



Department of Environmental Protection

One Winter Street Boston, MA 02108 • 617-292-5500

Charles D. Baker
Governor

Matthew A. Beaton
Secretary

Karyn E. Polito
Lieutenant Governor

Martin Suuberg
Commissioner

July 28, 2015

Dear Westfield Basin Water Management Act Permittees:

I am writing to update you on developments that impact the renewal process for your Water Management Act (WMA) permit.

The Permit Extension Act

As outlined in the letter sent to you on September 15, 2012, the Permit Extension Act (PEA), enacted in 2010 and subsequently amended in 2012, automatically extended all WMA permits.

- In the Westfield Basin, the 2010 PEA's provisions extended the term of WMA permits from November 30, 2012, to November 30, 2014, and the 2012 amendment further extended the term of all permits for an additional two years until November 30, 2016.
- Permit renewal applications may be filed between September 30, 2015, and November 30, 2015.

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, section 13, and 310 CMR 36.18(7), if your permit renewal application is filed by November 30, 2015, your current permit will continue in force and effect until the Department issues a decision on your renewal application. Your renewal application will be reviewed in accordance with the newly amended WMA regulations, which are outlined below.

Revisions to the Water Management Program Regulations at 310 CMR 36.00

For the past several years MassDEP has participated in a stakeholder process known as the Sustainable Water Management Initiative (SWMI). SWMI was started in 2010 by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) for the purpose of incorporating the best available science into the management of the Commonwealth's water resources. The SWMI process is now complete and, effective November 7, 2014, MassDEP has adopted revised WMA Program Regulations at 310 CMR 36.00 that incorporate important elements of the SWMI framework. The regulations can be found at:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/regulations/310-cmr-36-00-the-water-management-act-regulations.html>.

The regulations reflect a carefully developed balance to protect the health of our water bodies while meeting the needs of businesses and communities for water. The amended regulations also clarify WMA permitting requirements and processes. The amended WMA regulations incorporate:

- a new methodology for calculating "safe yield" of the 27 major river basins in Massachusetts;

- "streamflow criteria" and "coldwater fish resources" that will be used to identify environmental conditions within river subbasins;
- 2003-2005 "baseline" water withdrawals ;
- "permit tiers" determined according to the size of each permittee's withdrawal relative to their baseline and potential impact on streamflow criteria and coldwater fish resources;
- "mitigation" to offset increasing withdrawals by improving streamflow or aquatic habitat; and
- "minimization" to protect streamflows in subbasins that are net groundwater depleted during August.

Permit Renewal Schedule

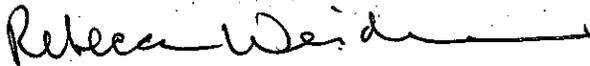
MassDEP will now review permit renewal applications in accordance with the newly revised program regulations. In order to introduce the revised permitting process and new regulatory requirements that might apply to permits in the Westfield Basin, MassDEP will be holding an outreach workshop.

Water Management Permit Renewal Outreach Workshop
Tuesday, September 15, 2015, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Holyoke Heritage State Park
221 Appleton Street
Holyoke, MA 01040

In addition, MassDEP will be available for individual consultation sessions as needed before and after the application filing date. The attached schedule outlines the permit renewal process in more detail.

Please contact Duane LeVangie at (617) 292-5706 or Beth McCann at (617) 292-5901 if you have any questions regarding the status of your permit or the effect of the Permit Extension Act.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Weidman, Director of the Division of Watershed Management
 Bureau of Water Resources

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ecc: J. Bumgardener, MassDEP WERO
 K. Longridge, MassDEP WERO
 D. Doherty, MassDEP WERO
 A. Carroll, DCR OWR
 L. Parker, DFW
 J. Pederson, MWWA
 J. Blatt, Mass Rivers Alliance

