



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

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PUBLIC MEETING - October 9, 2008

**Draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) For Bacteria
Narragansett and Mount Hope Bay Watersheds**

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) announces the availability, for public comment, of the Draft Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) in coastal water bodies in the Narragansett and Mount Hope Bay estuary systems, with watersheds in all or part of the following Massachusetts communities: Attleboro, Dighton, Fall River, Rehoboth, Seekonk, Somerset, Swansea and Westport. The watershed is made up of five main river systems, Lee River, Cole River, Kickamuit River, Palmer River and Runnins River. This Draft TMDL Report is required by the EPA Federal Clean Water Act section 303d.

A TMDL establishes the maximum amount of a pollutant 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 water quality of impaired water bodies. There are 18 waterbody segments assessed by the MassDEP in the Narragansett/Mt. Hope Bay watershed. These segments include seven estuary segments, six river segments, and five lake segments. All of the estuary segments and four of the six river segments are pathogen-impaired and appear as such as Category 5 (waters requiring a TMDL) of Integrated List of Waters (sections 303(d) and 305(b) of the Clean Water Act). A pathogen TMDL has been previously prepared and approved for the Palmer River (MA53-03; MA53-04; MA53-05) estuary segments located in Rehoboth. A pathogen TMDL for the Kickamuit River segment (MA61-08) has been jointly developed by Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

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

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) in conjunction with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management will hold an informational meeting on Thursday, October 9, 2008 starting at 6:00 pm in the 'Great Room' at the Villages on Mount Hope Bay, 120 Schooner Drive, Tiverton, RI to discuss and respond to any public comments on the

Massachusetts report and the Rhode Island report “Mount Hope Bay Kickemuit River Wet Weather Bacteria Sampling 2006 Final Data Report”.

MassDEP will consider all comments and the Draft Report will be revised as appropriate prior to submittal to EPA Region 1 for approval. All public comments must be received in writing or in electronic format by November 14, 2008 and should be addressed to:

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