

April 3, 2008

Secretary Ian A. Bowles
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Attn: MEPA Office
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Reference: Airport Master plan Improvements at Westfield-Barnes Airport, Westfield, MA

Dear Secretary Bowles:

The Barnes Aquifer Protection Advisory Committee (BAPAC) has the following review comments on the above referenced project proposed for the Westfield-Barnes Airport, Westfield Massachusetts. The airport is within the Zone II to the Barnes Aquifer, an important regional aquifer providing water to over 60,000 people in the communities of Westfield, Easthampton, Southampton and Holyoke.

The ENF neglects to mention that the project location is within the Zone I and Zone II of the Barnes Aquifer. Under "List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals", the application lists only Site Plan Approval. Later in the Form, they mention that the construction of the new hangars will require an Aquifer Protection Special Permit from the city. The Special Permit should be noted on the first page with all other permits and approvals. The ENF also omits under local permits the need for an Order of Conditions from the Conservation Commission which has already been procured.

Drawing No. 1 Airport Master Plan Improvements and Drawing No. 2 Existing Facilities Plan do not include the City of Westfield's municipal wells #7 and #8 which are located immediately to the southeast of Runway 15-33 just outside of the airport fence and within the wetland area that has been delineated on both of these plans. BAPAC would like the presence of these wells acknowledged on these plans and made record as part of the Environmental Notification Form.

Pertinent to the health of Wells #7 and #8 are groundwater monitoring wells located on airport property also to the southeast of Runway 15-33. The monitoring wells were installed with the cooperation of the Westfield Airport Commission upstream of Wells #7 and #8 to detect any contamination that could occur from airport uses before it reached the municipal water distribution system.

Because the proposed airport improvements will occur within the Zone I and II, BAPAC requests that the proponent consider comments from the Westfield Water Resources Department and the Barnes Aquifer Protection Advisory Committee (BAPAC) prior to completing final design and obtain Water Resources Department approval for any work occurring in the Zone I.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Michael Czerwiec, Vice-Chair

cc: Dave Billips, Superintendent, Westfield Water Resources Department
Armand J. Dufresne, Gale Associates, 15 Constitution Drive, Bedford, NH
03110-6042