

MASSACHUSETTS PERMIT TO DISCHARGE POLLUTANTS TO SURFACE WATERS

In compliance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Clean Waters Act, as amended (M.G.L. Chap. 21, §§ 26 - 53) and the implementing regulations at 314 CMR 3.00 and 4.00,

Town of Athol
Department of Public Works
Town Hall
584 Main Street
Athol, MA 01331

is authorized to discharge from the facility located at

Athol Wastewater Treatment Plant
Jones Street
Athol, MA 01331

to receiving water named

Millers River (MA35-04)
Millers River Watershed
Class B (Warm Water Fishery)

in accordance with the following effluent limitations, monitoring requirements and additional conditions:

1. This permit shall become effective on April 1, 2021.
2. This permit shall expire five years after the effective date.
3. This permit supersedes the permit issued on June 30, 2008.
4. This permit incorporates by reference Part IA., Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements, Part IB., Unauthorized Discharges, Part IC., Operation and Maintenance of the Sewer System, Part ID. Alternate Power Source,, Part IE. Industrial Users, Part IF. Sludge Conditions, Part IG. Special Conditions, Part IH. Reporting Requirements and Part IIE., Standard Conditions, as set forth in the 2021 NPDES Permit No. MA0100005, issued by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 1, issued to the Town of Athol on January 5, 2021 (the 2021 NPDES Permit) and attached hereto as Appendix A; provided, however:
 - a. that the notification required by Part IA.8. shall also be provided to MassDEP;
 - b. that the reporting required by Part IB.1 shall be in accordance with 314 CMR 3.19(20)(e) (24 hour reporting);
 - c. that a copy of the requests, reports, and information required by Part IH.4. to be submitted to EPA shall also be submitted to MassDEP electronically to massdep.npdes@mass.gov;
 - d. that, if there is a conflict between the definitions in 314 CMR 3.02 and/or 314 CMR 4.00 and the definitions in Part IIE, the definitions in 314 CMR 3.02 and/or 314 CMR 4.00 shall control, as applicable;
 - e. that the notification required by 4.a. above shall be provided as follows:

Susannah King, NPDES Section Chief
 Division of Watershed Management
 Department of Environmental Protection
 1 Winter Street – 5th Floor
 Boston, MA 02108

5. This permit incorporates by reference the Standard Permit Conditions set forth in 314 CMR 3.19.
6. This permit includes the following additional conditions:
 - a. If the permittee has not been notified by EPA of the multi-lab validated method for wastewater by two (2) years from the effective date of the NPDES permit, the permittee shall conduct monitoring of the effluent for PFAS compounds as detailed in the table below using a method specified by MassDEP. If EPA's multi-lab validated method is not available by twenty (20) months after the effective date of the NPDES permit, the permittee shall contact MassDEP (massdep.npdes@mass.gov) for guidance on an appropriate analytical method. If the permittee begins monitoring for PFAS before the EPA method is available, results shall be reported to MassDEP electronically at massdep.npdes@mass.gov, or as otherwise specified, within 30 days after they are received.

Effluent (Outfall 001)

Parameter	Units	Measurement Frequency	Sample Type
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS)	ng/L	Quarterly ¹	24-hour Composite
Perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA)	ng/L	Quarterly	24-hour Composite
Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA)	ng/L	Quarterly	24-hour Composite
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS)	ng/L	Quarterly	24-hour Composite
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	ng/L	Quarterly	24-hour Composite
Perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA)	ng/L	Quarterly	24-hour Composite

- b. Beginning six (6) months after permittee has been notified by EPA of the multi-lab validated method for wastewater, or two (2) years from the effective date of the 2021 Federal NPDES permit, whichever is earlier, the permittee shall commence annual monitoring of all Significant Industrial Users^{2,3} discharging into the POTW. Monitoring shall be in accordance with the table below. If EPA has not issued a validated test method by twenty (20) months after the effective date of the 2021 Federal NPDES permit, the permittee shall contact MassDEP (massdep.npdes@mass.gov) for guidance on an appropriate analytical method. Notwithstanding any other provision of the 2021 Federal NPDES permit to the contrary, monitoring results shall be reported to MassDEP electronically at

¹ Quarters are defined as January to March, April to June, July to September, and October to December. Samples shall be taken during the same month each quarter and shall be taken 3 months apart (e.g., an example sampling schedule could be February, May, August, and November).

² Significant Industrial User (SIU) is defined at 40 CFR part 403: All industrial users subject to Categorical Pretreatment Standards under 40 CFR 403.6 and 40 CFR chapter I, subpart N; **and** any other industrial user that: discharges an average of 25,000 GPD or more of process wastewater to the POTW, contributes a process wastestream that makes up 5% or more of the average dry weather hydraulic or organic capacity of the POTW, or designated as such by the POTW on the basis that the industrial users has a reasonable potential for adversely affecting the POTW's operation or for violating any Pretreatment Standards or requirement.

