

## LaRosa, Thomas

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**From:** terkfor2@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Friday, July 12, 2024 4:22 PM  
**To:** LaRosa, Thomas  
**Subject:** Fwd: Town of Barnstable questions after your presentation at our "water" meeting

Dr. Kristin Terkelsen, PT, Barnstable Town Councilor, Precinct 2, 508-225-9407

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Beling, John D (DEP)** <[John.D.Beling@mass.gov](mailto:John.D.Beling@mass.gov)>  
**Date:** Mon, May 20, 2024, 8:12 AM  
**Subject:** RE: Town of Barnstable questions after your presentation at our "water" meeting  
**To:** Kristin Terkelsen <[terkfor2@gmail.com](mailto:terkfor2@gmail.com)>

Dear Dr. Terkelsen,

Thank you for your attendance at the Barnstable Town Council on April 11, 2024. MassDEP protects drinking water sources through a variety of programs that also include the work of local municipalities. The prohibitions cited in the MassDEP Wellhead Protection (WHP) Regulations, 310 CMR 22.21(2) must be adopted by municipalities to protect the water supply recharge area (the Zone II) of their public wells. Barnstable adopted these prohibitions in 1999 through a *Groundwater Protection District Ordinance* and a Floor drain BOH regulation. A copy of the Drinking Water Regulations is located at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/310-cmr-2200-the-massachusetts-drinking-water-regulations/download> . The uses and activities prohibited in the WHP regulations are those that DEP has determined pose the greatest threat to drinking water quality. These prohibitions do not include prohibiting substations or the installation of underground cables. However, this does not mean that drinking water impacts are not considered. For instance, the clearing of the area and the construction and materials used in the installation of applicable structures must use best management practices and comply with applicable zoning controls (impervious surface limits, soil replacement).

In addition, the Barnstable Board of Health (BOH) has significant authority to protect public health. This includes public drinking water supplies. Because the New England Wind project is being privately funded, EPA will not be conducting a Sole Source Aquifer review. However, concerned citizens in Barnstable interested in a sole source aquifer review could work with the BOH to follow the Safe Drinking Water Act to make a determination whether the project “causes or may cause the aquifer to exceed any maximum contaminant level provided in any national primary drinking water standard at any point where the water may be used for drinking water purposes . . . [or] may otherwise adversely affect the health of persons.” If the review results in water quality concerns by the public water supplier, the water supplier would need to contact the MassDEP Drinking Water Program in the Southeast Region at (508) 946-2760.

When a BOH determines a public health adverse effect exists, they have the authority to take a variety of actions. They can conduct more investigation, require stricter performance standards and/or best management practices, require a list of all hazardous materials to be used during and after installation,

require an operating plan, require the project proponent to explain in detail how the project will not impact the water supply, monitor the installation, and they can even prohibit a project if a significant public threat is determined.

I hope this answers your questions. Let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. Thank you.

John Beling

MassDEP

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