

Ref: 8591

November 3, 2020

Ms. Mary F. Savage Dunham, AICP, CFM
Director of Community Planning
Town of Hingham
210 Central Street
Hingham, MA 02043

Re: Request for Advisory Opinion
Proposed Package Delivery Station – 100 Industrial Park Road
Hingham, Massachusetts

Dear Mary:

As a part of our review of the proposed package delivery station to be located at 100 Industrial Park Road (hereafter referred to as the “Project”), we requested that the Applicant confirm that the Project will not require the issuance of a State Highway Access Permit from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and that the Project is not subject to a filing under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). In response to our inquiry, the Applicant’s representatives stated that MassDOT indicated that a State Highway Access Permit would not be required for the Project and that the Project would not exceed a MEPA threshold that would necessitate a filing.

In conjunction with our review of the Project, we have recommended and the Applicant has agreed to complete specific improvements to the traffic signals along the Derby Street corridor that will require that the Applicant obtain a State Highway Access Permit from MassDOT. Subsequent conversations with MassDOT on November 3, 2020 that were initiated at their request have indicated that MassDOT will require additional information from the Applicant to support the contention that a filing under MEPA is not required for the Project. As such, we recommend that the Applicant prepare a Request for Advisory Opinion (RAO) for submission to the MEPA Office in order to determine if the Project is subject to a filing under MEPA.

The RAO should review each of the MEPA thresholds established under 301 CMR 11.03 and provide supporting information to demonstrate that the Project does not exceed a specific threshold. For the purpose of establishing the net increase in average daily traffic and amount of parking that will be associated with the Project, the Applicant must demonstrate that the existing use that occupies the Project site was active within the past three-years. The RAO and supporting information will be reviewed by the MEPA Office and MassDOT, and the Director of the MEPA Office will issue a determination as to the applicability of MEPA to the Project. A copy of the RAO should be provided to the Town.

Resolution of MEPA jurisdiction is important as it will allow the Planning Board and the Town to understand any requirements that may be placed on the Project by MassDOT or other State agencies as the Project moves through the State permitting process.

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If you should have any questions or would like to discuss our recommendation or the RAO process in more detail, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

VANASSE & ASSOCIATES, INC.



Jeffrey S. Dirk, P.E., PTOE, FITE
Managing Partner

Professional Engineer in CT, MA, ME, NH, RI and VA

JSD/jsd

