



7 April 2008

Mr. Ben Lynch
Chief, Waterways Regulation Program
Department of Environmental Protection
One Winter Street, 5th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

RE: W08-2257 Chapter 91 License
Application
James Hook & Co., LLC, Atlantic Avenue,
Boston

Dear Mr. Lynch:

The Boston Harbor Association, a non-profit, public interest organization founded in 1973 by the League of Women Voters and the Boston Shipping Association to promote a clean, alive, and accessible Boston Harbor, has reviewed the Chapter 91 License Application of James Hook & Co. for its facility along the Fort Point Channel, Boston.

James Hook & Co., a fourth generation, family-owned, water-dependent use on the Fort Point Channel, is requesting permanent authorization of an existing temporary seawater filtration system and pile-supported structure located at 440 Atlantic Avenue, Boston. The construction of the filtration system was part of the environmental mitigation required of the MBTA for environmental impacts caused during the construction of the Silver Line Waterfront route.

Under the MBTA's Chapter 91 License, the temporary structure must be removed unless a permit is approved for the continued operation of the system as a permanent facility. The Chapter 91 filing indicates that Hook Lobster would like to continue to retain the filtration system and pile-supported structure as

currently installed, and has entered into an agreement with the MBTA to transfer ownership and rights of the system to their company. As we understand it, no modifications will occur to the existing filtration system, and no new in-water construction is anticipated.

The Boston Harbor Association strongly supports the granting of a permanent Chapter 91 License to the existing seawater filtration system and related pile-supported structure in order to support the continued presence of the water-dependent use and user at this location. James Hook & Co. is an important, increasingly rare water-dependent use on the Fort Point Channel and South Boston waterfront, and every effort should be made to support its continued viability on the water's edge. In the event that a use other than the existing water-dependent use is ever proposed at this site, we understand that the project proponent will apply for a new Chapter 91 License.

As an aside, we would note that James Hook & Co. has been a "good neighbor" to the area, and has encouraged general public and youth groups' educational visits and tours of its site in order to foster a greater public appreciation of the working waterfront.

As developmental pressures increase, particularly along the South Boston waterfront, we urge DEP to continue to ensure the viability of water-dependent uses such as James Hook & Co. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Vivien Li
Executive Director
The Boston Harbor Association