analyst:	<u>WILLIAM GAGE</u>
Phone:	617-626- <u>1025</u>

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: Otis Reservoir Dam Rehabilitation		
Street: Tolland Road		
Municipality: Dept. of Conservation and Recreation	Watershed: Farmington River	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:	Latitude: 42.1588638°N Longitude: 73.058626°W	
Estimated commencement date: 07/2010	Estimated completion date: 10/2010	
Approximate cost: \$2 million	Status of project design:	25 %complete
Proponent: Department of Conservation and Recreation		
Street: 251 Causeway Street		
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02114
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Michelle Manarolla; Baystate Environmental Consultants, Inc.		
Firm/Agency: GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.	Street: 296 N. Main Street	
Municipality: East Longmeadow	State: MA	Zip Code: 01028
Phone: 413-525-3822	Fax: 413-525-8348	E-mail: michelle.manarolla@gza.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): 100% funding through MA DCR

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

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: Wetlands Permit, Otis Conservation Commission; MA DEP 401 Water Quality Permit; US ACOE 404 permit; Chapter 91

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 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 checked="" 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 (including Legislative Approvals) – Specify: <u>MESA Project Review</u> <u>Chapter 253 Dam Safety Permit</u>
Total site acreage	129.65			
New acres of land altered		0		
Acres of impervious area	0.26	0.02	0.26	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		15,590 (Temporary within existing dam structure)		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0		
STRUCTURES				
Gross square footage	520	(520) Gate house removal	(520)	
Number of housing units	0	0	0	
Maximum height (in feet)	0	0	0	
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day	50	50	50	
Parking spaces	0	0	0	
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	

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: Bridle Shiner (*Notropis bifrenatus*), Harpoon clubtail (*Gomphus descriptus*), Triangle floater (*Alasmidonta undulate*), Brook floater (Swollen wedgemussle) (*Alasmidonta varicose*)). Habitat associated with reservoir only.

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 _____) 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.)

Otis Reservoir Dam (NID No. MA 00308, State ID No. 1-2-225-8) is located on the Otis Reservoir in the Town of Otis, and is owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and operated by the DCR. The dam is an earthen embankment that is nearly 31.5 ft in height and 630 ft in length. Rip rap extends along the upstream length of the dam with a narrow swath of mown grass located between the rip rap and the road. The downstream side of the dam consists of a steep, grassy slope that extends the length of the dam. The top of the dam is occupied by Tolland Road and varies in width from 20 to 36 ft.

Based upon a 2006 inspection of the dam, Otis Reservoir Dam was determined to be in "POOR" condition (GZA 2006). This assessment is based primarily on concerns about the flow through the masonry blocks of the spillway and seepage through the embankment. The MA Office of Dam Safety requires owners of dams in "Poor" condition to address the identified deficiencies. The purpose of the project is to repair the dam in accordance with Massachusetts dam safety regulations and accepted engineering practice. Rehabilitation of the dam will reduce the risk to downstream life and property and will protect the reservoir and the ecological well-being of the associated wetland resources and rare species.

The proposed rehabilitation of the dam will be limited to work within the existing footprint of the dam. Because portions of the dam are below the mean annual high water line and within Riverfront Area, there will be some unavoidable, temporary alteration of wetland resources. The work will include installation of a crest gate and raising of the crest height by 3 feet to address dam safety concerns and protection up to the one half probable maximum flood (½ PMF). The proposed work will also include work to the dam spillway, replacement of the existing roadway bridge over the dam spillway, removal of the upstream gate house, and installation of a slide gate at the existing underwater culvert (done via scuba). The proposed work will bring the Otis Reservoir Dam into compliance with the dam safety regulations (302 CMR: 10.00)

The proposed crest gate to be installed will be a 7.5-ft x 38-ft gate, raising the dam crest to a minimum of

El. 1425.4 feet during the summer pond level. In order to raise the dam crest, it will be necessary to raise the roadway height by up to approximately 3.0 feet. The existing pavement will be reclaimed, compacted fill will bring the roadway up to final grade including the final layer of pavement. A sidewalk will also be installed along the northern side of the roadway as a public safety measure. Side slopes will be marginally extended with the installation of rip rap on the reservoir side of the slope with loam and seed treatment on the downstream slopes. All riprap and loam treatment will be above the limits of MHWL.

The existing trash rack at the dam outlet on the upstream side of the dam will be removed and replaced with a mechanically operated slide gate. Additional repair/rehabilitation as part of this project will include removal of the gate house and concrete support pier, installation of a toe drain with seepage flow monitoring system, and repointing of the masonry wall.

Overall, impacts to resource areas cannot be avoided as they exist on and adjacent to the existing dam which is in need of repair. No other alternative exists that would allow for the dam repair without causing some impact to wetland resource areas. No permanent loss of resource areas are anticipated with the proposed work. All work will be performed during the seasonal drawdown period for the reservoir to avoid work within standing or flowing water.

Construction Phase Sediment and Erosion Controls will be placed in order to minimize the potential for secondary impacts beyond the limit of work.

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 X 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</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Roadways, parking, and other paved areas	<u>0.26</u>	<u>0.02</u>	<u>0.28</u>
Other altered areas (describe)	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Undeveloped areas	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

B. Has any part of the project site been in active agricultural use in the last three years?
 Yes X 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 X 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 X 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 X No; if yes, does the project involve the release or modification of such restriction? ___ Yes ___ No; if yes, describe:

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 X 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 X ; if yes, describe: