



**RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**  
**OFFICE OF WATER RESOURCES**  
235 Promenade Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

July 31, 2017

Providence Veterans Affairs Medical Ctr.  
Attn: Peter Boyle  
830 Chalkstone Avenue  
Providence, RI 02908

**Insignificant Alteration – Permit**

Re: Wetland Application No. 17-0002; and RIPDES File No. RIR101531 in reference to the location below:

Approximately 250 feet north northeast of Valley Street, approximately 280 feet northeast of the intersection of Valley Street and Raymond Street, within the campus of the VA Medical Center, Assessors Plat 66, Lot 1, Providence, RI.

Dear Mr. Boyle:

Kindly be advised that the Department of Environmental Management's ("DEM") Freshwater Wetlands Program ("Program") has completed its review of your **Request for Preliminary Determination** application. This review included a site inspection of the above referenced property ("subject property") and an evaluation of the proposed new parking garage and a temporary gravel parking lot that will replace parking lost during the construction of the garage, including relocation of two areas subject to storm flowage (ASSF), a stormwater management system, and restoration plantings, as illustrated and detailed on site plans submitted with your application. These site plans were received by the DEM on June 21, 2017.

Our observations of the subject property, review of the site plans and evaluation of the proposed project reveals that alterations of freshwater wetlands are proposed. However, pursuant to Rule 9.00 of the Rules and Regulations Governing the Administration and Enforcement of the Fresh Water Wetlands Act (Rules), this project may be permitted as an **insignificant alteration** to freshwater wetlands under the following terms and conditions:

**Terms and Conditions for Application No. 17-0002 & RIPDES No. RIR101531:**

1. This letter is the DEM's permit for this project under the R.I. Fresh Water Wetlands Act, Rhode Island General Laws (RIGL) Section 2-1-18 et seq. This application review has also included review related to the RIPDES "General Permit for Storm Water Discharge Associated with Construction Activity".
2. This permit is specifically limited to the project, site alterations and limits of disturbance as detailed on the site plans submitted with your application and received by the DEM on June 21, 2017. A copy of the site plans stamped approved by the DEM is enclosed. Changes or revisions to the project that would alter freshwater wetlands are not authorized without a permit from the DEM.
3. Where the terms and conditions of the permit conflict with the approved site plans, these terms and conditions shall be deemed to supersede the site plans.

4. You must notify this Program in writing immediately prior to the commencement of site alterations and upon completion of the project.
5. A copy of the stamped approved site plans and a copy of this permit must be kept at the site at all times during site preparation, construction, and final stabilization. Copies of this permit and the stamped approved plans must be made available for review by any DEM representative upon request.
6. Within ten (10) days of the receipt of this permit, you must record this permit in the land evidence records of the City of Providence and supply this Program with written documentation obtained from the City showing this permit was recorded.
7. The effective date of this permit is the date this letter was issued. This permit expires four (4) years from the date of issue.
8. Any material utilized in this project must be clean and free of matter that could pollute any freshwater wetland.
9. Prior to commencement of site alterations, you shall erect or post a sign resistant to the weather and at least twelve (12) inches wide and eighteen (18) inches long, which boldly identifies the initials "DEM" and the application number of this permit. This sign must be maintained at the site in a conspicuous location until such time that the project is complete.
10. Temporary erosion and sediment controls detailed or described on the approved site plans shall be properly installed at the site prior to or commensurate with site alterations. Such controls shall be properly maintained, replaced, supplemented, or modified as necessary throughout the life of this project to minimize soil erosion and to prevent sediment from being deposited in any wetlands not subject to disturbance under this permit.
11. Upon permanent stabilization of all disturbed soils, temporary erosion and/or sediment controls consisting of hay bales and/or silt fence must be removed.
12. You are responsible for the proper operation, maintenance and stability of any mitigative features, facilities, and systems of treatment and control that are installed or used in compliance with this permit to prevent harm to adjacent wetlands.
13. You are obligated to install, utilize and follow all best management practices detailed or described on the approved site plans in the construction of the project to minimize or prevent adverse impacts to any adjacent freshwater wetlands and the functions and values provided by such wetlands.
14. All plantings of shrubs, trees or other forms of vegetation as shown or detailed on the approved plans, or detailed in this permit, must be installed as soon as possible after completion of final restoration; weather and season permitting. **You must notify this Program in writing upon completion of the required plantings for a compliance inspection by a Program representative.**
15. Restoration plantings of trees and/or shrubs must be allowed to develop naturally without being subjected to mowing or manicuring, except for necessary replacement.