³ This requirement applies to all Significant Industrial Users and not just those within the sectors identified by EPA in the NPDES permit.

massdep.npdes@mass.gov, or as otherwise specified, within 30 days after they are received.

Parameter	Units	Measurement Frequency	Sample Type
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS)	ng/L	Annual	24-hour Composite
Perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA)	ng/L	Annual	24-hour Composite
Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA)	ng/L	Annual	24-hour Composite
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS)	ng/L	Annual	24-hour Composite
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	ng/L	Annual	24-hour Composite
Perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA)	ng/L	Annual	24-hour Composite

Signed this 2nd day of March, 2021



Lealdon Langley, Director
Division of Watershed Management
Department of Environmental Protection

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS**MA Permit No. MA0100005****Town of Athol****Athol Wastewater Treatment Plan, Jones Street, Athol, Massachusetts**

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP or the “Department”) is issuing a Surface Water Discharge (SWD) Permit to the Town of Athol (the Permittee) for the facility (the Facility) located in Athol, Massachusetts. The permit is being issued under the Massachusetts Clean Waters Act, as amended (M.G.L. Chap. 21, §§ 26 - 53) and the implementing regulations at 314 CMR 3.00 and 4.00.

In accordance with the provisions of 314 CMR 2.09, MassDEP is obligated to prepare a response to comments received on the draft SWD Permit No. MA0100005 (the “Draft Permit”) and the draft Water Quality Certificate (the “Draft WQC”). The Response to Comments explains and supports MassDEP’s determinations that form the basis of the final permit (the “Final Permit”) and the final WQC. From July 21, 2020 through August 20, 2020, MassDEP solicited public comments on the Draft Permit for the reissuance of a permit to discharge treated wastewater from Outfall Serial Number 001 to the Millers River and the associated Draft WQC.

During the public comment period for the draft NPDES permit (July 16, 2020 through August 14, 2020), EPA received comments from:

1. Dick Kilhart, Assistant Superintendent, Athol Department of Public Works dated August 11, 2020
2. Jennifer Perry, Director, Water Planning and Management Division, Bureau of Land Protection and Water Reuse, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP), dated August 10, 2020
3. Joshua Schimmel, Executive Director, Springfield Water and Sewer Commission dated August 14, 2020
4. Jennifer Pederson, Executive Director, Massachusetts Water Works Association dated August 13, 2020
5. Andrea Donlon, River Steward, Connecticut River Conservancy dated August 14, 2020
6. Philip D. Guerin, President & Chairman, Massachusetts Coalition for Water Resources Stewardship dated August 14, 2020

During the public comment period for the draft SWD Permit, MassDEP received comments from:

1. Andrea Donlon, River Steward, Connecticut River Conservancy dated August 14, 2020
2. Philip D. Guerin, President & Chairman, Massachusetts Coalition for Water Resources Stewardship dated August 20, 2020

The comments MassDEP received from Massachusetts Coalition for Water Resources Stewardship (MCWRS) included all of the comments that EPA received from MCWRS, as well as one additional comment only for MassDEP. The comments MassDEP received from Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC) were identical to those received by EPA.

As it pertains to the comments from MCWRS and CRC, MassDEP has reviewed EPA's Response to Comments issued concurrent with the final NPDES permit on January 5, 2021, and concurs with their responses and the associated adjustments made to the final NPDES permit. MassDEP hereby incorporates by reference EPA's Response to Comments into this Response. A response to the additional comment from MCWRS is provided below.

MassDEP's knowledge of the facility has benefited from the various comments and additional information submitted during the public comment period but the information and arguments presented did not raise any substantial new questions concerning the Permit or WQC that warranted MassDEP exercising the discretion to reopen the public comment period. MassDEP does, however, make certain clarifications in response to comments. Any improvements and changes are explained in this document and reflected in the Final Permit and WQC. Below, MassDEP provides a summary of the changes made in the Final Permit and WQC. The analyses underlying these changes are contained in the responses to individual comments that follow.

A copy of the Final Permit, WQC, and this Response to Comments document will be posted on the MassDEP website.

A copy of the Final Permit and WQC may be also obtained by writing or calling Claire Golden, MassDEP, Surface Water Discharge Permitting Program, 205 B Lowell Street, Wilmington, MA 01887; telephone: 978-694-3244; email: claire.golden@mass.gov. During this current COVID-19 emergency, MassDEP is working remotely. As such, interested parties are strongly encouraged to email Claire Golden if they wish to obtain a copy of the Final Permit or WQC.

Table of Contents

I. Summary of Changes to the Final Permit and WQC.....3
 II. Responses to Comments.....3
 A. Comment from Comment from Philip D. Guerin, President & Chairman,
 Massachusetts Coalition for Resources Stewardship, dated August 20, 2020.....3

I. Summary of Changes to the Final Permit

1. Paragraphs 6.a. and 6.b. have been revised to be consistent with EPA NPDES Permit requirements related to PFAS to note that EPA will notify the permittee when EPA’s multi-lab validated method for wastewater is available.
2. Paragraph 6.a. has been revised to clarify how permittees will report results if monitoring begins before EPA’s validated method is available.
3. Paragraph 6.b. has been revised to clarify the definition of the term Significant Industrial User. See Response 1.
4. Paragraph 6.b. has been revised to clarify that results shall be reported through email, or otherwise specified, if MassDEP directs permittees to report through another mechanism.

