



CITY OF MELROSE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Administration—Engineering—Water—Sewer—Facilities
Parks—Forestry—Highway—Sanitation—Cemetery—Fleet

Elena Proakis Ellis, P.E., BCEE
Director of Public Works

City Yard, 72 Tremont Street
Melrose, Massachusetts 02176
Telephone – (781) 665-0142
E-mail: eproakis@cityofmelrose.org

November 28, 2023

Michele Barden
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency –
Region 1
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100 (06-1)
Boston, MA 02109
barden.michele@epa.gov

Claire Golden
Surface Discharge Program
Massachusetts Department of Environmental
Protection
150 Presidential Way
Woburn, MA 01801
massdep.npdes@mass.gov

RE: Comments on Draft Permit No. MA0103284 for the MWRA Deer Island Treatment Plant

Dear Ms. Barden and Ms. Golden:

Melrose appreciates the opportunity to comment on the draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. MA0103284 (the Draft Permit) for the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) Deer Island Treatment Plant (DITP), which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region 1 (EPA or the Region) noticed for comment on May 31, 2023.¹ As one of the entities subject to the terms of the Draft Permit once they are finalized, Melrose writes to express its support for the comments submitted by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority Advisory Board (Advisory Board), which are incorporated by reference as if set forth herein, and also to write separately to articulate and highlight issues of particular concern to our community.

As an initial matter, Melrose has substantial concerns about the Draft Permit's imposition of a novel requirement to develop and implement major storm and flood event plans for its sewer system. This requirement will impose significant financial and resource burdens on communities like Melrose. The extent of these burdens is unknown because neither EPA nor MassDEP has conducted any cost-benefit analysis of this new requirement. Melrose also has significant concerns about the Draft Permit's directive to complete and begin implementing a plan within twelve months of the effective date of the final permit. Our community is also concerned that the mandate to modify its plan whenever new data generated or discovered threatens to cast aside local planning priorities in favor of a federally mandated, perpetual planning cycle.

Melrose harbors substantial concerns about how the Draft Permit (and, by extension, the State Permit) would inappropriately regulate DITP and the communities. The Draft Permit relies on generic prohibitions against violating water quality standards that, contrary to law, fail to define how MWRA and the communities must assure the protection of receiving water quality.

¹ On May 31, 2023, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) also issued a draft 2023 Draft Massachusetts Permit to Discharge Pollutants to Surface Waters for DITP (the State Permit) that incorporates by reference Parts I.A-K and Part II of the Draft Permit. This letter similarly comments on the State Permit.

Melrose has other significant concerns with the Draft Permit discussed in detail below. In particular, the Draft Permit and State Permit inappropriately regulate communities like Melrose as co-permittees and have failed to define their obligations with adequate clarity. As the Advisory Board has commented, unless EPA and MassDEP clarify the communities' and MWRA's responsibilities, the DITP's permit could upset the longstanding and successful relationship among MWRA and the communities.

I. Major Storm and Flood Events Planning Requirements

Part I.E.2.(e)(2) of the Draft Permit (the Major Events Planning Provisions) would impose on Melrose and other towns novel and onerous long-term obligations to develop and implement plans to address sewer systems climate change resiliency. These plans, which the Draft Permit requires to be updated every five years, must include (1) an asset vulnerability evaluation; (2) a systematic vulnerability evaluation, and (3) a mitigation measures alternatives analysis, and they must take into consideration future conditions, "specifically the midterm (i.e., 20-30 years) and long-term (i.e., 80-100 years) and, in the case of sea level change, the plan must consider sea level change." Draft Permit Part I.E.2.(e)(2).

This requirement could strain Melrose's resources beyond the breaking point and disrupt the broader capital planning process. The Draft Permit also gives Melrose insufficient time to complete its plan. Worse yet, EPA lacks the authority to impose this new planning and project development obligation in DITP's NPDES permit, and both EPA and MassDEP have failed entirely to justify this new set of obligations.