16. Any plantings which fail to survive one full growing season shall be replaced. Replacement plantings shall be similarly guaranteed for one full growing season.
17. Artificial lighting authorized by this permit must be directed away from all vegetated wetland areas. Where this is not possible, the use of deflectors to concentrate lighting away from vegetated wetlands must be employed.
18. The temporary parking lot must be removed no later than five (5) years from the issuance of this permit, and the restoration plantings of the riverbank wetland must be completed within (1) one year following removal of the temporary parking lot.

Pursuant to the provisions in Rule 7.09 and Rule 11.04, as applicable, any properly recorded and valid permit is automatically transferred to the new owner upon sale of the property.

Additionally, the Program has reviewed this project in accordance with the standards of the RIPDES General Permit for Storm Water Discharge Associated with Construction Activity ("CGP"). Construction Activities which disturb one (1) or more acres of land and where storm water runoff is directed, via a point source, into a separate storm sewer system or into the waters of the State, are required to seek coverage under the Rhode Island Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (RIPDES) storm water permit. Our review has determined that the project has been designed to meet the requirements of the 2013 GP. This determination therefore includes your final authorization to discharge storm water associated with construction activity under the CGP. For future references and inquiry, your permit authorization number is **RIPDES No. RIR101531**.

Both the owner and the contractor retained to undertake the construction activity are required to comply with all terms and conditions of the CGP. This includes maintaining the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control (SESC) Plan, performing the required inspections and maintenance of the selected Best Management Practices (BMPs), and retaining inspection records. Further information on the requirements of the CGP is available at:

<http://www.dem.ri.gov/pubs/regs/regs/water/ripdesca.pdf>.

Please be aware that the RIDEM's Rules and Regulations Governing the Establishment of Various Fees require that RIPDES CGP permit holders to pay an Annual Fee of \$100.00. An invoice will be sent to the owner on record in May/June of each year if the construction was still active as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of the previous year. The owner will be responsible for the Annual Fee until the construction activity has been completed, the site has been properly stabilized, and a completed Notice of Termination (NOT) has been received by the RIPDES Program. A copy of the NOT can be found attached to the CGP on the web page referenced above.

You are required to comply with the terms and conditions of this permit and to carry out this project in compliance with the Rules at all times. Failure to do so may result in an enforcement action by this Department (and/or subject you to the enforcement provisions of the Corps' regulations.)

In permitting the proposed alterations, the DEM assumes no responsibility for damages resulting from faulty design or construction.

**Kindly be advised that this permit is not equivalent to a verification of the type or extent of freshwater wetlands on site. Should you wish to have the types and extent of freshwater wetlands verified, you may submit the appropriate application in accordance with Rule 8.03.**

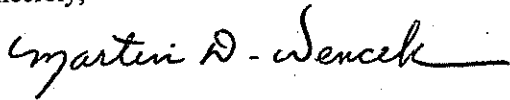
Application No. 17-0002

Page 4

This permit does not remove your obligation to obtain any local, state, or federal approvals or permits required by ordinance or law and does not relieve you from any duties owed to adjacent landowners with specific reference to any changes in drainage.

Please contact Claire Swift of this office (telephone: 401-222-6820 x 7418) should you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,



Martin D. Wencek, Permitting Supervisor  
Office of Water Resources  
Freshwater Wetlands Program

MDW/CVS/cvs

Enclosure: Approved site plans

xc: City of Providence Building Official  
Renee Codega, VHB, Inc.  
Jeffrey Peterson, VHB, Inc.