



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Division of Watershed Management, 627 Main Street 2nd Floor, Worcester, MA 01608

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PUBLIC MEETING –March 22, 2007

**Draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) For Total Phosphorus
Lower Charles River Basin**

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) announces the availability for public comment the **Draft Total Maximum Daily Load for Nutrients In the Lower Charles River Basin, Massachusetts**. This draft TMDL Report (CN 301.0) is required by the EPA Federal Clean Water Act, Section 303d. It has been prepared through the collaborative efforts of MassDEP, US EPA Region I, and Tetra Tech, Inc. and was developed to evaluate and address eutrophication in the Lower Charles River Basin.

A TMDL establishes a maximum amount of pollution that a water body can accept and still meet water quality standards. The TMDL serves as the technical basis for developing more detailed local implementation plans designed to find, prioritize, and address specific sources of phosphorus throughout the watershed and restore the water quality in the Lower Charles River Basin. This 8.5-mile section of the river that begins at the Watertown Dam and ends at the Museum of Science has been plagued in recent years with excessive algal blooms. It was previously listed on the EPA approved 2004 Massachusetts Integrated list of waters (category 5) and the proposed 2006 Integrated List of Waters as impaired for nutrients, organic enrichment, and noxious aquatic plants.

MassDEP has prepared the Draft TMDL report for controlling excess nutrients (phosphorus), the primary cause of algal blooms and other associated impairments in the Lower Charles River Basin. These conditions impair the water for their designated uses, including swimming, fishing, and aesthetic quality. Under extreme conditions algal blooms can lead to the release of toxic compounds and can lead to periodic and extreme fluctuations in dissolved oxygen concentrations that threaten aquatic life. The primary "locally controllable" sources of phosphorus include stormwater runoff, illicit sewer connections, combined sewer overflows (CSO's) and discharges from publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) throughout the watershed including many sources both above and below the Watertown Dam.

A copy of this Draft TMDL and a further explanation of the TMDL Program are available on MassDEP's website at: <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/resources/tmdls.htm>.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) will hold a public meeting on Thursday, March 22, 2007 from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm at the Massachusetts Horticultural Society @ Elm Bank, 900 Washington Street, Wellesley, MA to discuss the proposed TMDL. Directions can be found on the Mass Horticultural Society website @ <http://www.masshort.org/>.

This information is available in alternate format. Call Donald M. Gomes, ADA Coordinator at (617) 556-1057.

<http://www.mass.gov/dep> • Phone (508) 792-7470 • Fax (508) 791-4131

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MassDEP will consider all comments and the Draft TMDL Report will be revised as appropriate prior to submittal to EPA Region 1 for final approval. All public comments, which should refer to report number CN 301.0, must be received in writing or preferably in electronic format by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 20, 2007, and be addressed to:

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