

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY – REGION 1 (EPA)
WATER DIVISION
5 POST OFFICE SQUARE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (MASSDEP)
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
1 WINTER STREET
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108

EPA **EXTENSION OF PUBLIC NOTICE** OF A DRAFT NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT TO DISCHARGE INTO WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES UNDER SECTION 402 OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT (CWA), AS AMENDED, AND MASSDEP PUBLIC NOTICE OF EPA REQUEST FOR STATE CERTIFICATION UNDER SECTION 401 OF THE CWA.

PUBLIC NOTICE PERIOD: March 30, 2023 – April 28, 2023

PUBLIC NOTICE EXTENDED TO: May 12, 2023

NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF APPLICANT:

Town of Montague
1 Avenue A
Turner Falls, MA 01376

NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE FACILITY WHERE DISCHARGE OCCURS:

Town of Montague Clean Water Facility
34 Greenfield Road
Montague, MA 01351

RECEIVING WATER AND CLASSIFICATION:

Connecticut River (Class B)

PREPARATION OF THE DRAFT PERMIT AND EPA REQUEST FOR CWA § 401 CERTIFICATION:

EPA is issuing for public notice and comment the Draft NPDES Permit for the Town of Montague Clean Water Facility, which discharges treated domestic, industrial and commercial wastewater. Sludge from this facility is transported off-site by Casella to Canada for composting. The effluent limits and permit conditions have been drafted pursuant to, and assure compliance with, the CWA, including EPA-approved State Surface Water Quality Standards at 314 CMR 4.00. MassDEP cooperated with EPA in the development of the Draft NPDES Permit. MassDEP retains independent authority under State law to publish for public notice and issue a separate Surface Water Discharge Permit for the discharge, not the subject of this notice, under the Massachusetts Clean Waters Act, M.G.L. c. 21, §§ 26-53.

In addition, EPA has requested that MassDEP grant or deny certification of this Draft Permit pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA and implementing regulations. Under federal regulations governing the NPDES program at 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 124.53(e), state certification shall contain conditions that are necessary to assure compliance with the applicable provisions of CWA sections 208(e), 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 and with appropriate requirements of State law, including any conditions more stringent than those in the Draft Permit that MassDEP finds necessary to meet these requirements. Furthermore, MassDEP may provide a statement of the extent to which each condition of the Draft Permit can be made less stringent without violating the requirements of State law.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE DRAFT PERMIT:

The Draft Permit and explanatory Fact Sheet may be obtained at no cost at <https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/massachusetts-draft-individual-npdes-permits> or by contacting:

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Email: duspiva.michele@epa.gov

Following U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) guidance and specific state guidelines impacting our regional offices, EPA's workforce has been directed to telework to help prevent transmission of the coronavirus. While in this workforce telework status, there are practical limitations on the ability of Agency personnel to allow the public to review the administrative record in person at the EPA Boston office. However, any electronically available documents that are part of the administrative record can be requested from the EPA contact above.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND REQUESTS FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS:

All persons, including applicants, who believe any condition of this Draft Permit is inappropriate must raise all reasonably ascertainable issues and submit all reasonably available arguments supporting their position by **May 12, 2023**, which is the close of the public comment period. Comments, including those pertaining to EPA's request for CWA § 401 certification, should be submitted to the EPA contact at the address or email listed above. Upon the close of the public comment period, EPA will make all comments available to MassDEP. All commenters who want MassDEP to consider their comments in the state decision-making processes (i.e., the separate state permit and the CWA § 401 certification) must submit such comments to MassDEP during the state comment period for the state Draft Permit and CWA § 401 certification. For information on submitting such comments to MassDEP, please follow the instructions found in the state public notice at: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massdep-public-hearings-comment-opportunities>.

Any person, prior to the close of the EPA public comment period, may submit a request in writing to EPA for a public hearing on the Draft Permit under 40 CFR § 124.10. Such requests shall state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised in the hearing. A public hearing may be held after at least thirty days public notice if the Regional Administrator finds that response to this notice indicates significant public interest. In reaching a final decision on this Draft Permit, the Regional Administrator will respond to all significant comments and make the responses available to the public.

Due to the COVID-19 National Emergency, if comments are submitted in hard copy form, please also email a copy to the EPA contact above.

FINAL PERMIT DECISION:

Following the close of the comment period, and after a public hearing, if such hearing is held, the Regional Administrator will issue a final permit decision and notify the applicant and each person who has submitted written comments or requested notice.

KEN MORAFF, DIRECTOR
WATER DIVISION
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY – REGION 1

LEALDON LANGLEY, DIRECTOR
DIVISION OF WATERSHED MGMT
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION