

October 9, 2008

Kelly Richey, Chair
Conservation Commission
50 Payson Avenue
Easthampton, MA 01027

Reference: Nashawannuck Pond EIR Waiver, Easthampton

Dear Ms. Richey:

I am writing you on behalf of the Barnes Aquifer Protection Advisory Committee (BAPAC) to provide our comments regarding the proposed dredging of Nashawannuck Pond and the MEPA Final Record of Decision dated September 17, 2008. The committee was created in 1989 to address developments of regional impact that are proposed within the aquifer to ensure that drinking water resources remain safe for the more-than 60,000 people that it serves.

The dredge spoils are proposed to be deposited on a city-owned site categorized as a GW-1 groundwater area because it is within the Zone II. Although the sediment samples collected from the pond in 2002 contained metals, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), pesticides and extractable petroleum hydrocarbons (EPH), all concentrations were below the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP) standards for GW-1 areas. This area is also underlain with clay which offers the aquifer greater protection from contaminants. Therefore, BAPAC does not have any concerns relative to disposal of the spoils.

A monitoring well located at the edge of the field where the spoils will be deposited. BAPAC recommends that the monitoring well be flagged and protected so that it is not damaged during disposal site activities.

Two wells were supposedly drilled in Broad Brook a number of years ago to introduce cold water to the brook. BAPAC recommends that during the pond drawdown, the two wells in Broad Brook are located and possibly capped. BAPAC has recently identified abandoned wells as a potential source of contamination to the aquifer and is developing a plan for prioritizing abandoned wells for decommissioning. The pond drawdown is an excellent opportunity for such activities.

Thank for your consideration and the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Charles Darling, Chair

cc: Stuart Beckley, Easthampton Planning Department
Tom Newton, Easthampton Water Department