



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION

100 CAMBRIDGE STREET, BOSTON MA 02114

**Receipt of a Request for Approval of
an Action to Increase the Present
Rate of Interbasin Transfer
Under the Interbasin Transfer Act
MGL Chapter 21 Section 8B-8D**

On December 1, 2006, the Massachusetts Water Resources Commission received a request for approval of an action to increase the present rate of interbasin transfer under the Interbasin Transfer Act (M.G.L. Chapter 21 §§. 8B-8D) from the Town of Reading. The Town, which has land area in the Ipswich River basin, the Mystic River subbasin of the Boston Harbor basin and North Coastal basin, is applying for admission to the MWRA Waterworks System, which has sources in the Chicopee River basin and the Nashua River basin. Reading is proposing to purchase up to 2.27 million gallons per day (mgd) to replace its existing water supply sources. The Commission is in the process of reviewing the application to assure that all required information has been provided. In 2005, the WRC approved Reading's request to transfer 219 million gallons per year for the time period from May through October. This latest request represents an increase in transfer of 1.67 mgd.

An environmental review, pursuant to Section 61 & 62H, inclusive, of Chapter 30, is required for this proposed action. The Interbasin Transfer (IBT) application was submitted as part of the Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Report for this project (EOEA #12514).

Once the MEPA process has concluded and the application has been accepted as complete by the Water Resources Commission, a public review and comment period commences. Two public hearings will be held. Written comments will also be accepted. After the close of the public comment period, WRC Staff will make a recommendation concerning the merits of the application. The WRC will hold an additional public hearing to take comments on the Staff's recommendation. Within 60 days of this final public hearing, the WRC must make a decision on the proposal.

As required by the Interbasin Transfer Act regulations (313 CMR 4.00), copies of this notice have been sent to the municipalities directly affected. Copies of the SFEIR/IBT application are available for review at the Reading Public Library, the Belchertown Public Library, and the Clinton Public Library. For further information, contact Michele Drury, (617) 626-1366 (michele.drury@state.ma.us).