

Chelsea River Bulk Oil Terminal Community Information Sheet

U.S. EPA | PERMITS UNDER THE CLEAN WATER ACT

U.S. EPA SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT on Draft Clean Water Act Permits for Bulk Petroleum Storage Facilities Located on the Chelsea River in Chelsea, Revere and East Boston

On February 10, 2021, U.S. EPA issued five draft NPDES permits under the Clean Water Act for bulk petroleum storage facilities located along Chelsea River (also known as Chelsea Creek) for a 60-day public comment period. The permits, last issued in 2014, limit what can legally be discharged to Chelsea River as well as specifying operational measures designed to control pollution from the facilities. The limits and controls ensure that the discharges do not hurt water quality or people's health. Facilities must monitor their discharge on a regular basis, document their control measures, and frequently report those results to EPA. The permits expire after every five years and then must be renewed. EPA is also issuing an updated environmental justice (EJ) analysis that discusses the potential human health and environmental impacts of the permits on minority and low-income communities. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection is issuing similar permits to these facilities under the state's Clean Waters Act.

KEY CONTACTS:

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VIRTUAL EVENTS

EPA will be hosting two virtual events regarding the draft permits and EJ analysis.

Virtual Public Informational Meeting and Q&A

MONDAY, MAR 15, 2021, 7PM

Virtual Formal Public Hearing to Provide Oral Comments

MONDAY, MAR 29, 2021, 7PM

Visit: <https://www3.epa.gov/region1/npdes/chelseacreekfuelterminals> to view the public notice, draft permits, EJ analysis and related documents and for information on how to participate in EPA's upcoming virtual events. If you need a reasonable accommodation or have translation/interpretation needs, please contact Marcus Holmes.

FACILITIES

EPA is issuing draft permits for the following facilities at this time: Global Companies, LLC Terminal in Revere (MA0000825); Gulf Oil Terminal in Chelsea (MA0001091); Irving Oil Revere Terminal in Revere (MA0001929); Chelsea Sandwich Terminal in Chelsea (MA0003280) and Sunoco Logistics East Boston Terminal in Boston

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(MA0004006). These facilities receive, store and distribute petroleum products such as gasoline, diesel, kerosene, and fuel oil. Petroleum products and additives are primarily received in bulk quantities by ship or barge at marine vessel docks and transferred to aboveground storage tanks located within each facility's tank farm area. The petroleum products are transported off-site typically by tanker truck, ship, or pipeline. A single permit, MA0000825, will be issued for three Global Companies LLC facilities that were previously permitted individually under MA0000825, MA0003425, and MA0003298.

CHELSEA RIVER

Chelsea River is an urban tidal river flowing from the mouth of Mill Creek, between Chelsea and Revere, to Boston's Inner Harbor, between East Boston and Chelsea. The river is classified by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a Class SB water body, meaning the water quality of the river should be able to support wading, swimming, fishing, boating and a healthy fish and aquatic life community. If a water body is not supporting these uses it is considered "impaired." The river is impaired and not supporting its uses because of pollutants such as ammonia, dissolved oxygen and petroleum hydrocarbons or conditions such as turbidity, odor and trash/debris.

CONDITIONS OF THE DRAFT NPDES PERMITS

Once issued as final permits, EPA's draft permits will replace permits that were issued in 2014 and regulate stormwater and non-stormwater discharges from the five facilities. The draft permits further increase protections of water quality and people's health over the existing permits by including strict conditions on the discharge of solids, bacteria, petroleum hydrocarbons and other pollutants to Chelsea River. Most of the discharges from the facilities consist of stormwater that accumulates during a storm event (such as rain or snowmelt) in containment areas around the petroleum storage tanks or from paved surfaces at the facilities. The facilities may also occasionally discharge water used to test pipe and tank integrity (hydrostatic test water) (all 5 terminals), treated groundwater (2 terminals) and/or boiler blowdown (1 terminal).

Before any water is discharged to Chelsea River (and in the case of one outfall located at the Global Companies, LLC facility, Sales Creek), it is treated, at a minimum, through an oil/water separator. The oil/water separator uses gravity to separate floating oil and sludge from the water. The floating oil and/or sludge is removed from the oil/water separator and disposed of off-site. Each draft permit requires the permitted facility to meet the following specific requirements:

- Properly operate each oil/water separator, not exceeding its numeric design flow rate.
- Meet numeric effluent limitations for total suspended solids, oil and grease, pH, petroleum hydrocarbons such as benzene, benzo(a)pyrene, and naphthalene, metals such as copper and zinc, total residual chlorine, ammonia nitrogen, and fecal coliform.
- Monitor the effluent regularly for other potential pollutants such as turbidity, chemical oxygen demand, enterococcus, fuel additives and oxygenates, and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).
- Conduct annual whole effluent toxicity (WET) testing, chemical testing of Chelsea River, and biomonitoring..
- Implement and annually certify a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan. The plan must specify and document the site specific Best Management Practices (BMPs) used to control activities and operations that otherwise could contribute pollutants via stormwater discharges from each facility. A list of the required BMPs, including practices relating to major storm events, are included in each draft permit.

COMMENTING ON THE DRAFT PERMITS AND EJ ANALYSIS

During EPA's March 15, 2021, virtual public informational meeting, EPA will present an overview of the draft permits and the EJ analysis and will respond to clarifying questions from meeting participants. During EPA's virtual formal public hearing on March 29, 2021, EPA will accept oral comments on the draft permits and EJ analysis from any interested person. The public

may provide formal comments in writing, submitted by email or by regular mail, or orally during the March 29, 2021 virtual formal public hearing. All written comments must be received by EPA or postmarked by April 11, 2021. Please note that EPA will not respond to comments or questions, other than procedural questions, during the March 29, 2021 virtual public hearing; however, EPA will respond in writing to all significant issues raised during the public comment period when EPA issues

PROVIDING COMMENTS

EPA's Public Comment Period opens February 10, 2021 through April 11, 2021.
All comments must be received or postmarked by April 11, 2021

Email written comments: little.shauna@epa.gov

Or physically mail to:

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