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December 22, 2023

CERTIFICATE OF THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
ON THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL NOTIFICATION FORM

PROJECT NAME : Lake Nip and John P. Lynn PFAS Water Treatment Plants  
(WTPs) Construction Project  
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Raynham  
PROJECT WATERSHED : Taunton River  
EEA NUMBER : 16767  
PROJECT PROPONENT : Raynham Center Water District  
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : November 8, 2022

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA; M.G.L. c. 30, ss. 61-62L) and Section 11.06 of the MEPA Regulations (301 CMR 11.00), I hereby determine that this project **does not require** the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Project Description

As described in the Environmental Notification Form (ENF), the project consists of the construction of two (Lake Nip and John P. Lynn Water Treatment Plants) water treatment plants (WTP) with a combined capacity of 3.7 million gallons per day (mgd) at two existing iron and manganese WTPs in the Town of Raynham (Town). The project is proposed to address the presence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)<sup>1</sup> in the Town's water supply. Currently, the existing buildings at both WTPs do not have adequate space to accommodate additional treatment equipment for PFAS. As such work at the Lake Nip WTP includes the demolition of an existing building housing granular

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<sup>1</sup> More information on PFAS can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/basic-information-pfas>

activated carbon (GAC) filters<sup>2</sup> and the construction of a new, single-story PFAS treatment building (approximately 3,000 sf) with a treatment capacity of 1.22 mgd to accommodate new process equipment and building systems. Additional site work includes tree clearing, grubbing, grading, and driveway paving. Stormwater controls will include a new subsurface infiltration system for roof runoff from the new PFAS WTP. An existing concrete drainage swale will be redeveloped into a vegetated swale to provide stormwater pre-treatment and improve water quality prior to discharge.

Work at the John P. Lynn WTP consists of the construction of a new, single-story PFAS WTP building (approximately 9,360 sf) with a treatment capacity of 2.48 mgd. Similar to the Lake Nip WTP, the John P. Lynn WTP requires tree clearing, grubbing, and grading. New walkways are proposed, as well as upgrades to the existing driveway. The project also includes modifications to existing stormwater controls and a new stormwater basin for roof runoff will be installed.

### Project Site

The project involves two separate site locations (approximately 2 miles apart), which include the Lake Nip WTP and the John P. Lynn WTP. The Lake Nip WTP and its associated water treatment and supply infrastructure sit on 1.29 acres of town-owned property located at 626 Elm Street in Raynham. The site abuts Lake Nippenicket (commonly known as Lake Nip) to the north, commercial facilities to the east, and residential units and open space to the south and west. The John P. Lynn WTP and its associated water treatment and supply infrastructure sit on 4.87 acres of Town-owned property located at 418 Titicut Road in Raynham. The project site is bounded by Raynham Middle School to the south, Interstate 495 to the north, residences to the west, and Gushee Pond to the east.

The Town's water supply consists of 9 wells which receive treatment at three WTPs with a total capacity of 4 mgd. Out of the 9 wells, 5 Lake Nip Wells service the Lake Nip WTP, 3 Gushee Pond Wells service the John P. Lynn WTP, and 1 Fountain Well services the North Main Street WTP. The Fountain Well and North Main Street WTP are not included in the scope of work of this project.

Wetland resources within the project site include the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW). The project site is located entirely within the Hockomock Swamp Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), the scope of work is not located within the current 100-year flood plain. A Project Notification Form (PNF) (#RC.73719) was submitted to the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) on August 18, 2023. MHC responded to the request with a determination that the proposed project was unlikely to affect significant historic or archaeological resources. There are no Environmental Justice (EJ) Populations within one mile of the project site. The ENF indicates that there are 18 EJ Populations, characterized by Income criteria, within five miles of the site, and indicates that the "designated geographic area" ("DGA") as defined in 301 CMR 11.02) is 1 mile.

### Prior MEPA Review

The Proponent submitted two previous ENFs for the construction of potable water wells located at the John P. Lynn WTP. The first ENF was submitted for Gushee Pond Well No. 2 in 1998, and the

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<sup>2</sup> The GAC filters were previously used to remove volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that are no longer present in the groundwater and therefore the filters are no longer needed.

second ENF was submitted for Gushee Pond Well No. 3 in 2004. Each of the two projects were submitted in an effort to construct new wells to meet future water demand and add operational flexibility for the Town's water supply. The ENF Certificate for Gushee Pond Well No. 2 was issued on March 13, 1998, determining that no EIR was required. The ENF Certificate for Gushee Pond Well No. 3 was issued on February 6, 2004, determining that no EIR was required for that filing.

### Environmental Impacts and Mitigation

Potential environmental impacts associated with the project include alteration of 0.95 (0.14 Lake Nip WTP and 0.84 John. P Lynn WTP) acres of land and the creation of 0.49 (0.04 Lake Nip WTP and 0.45 John P. Lynn WTP) acres of impervious surface (for a total of 1.17 acres within both project sites). The project will include alteration in the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. The project will generate 380 gpd of wastewater (190 gpd at each WTP).

Measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate environmental impacts include stormwater management improvements, the use of erosion and sedimentation controls during project construction, and the restoration of temporarily disturbed areas following construction.

### Jurisdiction and Permitting

This project is subject to MEPA review and preparation of an ENF pursuant to 301 CMR 11.03(4)(b)(5) because it requires Agency Action and involves the expansion of an existing drinking water treatment plant by the greater of 1,000,000 gpd or 10% of existing capacity. While not identified in the ENF, the project may also exceed the MEPA review threshold at 301 CMR 11.03(11)(b) for any project of ½ or more acres within a designated ACEC, unless the project consists solely of one single family dwelling. The project requires a BRP-WS 24 permit (Approval to Construct a Water Treatment Facility) from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) for each WTP.

The project will require a submission of a Notice of Intent (NOI) or a Watershed Protection Act (WsPA) Determination of Applicability to the Raynham Conservation Commission. The project will also require a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit (CGP) from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Because the project is anticipated to receive Financial Assistance through the Clean Water Act State Revolving Fund (SRF), which is administered by MassDEP and other state agencies, MEPA jurisdiction is broad in scope and extends to all aspects of the project that may cause Damage to the Environment, as defined in the MEPA regulations.

### Review of the ENF

The ENF provided a description of existing and proposed conditions, preliminary project plans and an alternatives analysis. It identified measures to avoid, minimize and mitigate environmental impacts. Consistent with the MEPA Interim Protocol on Climate Change Adaptation and Resiliency, the ENF contained an output report from the MA Climate Resilience Design Standards Tool prepared by the Resilient Massachusetts Action Team (RMAT) (the "MA Resilience Design Tool"),<sup>3</sup> together with

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<sup>3</sup> [https://resilientma.org/rmat\\_home/designstandards/](https://resilientma.org/rmat_home/designstandards/)

information on climate resilience strategies to be undertaken by the project. Comments from the public expressed concern regarding tree cutting and urge further measures to minimize impacts to the ACEC. Comments from Agencies are supportive of the project and do not request additional analysis in the form of an EIR.

### *Alternatives Analysis*

As noted above, the project is proposed to address PFAS detected in the Town's water supply. Alternatives were evaluated based on their ability to achieve this goal while minimizing environmental impacts and providing system redundancy for the Town's water supply. The ENF evaluated Alternative 1 (No-Action), Alternative 2 (Centralized PFAs WTP) and Alternative 3 (the Preferred Alternative). The No-Action Alternative would involve no action to reduce PFAS concentrations. This Alternative would not result in any impacts to environmental resources but would not allow the Town to provide safe drinking water; as such, it was dismissed.

