



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Division of Watershed Management, 627 Main Street 2nd Floor, Worcester, MA 01608

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PUBLIC MEETING – August 1, 2007
Nashua River Nutrient (Phosphorus) TMDL
Devens, The MassDevelopment Center

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP) is announcing that the Draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Total Phosphorus in segments of the Nashua River including tributaries, Report number MA 81-TMDL 2007-2, is available for public comment. This Draft TMDL Report is required by the USEPA Federal Clean Water Act section 303d.

The following 3 segments are on the 303(d) list for nutrients.

- MA81-05** Confluence with North Nashua River, Lancaster to confluence with Squannacook River, Shirley/Groton/Ayer, **14.2 miles for nutrients.**
- MA81-06** Confluence with Squannacook River, Shirley/Groton/Ayer to Pepperell Dam, Pepperell, **9.5 miles for nutrients and organic enrichment/low DO and noxious aquatic plants.**
- MA81-07** Pepperell Dam, Pepperell to New Hampshire state line, Pepperell/Dunstable, **3.7 miles for nutrients.**

The following 4 segments are listed on the 303(d) list for other causes but are included here as part of a protective TMDL:

- MA81-01** Outlet Snows Millpond, Fitchburg to Fitchburg Paper Company Dam #1, Fitchburg, 1.7 miles
- MA81-02** Fitchburg Paper Company Dam #1 to Fitchburg East WWTF, Fitchburg, 6.9 miles
- MA81-03** Fitchburg East WWTF, Fitchburg to Leominster WWTF, Leominster 1.6 miles
- MA81-04** Leominster WWTF, Leominster to confluence with Nashua River, Lancaster 10.4 miles

This TMDL and the Technical Report on which it is based have been prepared as part of the Massachusetts TMDL Program, a collaborative effort of the MassDEP, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, as well as municipalities and watershed associations in southeastern Massachusetts, to identify and address 303(d) listed waterbodies in Massachusetts.

A TMDL establishes a maximum amount of pollution that a water body can accept and still meet water quality standards. The TMDL serves as the regulatory and technical basis for developing integrated water resource management plans designed to restore the health of an impaired water body. Three segments of the Nashua River are listed on the 2006 Massachusetts Integrated List of Waters (Category 5) as impaired primarily for nutrients.

MassDEP has prepared the Draft TMDL report for controlling excess nutrients (phosphorus), the primary cause of eutrophication that chokes waterbodies with harmful algae, and depletes oxygen for fish. The primary "locally controllable" source of phosphorus in these segments is treated sanitary wastewater. Stormwater runoff, leaching lawn fertilizers, discharges from agricultural land uses, and atmospheric deposition, also contribute varying quantities of phosphorus to the Nashua River and its tributaries. The goal is to achieve state water quality standards for Class B waters as defined in Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards, 314 CMR 4.00. The water quality standards of particular interest are for dissolved oxygen, nutrients, aesthetics, excess plant biomass, and nuisance vegetation. Standards for waters provide numerical and narrative criteria to meet designated uses, including the support of habitat for fish and other aquatic wildlife.

A copy of this Draft TMDL for Total Phosphorus, and a further explanation of the TMDL Program are available on MassDEP's website at: <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/resources/tmdls.htm>.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) will hold a public meeting on Wednesday August 1, 2007 from 4:00 pm– 6:00 pm at Devens, The MassDevelopment Center, 33 Andrews Parkway, to discuss and respond to any public comments on the report. (Route 2 to Exit 37B-Jackson Road. Enter Devens through the Jackson Road Entrance. Continue straight through the entrance for 1.5 miles. Take a right onto Ryans Way at Devens Common. Continue to stop sign. Take a left onto Andrews Parkway. The MassDevelopment Office is 33 Andrews Parkway.)

MassDEP will consider all comments and the Draft TMDL Report will be revised as appropriate prior to submittal to EPA Region 1 for approval. All public comments, which should refer to report number MA 96-TMDL-12, must be received in writing or in electronic format by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 17, 2007, and addressed to:

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