

For Office Use Only Executive Office of Environmental Affairs MEPA Analyst: <i>Nick ZAVOLAS</i> Phone: 617-626- <i>1030</i>
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NPC

Notice of Project Change

The information requested on this form must be completed to begin MEPA Review of a NPC in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act and its implementing regulations (see 301 CMR 11.10(1)).

Project Name: New Bedford Airport Improvements		EOEA #: 10316	
Street: 1569 Airport Road			
Municipality: New Bedford		Watershed: Buzzards Bay	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: N 4615669, E337107, Zone 19		Latitude: 41-40-34.11N Longitude: 70-57-24.99W	
Status of project construction: 0%complete			
Proponent: City of New Bedford, New Bedford Regional Airport Commission			
Street: 1569 Airport Road			
Municipality: New Bedford		State: MA	Zip Code: 02746
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this NPC May Be Obtained: Lisa A. Standley, PhD.			
Firm/Agency: Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB)		Street: 101 Walnut Street, P.O. Box 9151	
Municipality: Watertown		State: MA	Zip Code: 02472
Phone: 617-924-1770	Fax: 617-924-2286	E-mail: lstandley@vhb.com	

In 25 words or less, what is the project change? The project change involves . . .

See full project change description beginning on page 3.

Date of ENF filing or publication in the Environmental Monitor: April 10, 1995

Was an EIR required? Yes No; if yes,
was a Draft EIR filed? Yes (Date: February 23, 2005) No
was a Final EIR filed? Yes (Date: January 15, 2009) No
was a Single EIR filed? Yes (Date:) No

Have other NPCs been filed? Yes No

(Date(s): March 25, 2003 for taxiway project only; February 26, 2007 for safety project only)

If this is a NPC solely for lapse of time (see 301 CMR 11.10(2)) proceed directly to
"ATTACHMENTS & SIGNATURES" on page 4.

PERMITS / FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE / LAND TRANSFER

List or describe all new or modified state permits, financial assistance, or land transfers not previously reviewed: *The project will not require any new or modified permits or financial assistance. No land transfers are part of the project.*

Are you requesting a finding that this project change is insignificant? (see 301 CMR 11.10(6))
 Yes No; if yes, attach justification.

Are you requesting that a Scope in a previously issued Certificate be rescinded?
 Yes No; if yes, attach the Certificate

Are you requesting a change to a Scope in a previously issued Certificate? Yes No; if yes, attach Certificate and describe the change you are requesting:

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Previously reviewed	Net Change	Currently Proposed
LAND			
Total site acreage	846 acres		846 acres
Acres of land altered	158.96 acres	-127 acres	32 acres
Acres of impervious area	15.5 acres	-14.1 acres	1.4 acres
Square feet of bordering vegetated wetlands alteration	3.48 acres	+3.85 acres	7.33 acres
Square feet of other wetland alteration	1.67 acres	-1.67 acres	0 acres
Acres of non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways	N/A		N/A
STRUCTURES			
Gross square footage	N/A		N/A
Number of housing units	N/A		N/A
Maximum height (in feet)	N/A		N/A
TRANSPORTATION			
Vehicle trips per day	104	-104	0
Parking spaces	Conceptual planning: 90 spaces	-90	0
WATER/WASTEWATER			
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	N/A		N/A
GPD water withdrawal	N/A		N/A
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	N/A		N/A
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	N/A		N/A

Does the project change involve any new or modified:

1. conversion of public parkland or other Article 97 public natural resources to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97? Yes No

2. release of any conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction, or watershed preservation restriction? Yes No

3. impacts on Estimated Habitat of Rare Species, Vernal Pools, Priority Sites of Rare Species, or Exemplary Natural Communities? Yes No *-Impacts Reduced*

4. impact on 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 No; if yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources? Yes No

5. impact upon an Area of Critical Environmental Concern? Yes No
If you answered 'Yes' to any of these 5 questions, explain below:

PROJECT CHANGE DESCRIPTION (attach additional pages as necessary). The project change description should include:

(a) a brief description of the project as most recently reviewed

(b) a description of material changes to the project as previously reviewed,

(c) the significance of the proposed changes, with specific reference to the factors listed 301 CMR 11.10(6), and

(d) measures that the project is taking to avoid damage to the environment or to minimize and mitigate unavoidable environmental impacts. If the change will involve modification of any previously issued Section 61 Finding, include a proposed modification of the Section 61 Finding (or it will be required in a Supplemental EIR).