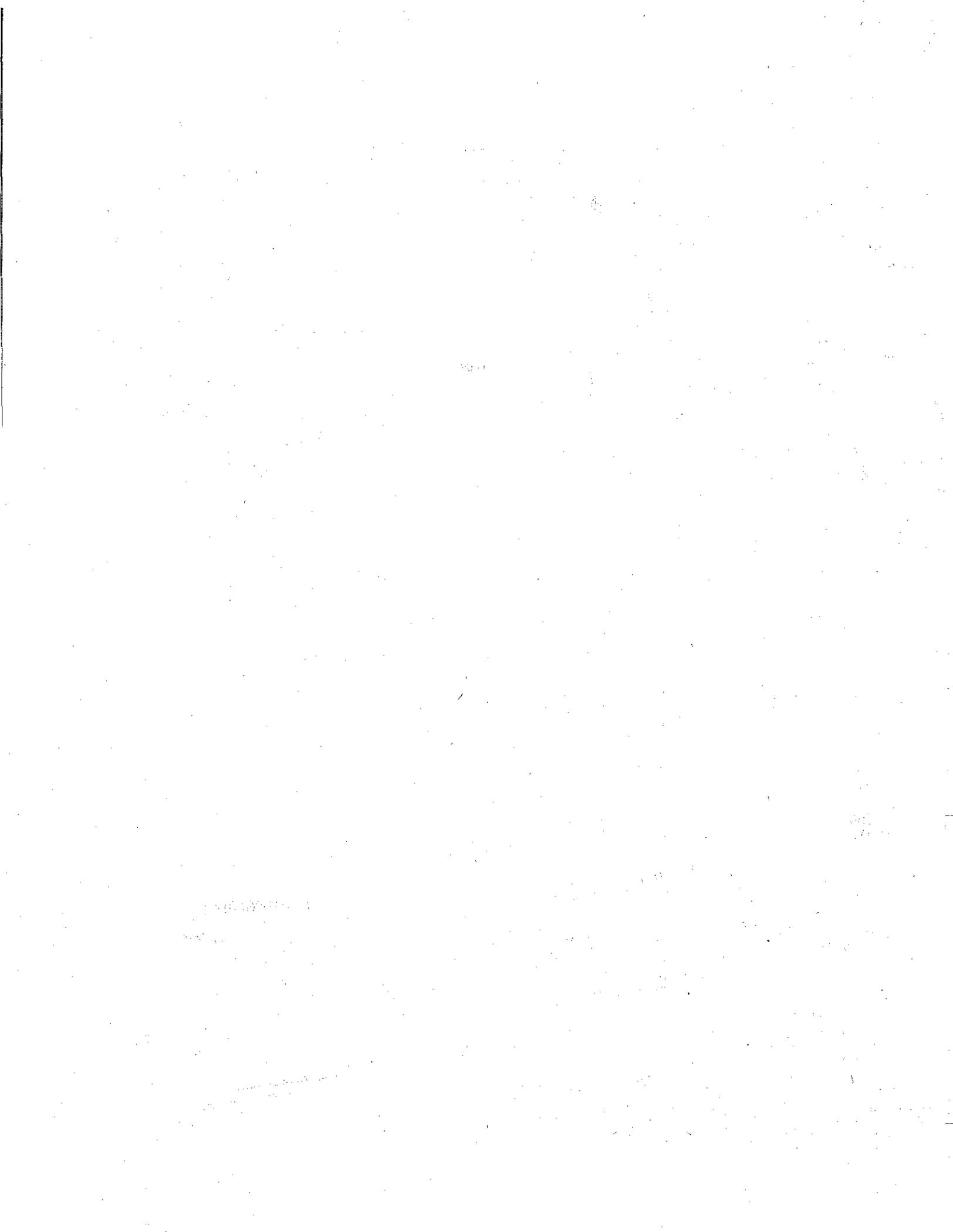
cc: A. Donlan, Connecticut River Watershed Council, 15 Bank Row, Greenfield, MA 01301
 Westfield River Watershed Assoc., P.O. Box 1764, Westfield, MA 01086-1764
 Westfield River Wild and Scenic Committee, P.O. Box 393, Huntington, MA 01050

