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February 15, 2008

CERTIFICATE OF THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
ON THE
GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

PROJECT NAME	: Mosquito Control Program
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY	: Statewide
PROJECT WATERSHED	: Statewide
EOEA NUMBER	: 5027
PROJECT PROPONENT	: Department of Agricultural Resources - State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR	: November 26, 2007

As Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs, I hereby determine that this project requires programmatic review pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (G.L. c.30, ss. 61-62H) and its implementing regulations (301 CMR 11.00). On November 26, 2007, the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board (SRMCB), submitted a Generic Environmental Impact Report Update and a request that its Mosquito Control Program's future submissions be reviewed under the Special Review Procedures, 301 CMR 11.09. As described in a separate Certificate issued today, I have established a Special Review Procedure, to replace the GEIR format, by which the SRMCB shall continue their efforts to document and submit for MEPA review its policies and management practices for mosquito control throughout the Commonwealth.

Project Description

The State Reclamation and Control Board (SRMCB) is comprised of one representative each from the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), the Department of Food and Agriculture (DFA) and the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) and exercises responsibility for nine mosquito control projects in Massachusetts (Berkshire County, Bristol County, Cape Cod, Central Massachusetts, East Middlesex County, Norfolk County, Plymouth County, Suffolk County, and the North east Massachusetts Mosquito Control and Wetlands Management District (formerly Essex County MCP). The SRMCB was the designated lead agency in preparing the Mosquito Control GEIR. The last MEPA filing by the SRMCB, in 1998, was intended to provide a description of then-current data, practices and standards used to control mosquitoes statewide. The purpose of the GEIR was to gather in a single document information on the methods and environmental impacts of mosquito control and eradication in Massachusetts. The GEIR focused primarily on salt marshes, their respective pest mosquito problems and the effectiveness of related mosquito control activities. The Certificate on the GEIR reflected the SRMCB's commitment to provide annual updates, by which the SRMCB proposed to continually update and supplement the GEIR. The SRMCB submitted its first annual update on November 26, 2007, that included best management practices (BMPs) and operational guidance for mosquito control activities conducted in freshwater wetland resource areas. The GEIR Update provides important information pertaining to mosquito control activities in freshwater wetland resource areas in Massachusetts, but also serves to illustrate the need for more comprehensive information about the program's policies and activities.

In the Certificate establishing the SRP, I have directed the SRMCB to file its first "EIR Update" within six months of the date of this Certificate. The purpose of the first EIR Update will be to provide for MEPA review and public comment all policies and management practices that have been developed and implemented since the GEIR was published. In addition, the first EIR Update shall provide the outline of a proposed workplan and schedule for subsequent EIR Update filings, subject to guidance in the Scope, below. I will modify the Scope for ongoing review and establish a schedule for the review of subsequent EIR Updates based on my review of the first EIR Update and comments from agencies and the public.

SCOPE FOR FIRST EIR UPDATE

The goal of programmatic review is to identify and act upon specific recommendations for improving existing open marsh, freshwater, and chemical mosquito control activities to ensure that the public health is protected and impacts to the environment are minimized. The SRMCB should use the first EIR Update to establish a framework to achieve this overall goal. As identified in the 1998 Certificate on the GEIR and in the comments received on the GEIR Update, a key missing element of the current program is a monitoring program that can be used to modify best management practices and inform management decisions made within the integrated pest management matrix.

The first EIR Update should provide the following information:

1. A discussion of the organization and practice of mosquito control in Massachusetts, integrating materials described under #2, below;
2. Plans, analyses, policies and management practices that have been developed and implemented since the GEIR was filed;
3. A workplan and schedule for developing additional information and procedures to assess and guide SRMCB's mosquito control program. The workplan should propose measures to incorporate monitoring results to measure the effectiveness and impacts of mosquito control practices, and to provide the basis for modifying Best Management Practices. Such feedback may initially be provided by a description of the effectiveness and impacts of mosquito control projects through a review of studies done elsewhere on the same practices in similar habitats, but the workplan should also identify opportunities to develop targeted monitoring studies in conjunction with state agency, municipal, or non-governmental organization resources; and,
4. A response to comments received on the 1997 GEIR and 2007 GEIR Update. This Response to Comments section should include copies of all comment letters listed at the end of the GEIR Certificate of December 18, 1998, this GEIR Update Certificate.

The SRMCB should convene at least one meeting of relevant state agencies and parties who submitted comments on the GEIR Update to facilitate the development of the workplan and schedule. In addition, I expect that the SRMCB will coordinate closely with the state permitting and resource agencies to identify opportunities to leverage agency resources (e.g., mapping, fieldwork, wetlands ecology expertise) to ensure the development of a comprehensive and consistent program of policies and activities for mosquito control in Massachusetts.

The EIR Update should be circulated in compliance with Section 11.16 of the MEPA regulations and copies should also be sent to the list of "comments received" at the end of this Certificate and commenters listed on the October 1998 GEIR Certificate.

February 15, 2008

DATE



Ian A. Bowles, Secretary

Comments:

cc: Philip Weinberg, MassDEP/Boston

Comments received:

01/22/08	Mathew Selby, Ashland Conservation Commission
01/15/08	Carol Hurley
01/17/08	Town of Stow, Conservation Commission
01/17/08	Judith Eiseman
01/17/08	Lynn Southey
01/18/08	Mass Audubon
01/22/08	Jones River Watershed Association, Inc.
01/23/08	Green Futures
01/23/08	The Nature Conservancy
01/23/08	Alexandra Dawson
01/23/08	Mass Audubon
01/25/08	Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP)

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