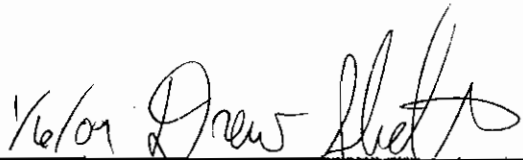
The previous Notice of Project Change (February 26, 2007) identified a preferred alternative that would meet the project purpose while avoiding impacts to the Acushnet Cedar Swamp State Reservation and minimizing wetland impacts. The preferred alternative identified in that NPC would have provided standard Runway Safety Areas at both ends of the primary runway (Runway 5-23) by shifting the runway to the north, regrading the safety areas, and by constructing a tunnel to convey New Plainville Road under the northern safety area. This alternative would have required 5.16 acres of wetland fill, including fill within vernal pools and rare species habitat (the coastal swamp amphipod), as well as impacts to upland habitat potentially used by eastern box turtles. Since the NPC, the City of New Bedford and the FAA have determined that it is not practicable to construct the tunnel because of cost, and that it is not practicable to shift the runway north because of impacts to New Plainville Road and the Acushnet Cedar Swamp. The Airport has identified a modified Preferred Alternative, based on the Runway Safety Standards Alternative documented in the DEIR, that meets the project purpose ("**to enhance the safety of aircraft and passengers using New Bedford Regional Airport by improving the Runway Safety Areas for RW 5-23 to meet FAA safety standards**"), maintains the existing 5,000-foot runway length, avoids New Plainville Road, and minimizes wetland impacts. This Preferred Alternative, described in detail in the FEIR, would shift the runway 200 feet to the south, and construct 400-foot wide by 1,000-foot long runway safety areas at each end. This would result in an increase in wetland filling (to 7.33 acres), but would avoid filling within vernal pools and rare wetland wildlife habitat. The proposed project includes compensatory wetland mitigation at a ratio of 2:1 for the filled wetlands, and has been designed to fully comply with the Massachusetts Stormwater Standards. Shifting the runway to the south will also reduce noise levels in residential areas north of the Airport. The FEIR provides a detailed description of the measures taken to avoid damage to the environment and to minimize and mitigate unavoidable environmental impacts, and includes a draft Section 61 Finding.

ATTACHMENTS & SIGNATURES

Attachments:

1. Secretary's most recent Certificate on this project - see Appendix A
2. Plan showing most recent previously-reviewed proposed build condition - see Figure NPC-1 (attached)
3. Plan showing currently proposed build condition - see Figure 3-1 in Volume 2
4. Original U.S.G.S. map or good quality color copy (8-1/2 x 11 inches or larger) indicating the project location and boundaries - see Figure 1-1 in Volume 2
5. List of all agencies and persons to whom the proponent circulated the NPC, in accordance with 301 CMR 11.10(7) - see Chapter 6, Circulation List

Signatures:

Date	Signature of Responsible Officer or Proponent	Date	Signature of person preparing NPC (if different from above)
		1/6/09	
	Edward DeWitt Name (print or type)		for Lisa A. Standley, PhD. Name (print or type)
	New Bedford Regional Airport Commission Firm/Agency		Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. Firm/Agency
	1569 Airport Road Street		101 Walnut Street Street
	New Bedford, MA 02748 Municipality/State/Zip		Watertown, MA 02472-9151 Municipality/State/Zip
	508-991-6161 Phone		617-924-1770 Phone