

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) announces the availability for public comment the Draft Total Maximum Daily Load for Phosphorus in the Upper/Middle Charles River. This draft TMDL Report (CN 270.2) is required by the EPA Federal Clean Water Act, Section 303d. It has been prepared through the collaborative efforts of MassDEP, US EPA Region 1, and Charles River Watershed Association and was developed to evaluate and address eutrophication in the Upper/Middle Charles River Watershed.

MassDEP has prepared the Draft TMDL report for controlling excess nutrients, specifically phosphorus which is the primary cause of algal blooms and other associated impairments in the Upper/Middle Charles River Watershed. These conditions impair the water for their designated uses, including swimming and fishing. Under extreme conditions algal blooms can lead to the release of toxic compounds and can also lead to periodic and extreme fluctuations in dissolved oxygen concentrations that threaten aquatic life. The primary anthropogenic, or human, phosphorus sources in the Upper/Middle watershed include stormwater runoff from developed land uses and discharges from wastewater treatment facilities.

A copy of this Draft TMDL 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 **Thursday, October 29th, 2009 from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm** at the Massachusetts Horticultural Society at Elm Bank Reservation, 900 Washington Street, Wellesley, MA to discuss the proposed TMDL. Directions can be found on the Massachusetts Horticultural Society website <http://www.masshort.org/directions>.

MassDEP will consider all comments and the Draft TMDL Report will be revised as appropriate prior to submittal to EPA Region 1 for final approval. All public comments, which should refer to report number CN 270.2, must be received in writing, preferably in electronic format, by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 30, 2009, and be addressed to:

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