

February 6, 2008

Anthony Petrucelli, Chair
Westfield Planning Board
City Hall
59 Court Street
Westfield, MA 01085

Reference: Special Permit Application for L&B Trucking, 910 Southampton Road, Westfield

Dear Mr. Petrucelli:

I am writing you on behalf of the Barnes Aquifer Protection Advisory Committee (BAPAC) to provide our comments regarding the Special Permit application for a 100'x120' building addition at 910 Southampton Road in Westfield owned by L&B Trucking as an existing repair and sales center for tractor trailer trucks. The proponents engineer presented plans to BAPAC at their February 5, 2008 meeting. BAPAC is composed of representatives from the four jurisdictions in which the Barnes Aquifer is located. 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.

It is our understanding that the area planned for the building expansion and paved parking lot is currently a compacted gravel parking lot for tractor trailers with no systems for stormwater treatment. Stormwater currently infiltrates the gravel parking lot without treatment and/or sheet flows to Arm Brook and the associated wetland at the rear of the lot. The proponent is seeking to expand a non-conforming use (motor vehicle repair facility) under Westfield's Water Resource Protection District and increase the impervious surface above 15% of the site.

Given that the use is existing with no best management practices in place for groundwater protection, BAPAC supports the applicant's plans to install a stormwater treatment system for the site. However, BAPAC generally does not support infiltration on sites defined by the Massachusetts Stormwater Policy as having a higher potential pollutant load including vehicle repair facilities. Additionally, the proposed stormwater system includes a subsurface infiltration trench. Although the infiltration trench is being constructed with pretreatment (Stormceptor), infiltration trenches should be avoided in high potential pollutant loading areas and used *only* for uncontaminated rooftop water in Zone IIs according to the Massachusetts DEP Stormwater Handbook. Therefore, BAPAC requests that the applicant be held to the highest treatment standards for stormwater infiltration and consider alternative treatment systems appropriate for high potential pollutant loading land uses and Zone IIs.

Thank for your consideration and the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Michael Czerwiec
Vice-Chair

cc: Charles Darling, Water Resources Department