



BARNES AQUIFER PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

c/o Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress Street, Springfield, MA 01104-3419

Developments of Regional Impact Review Guidance and Procedure

As established in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) creating the Barnes Aquifer Protection Advisory Committee (BAPAC), BAPAC will review and comment on projects occurring within the recharge area of the Barnes Aquifer, so called Developments of Regional Impact (DRI).

“The planning board of each municipality shall send to designated BAPAC members from each municipality and PVPC notice of all proposed and adopted zoning amendments, and, at the earliest possible time during review proceedings, information regarding any proposed site plan approval, special permit, subdivision requiring approval under subdivision control law, or removal of property from M.G. L. Chapters 61, 61A or 61B, where such is to occur within the Barnes Aquifer Region...Upon receipt of said items, the BAPAC may request additional information or notice of action, and may recommend measure to minimize or mitigate foreseeable significant impacts of any such proposal.” BAPAC MOU, 1989

The goal of BAPAC is to preserve the long term quality and quantity of water in the Barnes Aquifer. To this end, BAPAC is concerned with aquifer withdrawals and the quality and quantity of aquifer recharge. The following guidance is to assist in an efficient review process on DRIs.

Important questions to be answered –

- Is the use allowed under the local Aquifer Protection Bylaw? What are the potential impacts of the use on the aquifer? Example – will the use generate treat or store hazardous waste or materials? If so, how will these materials be handled and stored to prevent groundwater contamination?
- How much additional impervious cover is proposed? What systems will be implemented for clean aquifer recharge?
- What is the stormwater management plan? Does it comply with the local bylaw requirements for stormwater management plans?
- What are the provisions specific to treatment of pollutants likely to be generated at the site, such as oil/grease, automotive fluids, heavy metals, sediment, bacteria, salt and deicing chemicals, etc.? *Pretreatment of pollutants prior to recharge is absolutely critical to protection of the aquifer!*
- What are the natural conditions at the site, surface and subsurface?

- What provisions are provided to prevent an accidental release of hazardous substances from reaching the infiltration system? Example – is there a gate valve prior to the infiltration basin?
- Has an Operation and Maintenance Plan for the stormwater management system been completed? Annual maintenance logs must be submitted to local municipality.
- Has an Emergency Response and Spill Containment Plan been developed? A copy must be provided to local municipality.
- Are there any existing or proposed drywells? Drywells are considering Class V Injection Wells and must be registered with MA Department of Environmental Protection. Proponents must contact DEP's Underground Injection Control coordinator at (617) 348-4014 and document registration to BAPAC. Drywells must also be 100' away from a septic system.
- Does the project limit disturbances to natural areas and preserve natural areas such as forest, meadow, and buffer areas to regulated resource areas such as rivers, ponds and wetlands?

Additional measures for aquifer protection –

- Lawn size restrictions
- Synthetic chemical fertilizer, herbicide and pesticide application restrictions
- Tertiary containment for on-site fuel storage up to 110% of volume as well as leak detection and overfill alarms
- Direct clean roof runoff into on-site drywells
- Alternatives to sodium chloride for winter de-icing
- Floor drains, where allowed under local and state regulations, must be plumbed to either a tight tank or the sanitary sewer
- Storage of all potentially hazardous materials (chemicals, salt, manure, etc.) must be fully contained and prevent comingling with stormwater.

Procedure For Responding to DRIs

1. Affected community, or proponent if directed by community, submits copy of plans and supporting documentation to BAPAC one (1) week prior to BAPAC meeting. BAPAC meets on the first or second Tuesday of the month.

2. Project representative attends BAPAC meeting, presents project and responds to questions.
3. BAPAC submits a comment letter to the applicable community board and/or department, and project proponent, prior to applicable permit hearing.

Plans should be submitted to: BAPAC Facilitator, c/o Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress Street, 1st Floor, Springfield, MA 01104-3419.

To schedule a review of plans at an upcoming BAPAC meeting, contact: Anne Capra at (413) 781-6045 or acapra@pvpc.org .