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February 5, 2010

CERTIFICATE OF THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
ON THE
ENVIRONMENTAL NOTIFICATION FORM

PROJECT NAME : 2010 Sewer Extension Project
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Pepperell
PROJECT WATERSHED : Nashua River
EOEA NUMBER : 14531
PROJECT PROPONENT : Pepperell Department of Public Works
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : January 6, 2010

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (G. L. c. 30, ss. 61-62I) and Section 11.06 of the MEPA regulations (301 CMR 11.00), I hereby determine that this **project does not require** the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Project Description

According to the Environmental Notification Form (ENF), the proposed project consists of the construction of 15,390 linear feet (lf) (2.92 miles) of sewer lines and one submersible pump station to service approximately 104 residences along Prescott Street, Paiute Place, Cheyenne Road, Algonquin Road, Gosselin Drive, Seminole Drive, Simonne Lane, and portions of Park and Brookline Streets in the Town of Pepperell. The project will be comprised of approximately 10,380 lf of 8-inch diameter Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) gravity sewers, 4,060 lf of 4-inch diameter High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) force main, and 950 lf of 1.5-inch diameter HDPE low pressure sewers. The sewers would be constructed entirely within the public right-of-way (ROW) of existing streets. The approximately 143 square foot (sf) pump station would be located just outside the public ROW area on Brookline Street. The proposed wastewater flow

will go to the existing Park Street Pump Station, which conveys wastewater to the Pepperell Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF). Portions of the project area are located within the Squannassit Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

Jurisdiction and State Permits

This project is subject to review pursuant to Section 11.03(11)(b) of the MEPA regulations because it requires a state permit and is located within a designated ACEC. It may require a Sewer Connection/Extension Permit and a Generator Certification from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). The project requires review by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) because the project site is located within Priority and Estimated Habitat. It will have to comply with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for stormwater discharges from a construction site. The project will require an Order of Conditions from the Pepperell Conservation Commission for impacts to wetland resource area buffer zones under the limited project provisions.

Because the proponent may be receiving financial assistance from the State Revolving Fund program, MEPA jurisdiction is broad and extends to all aspects of the project that are likely, directly or indirectly, to cause Damage to the Environment, as defined in the MEPA regulations.

Review of the ENF

The goals of the project are to eliminate stressed septic systems and to provide for improved groundwater and surface water quality. The proposed project is estimated to generate approximately 36,000 gallons per day (gpd) of average daily wastewater flow. The estimated flow includes existing and proposed residential development in this area of Pepperell. The project area is part of a Sewer Overlay District that previously identified the areas of the town to be sewered. The proponent has also previously upgraded the WWTF, which increased the plant's capacity from 0.7 million gpd to 1.1 million gpd. Since the completion of the WWTF upgrade project in 2003, construction of sewers has been completed in all areas immediately downstream of the 2010 Sewer Extension Project. The WWTF currently averages flows of approximately 0.5 million gpd, and this project would bring the total sewer flows to approximately 536,000 gpd. Therefore, the proponent has sufficient capacity to handle the wastewater flow from this extension.

During construction, the proponent will utilize hay bales and silt fencing to minimize impacts from runoff to wetland resource areas. The pump station design included directing runoff to a deep sump catch basin followed by a leaching basin to allow for the removal of total

suspended solids and groundwater recharge.

In its comment letter, the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments stated that the installation of municipal sewer service in the project area is consistent with the Town's Facility Plan and with the region's growth policy plan. In MassDEP's comment letter, it reminded the proponent that it requested information on the proposed generator proposed for use at the pump station. Since the generator size has not been determined, MassDEP indicated that any backup generator installed greater than the size threshold (37kW output) must meet the Air Quality Environmental Results Program requirements identified at 310 CMR 7.26(42) (effective March 23, 2006). Within sixty days of the commencement of the generator's operation, a certification should be submitted to MassDEP. In its comment letter, the NHESP stated that the proposed project does not appear to result in a prohibited "take".

Conclusion

Based on a review of the information provided by the proponent and after consulting with the relevant public agencies, I find that the potential impacts of this project do not warrant the preparation of an EIR and can be adequately addressed in the MassDEP permitting process. No further MEPA review is required.

February 5, 2010
Date

Alicia McDevitt, Assistant Secretary, Far
Ian A. Bowles

Comments received:

Weston & Sampson, 1/8/10

Weston & Sampson, 1/21/10

Northern Middlesex Council of Governments, 1/26/10

MassWildlife/Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, 1/26/10

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection/Central Regional Office, 1/27/10

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