MassDEP Water Management Program

Permit Renewal Schedule

Westfield Basin

Water Needs Forecasts	Outreach Workshop	Permit Renewal Filing Period	Consultation Sessions	MassDEP Sends Request for Additional Information	Draft Permit Issued	Final Permit Issued
September 2015	September 15, 2015	September 30 – November 30, 2015	September 2015 – May 2016	February 2016	August 2016	November 30, 2016
<p>Department of Conservation & Recreation/Office of Water Resources staff will be reviewing population and water withdrawal data, and may be contacting your community to prepare water needs forecasts.</p>	<p>MassDEP will conduct an Outreach Workshop on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the SWMI process information required to complete the permit renewal application process consultation process with applicants to develop the required information. 	<p>Initial permit renewal applications are filed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial application will be supplemented by information developed through consultation and the Request for Additional Information. 	<p>MassDEP and state agency staff meet at the applicant's request to consult on any aspect of permit renewal including projected demand, fisheries protection, minimization or mitigation requirements.</p>	<p>MassDEP will send an individual "Request for Additional Information" needed to complete each permit renewal application. Applicants will have 90 days to develop the necessary information, and may request additional time if, despite reasonable efforts, additional time is needed.</p>	<p>MassDEP will issue draft renewal permits for a 30-day public comment period.</p>	<p>MassDEP will issue final permit renewals for the Westfield Basin.</p>



HOUSATONIC PERMITTEE LABELS

9P210223602
BOUSQUET SKI AREA
101 DAN FOX DR
PITTSFIELD, MA 01201

9P210211301
HAZEN PAPER CO
240 SOUTH WATER STREET
HOLYOKE, MA 01040

9P210215004
LANE CONSTRUCTION CO
ONE WILLOW HILL ROAD
LEE, MA 01238

9P210215003
LEE WATER DEPARTMENT
32 MAIN STREET
LEE, MA 01238

9P210215002
SCHWEITZER MAUDUIT
701 GREYLOCK STREET
LEE, MA 01238-8097

9P210211302
BUTTERNUT BASIN SKI AREA
380 STATE ROAD
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230

9P210213201
HINSDALE WATER SYSTEM
PO BOX 65
HINSDALE, MA 01235

9P10223601
PITTSFIELD GENERATING COMPANY
PO BOX 4579, 235 MERRILL ROAD
PITTSFIELD, MA 01202

9P10215001
ONYX SPECIALTY PAPERS INC
40 WILLOW STREET
SOUTH LEE, MA 01260

WESTFIELD PERMITTEE LABELS

9P210432901
JOHN S LANE & SON INC
P.O. BOX 125, POCHASSIC ROAD
WESTFIELD, MA 01086

9P210425602
RUSSELL WATER DEPARTMENT
200 MAIN STREET P O BOX 131
RUSSELL, MA 01071

9P10432501
WEST SPRINGFIELD WATER
26 CENTAL STREET STE 17
WEST SPRINGFIELD, MA 01089

9P10427901
SOUTHWICK WATER DEPARTMENT
454 COLLEGE HIGHWAY
SOUTHWICK, MA 01077

9P210425603
TEXON USA
1190 HUNTINGTON ROAD
RUSSELL, MA 01071

9P10427902
THE OLDE FARM GOLF CLUB LLC
65 SUNNYSIDE RANCH ROAD
SOUTHWICK, MA 01077

MILLERS PERMITTEE LABELS

9P220701101
ASHBURNHAM WATER DEPARTMENT
19 CENTRAL ST
ASHBURNHAM, MA 0143

9P210701501
ATHOL WATER DEPARTMENT
584 MAIN STREET, ROOM 24
ATHOL, MA 01331

9P220710302
GARDNER WATER DEPARTMENT
99 HEYWOOD STREET
GARDNER, MA 01440-2688

9P20729401
TEMPLETON WATER DEPARTMENT
P.O. BOX 20, 86 BRIDGE STREET
BALDWINVILLE, MA 01436-1470

9P10722301
ORANGE WATER DEPARTMENT
16 WEST MYRTLE STREET, PO BOX 267
ORANGE, MA 01364

9P210719201
TOWER ERVING, LLC MILLERS FALLS
250 WEST MAIN STREET
WOODLAND, CA 95695