A. EPA Failed to Evaluate the Costs that Melrose and Other Communities Will Bear.

Complying with the Major Events Planning Provisions will impose substantial costs on Melrose. The investments to undertake this work, including the up-front vulnerability and mitigation alternatives analysis and the significant implementation and ongoing re-evaluation requirements, will likely require thousands of hours of personnel time and the engagement of outside consultants. These costs could pale in comparison to the potential capital costs that Melrose may incur in order to implement mitigation measures that could even require relocating existing facilities or building new ones.

The associated financial burdens on communities like Melrose are unknown but certain to be substantial. Melrose will need to assess whether it must hire more staff or engage consultants to comply with the Major Events Planning Provisions. Based on its planning efforts, Melrose will then have to modify its capital plans and budget for resiliency projects. These additional costs will ultimately impact other parts of Melrose's budget, resulting in lower spending on other critical infrastructure or other community needs

EPA and MassDEP must evaluate these costs before finalizing the Major Events Planning Provisions. At the very minimum, before issuing a final permit, EPA or MassDEP should provide Melrose and the public more generally with a formal cost-benefit assessment that informs all interested parties of the cost burdens of implementing these novel and significant planning and implementation requirements.

B. The Major Events Planning Provisions Do Not Provide Sufficient Time for Compliance.

The Major Events Planning Provisions provide Melrose inadequate time to develop a plan that must accomplish the following: (1) analyze sewer system-related assets and assess vulnerabilities, (2) conduct a systemic vulnerability evaluation of each individual system and develop an alternatives analysis, and (3) begin implementing mitigation measures. Draft Permit Part I.E.2.(e)(2). The Draft Permit affords Melrose and its peer communities only 12 months to accomplish these tasks, an amount of time that is obviously insufficient to (a) retain the necessary staff or consultants and (b) complete the tasks required by the Draft Permit. Due to municipal funding constraints, securing a significant funding source – either through grants, loans, or general fund appropriation – can take several months. Confirming funding and procuring contracts with consultants is time consuming and, in itself, a drain on resources for a small community like Melrose.

If EPA and MassDEP insist on including the Major Events Planning Provisions, the agencies must provide Melrose and other communities a reasonable deadline to complete this major undertaking. Any final permit should allow the communities at least thirty-six months to develop and begin implementing major storm and flood events plans.

The Agencies Should Explore Whether Existing Furthermore, as each community conveys flow into the larger system, a system-wide approach would make more sense for addressing major events so that increased flow from upstream communities does not adversely impact flow in downstream communities. There would be economies of scale from approaching the problem from a systems perspective.

C. Programs Achieve the Objectives of the Major Events Planning Provisions.

Before requiring Melrose to expend the significant resources necessary to comply with the onerous Major Events Planning Provisions, the agencies should assess the extent to which existing efforts or programs address or could be adapted to address the interests EPA seeks to protect through the Major Events Planning Provisions. For example, wastewater utilities in Massachusetts regularly seek funding from the Commonwealth’s Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), and this program already requires applicants to comply with planning and asset management requirements in order to receive funding. The agencies may find that the CWSRF is a better tool to address long-term planning obligations than an NDPEs permit that is limited to governing specific discharges over a five-year term.

D. EPA and MassDEP Failed to Justify These Planning Requirements.

In addition to the foregoing issues, Melrose is concerned that it has not had an adequate opportunity to comment on the Major Events Planning Provisions because EPA and MassDEP have failed to show their work. Both agencies’ fact sheets must address “the significant factual, legal, methodological and policy questions considered in preparing the draft permit.” 40 C.F.R. § 124.8(a); 314 CMR 2.05(3). For a set of programmatic requirements as important and sweeping as the Major Events Planning Provisions, one would expect substantial discussions of the various “factual, legal, methodological and policy questions” each agency considered.

EPA, however, justified the Major Events Planning Provisions by simply declaring them “necessary to ensure proper operation and maintenance” of wastewater treatment infrastructure.² Fact Sheet at 102-03. This explanation falls short of what EPA’s regulations require, but it at least provides *some* indication of EPA’s views. MassDEP, by contrast, failed entirely to discuss the Major Events Planning Provisions in its Supplemental Fact Sheet. If Melrose and the public are to have a meaningful opportunity to comment on the Draft Permit, the agencies must better explain the Major Events Planning provisions and allow for additional public comment.

