



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Matthew A. Beaton, Secretary, EEA
ATTN: Erin Flaherty, MEPA Unit
FROM: Bruce K. Carlisle, Director, CZM
DATE: March 27, 2017
RE: EEA-15655, New Bedford State Pier Rehabilitation Project; New Bedford

The Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) has completed its review of the above-referenced Environmental Notification Form (ENF), noticed in the *Environmental Monitor* dated March 8, 2017, and attended two onsite meetings where the project approach and details were presented. CZM believes the project will have limited environmental and natural resource impacts, and that any impacts can be successfully addressed through the state and federal permitting processes.

Project Description

The project proponent, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), is proposing the rehabilitation of the East face of the New Bedford State Pier. This is a maintenance project that includes the demolition and removal of the existing concrete deck, extraction of existing timber piles, installation of 300 new steel piles, placement of a new concrete deck, replacement of the existing timber fender system, replacement of the southeast corner turning dolphin, removal and replacement of the top of the seawall at the northeast corner, and installation of steel sheet piling along the outer edge of the pier at the northeast corner of the wharf. The expected useful life of the proposed repairs is between 50 and 60 years. The proposed project is expected to significantly improve the functionality of the State Pier's east face, which is the pier's primary location for freight loading and unloading operations.

Other alternatives considered by DCR include the no-build alternative, replacement of the existing timber piles with earth fill contained by a steel bulkhead, or replacement of the timber piles with new timber piles.

Comments

CZM is supportive of the project and believes the proposed pier rehabilitation project for the east face of the state pier, utilizing steel replacement piles, represents the best alternative and compromise between potential environmental impacts, functionality, and longevity. Following MEPA review the proposed project will require review under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act Regulations, 310 CMR 10.00, the Massachusetts Waterways Regulations, 310 CMR 9.00, and review under the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Regulations 33 CFR 320-332.

Federal Consistency

The proposed project may be subject to CZM federal consistency review, which requires that the project be found to be consistent with CZM's enforceable program policies. For further information on this process, please contact Bob Boeri, Project Review Coordinator, at 617-626-1050 or visit the CZM web site at www.mass.gov/czm.



BKC/dsj/rlb

cc: Barbara Newman, Chief of Permitting Division,
New England District, USACE
William Straus, Chairperson of the Joint Committee on Transportation
Massachusetts State Representative
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