

Massport Logan Airport Community Information Sheet

U.S. EPA | PERMITS UNDER THE CLEAN WATER ACT

U.S. EPA SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT

on the Draft Clean Water Act Permit for the Massport Logan Airport,
Located in East Boston

On April 12, 2021, U.S. EPA issued a draft NPDES permit under the Clean Water Act (CWA) for the Massachusetts Port Authority's (Massport) Logan Airport facility located adjacent to Boston Harbor, Boston Inner Harbor and Winthrop Bay in East Boston for a 60-day public comment period. Massport owns and operates Logan Airport which serves the Boston metropolitan area and New England. This permit, last issued in 2007, limits what can legally be discharged to Boston Harbor, Boston Inner Harbor and Winthrop Bay as well as specifying operational measures designed to control pollution from the airport. The limits and controls ensure that the discharges do not hurt water quality or people's health. Facilities must monitor their discharge on a regular basis, document their control measures, and frequently report those results to EPA. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection is issuing a similar permit to this facility under the state's Clean Waters Act.

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VIRTUAL EVENTS

EPA will be hosting two virtual events regarding the draft permit.

Virtual Public Informational Meeting and Q&A

MONDAY, MAY 10, 2021, 7PM

Virtual Formal Public Hearing to Provide Oral Comments

MONDAY, MAY 24, 2021, 7PM

Visit: <https://go.usa.gov/xH3tx> to view the public notice, draft permit, and related documents and for information on how to participate in EPA's upcoming virtual events. If you need a reasonable accommodation or have translation/interpretation needs, please contact: Eric Wortman at (617) 918-1624 or wortman.eric@epa.gov

THE FACILITY

EPA is issuing a draft permit for Massport Logan Airport (MA0000787) at this time.

Massport is an independent, public authority that manages air and water transportation infrastructure in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and is the main Permittee. Many tenants and contractors (referred to as "fixed base operators" (FBOs)) are named as

continued >>

“Co-Permittees.” This permit authorizes Massport and the Co-Permittees to discharge stormwater associated with industrial activity from various outfalls (discharge points) at the airport. NPDES permits expire after five years and then must be renewed. Massport has reapplied for a new permit and the currently expired permit remains in effect until EPA issues a new one.

The airport occupies approximately 2,400 acres, which includes 94 buildings, 6 runways and numerous ancillary facilities. Massport owns the stormwater sewer system within the property boundary of the airport. This stormwater sewer system includes the storm sewers, roads, runways or other impervious surfaces with drainage systems, catch basins, culverts, curbs, gutters, ditches, constructed channels or storm drains on the property.

Stormwater associated with industrial activity includes discharges from (1) vehicle and airplane maintenance areas; (2) equipment cleaning areas; (3) aircraft, runway, and pavement deicing and anti-icing activities; and (4) fueling activities from various outfalls to Boston Harbor, Boston Inner Harbor, and Winthrop Bay. See Figure 1 for a map displaying the site location and permitted outfalls that require monitoring.

RECEIVING WATERS

Boston Harbor, Boston Inner Harbor, and Winthrop Bay are classified by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as Class SB water bodies, meaning the water quality of these waters should be able to support wading, swimming, fishing, boating and a healthy fish and aquatic life community. If a water body is not supporting these uses it is considered “impaired.” These receiving waters are impaired and not supporting their uses because of pollutants such as fecal coliform and *Enterococcus* bacteria, dissolved oxygen, and PCBs in fish tissue.

NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES

The facility is nearby to the communities of Boston, Winthrop, Chelsea, Everett, and Revere. Low-income or minority populations with environmental justice concerns may reside in these communities. EPA is conducting enhanced outreach as part of the permit issuance process, including hosting a virtual public meeting on May 10, to ensure meaningful community representation and allow for effective public participation in the process.

CONDITIONS OF THE DRAFT NPDES PERMIT

Once issued as a final permit, EPA’s draft permit will replace the 2007 permit and will regulate stormwater associated with industrial activity. The draft permit specifies routine sampling and analysis requirements to provide ongoing, representative information on the levels of pollutants discharged from the airport. The monitoring program will enable EPA to assess the characteristics of the airport’s effluent, determine whether discharges comply with permit limits, and whether additional permit conditions may be necessary in the future to ensure compliance with technology-based and water quality-based standards under the Clean Water Act (CWA).

In addition to ongoing outfall monitoring for several parameters, the Draft NPDES permit includes requirements for:

- ▶ Continued implementation of the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) which includes Best Management Practices (BMPs) to:
 - Identify and Reduce Deicing and Anti-Icing Sources
 - Identify and Reduce Potential Illicit Discharges
 - Identify and Reduce Fuel and Oil Sources
 - Minimize and Reduce Rubber Removal Sources

- ▶ Massport and its Co-Permittee tenants that conduct deicing to implement a Deicer Discharge Reduction Plan (DDRP) to evaluate and implement glycol reduction measures through the term of this Permit, which requires the submittal of an annual Glycol Reduction Report.
- ▶ Massport to conduct sampling for Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) from several outfalls. EPA is collecting this information to evaluate the potential impacts that discharges of PFAS from the airport may have on downstream recreational and aquatic life uses.
- ▶ Meeting bacteria limits as specified by Massachusetts Water Quality Standards and the Final Pathogen Boston Harbor Total Maximum Daily Load (October 2018).

COMMENTING ON THE DRAFT PERMIT

During EPA's May 10, 2021, virtual public informational meeting, EPA will present an overview of the Draft Permit and will respond to clarifying questions from meeting participants. During EPA's virtual formal public hearing on May 24, 2021, EPA will accept oral comments on the Draft Permit from any interested person. The public may provide formal comments in writing, submitted by email or by regular mail, or orally during the May 24, 2021 virtual formal public hearing. All written comments must be received by EPA or postmarked by June 11, 2021. Please note that EPA will not respond to comments or questions, other than procedural questions, during the May 24, 2021 virtual public hearing; however, EPA will respond in writing to all significant issues raised during the public comment period when EPA issues the Final Permit.

Virtual Public Informational Meeting.....	May 10, 2021
Virtual Formal Public Hearing.....	May 24, 2021
Comment Deadline Received or Postmarked.....	June 11, 2021

PROVIDING COMMENTS

EPA's Public Comment Period opens April 12, 2021 through June 11, 2021. All comments must be received or post-marked by June 11, 2021

Email written comments: papadopoulos.george@epa.gov

Or physically mail to:

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Figure 1 - Logan Airport Location and Permitted Outfalls



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