



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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Commissioner

Notice of Availability: *Proposed Massachusetts Year 2006 Integrated List of Waters*

MassDEP has available for public review and comment the *Proposed Massachusetts Year 2006 Integrated List of Waters* that will be submitted to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in fulfillment of reporting requirements of both sections 305(b) (*Summary of Water Quality Report*) and 303(d) (*List of Impaired Waters*) of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

Section 303(d) of the CWA and the implementing regulations at 40 CFR 130.7 require states to identify those waterbodies that are not expected to meet surface water quality standards after the implementation of technology-based controls and to prioritize and schedule them for the development of a total maximum daily load (TMDL). A TMDL establishes the maximum amount of a pollutant that may be introduced into a waterbody and still ensure attainment and maintenance of water quality standards. Unlike reporting under Section 305(b) the development of the 303(d) List includes a public review and comment process, and the final version of the list must be formally approved by the EPA.

Guidance released by the EPA in 2001 permits states to provide the status of their waters in a single multi-part list. In accordance with this guidance MassDEP's Division of Watershed Management (DWM) has drafted a document in which each water body or segment thereof is assigned to one of the following five categories:

- 1) Unimpaired and not threatened for all designated uses;
- 2) Unimpaired for some uses and not assessed for others;
- 3) Insufficient information to make assessments for any uses;
- 4) Impaired or threatened for one or more uses but not needing a TMDL; and
- 5) Impaired or threatened for one or more uses and requiring a TMDL.

Thus, Category 5 constitutes the Massachusetts Year 2006 303(d) List of Impaired Waters and, as such, will be reviewed and approved by the EPA. The remaining four categories are submitted in fulfillment of the requirements under Section 305(b).

The proposed Integrated List is available for review and comment on MassDEP's web site at <http://mass.gov/dep/water/resources/tmdls.htm>. If you do not have access to the world wide web, please contact the DWM at (508) 767-2872 or (508) 767-2873.

All comments should be submitted in writing to the address below no later than **August 4, 2006**.

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This information is available in alternate format by calling our ADA Coordinator at (617) 556-1057.

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