



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

DEVAL L. PATRICK
Governor

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
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Notice of Availability: *Proposed Massachusetts Year 2008 Integrated List of Waters*

MassDEP has available for public review and comment the most recent proposed update on the status of Massachusetts' waters that is submitted every two years 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). Entitled "*Proposed Massachusetts Year 2008 Integrated List of Waters*", this revision is based primarily on new watershed assessments completed by the Division of Watershed Management for the Charles, Connecticut, Hudson, Housatonic, and Ten Mile watersheds and North Coastal drainages. Water quality assessment reports covering these watersheds have been completed and can be found at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/resources/wqassess.htm>.

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.

As with previous list submittals in 2002, 2004 and 2006, each water body, or segment thereof, is assigned to one category of the list in accordance with guidelines established by the EPA. Category 5 is the actual 303(d) list of impaired waters that must be reviewed and approved by the EPA. The remaining four categories, as well as additional information provided in the narrative portion of the report, are submitted in fulfillment of requirements under §305(b). This includes descriptions of the various components of Massachusetts' water quality management program, such as TMDL development, surface water permitting and nonpoint source pollution control. Finally, the methodology that is currently employed for assessing and listing the status of Massachusetts' waters is presented.

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 **June 6, 2008**.

MassDEP
Division of Watershed Management
627 Main Street, Second Floor
Worcester, MA 01608
Attn: Arthur S. Johnson