



Received
3/22/10

Town of North Reading
Massachusetts

Town Administrator

March 16, 2010

CERTIFIED MAIL

US EPA – Region 1
Office of Ecosystem Protection
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Mail code: OEP06-4
Boston, MA 02109-3912

Attn: Thelma Murphy

Dear Ms. Murphy:

I am writing on behalf of the **Town of North Reading** to express my concern for the Draft Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) General Permit under consideration by your Agency. The proposed Permit changes will result in significant additional expenses to North Reading and other Massachusetts cities and towns to achieve compliance.

The Town of North Reading objects to the draft Permit as an unfunded federal mandate during severe economic conditions that would place an unreasonable financial hardship on this Community. North Reading officials disagree with findings by the EPA that local stormwater discharges contribute significantly to the degradation of surface water quality in the Charles, Neponset or Shawsheen Rivers.

Since the issuance of the original Stormwater Permit in 2003, North Reading has engaged public participation, and undertaken a number of steps to greatly reduce water pollution attributable to stormwater runoff. The proposed draft Permit is unnecessary, cost prohibitive and duplicates reasonable actions taken to date by the Town of North Reading to address surface water pollution.

Please contact me at 978-357-5210 if you have questions. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Greg L. Balukonis
Town Administrator

GLB/lh

Cc: DPW Director

235 North Street, North Reading, MA 01864 ... 978/357-5210 – FAX 978/664-6053

