



CONCORD PUBLIC WORKS

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June 20, 2012

Mr. Brian Pitt
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region 1
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Boston, Massachusetts 02109

Re: NPDES Permit No. MA0100668
Concord Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF) Discharge Capacity

Dear Mr. Pitt:

The Town of Concord appreciated the opportunity to meet with you and EPA permit writing staff on June 7, 2012, to discuss issues related to the Town's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. MA0100668.

As we discussed, Concord has been actively engaged in wastewater planning activities to supplement its Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP). The Integrated Planning Initiative, completed in early 2009, concluded that additional wastewater capacity is required to support Concord's needs for continuing sewer extensions included in the Town's CWMP, to support local Smart Growth initiatives, and to accommodate flow increases in the existing service area. These findings were captured in a report which was submitted to a Wastewater Planning Task Force (convened at the direction of Concord Board of Selectmen), and subsequently received strong community support at the 2009 Annual Town meeting.

The wastewater needs identified above led to comprehensive planning activities that have focused on alternatives for creating additional wastewater capacity. Despite complimentary efforts placed on wastewater flow mitigation via water conservation and infiltration/inflow programs, it has become increasingly evident that additional capacity at the Concord municipal WWTF is needed. Review of options for effluent disposal includes possible groundwater discharge to supplement the WWTF surface water discharge, and the Town has been working towards evaluating a possible groundwater disposal site adjacent to the existing WWTF. As we continue to explore opportunities associated with each wastewater capacity alternative evaluated, it is clear that an increase in the effluent discharge capacity under the WWTF surface water discharge permit may be the most viable alternative available.

As we discussed, the Town understands that the conventional permitting track associated with such an alternative could be potentially untenable. For this reason, we have offered to work with EPA and other

interested stakeholders towards the development of an integrated water resource management solution - one that integrates community wastewater, stormwater, and drinking water interests. With your support we believe we could put together a plan that could be comprehensive, timely, and one that is environmentally responsible and economically affordable. While we acknowledged that such an approach may be unorthodox, we were extremely encouraged to learn that within days of this meeting, EPA Headquarters had reached out to their regional offices with a memorandum which championed a permitting vision through an "Integrated Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Planning Approach Framework"¹.

We understand that the EPA permit staff is working towards issuance of a draft NPDES permit for the Concord WWTF. However, based on the status and expected timing of our planning effort, it is likely that the new permit will need to be revised soon after issuance. The Town of Concord therefore requests that EPA delay issuance of the new draft permit until the Town can complete its CWMP update and seek MEPA approval of its plan. A formal request for additional discharge capacity under the NPDES permit renewal process would then be submitted in accordance with the approved CWMP update.

We appreciate EPA's continued support through this process and ask that you provide a response to this request.

Sincerely,



Richard Reine, PWLF, Public Works Director
Concord Public Works

cc: Bryant Firmin, Massachusetts DEP
Christopher Whelan, Town Manager
Alan Cathcart, Concord Water and Sewer

¹ Stoner, Nancy & Giles, Cynthia, Memorandum to EPA Regional Administrators, June 5, 2012