

Date: May 14, 2021 Job No.: 18.06023.00
To: Town of Weymouth Conservation Commission
c/o Mary Ellen Schloss, Conservation Administrator
Cc: Craig Ellis, LSP (BETA)
Laura Krause, Senior Environmental Scientist (BETA)
From: Jonathan Niro, Environmental Scientist
Subject: **Weymouth Incinerator Demolition – Supplemental NOI Information**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Weymouth Conservation Commission (WCC) with additional information related to the work proposed under a Notice of Intent (NOI) recently filed by the Town of Weymouth for the demolition of an incinerator and site restoration (the Project).

On May 12, 2021, BETA met with the WCC Administrator and Assistant Administrator at the incinerator property located at 87 Wharf Street in Weymouth, MA (the Site). The purpose of this Site visit was to review the proposed work and Resource Area boundaries associated with the Project. During the Site visit, WCC staff inquired about the proposed seed mix to be used for restoration and noted the need for best management practices related to performing earthwork within stands of Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*). Further information on these subjects is provided below.

PROPOSED SITE RESTORATION SEED MIX

As described in the NOI, the Site will be restored following the demolition of the incinerator by performing grading to blend into the surrounding existing grades, placing clean loam, and applying a native seed mix. While the specific brand and blend of the seed mix will be subject to availability by the selected contractor, the New England Wetland Plants Conservation/Wildlife Seed Mix noted herein is generally representative of the native species to be included in the seed mix. The Applicant will confirm the proposed seed mix with the WCC staff prior to restoring the Site. The Conservation/Wildlife Seed mix includes the following species:

Virginia Wild Rye (*Elymus virginicus*), Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Switch Grass (*Panicum virgatum*), Partridge Pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*), Panicleleaf Tick Trefoil (*Desmodium paniculatum*), Indian Grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), Blue Vervain (*Verbena hastata*), Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), Black Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), Common Sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*), Heath Aster (*Aster pilosus/Symphotrichum pilosum*), Early Goldenrod (*Solidago juncea*), Upland Bentgrass (*Agrostis perennans*).

Seed will be applied at a rate of at least one (1) pound per 1,750 square feet as recommended. The area will be sufficiently watered and monitored for germination and establishment.

JAPANESE KNOTWEED - BEST MANGEMENT PRACTICES

BETA and WCC staff noted substantial growth of Japanese knotweed at and around the Site. Japanese knotweed is a non-native, invasive herbaceous plant species that aggressively establishes itself through

an extensive underground system of rhizomes. Any fragments of rhizomes that enter the soil can re-sprout.

As discussed at the Site visit, complete control or management of Japanese knotweed at the Site is not feasible, nor is it the intent of the Project to institute a Site-wide invasive species management plan. Much of the Japanese knotweed at the Site is located outside of Areas Subject to Jurisdiction. However, the following best management practices (BMPs) will be implemented to prevent excessive spread of this species to downgradient Resource Areas and ensure proper disposal methods in areas where it is removed to complete the work:

1. The selected contractor will be informed of the presence of Japanese knotweed at the Site and will be apprised of the BMPs described herein.
2. Where Japanese knotweed will be cut to facilitate Site access, slashings will be placed in a separate container or on plastic fabric and securely covered with a tarp. At no point will exposed Japanese knotweed slashings be stored onsite in a way that exposes them to wind.
3. Where excavation will occur within stands of Japanese knotweed, the contractor will make an effort to remove the underlying rhizomes to the extent feasible. Japanese knotweed will be separated from on-site soils to the extent possible while avoiding generation of plant fragments and shall be stored in containers or on plastic sheeting and covered, as described above. On-site soil will remain on-site for backfill and grading. Japanese knotweed should not be placed within the incinerator foundation hole as backfill.
4. Any disturbance to Japanese knotweed will be completed to prevent loose fragments from being deposited on the ground, where it may be transported away from the Site by wind. Loose fragments should be collected and disposed of as described above.
5. Vehicles leaving the Site will be inspected for Japanese knotweed plant matter and cleaned if observed.
6. All Japanese knotweed plant matter shall be disposed of at a MassDEP approved facility. Japanese knotweed slashings and plant matter should never be composted or mulched. The best method for disposal is incineration.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at our office.