Alternative 2 involves constructing a new PFAS WTP at a centralized location at the current North Main Street WTP. The Lake Nip WTP and the John P. Lynn WTP are located approximately two miles apart, with the North Main Street WTP located at the halfway point, one mile from each WTP. The North Main Street WTP parcel is approximately 4.67 acres. Construction of a centralized WTP at the North Main Street location would involve construction of approximately 3,300 linear feet of raw water transmission main within or along State Route 104 (North Main Street) and across the 495 overpass to convey water from the Lake Nip Wells. From the John P. Lynn WTP to North Main Street WTP, approximately 7,000 linear feet of raw water transmission main along State Route 104 and through residential neighborhoods would be required. While a centralized WTP would be beneficial for operations and staffing, it would pose significant disturbance to the residential neighbors located to the north, south, and west of the current North Main WTP. Because this alternative would require approximately 2 miles of new raw water transmission main, impact abutting private property and reduce system redundancy compared to the Preferred Alternative, it was dismissed.

According to the ENF, the Preferred Alternative involves the construction of two new PFAS WTPs buildings at the existing Lake Nip and John P. Lynn WTP sites as the current buildings do not have adequate space to accommodate PFAS treatment equipment. As described above, the Lake Nip WTP option involves demolishing the existing GAC building and constructing a new PFAS WTP at the Lake Nip site. The new WTP building will be approximately 3,000 square feet and will be located 30 feet to the east of the existing WTP building. The John P. Lynn WTP involves the construction of a new PFAS WTP at the John P. Lynn WTP site. The proposed treatment system will include the construction of a new approximately 9,900 square foot building approximately 25 feet to the west of the existing WTP. The ENF states that the Preferred Alternative meets the goals of the project of addressing PFAS in the Town's water supply while also providing system redundancy through the use of three WTPs compared to one with the previous alternative.

### *Land Alteration, Stormwater and Wetlands*

The project will result in the alteration of 0.95 acres of land and the creation of 0.49 acres of impervious surface. The ENF states that approximately 4,200 sf of trees will be removed at the Lake Nip site and approximately 27,300 sf of trees will be removed at the John P. Lynn site to accommodate the

two new WTPs. The ENF states that both WTP sites are historically gravel pits. Both sites were originally cleared to excavate gravel, and as such, a majority of the proposed clearing for this project impacts new growth that has occurred since the late 1990s to early 2000s. The Proponent will explore planting trees both at the project site and the surrounding area to mitigate for the loss of trees as a result of the project.

The ENF states that stormwater generated by the proposed project will be treated, infiltrated, and stored in accordance with all Massachusetts Stormwater Management Standards (SMS). A vegetated channel and subsurface infiltration chambers will be used at the Lake Nip site. A grass channel, sediment forebay, and infiltration basin will be used at the John P. Lynn site for stormwater control. The ENF states that the stormwater systems at both sites will mitigate peak runoff rates for the current 100-year storm event and provide 80% total suspended solids (TSS) removal and 44% TSS pretreatment.

Tree clearing, grubbing, grading, and driveway paving at the Lake Nip WTP site will require work within approximately 6,450 sf of the 100-foot Buffer Zone to BVW. The Raynham Conservation Commission will review the project for its consistency with the Wetlands Protections Act (WPA), the Wetland Regulations (310 CMR 10.00), and associated performance standards. Comments from MassDEP confirm that the project requires a Request for Determination of Applicability or a Notice of Intent to be submitted to the Raynham Conservation Commission and the MassDEP prior to the commencement of work within the 100-foot buffer zone to BVW.

#### *Water Resources*

The Lake Nip and John P. Lynn WTPs provide the largest source of drinking water for the distribution system in Raynham. The ENF states that PFAS levels detected in wells serving both WTPs have been found near or exceeding the MassDEP maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 20 parts per trillion (ppt) causing the Gushee Pond Well No. 3 (PFAS levels detected at 20.24 ppt) and Lake Nip Well No. 2 (PFAS levels detected at 33.9 ppt) to be removed from service. The proposed WTPs will address these PFAS concentrations.

As described above, neither of the existing buildings at the Lake Nip or John P. Lynn WTPs have adequate space to accommodate additional treatment equipment for PFAS. Therefore, the new WTPs will be designed to accommodate one pair of 12-foot diameter PFAS treatment vessels at the Lake Nip WTP and two pairs of 12-foot diameter PFAS treatment vessels at the John P. Lynn WTP. Both proposed treatment plant systems will consist of lead/lag configuration paired PFAS treatment vessels. The design at the Lake Nip WTP will also include a 4-log contact/ backwash supply clearwell with new high lift pumps and chemical storage. Additional work at the John P. Lynn WTP includes relocation of the pre-filtration aeration and pumping systems to the new building, and construction of a new backwash supply / 4-log clearwell and high head pumping systems. Backwash drains for the new PFAS treatment systems will utilize the existing backwash lagoon systems at both sites and residuals will be periodically disposed of offsite. There is no proposed increase in water withdrawal as part of the project. Comments from MassDEP express support for the project.

### *ACEC*

The project site is entirely located within the Hockomock Swamp ACEC, which was designated in February 1990. The ACEC encompasses an area of 16,950 acres in Bridgewater, Easton, Norton, Raynham, Taunton and West Bridgewater. Wetlands and water bodies within the ACEC comprise the largest vegetated freshwater wetland system in Massachusetts and act as a reservoir for both regional flood storage and water supply. In addition, the ACEC contains unique and irreplaceable wildlife habitat, including habitat for at least 13 rare and endangered species. The ENF states that, in order to avoid negative impacts to the ACEC associated with stormwater runoff, all Massachusetts SMS will be followed during the course of the project. No new untreated discharges will be added. Construction period erosion and sedimentation control measures will also be implemented, including the use of silt fencing and straw wattles and bales.

### *Climate Change Adaptation and Resiliency*

Effective October 1, 2021, all MEPA projects are required to submit an output report from the MA Resilience Design Tool to assess the climate risks of the project. Based on the output report attached to the ENF, the project has a “High” exposure rating based on the project’s location for the following climate parameters: extreme precipitation (urban flooding and riverine flooding) and extreme heat. Based on the 50-year useful life and the self-assessed criticality of both WTPs, the MA Resilience Design Tool recommends a planning horizon of 2070 and a return period associated with a 25-year (4% chance) storm event when designing the project for the extreme precipitation parameter. The tool recommends planning for the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile with respect to extreme heat (which indicates an increase in extremely hot days as compared to a historical baseline). The Proponent has indicated the stormwater system will be able to accommodate the current 100-year storm (24-hour rainfall depth of 7.7”). This does not appear to be fully resilient to rainfall depths anticipated for the 2070 25-year storm (identified as 8.3” in the MA Resilience Design Tool). The Proponent is encouraged to improve stormwater design to accommodate future climate conditions.

### *Construction*

Work at both WTPs is anticipated to commence in Summer 2024. Comments from MassDEP state before beginning of any demolition or renovation, the Proponent is required to have structures inspected by a licensed asbestos inspector to identify the presence, location and quantity of any asbestos-containing material and prepare a written asbestos survey report. The Proponent is required to submit an Asbestos Removal Notification Form AQ04 (ANF-001) and/or a Construction/Demolition Notification form (Form BWP AQ06) to MassDEP at least 10 working days prior to beginning work.

All construction activities should be managed in accordance with applicable MassDEP’s regulations regarding Air Pollution Control (310 CMR 7.01, 7.09-7.10), and Solid Waste Facilities (310 CMR 16.00 and 310 CMR 19.00, including the waste ban provision at 310 CMR 19.017). The project should include measures to reduce construction period impacts (e.g., noise, dust, odor, solid waste management) and emissions of air pollutants from equipment, including anti-idling measures in accordance with the Air Quality regulations (310 CMR 7.11). I encourage the Proponent to require that its contractors use construction equipment with engines manufactured to Tier 4 federal emission standards, or select project contractors that have installed retrofit emissions control devices or vehicles

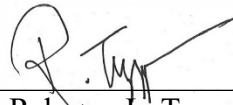
that use alternative fuels to reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), carbon monoxide (CO) and particulate matter (PM) from diesel-powered equipment. Off-road vehicles are required to use ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel (ULSD). If oil and/or hazardous materials are found during construction, the Proponent should notify MassDEP in accordance with the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (310 CMR 40.00). All construction activities should be undertaken in compliance with the conditions of all State and local permits.

