



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

This Public Hearing Notice is available in alternative languages (Español -- Tiếng Việt -- Chinese -- Kreyòl Ayisyen -- Português) on MassDEP's website at: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massdep-public-hearings-comment-opportunities>.

Notice is hereby given that the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), under its authority pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 21, §27, is proposing amendments to 314 CMR 4.00, the Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards (MA SWQS). The amendments will update bacteria criteria to protect human health during recreational activities such as boating, remove unused surface water classifications, and make minor improvements and corrections. Two public hearings to receive comments on the proposed amendments will be held virtually under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 30A on:

Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 6:00 PM; and
Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 2:00 PM.

Advance registration to attend the hearings is required. At each hearing, an overview will be presented during the first hour, followed by testimony.

Testimony may be presented orally at the hearings, and written comments may be submitted until 5:00 PM on Monday, February 9, 2026. Written comments must be submitted via email or physical mail. Submit comments via email to dep.wpp@mass.gov using the subject line: "Public Comments – Proposed MA SWQS Amendments". Submit comments by physical mail to: Anna Mayor, MassDEP Watershed Planning Program, 8 New Bond Street, Worcester, MA 01606.

The proposed amendments and the hearing registration links are available on MassDEP's MA SWQS website at: <https://www.mass.gov/regulations/314-CMR-4-the-massachusetts-surface-water-quality-standards>.

For special accommodation at these hearings, please call the EEA Diversity Office at 617-626-1282, TTY# MassRelay Service at 1-800-439-2370, and/or request accommodation upon registration for the hearing. This Notice is available in alternate format upon request. MassDEP provides language access interpreter/translation services to limited

English proficient individuals free of charge. If you need an interpreter to participate in this meeting, translation services can be found at the following link:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massdep-language-translation-assistance>. You can also request interpreter services or translation of the hearing when you register.