Melrose suspects that EPA may have failed to justify the Major Events Planning Provisions because it lacks authority to impose them under the Clean Water Act (CWA). The statute limits EPA’s authority under the NPDES program to regulating discharges, not the wider facility (or facilities) that discharge. *See, e.g., Natural Resources Defense Council v. EPA*, 859 F.2d 156, 170 (D.C.Cir.1988) (“[T]he [Clean Water Act] does not empower the agency to regulate point sources themselves; rather, EPA’s jurisdiction under the operative statute is limited to regulating the discharge of pollutants.”). The Major Events Planning Provisions, however, reach far beyond regulating discharges by potentially regulating the location of permittees’ facilities or even requiring the construction of additional infrastructure. Because the Major Events Planning Provisions exceed EPA’s jurisdiction under the CWA, they should be removed from any final permit.

II. THE DRAFT PERMIT IMPERMISSIBLY INCLUDES SANITARY SEWER COMMUNITIES AS CO-PERMITTEES.

As the Advisory Board has emphasized in its comments, for the first time, EPA and MassDEP are attempting to regulate Melrose and thirty-eight other sanitary sewer communities under DITP’s permit. This radical change to these communities’ regulatory obligations exceeds both agencies’ respective authorities and threatens to disrupt the longstanding relationships between MWRA and the communities it serves. The agencies have also sought to impose this new regime without Melrose’s consent by unlawfully waiving their permit application requirements.

Worse yet, MassDEP has provided no explanation at all for its decision to regulate the Co-permittees under the State Permit. MassDEP has an obligation to provide a “summary of the basis for the draft permit conditions including references to applicable statutory or regulatory provisions” in its fact sheets but has provided none in the Supplemental Fact Sheet for including these Co-Permittees in the State Permit. 314 CMR 2.05(3)(c). In order for Melrose to have an adequate opportunity to comment on the State Permit, MassDEP should explain its reasons and open a new comment period.

² This explanation appears inconsistent with what the Major Events Planning Provisions require. They do far more than ensuring “proper operation and maintenance” by requiring Melrose and other towns to consider—and possibly pursue—relocating facilities or building entirely new ones. Draft Permit Part I.E.2.e.(2)i.(c)(ii), (iv).

A. Neither EPA nor MassDEP Has Jurisdiction to Regulate Communities Like Melrose.

1. The Federal Draft Permit

The Draft Permit’s inclusion of Melrose as Co-permittee exceeds the EPA’s authority under the NPDES program. Under the CWA, EPA may only regulate “the discharge of [a] pollutant.” 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a). A regulated discharge requires an “addition of any pollutant to navigable waters from [a] point source” 33 U.S.C. § 1362(12)(A); 40 C.F.R. § 122.2. Unless its sanitary sewer system adds a pollutant to navigable waters, Melrose is “neither statutorily obligated to comply with EPA regulations for point source discharges, nor are they statutorily obligated to seek or obtain an NPDES permit.” *Waterkeeper Alliance, Inc. v. EPA*, 399 F.3d 486, 504 (2d Cir. 2005); *Nat’l Pork Producers Council v. EPA*, 635 F.2d 738, 751 (5th Cir. 2011) (“There must be an actual discharge into navigable waters to trigger the CWA’s requirements and the EPA’s authority.”).

Melrose’s sanitary sewer system adds no pollutants to navigable waters. As EPA concedes in the Fact Sheet, it only adds pollutants to MWRA’s treatment works. Fact Sheet 20 (“The Massachusetts municipalities in Appendix A own and operate wastewater collection systems that *discharge flows to the DITP*” (emphasis added)). The only addition of pollutants to navigable waters occurs downstream from Melrose’s sewers, when DITP discharges treated effluent from Outfall T01.³

EPA rules reinforce that the communities do not have discharges that trigger the Region’s CWA authority. The regulatory definition of a “discharge of a pollutant” explains that the term encompasses releases “through pipes, sewers, or other conveyances owned by a State, municipality, or other person *which do not lead to a treatment works*” This language would only be necessary if the obverse is true: flows conveyed through municipally-owned sewers that *do* lead to a treatment works are not discharges.