### Conclusion

The ENF has adequately described and analyzed the project and its alternatives, and assessed its potential environmental impacts and mitigation measures. Based on review of the ENF and comments received on it, and in consultation with Agencies, I have determined that an EIR is not required.

December 22, 2023

Date



Rebecca L. Tepper

### Comments received:

12/11/2023	Melissa Ramondetta
12/12/2023	Lake Nippenicket Action Focus Team
12/13/2023	Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), Southeast Regional Office (SERO)

RLT/NSP/nsp



Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

## Department of Environmental Protection

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December 12, 2023

Rebecca L. Tepper,  
Secretary of Energy and Environment  
Executive Office of Energy and  
Environmental Affairs  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900  
ATTN: MEPA Office  
Boston, MA 02114

RE: ENF Review. EOEEA # 16767  
RAYNHAM. Lake Nip and John P. Lynn  
PFAS Water Treatment Plants (WTPs) at  
626 East Elm Street

Dear Secretary Tepper,

The Southeast Regional Office of the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) has reviewed the Environmental Notification Form (ENF) for the Lake Nip and John P. Lynn PFAS Water Treatment Plants (WTPs) at 626 East Elm Street, Raynham, Massachusetts (EOEEA #16767). The Project Proponent provides the following information for the Project:

**The Project is proposed as one (1) construction package and intended to be funded through the Massachusetts Drinking Water SRF Loan Program. The proposed treatment systems will include the construction of two new PFAS WTPs on the Town-owned Water District property; one construction located at the site of the John P. Lynn WTP, and the other located at the site of the Lake Nip WTP. The proposed Limits of Work at each Project Site is as follows:**

- **Lake Nip WTP 1.29 acres<sup>2</sup>**
- **John P. Lynn WTP 4.87 acres<sup>3</sup> The Lake Nip WTP will have a design flow of 1.22 MGD and the John P. Lynn WTP will have a design flow of 2.48 MGD.**

This project includes the construction of two new PFAS WTPs at two existing iron and manganese WTPs; the Lake Nip WTP and the John P. Lynn WTP. Currently, the existing buildings at the Lake Nip WTP do not have adequate space to accommodate additional treatment equipment for PFAS. As such, proposed improvements at the Lake Nip WTP include the demolition of the existing building housing GAC filters, construction of a new PFAS WTP to house new PFAS treatment vessels, and minor upgrades to existing equipment. Proposed work at the John P. Lynn WTP includes the construction of a new PFAS WTP building to house PFAS treatment vessels, relocation of prefiltration aeration and pumping systems to the new building, and construction of a new backwash supply / 4-log clearwell and high speed pumping systems. All major chemical feed and storage systems located within the existing aeration building will be relocated to the new PFAS WTP.

This information is available in alternate format. Please contact Melixza Esenyie at 617-626-1282.

TTY# MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370  
MassDEP Website: [www.mass.gov/dep](http://www.mass.gov/dep)

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**Both proposed treatment plant systems will consist of lead/lag configuration paired PFAS treatment vessels, Both proposed treatment plant systems will consist of lead/lag configuration paired PFAS treatment vessels, one pair at Lake Nip (two total vessels) and two pairs at John P. Lynn (four total vessels)**

### ***Bureau of Water Resources (BWR) Comments***

**Wetlands.** The MassDEP SERO has reviewed the ENF for the proposed construction of two WTPs in Raynham, Massachusetts. Portions of the work are proposed in the 100-foot buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW) (310 CMR 10.55). The WTPs are located within the Hockomock Swamp Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

DEP-SERO Wetlands Program notes that a Request for Determination of Applicability or a Notice of Intent is required to be submitted to the Raynham Conservation Commission and the Department prior to the commencement of work within the 100-foot buffer zone to BVW. The project will result in approximately 0.49 acres of new impervious area. A Stormwater Management Report has been submitted with the ENF in accordance with 310 CMR 10.05(6)(k)-(q). The stormwater management report must also be included with any Notice of Intent filing to the Raynham Conservation Commission.

**Waterways.** This Project has no work proposed within Waterways jurisdiction.

**Drinking Water.** The Raynham Center Water District (PWS ID 4245000) proposes the construction of two new PFAS Water Treatment Plants on Town-owned Water District property. One treatment plant will be located at the Lake Nip Water Treatment Plant site and the second one at the John P. Lynn Water Treatment Plant. The existing buildings at the Lake Nip WTP do not have adequate space to accommodate additional treatment equipment for PFAS so the existing buildings will be demolished, and a new treatment plant constructed. At the John P. Lynn WTP, a new PFAS WTP building will be constructed to house PFAS treatment vessels. There will be no increase in the water withdrawals from both sites. The modifications will allow the Raynham Center Water District to provide safe drinking water to their customers. The drinking water program fully supports both projects.

**Stormwater.** As a new construction project, the Project Proponent is advised to meet the standards found in the Massachusetts Stormwater Handbook, the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (WPA) stormwater regulations (310 CMR 10.05(6) and the 401 Water Quality Certification Regulations (314 CMR 9.06(6)). Stormwater runoff should be treated to achieve total suspended solid removal percentages. Further guidance can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/massachusetts-stormwater-handbook-and-stormwater-standards>.

### **Stormwater Management/National Pollutants Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit. Construction General Permit**

The Project Proponent acknowledges its requirement to obtain a NPDES Stormwater Permit for its Construction Activities through a Notice of Intent (NOI) to EPA via the [Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activities | National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System \(NPDES\) | US EPA](#). for the development of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).

The Proponent is advised to consult with Sania Kamran (Kamran.Sania@epa.gov, 617- 918-1522) for questions regarding EPA's NPDES Construction General Permit requirements.

In addition, the Proponent is reminded that local Planning Boards (and/or other local authorities) may require stormwater controls beyond that of the Wetlands protection Act. These controls are usually created to keep stormwater onsite so as not to create nuisance conditions offsite.

### ***Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup (BWSC) Comments***

Based upon the information provided, the Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup (BWSC) searched its databases for disposal sites and release notifications that have occurred at or might impact the proposed project area. A disposal site is a location where there has been a release to the environment of oil and/or hazardous material that is regulated under M.G.L. c. 21E, and the Massachusetts Contingency Plan [MCP – 310 CMR 40.0000].

RTN 4-0000520 was not addressed by the proponent and is summarized herein. RTN 4-0000520 was issued to Rozenas, Inc., owner of 1443 and 1450 North Main Street, Raynham, MA regarding liability for requiring testing of underground storage tanks in 1987. Assessment determined that total BTEX was detected in groundwater at 58,800 ug/L in MW-2 located approximately 350 feet southeast of the proposed Lake Nip PFAS WTP. Because the owner of the property was unwilling or unable to conduct response actions, MassDEP undertook response actions necessary to protect the Public Water Supply Wells. MassDEP did not complete all the response actions necessary to reach a Permanent Solution, therefore the RTN is still “open”. Given the response actions conducted and the length of time since those actions without an impact on the wells, there appears to be a minimal likelihood of negative impact on the wells.

Interested parties may view a map showing the location of BWSC disposal sites using the MassGIS data viewer at [MassMapper](#). Under the Available Data Layers listed on the right sidebar, select “Regulated Areas”, and then “DEP Tier Classified 21E Sites”. MCP reports and the compliance status of specific disposal sites may be viewed using the BWSC Waste Sites/Reportable Release Lookup at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/portal#!/search/wastesite>

*The Project Proponent is advised that if oil and/or hazardous material are identified during the implementation of this project, notification pursuant to the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (310 CMR 40.0000) must be made to MassDEP, if necessary. A Licensed Site Professional (LSP) should be retained to determine if notification is required and, if need be, to render appropriate opinions. The LSP may evaluate whether risk reduction measures are necessary if contamination is present. The BWSC may be contacted for guidance if questions arise regarding cleanup.*

### ***Bureau of Air and Waste (BAW) Comments***

**Air Quality.** Construction and operation activities shall not cause or contribute to a condition of air pollution due to dust, odor or noise. To determine the appropriate requirements please refer to:

- 310 CMR 7.09 Dust, Odor, Construction, and Demolition
- 310 CMR 7.10 Noise

The Proponent is taking efforts to reduce dust during construction.

