

**Upper Housatonic River ACEC Nomination Accepted for Full Review by
EEA Secretary Bowles**

On September 29, 2008, Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Ian Bowles accepted for full public review the nomination of the Upper Housatonic River as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Covering approximately 12,280 acres in Lee, Lenox, Pittsfield, and Washington, the nominated area includes the 13-mile corridor of the Upper Housatonic River, adjacent floodplains, tributary streams, and the steep slopes of October Mountain. More than 2,000 acres in Lee and Washington encompass parts of two other ACECs: Hinsdale Flats Watershed and Kamposoa Bog Drainage Basin.

Forty-three citizens submitted the Upper Housatonic nomination to EEA on September 2nd, including US Representative John Olver; state Senator Ben Downing; state Representatives Dennis Guyer, Smitty Pignatelli, and Christopher Speranzo; and members of the Pittsfield City Council, Lenox Board of Selectmen, and Washington Select Board. The Berkshire County League of Sportsmen, Berkshire Natural Resources Council, Green Berkshires, and Massachusetts Audubon Society comprise the nominating steering committee.

Information about the ACEC nomination, including a full copy of the nomination report with color maps is available on the nominators' website at <http://savethehousatonic.org>. Copies of the nomination and maps showing the proposed boundary have been distributed to local officials in the four communities, and are available to view at city and town halls, public libraries, and offices of Berkshire Regional Planning Commission in Pittsfield, Mass Audubon's Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary in Lenox, Berkshire Natural Resources Council in Pittsfield, and Green Berkshires in Great Barrington. A review copy is also available at the offices of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), Bureau of Planning and Resource Protection, 251 Causeway Street, 7th Floor, Boston.

DCR's ACEC Program will conduct the full review of the nomination over the next several months. The ACEC Program together with the nominators will hold a public information meeting in each ACEC community to educate interested citizens about the nomination, the ACEC Program and the effects of ACEC designation. The schedule of meetings is attached.

Following the public meetings the Secretary and ACEC Program staff will determine whether more public information meetings are required before scheduling a public hearing. Public comment is solicited and may be provided at the public hearing or may be sent to

Secretary Ian A. Bowles
c/o Elizabeth Sorenson, Director
ACEC Program, DCR
251 Causeway St., Suite 600
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or via email to elizabeth.sorenson@state.ma.us. When the public hearing is scheduled it will be noticed in *The Berkshire Eagle* and the *Environmental Monitor*. The Secretary will make a decision whether to designate the nominated area within 60 days following the public hearing. For more information about the ACEC nomination review, please contact Elizabeth Sorenson at (617) 626-1394 or the email above. For more information on the ACEC Program, visit www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/acec.

**Upper Housatonic River Nomination as an
Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)**

Schedule of Public Information Meetings for Nomination Review

Lenox

Date: **Tuesday, October 21, 2008 7:00 PM**
Location: Lenox Town Hall
Auditorium
6 Walker Street
Lenox

Pittsfield

Date: **Wednesday, October 22, 2008 7:00 PM**
Location: Pittsfield City Hall
City Council Chambers
70 Allen Street
Pittsfield

Lee

Date: **Tuesday, October 28, 2008 7:00 PM**
Location: Lee Town Hall
Courtroom, First Floor
32 Main Street
Lee

Washington

Date: **Wednesday, October 29, 2008 7:00 PM**
Location: Washington Town Hall
7 Summit Hill Road
Washington

For further information, please contact:

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