2. The State Permit

For the reasons set forth above, MassDEP regulation of Melrose and the other Co-permittees in the State Permit is inconsistent with the regulations governing Surface Water Discharge Permits. The Surface Water Discharge Permit regulations, like the CWA, generally impose the requirement to obtain a permit on persons who “discharge pollutants to surface waters” 314 CMR 3.03(1). And much like the federal program, the regulations define a “discharge” as an “addition of any pollutant to waters of the Commonwealth,” and explain that a discharge includes “discharges through ... sewers, or other conveyances owned by a ... municipality ... which do not lead to a POTW.” 314 CMR 3.02.

The sanitary systems’ conveyance of flows to DITP involves no addition of pollutants to any waters of the Commonwealth. They add flows only to the downstream POTW, a circumstance that the regulations make clear is not a discharge that requires a permit.

³ The Region’s assertion that a sewer system’s lack of proximity to the “the ultimate discharge point is not material to the question of whether it ‘discharges’” is inconsistent with the Supreme Court’s interpretation of the Act. Fact Sheet, Appendix D at 13. In *County of Maui v. Hawaii Wildlife Fund*, the Court explained that “[t]ime and distance traveled are obviously important” to determining whether a regulated discharge has occurred. 140 S. Ct. 1462, 1476 (2020).

B. Communities like Melrose are not part of the Deer Island Publicly-Owned Treatment Works.

1. The Federal Draft Permit

EPA cannot cure its lack of jurisdiction by lumping Melrose and other sanitary sewer communities in with the larger publicly-owned treatment works (POTW) that includes DITP authorized under the Draft Permit.⁴ EPA’s regulations define a POTW to be “a treatment works ... which is owned by a *State or municipality*—expressed only in the singular. 40 C.F.R. § 403.3(q) (emphasis added); *see also id.* (referring to “*the municipality* ... which has jurisdiction over Indirect Discharges to and discharges from such a treatment works.” (emphasis added). The definition’s use of the singular means that a POTW can only be owned by a single municipal entity, such that [COMMUNITY NAME’s] sewer system cannot be part of same POTW as DITP.

EPA’s regulatory definition of a “discharge” confirms that the Region has improperly expanded the definition of POTW to span multiple communities’ sewer systems. That definition covers “discharges through pipes, sewers, or other conveyances owned by ... a municipality ... which do not lead to a treatment works.” 40 C.F.R. § 122.2. If a satellite collection system could be part of a POTW, there would never be circumstance where a municipally-owned sewer could “lead to a treatment works.” Instead, this provision would refer to municipally-owned sewers “which are not *part of* a treatment works.” The Region’s attempt to make the Co-Permittees part of the same POTW as DITP contradicts and cannot be reconciled with its own regulations.

2. The State Permit

MassDEP similarly cannot deem Melrose’s sewer system part of the same POTW as DITP under its permitting regulations. Like their federal counterpart, the Surface Water Discharge Permit regulations define a POTW by reference to a single public entity rather than several. *See* 314 CMR 3.02 (“any device or system used in the treatment ... of municipal sewage ... which is owned by a *public entity*.” (emphasis added)). Having chosen to define a POTW by reference to a single owner, MassDEP cannot include satellite systems owned by thirty-nine communities in the same POTW as DITP.

C. Melrose Has Not Submitted An Application To EPA or MassDEP, and Neither Agency Has Authority To Waive The Requirement To Do So.

Melrose did not submit a permit application to either EPA or MassDEP. Even if the agencies could regulate the Co-permittees in DITP’s permit, issuance of a permit to a community that never submitted a permit application would violate their respective permitting regulations. EPA’s rules specify that “[a]ny person who discharges ... must submit a complete application” 40 C.F.R. § 122.21(a)(1). The Region then “shall not issue a permit before receiving a complete application for a permit” Without a permit application from Melrose, EPA cannot issue a permit imposing conditions on Melrose.

⁴*See* Fact Sheet, App’x D at 10 (EPA may regulate satellite communities because they are part of “facilities subject to the NPDES program”); *id.* (“NPDES regulations similarly identify the ‘POTW’ as the entity subject to regulation.”).

