

March 6, 2008

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

Reference: Chicopee Concrete, Summit Lock 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 proposed site plan for Chicopee Concrete Service located on a 3.44 acre parcel on Summit Lock Road in Westfield. The proponent's engineer Dave Bean of D.L. Bean Inc. presented revised plans to BAPAC at their March 4, 2008 meeting and responded to our comments dated February 6, 2008. 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.

The proposed site plan includes a 30' wide trap rock gravel driveway, concrete bins for aggregate storage, a concrete apron around the batch plant area with a catchbasin and Stormceptor, a grassy area in the middle of the site that in the revised plan is proposed as a small ponding area for sheet flow runoff from the driveway and aggregate storage area, and a detention basin with an infiltration trench.

The City of Westfield is truly blessed with an abundant and clean water supply which is one of the reasons it has been able to steadily attract new businesses and homeowners in recent years. Because the City's zoning permits industrial uses within the recharge area to the Barnes Aquifer, it is absolutely imperative that the highest standards for groundwater protection are required, constructed and maintained at these facilities. Chicopee Concrete Services has been a family owned and operated business since the 1950s. The City of Westfield should be pleased to have attracted this reputable company to the area to meet the growing needs of the greater Westfield community, and it is these same growing needs that have brought this company to your doorstep that is of greatest concern to BAPAC.

The truck traffic at this facility may be minimal within the first few years of operation but as business grows, which is the intention of any expanding company, traffic will increase. Such traffic includes not only delivery vehicles coming and going from the site but those used on-site as part of the actual operation for moving aggregate from the storage area to the batch processing plant. From the perspective of groundwater protection, this means more vehicles contributing

metals, hydraulic fluids, petroleum, and deicing chemicals to stormwater runoff which becomes groundwater recharge. Therefore, it is absolutely critical that there is no direct infiltration of untreated runoff on land uses with high potential pollutant loads including the proposed industrial use. BAPAC requests that all roadways, driveways, delivery and receiving locations and material storage areas be paved and bermed so that all stormwater runoff from these pollutant generating areas be directed to pre-treatment prior to infiltration.

BAPAC recognizes the additional expense that this will cause the proponent. It may be possible for the applicant to redesign the site layout to reduce the amount of driveway and still adhere to an aesthetic standard respectful of the neighborhood. BAPAC recommends that the proponent reconsider the need for an infiltration trench which could provide cost savings.

BAPAC continues to question the use of an infiltration trench at this location for three reasons: 1) the use is likely to generate high sediment loading from the gravel driveway and the aggregate storage area and can lead to clogging which is the number one problem with infiltration trenches; 2) soils in this area are highly permeable which generally do not necessitate the need to expedite infiltration; and, 3) rapid infiltration in a Zone II is not preferable as it prevents any additional pollutant load attenuation by soil in the detention basin floor to be bypassed. Infiltration trenches are best used for uncontaminated rooftop runoff.

Long-term maintenance of stormwater facilities is very important to ensure their continued design standards. BAPAC requests that annual maintenance logs be submitted to the Westfield Water Resources Department.

Thank for your consideration and the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Michael Czerwiec  
Vice-Chair

cc: Charles Darling, Water Resources Department  
Dave Bean, D.L. Bean, Inc. 40 School Street, Westfield, MA 01085