### ***Construction-Related Measures***

The Project Proponent reports: “In Massachusetts, any diesel-powered non-road construction equipment with engine horsepower ratings of 50 and above to be used for 30 or more days over the course of construction will either be United States Environmental Protection Agency (“USEPA”)

Tier 4-compliant or will be retrofitted with USEPA-verified (or equivalent) emission control devices such as oxidation catalysts or other comparable technologies (to the extent that they are commercially available) installed on the exhaust system side of the diesel combustion engine.

In addition to the emission control requirements, the following measures will be implemented:

- Use of on-road low sulfur diesel fuel will be required for off-road construction equipment.
- Refueling and servicing equipment in resource areas and, where possible, the Buffer Zone, will be prohibited.
- On-road and off-road vehicle idling will be limited to the extent practicable.”

MassDEP requests that all non-road diesel equipment rated 50 horsepower or greater meet EPA’s Tier 4 emission limits, which are the most stringent emission standards currently available for off-road engines. If a piece of equipment is not available in the Tier 4 configuration, then the Proponent should use construction equipment that has been retrofitted with appropriate emissions reduction equipment. Emission reduction equipment includes EPA-verified, CARB-verified, or MassDEP-approved diesel oxidation catalysts (DOCs) or Diesel Particulate Filters (DPFs). The Proponent should maintain a list of the engines, their emission tiers, and, if applicable, the best available control technology installed on each piece of equipment on file for Departmental review.

MassDEP reminds the Proponent that unnecessary idling (*i.e.*, in excess of five minutes), with limited exception, is not permitted during the construction and operations phase of the Project (Section 7.11 of [310 CMR 7.00](#)). With regard to construction period activity, typical methods of reducing idling include driver training, periodic inspections by site supervisors, and posting signage. In addition, to ensure compliance with this regulation once the Project is underway, MassDEP recommends that the Proponent install signs limiting idling to five minutes or less on-site.

**Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)**, If any occupant of the Project will generate hazardous waste and/or waste oil, that entity must register with the MassDEP or EPA to obtain a permanent identification number for legally generating and managing regulated waste.

**Solid Waste Management**. The Project Proponent reports: “Solid waste will be generated throughout the construction process. Suitable construction waste such as demolished concrete can be recycled on the project sites as clean fill where needed.

Waste Excess or waste materials generated from construction will be recycled, reused, or require disposal. Salvaged stone materials will be reused to the extent practicable. The contractors will be responsible for proper disposal/recycling of the materials in accordance with Massachusetts solid waste regulations.”

As a reminder, the Project Proponent is advised of the following requirements:

1. *Reuse of any demolition material requires submittal of MassDEP’s BWP SW41 – Beneficial Use Determination – Restricted Applications. The permit is intended to protect public health, safety, and the environment by comprehensively regulating the reuse of waste materials as effective substitutes for a commercial product or commodity. Information pertaining to this requirement is available at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/instructions-sw-39-40-41-42-beneficial-use-determinations/download>.*
2. *Compliance with Waste Ban Regulations:* Waste materials discovered during construction that are determined to be solid waste (e.g., construction and demolition waste) and/or recyclable

material (e.g., metal, asphalt, brick, and concrete) shall be disposed, recycled, and/or otherwise handled in accordance with the Solid Waste Regulations including *310 CMR 19.017: Waste Bans*. Waste Ban regulations prohibit the disposal, transfer for disposal, or contracting for disposal of certain hazardous, recyclable, or compostable items at solid waste facilities in Massachusetts, including, but not limited to, metal, wood, asphalt pavement, brick, concrete, and clean gypsum wallboard. The goals of the waste bans are to: promote reuse, waste reduction, or recycling; reduce the adverse impacts of solid waste management on the environment; conserve capacity at existing solid waste disposal facilities; minimize the need for construction of new solid waste disposal facilities; and support the recycling industry by ensuring that large volumes of material are available on a consistent basis. Further guidance can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-waste-disposal-bans>.

MassDEP recommends the Proponent consider source separation or separating different recyclable materials at the job site. Source separation may lead to higher recycling rates and lower recycling costs. Further guidance can be found at: <https://recyclingworksma.com/construction-demolition-materials-guidance/>

For more information on how to prevent banned materials from entering the waste stream the Proponent should contact the RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts program at (888) 254-5525 or via email at [info@recyclingworksma.com](mailto:info@recyclingworksma.com). RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts also provides a website that includes a searchable database of recycling service providers, available at <http://www.recyclingworksma.com>.

3. *Asphalt, brick, and concrete (ABC) rubble*, such as the rubble generated by the demolition of buildings or other structures must be handled in accordance with the Solid Waste regulations. These regulations allow, and MassDEP encourages, the recycling/reuse of ABC rubble. The Proponent should refer to MassDEP's Information Sheet, entitled "Using or Processing Asphalt Pavement, Brick and Concrete Rubble, Updated February 27, 2017", that answers commonly asked questions about ABC rubble and identifies the provisions of the solid waste regulations that pertain to recycling/reusing ABC rubble. This policy can be found on-line at the MassDEP website: <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/03/19/abc-rubble.pdf>.
4. *Tree removal/land clearing*: As defined in 310 CMR 16.02, clean wood means "discarded material consisting of trees, stumps and brush, including but limited to sawdust, chips, shavings, bark, and new or used lumber"...etc. Clean wood does not include wood from commingled construction and demolition waste, engineered wood products, and wood containing or likely to contain asbestos, chemical preservatives, or paints, stains or other coatings, or adhesives. The Proponent should be aware that wood is not allowed to be buried or disposed of at the Site pursuant to 310 CMR 16.00 & 310 CMR 19.000 unless otherwise approved by MassDEP. Clean wood may be handled in accordance with 310 CMR 16.03(2)(c)7 which allows for the on-site processing (i.e., chipping) of wood for use at the Site (i.e., use as landscaping material) and/or the wood to be transported to a permitted facility (i.e., wood waste reclamation facility) or other facility that is permitted to accept and process wood.

**Asbestos.** The Project Proponent reports "the demolition of the existing building housing GAC filters."

As a reminder, the Project Proponent is advised of the following requirements:

1. *Building Demolition and Asbestos Containing Waste Material*: The Project Proponent is advised that demolition activity must comply with both Solid Waste and Air Quality Control regulations. Please note that MassDEP promulgated revised Asbestos Regulations (310 CMR 7.15) that became effective on June 20, 2014. The new regulations contain requirements to conduct a pre-demolition/renovation asbestos survey by a licensed asbestos inspector and post abatement visual inspections by a licensed asbestos Project monitor. The Massachusetts Department of Labor and Work Force Development, Division of Labor Standards (DLS) is the agency responsible for licensing and regulating all asbestos abatement contractors, designers, Project monitors, inspectors, and analytical laboratories in the state of Massachusetts.
2. *Asbestos Survey Requirements*. Prior to conducting any demolition or renovation activities, MassDEP's Asbestos Regulations at 310 CMR 7.15(4) requires any owner or operator of a building or facility to employ or engage a Department of Labor Standards (DLS) licensed asbestos inspector to thoroughly inspect the facility using US EPA approved procedures and methods to identify the presence, location and quantity of any ACM or suspect ACM and to prepare a written asbestos survey report. The survey shall identify and assess suspect ACM located in all areas that will be breached or otherwise affected by the demolition activities, including, but not limited to wall cavities, pipe chases, subsurface conduits, areas above ceilings and under/between multiple layers of flooring. Adequate and representative samples must be collected of all suspect asbestos containing building materials and sent to a DLS certified laboratory for analysis, using US EPA approved analytical methods.