EPA cannot avoid this problem by waiving application requirements. *See* Fact Sheet 12, 21. EPA’s March 8, 2023 letter to Melrose claimed that 40 C.F.R. § 121.21(j) authorized the Region to waive permit application requirements in their entirety. *See* Attachment 1 Melrose’s Waiver Letter. The Region’s waiver authority under this provision, however, extends only “to any requirement under this paragraph [*i.e.*, the POTW-specific requirements in § 122.21(j)].” 40 C.F.R. § 122.21(j). Thus, EPA only could have waived discrete information requirements for treatment works, not the fundamental requirement that a regulated entity submit a permit application. *Accord* 64 Fed. Reg. 42434, 42440 (Aug. 4, 1999) (“EPA proposed the introductory paragraph of § 122.21(j) to allow the Director to waive any requirement in *paragraph (j)*” (emphasis added)). The Region violated its own regulations by attempting to waive Melrose’s obligation to submit an application.

MassDEP similarly violated its regulations by seeking to regulate Melrose in the State Permit without having received a permit application from Melrose. The Surface Water Discharge Permit rules specify that “[a]ny person required to obtain a permit ... shall complete and submit the appropriate application form(s).” 314 CMR 3.10(1); *see also* 314 CMR 2.03(1) (“Any person required to obtain an individual permit ... shall apply to the Department.”). MassDEP “shall not issue a permit before receiving a complete application” 314 CMR 3.10(4); *see also* 314 CMR 3.02(2) “The Department shall not issue an individual permit ... before receiving a complete application.”). Nothing in MassDEP’s regulations offer the department *any* authority to waive permit application requirements. This framework dictates that MassDEP cannot issue a permit that regulates Melrose because Melrose has not submitted an application for a Surface Water Discharge Permit.

III. The Draft Permit Fails to Define with Sufficient Clarity the Relative Responsibilities of MWRA, CSO-Responsible Co-Permittees and Co-Permittees.

Even if EPA and MassDEP could lawfully structure DITP’s permit to include Melrose and other communities, neither the Draft Permit nor the State Permit define these parties’ obligations with clarity sufficient to ensure that they are not held liable for conduct or events over which they have no control.

The cover page and Part I.E.2 must be revised to provide the communities and MWRA with absolute clarity that the communities are not responsible for MWRA’s noncompliance and vice versa. Any final permit issued by EPA and MassDEP must make clear that the communities cannot be held liable for violations of permit requirements applicable to DITP; the Draft Permit and State Permit fail to do this. Language in Part C, Part D, and Part E must also be clarified further to remove any ambiguity regarding the several liability of MWRA, the CSO-responsible Co-permittees, and the Co-permittees.

It is particularly critical that EPA and MassDEP clearly delineate these responsibilities to avoid disrupting the longstanding relationship between MWRA and the communities, and among the communities themselves. Each community and MWRA have their own responsibilities with respect to wastewater treatment, and collection system management and compliance.⁵ Under its organic statute, MWRA must be accountable to the communities, rather than a manager or regulator of the satellite sewer systems it serves. An NPDES permit or Surface Water Discharge Permit that could make the communities liable for MWRA’s conduct—or vice versa—could threaten that relationship.

⁵ *See* Acts of 1984 ch. 372, § 26(d), 1984 Mass. Acts 809 (each local body served by MWRA has “the charge and control of the respective water, waterworks and sewer works owned and used by said local body and not in the ownership, possession and control of [MWRA].”).


Melrose Comments
Draft Permit No. MA0103284
November 28, 2023

Accordingly, Melrose supports the Advisory Board' proposed revisions to the Draft Permit's language that the Board submitted with its comments.

IV. Conclusion

Melrose appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft Permit and State Permit. Please feel free to contact DPW Director, Elean Proakis Ellis at 781-979-4155 or EProakis@CityofMelrose.org if you have any questions or would like to arrange a meeting to discuss the resolution of the issues raised above.

