



Dear Ms. Murphy,

I live just down the street from the Assabet River and am consistently appalled by the level of phosphorous pollution affecting our river. It renders this beautiful river often unpleasant to canoe (as we have to force our boat through the heavy weeds), aesthetically offensive (as the duckweed spreads from shore to shore), and all too often odoriferous.

The main problem on the Assabet is of course insufficiently treated wastewater, but polluted stormwater runoff is also a significant factor. While I understand that the pending draft stormwater general permit for northeast mass does not directly address the Assabet, it will undoubtedly set the precedent for the permit that eventually applies to the Assabet.

I would urge you to issue the strongest possible permit conditions and particularly to require towns to enforce TMDL discharge limits for all discharges into town owned storm drain systems.

Towns, including the town of Maynard, while mostly well intentioned, are not doing enough about stormwater to constitute an "effective" response to the problem. While it does not seem to me that it would be terribly expensive to comply with the types of requirements outlined in your draft permit, the political reality for virtually all municipalities right now is that they can not do anything (i.e. can not raise funds) unless they absolutely "have to do it." As you move forward with final permit, I urge you to bear this in mind, and therefore make the permit requirements very specific as to what the towns must do and by when. I also urge you to include some firm deadlines within one to two years to prevent the permit requirements being ignored until the very end of the permit term. In the absence of this sort of specific mandate, our DPW will not be able to get even a modest amount of funds to begin addressing our stormwater problem in a meaningful way.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jill Foster
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