The written asbestos survey report shall contain an inventory of the exact locations of the ACM or suspect ACM from which samples were collected, analytical results of all samples taken, the date(s) such samples were collected, the name(s) of the persons who provided asbestos analytical services, and a blueprint, site map, diagram or written description of the facility and locations(s) thereof subject to demolition or renovation. This documentation shall clearly identify each location subject to demolition and/or renovation and the corresponding footage (square and/or linear) of any ACM or suspect ACM in each location.

3. *Asbestos Abatement Requirements*. The owner or operator must hire a DLS licensed asbestos abatement contractor to remove and dispose of any asbestos containing material(s) from the facility or facility component, prior to conducting any demolition or renovation activities. The removal and handling of asbestos from the facility or facility components must adhere to the Specific Asbestos Abatement Work Practice Standards required at 310 CMR 7.15(7).

If any proposed alterations or exemptions to Specific Asbestos Abatement Work Practice Standards required at 310 CMR 7.15(7) are proposed, the owner or operator must submit a Non-Traditional Asbestos Abatement Work Practice Plan (NTWP) to MassDEP for approval in accordance with 310 CMR 7.15 (14). As part of an NTWP submittal package, MassDEP will require pre- and post- abatement inspections to ensure alternate work practices specified in the approved NTWP are adhered to. The AQ 36 Non-Traditional Asbestos Abatement Work Practice Approval application form (AQ 36) and instructions for submitting the NTWP and AQ 36, can be found at the following links: Application: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/aq-36-non-traditional-asbestos-abatement-work-practice-approval>  
Instructions: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/instructions-aq-36/download>

4. *Asbestos Notification Requirements*. In accordance with 310 CMR 7.15 (6), the asbestos contractor is required to submit a BWP ANF-001 Asbestos Notification Form to MassDEP at least ten (10) working days prior to beginning

any abatement or removal of asbestos containing materials from the facility. The AQ 04 (ANF 001) notification form, and instructions for completing an ANF 001, can be found at the following links:

Notification Form: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/file-an-aq-04-anf-001-asbestos-removal-notification>

Instructions: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/bwp-aq-04-anf-001-asbestos-removal-notification-instructions-july-2015-0/download>

If you have any questions regarding the Solid Waste Management Program comments above, please contact Colleen Ferguson at [Colleen.Ferguson@mass.gov](mailto:Colleen.Ferguson@mass.gov) for asbestos comments.

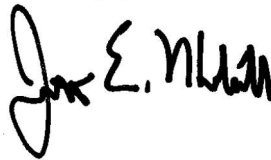
### ***Proposed s.61 Findings***

The “Certificate of the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs on the Environmental Notification Form” may indicate that this Project requires further MEPA review and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report. Pursuant to MEPA Regulations 301 CMR 11.12(5)(d), the Proponent will prepare Proposed Section 61 Findings to be included in the EIR in a separate chapter updating and summarizing proposed mitigation measures. In accordance with 301 CMR 11.07(6)(k), this chapter should also include separate updated draft Section 61 Findings for each State agency that will issue permits for the Project. The draft Section 61 Findings should contain clear commitments to implement mitigation measures, estimate the individual costs of each proposed measure, identify the parties responsible for implementation, and contain a schedule for implementation.

### ***Other Comments/Guidance***

The MassDEP Southeast Regional Office appreciates the opportunity to comment on this ENF. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact George Zoto at [George.Zoto@mass.gov](mailto:George.Zoto@mass.gov) or [Jonathan.Hobill@mass.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Hobill@mass.gov).

Very truly yours,



Jonathan E. Hobill,  
Regional Engineer,  
Bureau of Water Resources

JH/GZ

Cc: DEP/SERO

ATTN: Millie Garcia-Serrano, Regional Director  
Gerard Martin, Deputy Regional Director, BWR  
John Handrahan, Deputy Regional Director, BWSC  
Seth Pickering, Deputy Regional Director, BAW  
Jennifer Viveiros, Deputy Regional Director, ADMIN  
Maissoun Reda, Chief, Wetlands and Waterways, BWR  
Whitney McClees, Wetlands, BWR  
James McLaughlin, Chief, Drinking Water, BWR  
Giliane Tardieu, Drinking Water, BWR  
Michelle Regon, Drinking Water, BWR

Mark Dakers, Chief, Solid Waste, BAW  
Jennifer Wharff, Solid Waste, BAW  
Jeffrey Hunter, Solid Waste, BAW  
Angela Gallagher, Chief, Site Management, BWSC  
Amanda Cantara, Site Management, BWSC

November 27, 2023

Rebecca Tepper, Secretary  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114

Attn: Mr. Nicholas Perry

Dear Mr. Perry:

RE: Environmental Notification Form:  
EEA #16767: Lake Nip and John P. Lynn PFAS Water Treatment Plants (WTPs)  
Construction Project

Dear Mr. Perry:

The entirety of the **Lake Nippenicket Water Treatment Plant** and the **John P. Lynn Water Treatment Plant**, the subjects of EEA #16767 and this Environmental Notification Form reside within The Hockomock Swamp Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The Hockomock Swamp's associated wetlands and water bodies, including Lake Nippenicket are described as the largest vegetated freshwater wetland system in Massachusetts with outstanding natural resource qualities.

The wooded, coniferous and shrub swamps surrounding the *Lake Nippenicket Water Treatment Plant* site are within the watershed of the Taunton River, a Wild and Scenic River, and serve as the headwaters of the Town River, a tributary of the Taunton River.

Designation of an ACEC increases environmental oversight by increasing state permitting standards through elevated performance standards and lowering thresholds for review. As noted on the [ACEC website](#), *Projects within an ACEC that are subject to state agency jurisdiction or regulation, particularly those that are initiated by an agency, require a state permit, or are funded by a state agency, are reviewed with closer scrutiny to avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts.*

**MEPA Thresholds: ACEC**

The proponent's cover letter dated October 31, 2023 notes only one threshold, i.e.: *Construction of a New drinking water treatment plant with a design capacity of 1,000,000 or more gpd* has been met and has omitted any mention of the fact in their cover letter that the entirety of both sites are within an Area of Critical Environmental Concern which indicates a second threshold that MEPA needs to consider.

As noted in CMR 11.03 (11) Review Thresholds:

***ENF and Other MEPA Review if the Secretary So Requires. Any Project of ½ or more acres within a designated ACEC, unless the Project consists solely of one single family dwelling.***

The lot size of the *Lake Nippenicket Water Treatment Plant* is 2.58 acres and the project's limit of work is 1.29 acres. The lot size of the *John P. Lynn Water Treatment Plant* project is 51.29 acres, and the limit of



work is 4.87 acres. Projects of ½ acre or more within a designated ACEC trigger MEPA review, and as noted above, should have increased oversight and elevated performance standards.

On page 9 of the ENF Form submitted by the proponent it states:

*The State of Massachusetts' Department of Conservation and Recreation (MA DCR) published an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) Guide to State Regulations and Programs handbook in 2017. According to a supplementary Designation of the Hockomock Swamp Area of Critical Environmental Concern findings report, two public supply wells for the Town of Raynham and one for the Town of West Bridgewater are located within the ACEC.*

As the entirety of both water treatment plant sites are located within the ACEC, the statement with regard to number of wells within the ACEC appears to be inaccurate and perhaps out of date.