Sincerely;



Elena Proakis Ellis, P.E., BCEE
Melrose DPW Director

cc: Mayor Paul Brodeur
Vonnie Reis, City Engineer
Matthew Romero, Executive Director, MWRA Advisory Board

**ATTACHMENT 1
WAIVER LETTER**



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Region 1

5 Post Office Square, Suite 100

Boston, MA 02109-3912

VIA EMAIL - READ RECEIPT REQUESTED

March 8, 2023

Re: Waiver of Permit Application and Signatory Requirements for Municipal Satellite Sewage Collection System – co-permittees to the MWRA Deer Island Treatment Plant, NPDES No. MA0103284

Dear MWRA Deer Island Treatment Plant Satellite Collection System Member Community:

EPA Region 1 is currently developing a draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) discharge permit and an accompanying fact sheet that summarizes the significant facts, legal and policy questions considered in preparing the draft permit for the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority Deer Island Treatment Plant (MWRA DITP) including the collection systems from all member communities. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our plans for incorporating communities with satellite collection systems that discharge into the MWRA DITP as co-permittees in the permit and any permit application requirements. Please be advised that your municipality will be included as a co-permittee in the forthcoming Draft NPDES discharge permit issued to the MWRA for the DITP.

The satellite collection system member communities of the MWRA DITP listed in Attachment A will all be included as co-permittees in the draft discharge permit issued for the DITP. Under NPDES regulations, all Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) must submit permit application information set forth in 40 CFR § 122.21(j) unless otherwise indicated. Where Region 1 of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has “access to substantially identical information,” or such information is “not of material concern for a specific permit,” the Regional Administrator may waive permit application requirements for existing POTWs. *Id.* Pursuant to my authority under this regulation, I am waiving NPDES permit application and signatory requirements applicable to certain operators, including your system, of the municipal satellite collection systems that contribute to the MWRA DITP.

EPA regulations do not specifically address how NPDES permit coverage is to be obtained by satellite collection system components of POTWs. Ordinarily the treatment plant operator applies for the POTW’s NPDES permit, and discharges from the POTW, including those from the collection systems operated by others, are covered by the permit issued to the treatment plant. Satellite collection system operators have generally not submitted separate permit applications for coverage under the POTW permit, because the treatment plant operator generally submits the information necessary for the permit writer to write limits and conditions in the permit applicable to all components of the POTW on the basis of the treatment plant’s application. Receiving a single application from the operator of a portion of the discharging POTW is one reasonable way to structure the permit application process, particularly in the case of a regionally integrated treatment works where there is a centralized administrative entity responsible for operating the POTW Treatment Plant and coordinating wastewater flows from the multiple satellite collection system operators that all contribute to the final effluent discharge.

Although EPA has the authority to require operators of the municipal satellite collection systems to submit individual permit applications, in this case I find that requiring a single permit application executed by the regional POTW owner/operator will be sufficient, as I have been provided, or have access to, “substantially identical information” to what would have been provided to EPA by the collection system operator, or that the detailed information requirements of Form 2A are not otherwise material to

EPA's drafting of co-permittee requirements. Requiring a single application will also be less duplicative and less burdensome than requiring separate applications from each municipal satellite collection system owner/operator. Municipal satellite collection system owners/operators should consult with the regional POTW operators to ensure that any information provided to EPA about their respective entities is accurate and complete. If EPA requires additional information, it may use its information collection authority under CWA § 308. 33 U.S.C. § 1318.

As a general matter, EPA does not foresee the need to require individual permit applications from each municipal satellite collection system operator and anticipates that information in the POTW operator's permit application and other information in the administrative record will be sufficient to establish permit limits and conditions for the entire treatment works. In the future permitting cycles, EPA will indicate whether it will require additional material from those entities operating the outlying portions of the treatment works to render the permit application "complete" under 40 CFR § 124.3(c) after receiving and reviewing the re-application for the permit from the MWRA DITP.

This notice reflects my determination based on the specific facts and circumstances in this case. It is not intended to bind the agency in future determinations where a separate permit for municipal satellites would not be duplicative or immaterial.

Prior to issuing the draft permit and fact sheet for public notice, EPA Region 1 will hold a virtual informational session for MWRA and the co-permittees on March 28, 2023 from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm ([Click here to join the meeting](#)). EPA will explain the draft permit's co-permittee requirements at this meeting and will answer questions pertaining to EPA Region 1's co-permitting strategy.

