



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

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Lieutenant Governor

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Revised Massachusetts Department of Environment Protection Notice of Public Hearings Water Resources Management Program Regulations (310 CMR 36.00)

After requests by constituents, the **MA Department of Environmental Protection** (MassDEP) has added a second on-line public hearing date and extended the public comment period for the proposed amendment to the **Water Resources Management Program Regulations** (310 CMR 36.00) as outlined below.

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, **MassDEP** gives notice of its intent to amend the **Water Resources Management Program Regulations** (310 CMR 36.00) promulgated under the Massachusetts Water Management Act (M.G.L. c. 21G). The proposed regulations are available at the MassDEP website at: [310 CMR 36.00: Massachusetts Water Resources Management Program | Mass.gov](#).

Summary

The Water Management Act Program (WMA) regulations establish enforceable standards, criteria and procedures in order to comprehensively manage water withdrawals throughout the Commonwealth to ensure an appropriate balance among competing water needs and the preservation of water resources. The WMA regulates withdrawals through registrations and permits. The current regulations include two conditions on registrations, requiring metering and reporting of withdrawals.

The proposed amendment to the WMA regulations would add a new condition to registrations that would restrict nonessential outdoor water use by registrants during times of drought declared by the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs. Nonessential outdoor water use is primarily lawn watering, filling swimming pools, washing cars by means of a hose, and washing down buildings, parking lots, driveways and sidewalks. Essential water uses would be exempt from the restrictions. Essential uses would include uses for health and safety purposes, the core function of a business, food and fiber production, including vegetable gardens, watering livestock, and water use required by a statute or regulations.

This regulatory amendment would better align water use during times of drought with the Massachusetts Drought Management Plan, as updated in 2019. The amendment will help ensure adequate water to assure public health and safety and continued economic stability when water supplies are stressed by drought, and an appropriate balance among competing water uses and natural resources such as streamflow, wetlands, fisheries and wildlife habitat during drought.

Public Comments and Hearings

MassDEP will conduct two on-line public hearings on the proposed regulatory amendment on **Wednesday, July 7, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.** and **Friday, July 16, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.** If you wish to attend the hearing, you must

This information is available in alternate format. Contact Michelle Waters-Ekanem, Director of Diversity/Civil Rights at 617-292-5751.

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register in advance. To register for the July 7th hearing go to: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEk-yvqjkuH9Ib73FD-YLJsg-BXbwj9W3T>. To register for the July 16th hearing go to: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEod-6sqD4qGdDLUbLYcbW18t72uReFtGAY>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Comments on the proposed revisions may be presented orally at the public hearing.

Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, July 26, 2021. All comments submitted must include the name and contact information of the person providing the comments. MassDEP strongly encourages electronic filing of written comments. Please submit written comment by e-mail to: dep.talks@mass.gov and include *WMA Regulations* in the subject line.

In lieu of electronic submission, please send a paper copy to
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Resource Protection – Water Management Program
One Winter Street, 5th floor
Boston, MA 02108
Attention: WMA Regulations

If you have any questions, please contact Beth McCann at elizabeth.mccann@mass.gov.