



MASSACHUSETTS WATER RESOURCES AUTHORITY

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Frederick A. Laskey
Executive Director

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MEPA

June 16, 2003

Kevin Brander - DEP CSO Coordinator
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
One Winter Street – 5th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

Eric Hall – Environmental Engineer
USEPA Region 1
1 Congress Street
Suite 1100 (SEW)
Boston, MA 02114-2023

James Hunt - Director
Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act Office
251 Causeway Street
Boston, MA 02114

RE: Section B. (1) of the MA Department of Environmental Protection's September 2, 1998 Final Variance for MWRA's CSO Control Plan for the Lower Charles River Basin and its October 24, 2002 Final Determination on the Extension to the Variance

Dear Messrs. Brander, Hall and Hunt:

Condition B. (1) of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's ("DEP") September 2, 1998 Final Variance for MWRA's CSO Control Plan for the Lower Charles River Basin and DEP's October 24, 2002 Final Determination on the Extension to the Variance require MWRA to submit the *Cottage Farm CSO Facility Assessment Report* ("Cottage Farm Report") to DEP, EPA and MEPA by July 1, 2003. The main topics to be presented in the report are an evaluation of the performance of the upgraded Cottage Farm CSO facility; the results of updated receiving water testing and modeling; an assessment of the cost, water quality benefits and environmental impacts of constructing additional storage in the Magazine Park vicinity; and an affordability analysis of the financial impacts of building additional storage to achieve a higher level of CSO control.

This letter serves to inform you that, for reasons outlined below, MWRA must delay submission of the Cottage Farm Report from July 1 to September 2, 2003. We request

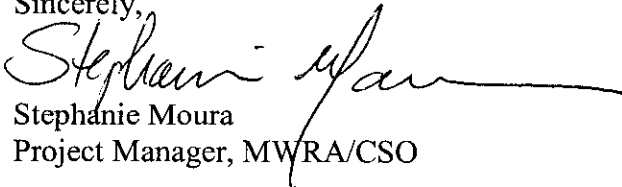
that the MEPA office make notice of this in the upcoming issue of the Environmental Monitor so that interested parties are aware of this delay.

There are two main factors that necessitate postponing submission of the report. The first is that MWRA has been unable to complete the effluent and receiving water sampling program to support the facility performance evaluation. The sampling program was initially delayed because the post-construction start-up period for the facility upgrade took longer than planned, primarily due to lack of rainstorms adequate to cause the facility to come on-line for sufficient durations. MWRA was able to commence the variance-required sampling program on April 1, once winter conditions, including ice cover, abated. Since that time, MWRA has been able to conduct one sampling event out of the four minimum desired. MWRA was originally scoped to conduct six events, but has revised that to a minimum of four, with the aim of avoiding further delay.

Secondly, MWRA needs additional time to conduct collection system modeling to assess hydraulic optimization measures in this area to ensure that flow volumes reaching the Cottage Farm facility are optimized prior to considering the cost and benefit of constructing additional storage. MWRA is currently transitioning from its former SWMM model to a newer, more sophisticated Infoworks® model, which will allow more detailed hydraulic evaluations, including real-time controls. MWRA expects to conduct these simulations over the summer.

As always, I look forward to our continued work on the CSO projects. Should you have any questions, please contact me at (617) 788-4399.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Moura
Project Manager, MWRA/CSO

File: 5716.16

cc: Steven Lipman, DEP
Michael Hornbrook, MWRA
David Kubiak, MWRA
Owen O'Riordan, City of Cambridge