



REGION 1

BOSTON, MA 02109

Dated by Signature

VIA EMAIL - READ RECEIPT REQUESTED

Re: Public Notice of Draft Massachusetts Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System NPDES Permit

To Whom it May Concern:

In accordance with Section 402 of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA), as amended, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 1 intends to reissue the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Massachusetts Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) General Permit for discharges to certain waters of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This Draft NPDES MA MS4 GP ("Draft GP") establishes Notice of Intent (NOI) requirements, permit eligibility requirements, and conditions and practices for the management of stormwater discharges from small MS4s. When final, the Draft Permit will replace the Final Massachusetts MS4 General Permit issued on April 4, 2016 and modified on December 7, 2020. This Draft Permit carries forward and builds upon the requirements of EPA's previous Massachusetts small MS4 general permits.

Draft Permit - Available for Public Comment:

The law requires public notice to be given of the preparation of a draft general permit to allow opportunity for public comments and, if necessary, a public hearing. Public Notice of the preparation for all draft permits must be given by notification to all interested parties, as specified in 40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] § 124.10(c)(1). In accordance with 40 CFR § 124.10(c)(2), the notice of availability for the Draft GP has been published in the Federal Register at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/11/22/2024-27291/notice-of-availability-of-draft-national-pollutant-discharge-elimination-system-npdes-massachusetts> and the Draft General Permit and Fact Sheet are available on EPA Region 1's publicly available website at <https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/massachusetts-small-ms4-general-permit>.

The conditions in the Draft GP are established pursuant to CWA Section 402(p)(3)(B)(iii) to ensure that pollutant discharges from small MS4s are reduced to the Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP), protect water quality, and satisfy the appropriate requirements of the CWA. The Draft GP applies to small municipal separate storm sewer systems in Massachusetts as defined in the regulations at 40 CFR 122.26(b)(16). The Fact Sheet briefly describes the basis for the General Permit conditions. You are encouraged to closely review all terms and conditions contained in this Draft GP and Fact Sheet.

The period for public comment is from **November 22, 2024** through **February 20, 2025**. All persons, including applicants, must raise all reasonably ascertainable issues and submit all reasonably available arguments supporting their positions on the Draft GP by the close of the public comment period, either

by submitting written comments as described below or by submitting written or oral comments at the public hearing.

Written comments on the Draft GP, identified by Docket ID No. **EPA-R01-OW-2024-0493**, may be submitted via the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <https://www.regulations.gov/> (enter Docket ID No. into search bar). In the event that interested parties cannot access the Portal, comments may be emailed to Danielle Gaito at gaito.danielle@epa.gov or provided via mail to: U.S. EPA Region 1, Water Division, Attn: Danielle Gaito, 5 Post Office Square, Suite 100, Mail Code 06-4, Boston, Massachusetts 02109-3912. If comments are submitted in hard copy form, please also email a copy to the EPA contact above.

EPA will hold a virtual public hearing in accordance with 40 CFR § 124.12 and will provide interested parties with the opportunity to provide written and/or oral comments for the official draft permit record. The virtual public hearing will be held **Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.** EPA is pre-registering speakers for the hearing. To register to speak at the virtual hearing, please use the online registration form available at: <https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/massachusetts-small-ms4-general-permit>. On January 27, 2025, EPA will post a general agenda for the hearing that will list pre-registered speakers in approximate order at: <https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/massachusetts-small-ms4-general-permit>.

If you have any questions or would like to request any additional information related to your facility that is part of the administrative record for this Draft GP, please contact Danielle Gaito of my staff at gaito.danielle@epa.gov or (617) 918-1369.

Sincerely,

Lynne Jennings, Manager
NPDES Permits Branch
Water Division

cc: All eligible Permittees