**ENF Filing:**

- 1.) The proponent, as required, indicates that the project is partially funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts but does not indicate the sources of any other funding.
- 2.) The proponent has answered “No” to the question: Does the project site include Estimated and/or Priority Habitat of State-Listed Rare Species? According to the NHESP map (Figure 1), this needs confirmation as work appears to be extending into these areas which includes work within the buffer zones to bordering vegetated wetlands. The proponent needs to provide more detailed information and any work within the 100-foot buffer zone should be discouraged.
- 3.) The proponent has answered “No” to the question: *Is this project site located wholly or partially within a defined river corridor of a federally designated Wild and Scenic River or a state designated Scenic River?* The Town River that flows through Lake Nippenicket (Figure 2) is a tributary of the Taunton River, a Wild and Scenic River and its river corridor deserves recognition and protection. Lake Nippenicket and its surrounding natural resources contribute to the functioning of the Taunton River ecosystem; and by being linked hydrologically, owe its location or existence to the presence of the river. The Designated Wild and Scenic River Section of the ENF on page 11 needs to be amended accordingly to ensure that the headwaters of the Town River, a tributary of the Taunton River are protected and that the project is held to elevated performance standards.
- 4.) The Proponent indicates on page 9, that according to the Massachusetts Historical Commission, *the proposed project was unlikely to affect significant historic or archaeological resources.* The MHC reviewed an area within ¼ mile of the Lake Nippenicket WTP site. There have been significant findings within a half mile of the site as noted in EEA # 16558 and these findings should have been considered by MHC. The range of review should be extended to include the findings of EEA# 16558 as this region within an ACEC is known for its historical and archaeological significance.

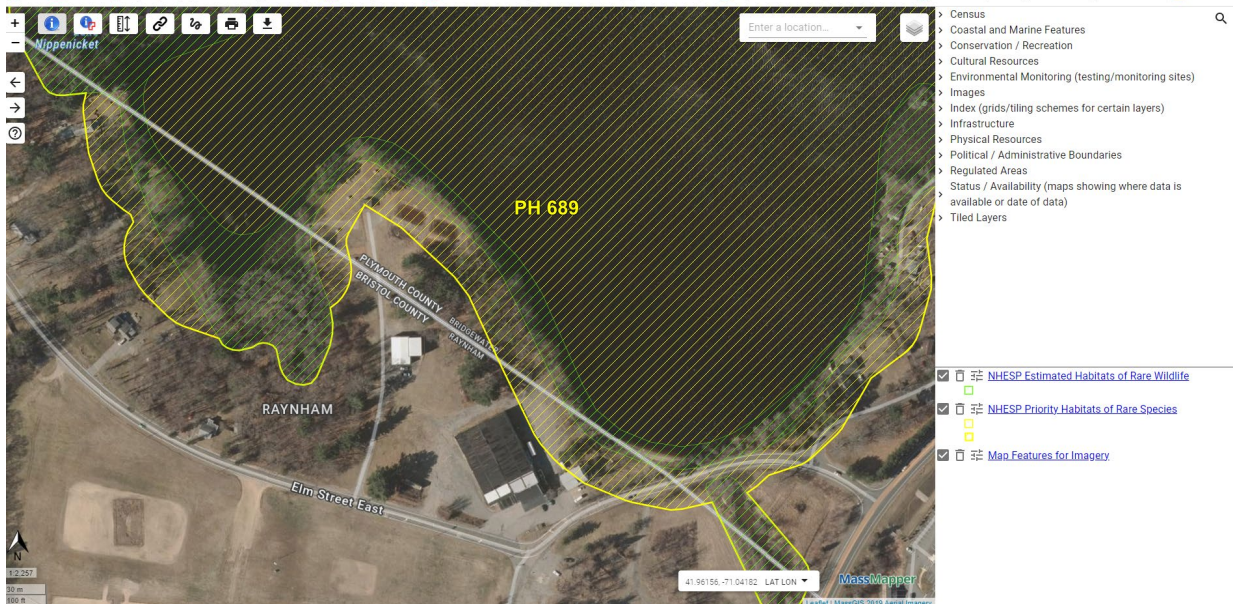


Figure 1: NHESP [Mass Mapper](#): Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife and Priority Habitats of Rare Species

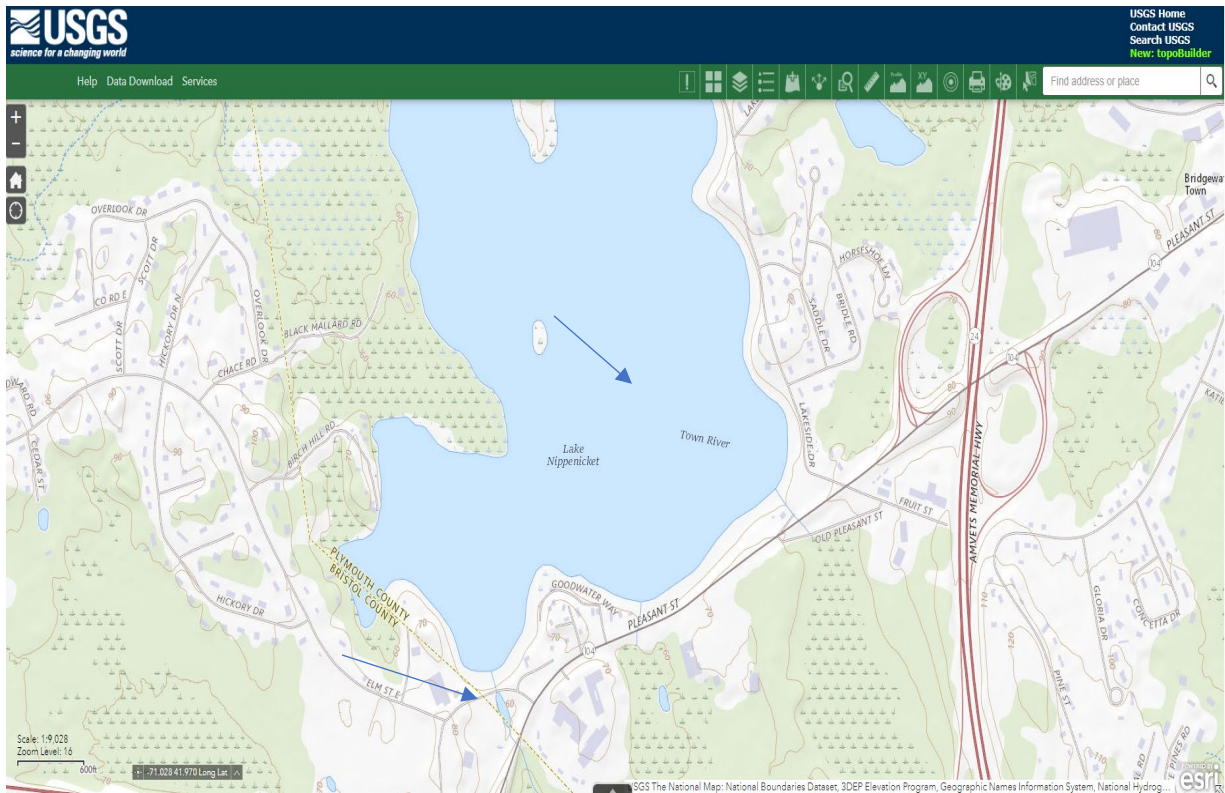


Figure 2: [USGS Topographic Map](#)

- 5.) The proponent has included two Water Treatment Plant projects, located at different sites, each with their own unique characteristics in the same ENF. Each site, due to its location within the Hockomock Swamp ACEC should be reviewed separately with individual ENF filings.
- 6.) The proponent has indicated that the project site that is the subject of this ENF filing is located in the town of Raynham, but portions of that project abut Lake Nippenicket, and five of the associated wells are within Bridgewater, The project's location has significant potential to impact Lake Nippenicket directly, including the nearby Bridgewater public boat ramp; Lake Nippenicket recreational activities; all nearby Bridgewater and Raynham Lake Nippenicket neighborhoods; the Lakeshore Business District (and vice versa); and key areas of the Hockomock Swamp located in Bridgewater. Therefore, the Bridgewater Planning Board and Conservation Commission should have the opportunity to review and comment about this project and its potential impacts to nearby Bridgewater resources. In addition, the project proponent should be made aware of the currently proposed Lakeshore Center project (EEA #16558) so the cumulative impacts of both can be better understood.
- 7.) The full name of the lake is Lake Nippenicket, not Lake Nip, and should be referred to as such in the filings. Lake Nippenicket is a Great Pond and entitled to Chapter 91 protections.

