

**Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Watershed Planning Program, 627 Main St, 2nd floor, Worcester, MA 01608**

NOTICE: Public comments are invited on the Northeast Regional Mercury Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).

DESCRIPTION: The Northeast Regional Mercury TMDL is the Federal Clean Water Act mandated document that identifies pollutant load reductions necessary for regional waterbodies to meet and maintain compliance with state and federal water quality standards. The Northeast states have a number of statewide, regional, and waterbody-specific fish consumption advisories as a result of mercury pollution and the overall objective of the TMDL is to reduce mercury in regional waterbodies to the point that fish consumption advisories will no longer be necessary. The TMDL was prepared by the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC) in cooperation with the state environmental agencies of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

The TMDL covers over 10,000 lakes, ponds, and reservoirs and over 46,000 river miles that are impaired primarily due to atmospheric deposition of mercury. A regional fish tissue database and atmospheric deposition modeling performed by the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management were used in setting the TMDL baseline and reduction targets. To meet reduction targets, the TMDL calls for phased adaptive implementation, continuation of the region's ongoing mercury reduction efforts, and significant reductions from out-of-region sources of atmospheric deposition.

Since 1998, the Northeast states have significantly reduced their mercury emissions and discharges. The states have set strict emissions limits for municipal waste combustors and medical waste incinerators, passed legislation to require installation of dental amalgam separators, and passed legislation regarding labeling, sale, and disposal of mercury-containing products. In addition, the New England states have committed to virtual elimination of regional mercury sources through participation in the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers Mercury Task Force.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: Written comments will be accepted on the draft TMDL through the close of business **May 25, 2007 (4:30 PM)**. Comments should be submitted in writing to the address below:

Dennis R. Dunn, Program Supervisor, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Watershed Planning Program, 627 Main St, 2nd floor, Worcester, MA 01608

Or as an attached Microsoft Word document to the following email address:

Dennis.dunn@state.ma.us

Informational public meetings will be held as follows:

Monday, April 30, 2007 at 3:00 pm at the MassDEP Central Regional Office, 627 Main St., Worcester, MA 01608.

Tuesday, May 1, at 3:00 pm at the MassDEP, Main Office, 1 Winter St., Boston, MA 02108.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The TMDL and supporting documents may be downloaded from the MassDEP website at <http://mass.gov/dep/water/resources/tmdls.htm> or obtained by calling MassDEP at 508-767-2872. Office hours are daily from 8:45 am to 5:00 pm.