



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

Division of Watershed Management, 627 Main Street, Worcester, MA
01608

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Commissioner

PUBLIC MEETINGS: Central and Northeastern Watersheds
Blackstone, Concord, Nashua – August 9, 2005
Ipswich, Merrimack, Parker – August 18, 2005

Draft Pathogen Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP) announces the availability, for public comment, of the Draft Pathogen Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Reports for several Central and Northeastern Watersheds: Blackstone, Concord, Nashua, Ipswich, Merrimack and Parker. These Draft TMDL Reports for Pathogens (e.g. fecal coliform, *E. coli*, and enterococcus bacteria) are required by the EPA Federal Clean Water Act section 303d. These watershed-wide TMDLs for pathogens have been prepared as part of a collaborative effort between the MA DEP and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency –Region 1.

A TMDL is essentially a “pollution budget” and an outline of a cleanup plan designed to restore the health of an impaired waterbody. A TMDL establishes a maximum amount of pollution that a water body can accept and still meet water quality standards. In the case of bacteria, their load is expressed as a concentration equal to the water quality criterion in all runoff. Compliance is based on the concentration in the receiving surface water.

MA DEP has prepared Draft watershed-wide TMDLs for controlling certain types of bacteria, such as coliform, *E. Coli*, and enterococcus, which are indicators of contamination from sewage and/or feces of warm-blooded wildlife (mammals and birds). The primary and likely sources of indicator bacteria in these Watersheds include failing septic systems, combined sewer overflows, sanitary sewer flows, and direct overland storm water runoff. The goal of this TMDL is to achieve state water quality and public health standards for Class A and B waters. The Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards-314 CMR 4.00 and the Department of Public Health regulations – 105 CMR 445.00 set relevant bacterial standards to protect public drinking water supplies and enhance recreational uses (e.g. swimming, fishing, boating etc.) in our surface waters.

A copy of these Draft TMDLs and a further explanation of the TMDL Program are available on MA DEP’s website at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/brp/wm/tmdls.htm>

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP) will hold public meetings on the following Central and Northeastern Watersheds to discuss and respond to any public comments on these draft reports. The public meeting schedule is as follows:

Blackstone, Concord, Nashua – August 9, 2005 at 2:00pm and 7:00 pm
MA DEP, Central Regional Office- Commissioner’s Conference Room
627 Main Street
Worcester, MA
<http://www.mass.gov/dep/cero/cerodir.htm>

This information is available in alternate format. Call Debra Doherty, ADA Coordinator, at 1-617-292-5565. TDD Service - 1-800-298-2207.

<http://www.mass.gov/dep> • Phone (508) 792-7650 • Fax (508) 792-7621

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Ipswich, Merrimack, Parker – August 18, 2005 at 3:00pm and 7:00 pm
Lawrence Heritage State Park- 3rd Floor Conference Room
One Jackson Street
Lawrence, MA
<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/northeast/lwhp.htm>

The Department will consider all comments and the Draft Reports will be revised as appropriate prior to submittal to EPA Region 1 for approval. All public comments, which should identify the specific watersheds cited above, must be received in writing by 5:00 p.m. on September 2, 2005 and mailed to:

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Watershed Management,
627 Main St., 2nd Floor
Worcester, MA, 01608
Attn: Russell A. Isaac Ph.D., P.E.