**Tree Cutting:**

According to the ENF:

*Estimated removal of tree coverage at Lake Nip is approximately 2,200 sf of trees in preparation for the installation of an emergency outflow outlet for GAC filters; this 2,200-sf area is to be loamed and seeded. An additional 2,000 sf of trees at Lake Nip will be removed for building and grading site work and 1,800 sf of that will be loamed and seeded. Estimated removal of tree coverage at John P. Lynn WTP is approximately 27,300 sf; approximately 8,400 of this comprises building and gravel walkway construction activity, and approximately 18,900 sf of this area will be loamed and seeded.*

The sites are within the Zone II Medium Yield Aquifer for the Town of Raynham. Estimated total tree removal at the Lake Nippenicket site is **4,200 sf**. Estimated total tree removal at the John P. Lynn site is **27,300 sf**.

Tree cutting should be minimized on both sites to protect the aquifer; improve groundwater recharge, reduce flooding and prevent erosion.

The proponent has indicated that all areas not covered by a building will be loamed and seeded. The proponent should be encouraged to

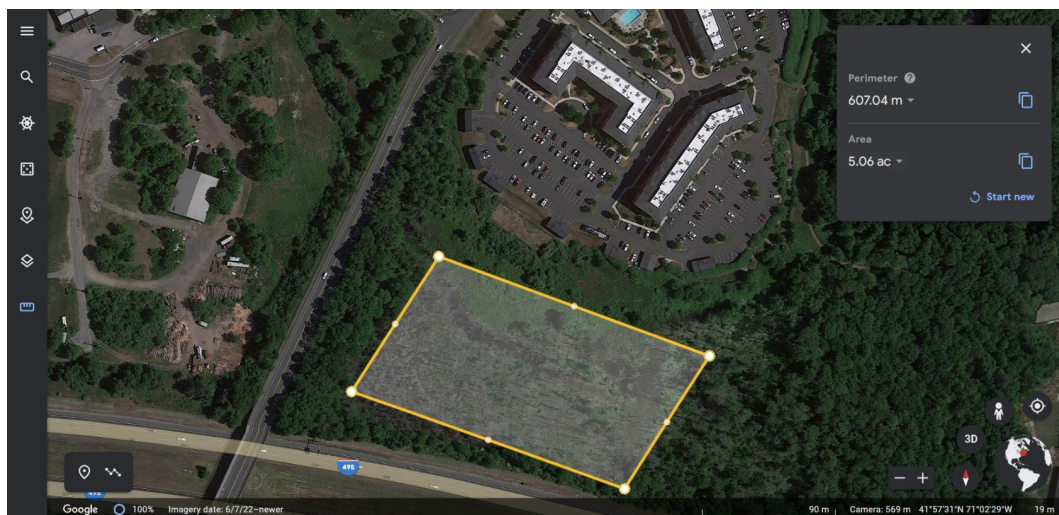
- 1) Limit tree cutting to only those areas where it is absolutely necessary
- 2) Install native plantings, where possible, in any areas where trees have been cut instead of loaming and seeding to provide additional protection to the aquifer; add additional filtering to the site that improves groundwater recharge; reduce flooding and prevent erosion.
- 3) Submit a tree cutting plan for both sites.

### **Storage of Hazardous Materials:**

The proponent has indicated that chlorine will be stored at the Lake Nippenicket site and that efforts will be made to contain chlorine and any other chemicals securely. Due to the sensitive location of this water treatment plant, on the shores of Lake Nippenicket, which is already an impaired water body, MEPA should require that protection of the water supply and surrounding lake and wetlands from any chemical leak or exposure is of the highest priority.

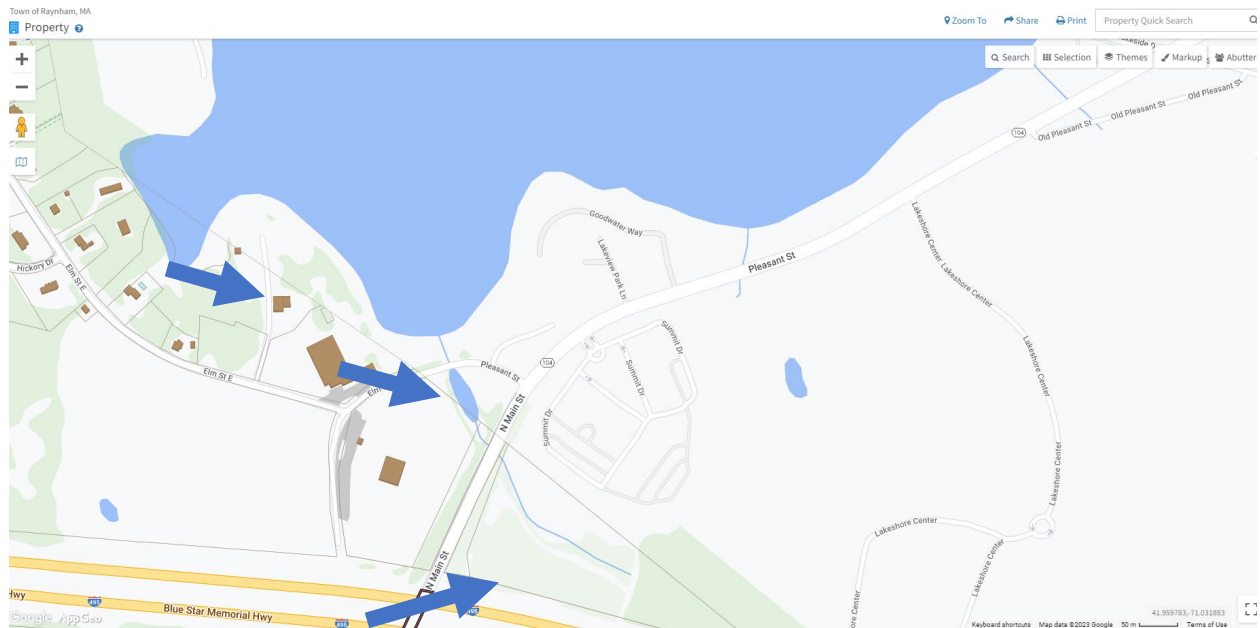
### **Hydrologic Connections to Site:**

The Lake Nippenicket Action Focus Team went before the *Raynham Central Water District* in August 2023 and the *Raynham Conservation Commission* in October 2023 to express concerns about EEA #16558, a project that is within a ¼ mile of the Lake Nippenicket WTS and is within Town of Raynham Zone II Aquifer. There is a large area (5+ acres) of dead trees on the western side of the Axis apartment complex located in Raynham, which was part of an earlier phase of Lakeshore Center (EEA #4959). The site lies in proximity to and connects to Lake Nippenicket (according to USGS Topographic Map) hydrologically via a culvert and is within the Town of Raynham Zone II Approved Wellhead Protection Area. As seen in Figure 4, a stream that empties into Lake Nippenicket near the location of the WTP and wells is connected hydrologically to site of the dead trees. Algae blooms were seen in this Google Earth view of the site from 9/20/19. LNAFT has not been advised that any effort to determine the cause of the dead trees has been initiated.





**Figure 3:** 5 acres Dead Trees located in Raynham within Zone II Aquifer (Google Earth)



**Figure 4:** Raynham Assessors Map – Located of 5 acres of dead trees within Zone II Aquifer

As noted in the ENF, the proposed improvements to the existing Lake Nippenicket and John P. Lynn WTP sites will create a more resilient water supply for the Town of Raynham, however, the proponent needs to provide additional studies, data, and project alternatives that reduce the environmental impact of this proposed project located in the Hockomock Swamp Area of Critical Environmental Concern. As noted on the [ACEC website](#), *Projects within an ACEC that are subject to state agency jurisdiction or regulation, particularly those that are initiated by an agency, require a state permit, or are funded by a state agency, are reviewed with closer scrutiny to avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts.* This project requires an extensive review by MEPA with the focus to avoid all adverse impacts to the environment and surrounding communities.

