

April 28, 2010

Sonal Gandhi, Senior Manager Economic Development
Boston Redevelopment Authority
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201-1007

Subject: Boston Medical Center Energy Facility

Dear Ms. Gandhi:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Project Impact Report for the Boston Medical Center Energy Facility. The Boston Groundwater Trust was established by the Boston City Council to monitor groundwater levels in sections of the city where the integrity of building foundations is threatened by low groundwater levels and to make recommendations for solving the problem. Therefore, my comments are limited to groundwater related issues.

As I stated in my comments on the Project Notification Form for this project, I am pleased with the commitment of the proponent to meet the requirements of the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District. I am particularly pleased with the commitment, reiterated in the DPIR, that the basement will be waterproofed and that no long term pumping of groundwater will be allowed. I was pleased to note a similar commitment for other future BMC buildings in the Institutional Master Plan Renewal submitted at the same time as the DPIR.

As stated in the DPIR, I have met with the proponent to discuss potential locations for the recharge system and for a new groundwater observation well; I agree that the proposed locations will be satisfactory. Of course, approval of the recharge will require confirmation from the Boston Water and Sewer Commission that it properly meets the dimensional requirements.

I am pleased that the proponent will be submitting an engineer's certification showing how the design will not lead to any reduction in groundwater levels on site or on adjacent lots. I look forward to seeing this certification, which should be approved before the go-ahead for construction.

I remain pleased with the proponent's commitments on groundwater related issues and look forward to continuing to work with the proponent and the Authority to assure that the project can have only positive impacts on area groundwater levels.

Very truly yours,

Elliott Laffer
Executive Director

Cc: Kathleen Pedersen, BRA
Maura Zlody, BED