The co-permittees and MWRA will each receive a copy of the draft permit and the fact sheet when EPA publicly notices them. The public will then have at least 30 days to submit comments on the draft permit to EPA. Consistent with 40 CFR § 124.10, EPA's public notice will detail how the public may comment on the draft permit.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this decision, do not hesitate to contact Michele Barden of my staff at (617) 918-1539 or barden.michele@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



David W. Cash
Regional Administrator
Office of the Regional Administrator

cc: Claire Golden, MassDEP
Frederick Laskey, MWRA

Attachment A
Co-permittees to NPDES Permit No. MA0103284
MWRA Deer Island Treatment Plant

Town of Arlington Department of Public Works 51 Grove Street Arlington, MA 02476	Town of Ashland Department of Public Works 20 Ponderosa Road Ashland, MA 01721
Town of Bedford Department of Public Works 314 Great Road Bedford, MA 01730	Town of Belmont Department of Public Works 19 Moore Street Belmont, MA 02478
Town of Braintree Department of Public Works P.O. Box 850903 Braintree, MA 02185-0903	Town of Brookline Town Engineer 333 Washington Street Brookline, MA 02445
Town of Burlington Town Engineer 29 Center Street Burlington, MA 01803	Town of Canton Department of Public Works 801 Washington Street Canton, MA 02021
Town of Dedham Department of Public Works 55 River Street Dedham, MA 02026	City of Everett Department of Public Works 19 Norman Street Everett, MA 02149
City of Framingham Department of Public Works 100 Western Avenue Framingham, MA 01701	Town of Hingham Department of Public Works 210 Central Street Hingham, MA 02043
Town of Holbrook Department of Public Works 50 N. Franklin Street Holbrook, MA 02343	Town of Lexington Department of Public Works 201 Bedford Street Lexington, MA 02420
City of Malden Department of Public Works 200 Pleasant Street Malden, MA 02148	City of Medford Town Engineer 85 George P. Hassett Drive Medford, MA 02155
City of Melrose Department of Public Works 72 Tremont St. Melrose, MA 02176	Town of Milton Department of Public Works 629 Randolph Avenue Milton, MA 02186
Town of Natick Department of Public Works 75 West Street Natick, MA 01760	Town of Needham Department of Public Works 470 Dedham Avenue Needham, MA 02492
City of Newton Department of Public Works 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, MA 02459	Town of Norwood Department of Public Works 566 Washington Street Norwood, MA 02062
City of Quincy Department of Public Works 55 Sea Street Quincy, MA 02169	Town of Randolph Department of Public Works 41 South Main Street Randolph, MA 02368

Town of Reading Department of Public Works 16 Lowell Street Reading, MA 01867	City of Revere Department of PublicWorks 321 Rear Charger Street Revere, MA 02151
Town of Stoneham Public Works Department 16 Pine Street Stoneham, MA 02180	Town of Stoughton Department of PublicWorks 950 Central Street Stoughton, MA 02072
Town of Wakefield Director of Public Works 1 Lafayette Street Wakefield, MA 01880	Town of Walpole Department of PublicWorks 135 School Street Walpole, MA 02081
City of Waltham Department of PublicWorks 165 Lexington Street Waltham, MA 02452	Town of Watertown Department of PublicWorks 124 Orchard Street Watertown, MA 02472
Town of Wellesley Department of PublicWorks 455 Worcester Street Wellesley, MA 02481	Town of Westwood Department of PublicWorks 50 Carby Street Westwood, MA 02090
Town of Weymouth Department of PublicWorks 120 Winter Street Weymouth, MA 02188	Town of Wilmington Department of Public Works 121 Glen Road Wilmington, MA 01887
Town of Winchester Department of PublicWorks 15 Lake Street Winchester, MA 01890	Town of Winthrop Department of Public Works 100 Kennedy Drive Winthrop, MA 02152
City of Woburn Public Works Sewer Division 50 North Warren Street Woburn, MA 01801	

NOTE: The Cities of Boston, Cambridge, Chelsea and Somerville have received separate letters as current permittees under NPDES Permit Nos. MA0101192, MA0101974, MA0101877 and MA0101982, respectively.