The Town of Raynham, as well as the Town of Bridgewater that share the land where the Lake Nippenicket Water Treatment Plant is located and need to review why PFAS levels are high and why the Lake Nippenicket Water Treatment Plant has had issues with other contaminants in the wells on the site. This should also be a consideration for MEPA within the scope of EEA # 16767.

With kind regards,

Lake Nippenicket Action Focus Team (LNAFT)

Julia A. Blanchard

Sam Baumgarten

Kelly Cannizzaro

Nancy A. Chiappini

Jean Cody DiBattista

Robert DiBattista

Janet Hanson

Wendy Kanner

Andrea Monteith

Bernice Morrissey

Patricia Neary

Anthony J. Oliveira

Mark H. Peterson

Melissa Ramondetta, Coordinator

Linda Schmuck

cc: Town of Bridgewater Conservation Commission  
Councilor Erik Moore, Town Council Bridgewater  
Town of Raynham Conservation Commission  
Town of Raynham Central Water District  
Taunton River Watershed Alliance  
Brona Simon, Executive Director, MHC  
Whitney McLees, Environmental Analyst, DEP

December 11, 2023

Rebecca Tepper, Secretary  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114

Attn: Mr. Nicholas Perry

Dear Mr. Perry:

RE: Environmental Notification Form:  
EEA #16767: Lake Nip and John P. Lynn PFAS Water Treatment Plants (WTPs)  
Construction Project

Dear Mr. Perry:

The Hockomock Swamp Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) designation increases state permitting standards through elevated performance standards that lower thresholds for review. The entirety of the **Lake Nippenicket Water Treatment Plant** and the **John P. Lynn Water Treatment Plants** are included within the ACEC and these projects are subject to funding from a state agency. Therefore, both should be reviewed with “closer scrutiny to avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts.”

The **Lake Nippenicket Water Treatment Plant** site is within the watershed of the Taunton River, a Wild and Scenic River, and the Lake serves as the headwaters of the Town River, a primary tributary to the federally designated Wild and Scenic Taunton River. The site is within the Taunton River Watershed. It should be noted that the [Taunton River Watershed Alliance](#) was not provided a copy of this ENF for review, however, should be consulted.

The entire **Lake Nippenicket Water Treatment Plant** site is within both the Town of Raynham and the Town of Bridgewater. Five public water drinking wells are located within the Town of Bridgewater. It should be noted that the Town of Bridgewater was not listed on the distribution list of this ENF for review. The ENF should be further reviewed by the Town of Bridgewater Conservation Commission, Town Council and Planning Board as the work proposed in this project includes lands that are hydrologically connected to Lake Nippenicket, most of which is within the Town of Bridgewater. In addition, impacts from construction will be felt by residents of Bridgewater living close by as well as those utilizing Lake Nippenicket for recreation via the boat ramp.

Questions with regard to the ENF:

1. The projects are each impactful to the surrounding natural resources and environment. Both projects are within an ACEC. Therefore, each project should be part of a an independent ENF filing for a more careful review.
2. The ENF notes that within the *“Concern findings report, two public supply wells for the Town of Raynham and one for the Town of West Bridgewater are located within the ACEC.”* This report was created some time ago and it appears, from the most recent state maps, that more than two public supply wells for the Town of Raynham are located within the ACEC.

3. Although the proponent has answered “No” to the question: Does the project site include Estimated and/or Priority Habitat of State-Listed Rare Species, the NHESP map (Figure 1) shows otherwise. MEPA should require confirmation as the project appears to be impacting estimated and/or priority habitat of state-listed rare species.
  
4. With regard to Historical and Archaeological findings, the Massachusetts Historical Commission found that *the proposed project was unlikely to affect significant historic or archaeological resources. **The determination of the MHC appears to be uninformed and should be questioned by MEPA.*** The MHC reviewed an area within ¼ mile of the Lake Nippenicket WTP site. There have been significant findings within a half mile of the site as noted in EEA # 16558 and these findings should have been considered by MHC. The range of review should be extended to include the findings of EEA# 16558 as this region within an ACEC is known for its historical and archaeological significance.

I would encourage MEPA to review the [Raynham Reconnaissance Report/Taunton River Landscape Inventory/Massachusetts Heritage Landscape Inventory Program](#). This document refers to the Rozenas Farm Fields directly across the street from the **Lake Nippenicket Water Treatment Plant** and note that the *Rozenas Farm Fields on the south side of Elm Street extend to Rt. 495. They no longer are cultivated, but used for horse events. Several rings for dressage and stadium are marked out in the fields. Evidence of a cross-country course is found along the forested edges of the fields. Other nearby areas, that once were part of farmland owned by the Rozenas family are now residential subdivisions. There is evidence of a Native American village dating from 9000 years ago including artifacts recovered at this site during a study that was completed by Public Archaeology Laboratories (PAL) for Rt. 495 construction. The earliest artifact recovered here is known as a Bifurcated point which could date to some 9,000 years ago. Also during the PAL survey there was an area in which pottery was found and parts to a Flintlock Musket and round ball. It is likely that the area was being used by the Native Americans well into the Contact Period (1500- 1620). The report also states that “Raynham is one of the communities in the Taunton River Watershed at the core of Native American settlement from the Early Archaic Period (9000 BCE) to the beginning of the Contact Period (1500 CE). For this reason it is believed to have rich pre-historic archaeological sites along the Taunton River and southwest of Lake Nippenicket. The area of the Rozenas fields is known to have significant artifacts which should be carefully studied and recovered.*

5. The Lake Nippenicket Water Treatment Plant site is small in acreage but adjacent to and across the street from some larger parcels of land that are privately owned. One of these parcels is over 52 acres in size. What is the plan for the Town of Raynham to purchase parcels surrounding the site for the further protection of its drinking water and surrounding natural resources?
  
6. Site plans are difficult to read; legends are missing and plans do not adequately depict Lake Nippenicket, the bordering vegetated wetlands on the project site or a tree cutting plan. As both projects reside within an ACEC, the significant natural resources of these project sites and the impacts to them should be clearly documented.
  
7. Tree cutting should be reviewed and minimized. At present, the tree cutting for both sides is over 31,000 sf.



8. The proponent indicates that cleared areas will be loamed and seeded. The proponent should be encouraged to avoid grassy areas and instead install native plantings to increase filtering to the aquifer as well as improve groundwater recharge, reduce flooding and erosion prevention.
9. The storage of hazardous materials should be more clearly described and also information provided as to how the chemicals will be stored during construction of the project. How will the chemicals be stored and what are the provisions in place to prevent contamination of the area by fire or flood?



**Figure 1:** NHESP [Mass Mapper](#): Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife and Priority Habitats of Rare Species

10. I encourage you to read public comment letters to MEPA in EEA #16558 (attached) where I expressed concern regarding a project within ¼ mile of the Lake Nippenicket Water Treatment Plant and within the Zone II Aquifer. There is a large area (5+ acres) of dead trees on the western side of the Axis apartment complex located in Raynham, part of an earlier phase of Lakeshore Center (EEA #4959). The site is connected to Lake Nippenicket hydrologically via a culvert and is within the Town of Raynham Zone II Approved Wellhead Protection Area. The Raynham Center Water District was informed of this issue, however, no information is available as to whether this was reviewed by the Town of Raynham.

The proposed improvements to the two water treatment plants are certainly needed to improve the quality of Raynham’s water and necessary for the modernization of both plants. However, the current ENF requires additional information in order to ensure the careful review of the environmental impacts of this proposed project located in the Hockomock Swamp Area of Critical Environmental Concern. Also, the MHC determination should be rereviewed and questioned due to the significant archaeological findings within a short distance of this site.

With kind regards,

Melissa Ramondetta

cc: Town of Bridgewater Conservation Commission  
Councilor Erik Moore, Town Council Bridgewater  
Town of Raynham Conservation Commission  
Taunton River Watershed Alliance  
Brona Simon, Executive Director, MHC  
Whitney McLees, Environmental Analyst, DEP