

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
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April 9, 1997

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

PROJECT NAME : Wastewater Treatment Plant
Modifications
PROJECT LOCATION : Medway
EOEA NUMBER : 11004
PROJECT PROPONENT : Charles River Pollution Control
District
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : January 30, 1997

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

This project involves the addition of a new fine bubble diffused aeration basin, anoxic selectors, a gravity belt thickener, new cloth disk filters to supplement the existing sand filters, and an upgrade of the electrical system at the existing Charles River Pollution Control District's (CRPCD) wastewater treatment plant. The modifications will also result in an increase in the capacity of the facility from 4.54 million gallons per day (mgd) to 5.7 mgd, an increase of 1.2 mgd.

It is expected that these modifications will improve the treatment process so that the increase in capacity will not result in the discharge of contaminants in the effluent above the currently permitted National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) limits. In addition, the incorporation of pre-

treatment at the Garelick Farms dairy will reduce the Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) loadings in influent to the plant.

The CRPCD is under an Administrative Consent Order from the Department of Environmental Protection to upgrade the facility and increase its capacity. This action was required because the treatment plant has exceeded 80 percent of its design flow. The project is subject to MEPA because it requires an approval for an increase of 25 percent or more in capacity of an existing treatment works (301 CMR 11.26 (7) (c) 8). The CRPCD also expects to receive funding from the State Revolving Fund for a project with total cost more than \$1 million (301 CMR 11.27 (4) (a) 1).

The Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA) has expressed a number of concerns with the increase in capacity of the treatment facility and with growth and planning in the service district while being supportive of the improvements in treatment technology. In response to these concerns, the CRPCD sought an extension of the comment period, which was granted, to allow time to respond to these issues and to allow CRWA to develop a listing of measures that would allay its concerns. The CRPCD had its consultants respond to the technical issues and I find that those responses have provided the necessary clarifications.

Executive Order 385, Planning for Growth, applies to this project because of the use of state funds. One purpose of Executive Order 385 is to target funding toward those areas where development already exists and where further development will not imperil environmental resources or degrade environmental quality. The comments of the Charles River Watershed Association (CWRA) express concerns with growth in several of the member communities that has led to the need for the proposed expansion and that has occurred without the benefit of a growth management plan. While I recognize that the CRPCD does not have the authority to control growth in the member communities it does have the ability to prepare a growth management plan, consistent with the purposes of Executive Order 385, to provide good planning for authorization of future sewer connections to the plant. I suggest that CRPCD consult with the Charles River basin team and with my staff for assistance with this effort.

Furthermore, the CRPCD has agreed to work with and assist the member communities in the development of Water Conservation Management Plans, incentive programs to encourage retrofitting of existing residences and industries with water saving devices, growth management plans, and development of open space

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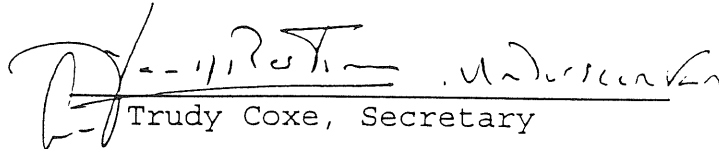
acquisition plans for protection of aquifer recharge areas, as requested by the CWRA.

There are indications that the upper Charles River region may need additional treatment capacity in the future. Any future proposal would have to be supported by a regional growth management plan as well as environmental impact review.

I find that the treatment process improvements proposed as part of this project will clearly improve the effluent quality from this facility. I believe the project can be implemented without significant adverse impacts with the concurrent implementation of the commitments discussed above. No further MEPA review is required.

April 9, 1997

Date


Trudy Coxe, Secretary

Comments received : Department of Environmental Protection
Town of Franklin
Charles River Watershed Association

cc: Rachael Freed NERO
John Lipman, EOE
TC/rf

Charles River Pollution Control Plant ENF Distribution List

A copy of the Environmental Notification Form has been sent to the following:

Secretary of Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street - 20th floor
Boston, MA 02202
Attention: MEPA Unit

Environmental Reviewer
Department of Environmental Protection
One Winter Street
Boston, MA 02108

Environmental Reviewer
DEP/Central Regional Office
75 Grove Street
Worcester, MA 01605

Environmental Reviewer
MHD - District #3
403 Belmont Street
Worcester, MA 01604

Medway Conservation Commission
Medway Town Hall
Medway, MA

Medway Planning Board
Medway Town Hall
Medway, MA

Environmental Reviewer
Division of Water Pollution Control
Department of Environmental Protection
One Winter Street
Boston, MA 02108

Environmental Reviewer
Division of Air Quality Control
Department of Environmental Protection
One Winter Street
Boston, MA 02108

Central Mass. Regional Planning Commission
20 Washington Square, Suite 300
Worcester, MA 01604-4013

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Mass. Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Municipal Facilities
Southeast Area Program Manager
One Winter Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Executive Office of Communities and
Development
State Clearinghouse
100 Cambridge Street - 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02202