II. Responses to Comments

Comments are reproduced below as received; they have not been edited, corrected or otherwise modified.

A. Comment from Philip D. Guerin, President & Chairman, Massachusetts Coalition for Water Resources Stewardship, dated August 20, 2020

Comment 1

In addition, the MassDEP Draft Permit, at 6b, requires annual monitoring for PFAS of all Significant Industrial Users discharging into the POTW. A definition of Significant Industrial Users is not provided. The EPA Draft NPDES Permit has a similar requirement but offers a list of the specific types of industrial discharges to be monitored. It is not clear if that list and the Significant Industrial Users noted in the MassDEP Permit are the same. Please clarify what type of facilities need to be monitored.

Response 1

The definition of Significant Industrial Users as used in MassDEP’s SWD has been clarified by the addition of footnotes 2 and 3 in the final SWD Permit. The footnotes clarify that the

requirement applies to all Significant Industrial Users and not just those within the sectors identified by EPA in the NPDES permit.



Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
One Winter Street, Boston MA 02108 • Phone: 617-292-5751

Communication for Non-English Speaking Parties - 310 CMR 1.03(5)(a)



1 English:

This document is important and should be translated immediately. If you need this document translated, please contact MassDEP's Diversity Director at the telephone numbers listed below.



2 Español (Spanish):

Este documento es importante y debe ser traducido inmediatamente. Si necesita este documento traducido, comuníquese con el Director de Diversidad de MassDEP a los números de teléfono que aparecen más abajo.



3 Português (Portuguese):

Este documento é importante e deve ser traduzido imediatamente. Se você precisa deste documento traduzido, entre em contato com Diretor de Diversidade da MassDEP para os números de telefone listados abaixo.



4(a) 中國（傳統）(Chinese Traditional):

本文件非常重要，應立即翻譯。如果您需要翻譯這份文件，請用下面列出的電話號碼與 MassDEP 的多元化總監聯繫。



4(b) 中国（简体中文）(Chinese Simplified):

本文件非常重要，应立即翻译。如果您需要翻译这份文件，请用下面列出的电话号码与 MassDEP 的多元化总监联系。



5 Ayisyen (franse kreyòl) (Haitian) (French Creole):

Dokiman sa-a se yon bagay enpòtan epi yo ta dwe tradui imedyatman. Si ou bezwen dokiman sa a tradui, tanpri kontakte Divèsite Direktè MassDEP a nan nimewo telefòn ki nan lis pi ba a.



6 Việt (Vietnamese):

Tài liệu này rất quan trọng và cần được dịch ngay lập tức. Nếu bạn cần dịch tài liệu này, xin vui lòng liên hệ với Giám đốc Đa dạng của MassDEP theo các số điện thoại được liệt kê dưới đây.



7 ប្រទេសកម្ពុជា (Kmer (Cambodian):

ឯកសារនេះគឺមានសារៈសំខាន់និងគួរត្រូវបានបកប្រែភ្លាមៗ ប្រសិនបើអ្នកត្រូវបានបកប្រែ ឯកសារនេះសូមទំនាក់ទំនងឆ្នោតជំនាយក MassDEP នៅលេខទូរស័ព្ទដែលបានរាយខាងក្រោម។



8 Kriolu Kabuverdianu (Cape Verdean):

Es documento é importante e deve ser traduzido imidiatamente. Se bo precisa des documento traduzido, por favor contacta Director de Diversidade na MassDEP's pa es numero indicode li d'boche.



9 Русский язык (Russian):

Это важный документ и он должен быть безотлагательно переведен. Если вам нужен перевод данного документа, пожалуйста, свяжитесь с директором по разнообразию компании MassDEP по телефону указанному ниже



10 العربية (Arabic):

هذه الوثيقة مهمة ويجب ترجمتها على الفور. إذا كنت بحاجة إلى هذه الوثيقة المترجمة، يرجى الاتصال بمدير التنوع في MassDEP على أرقام الهواتف المدرجة أدناه.



11 한국어 (Korean):

이 문서는 중요하고 즉시 번역해야 합니다. 이 문서의 번역이 필요하시다면, 아래의 전화 번호로 MassDEP의 다양성 감독에 문의하시기 바랍니다.



12 հայերեն (Armenian):

Այս փաստաթուղթը շատ կարևոր է եւ պետք է թարգմանել անմիջապես. Եթե Ձեզ անհրաժեշտ է այս փաստաթուղթը թարգմանվել դիմել MassDEP բազմազանությունը տնօրեն է հեռախոսահամարների թվարկված են ստորև.



13 فارسی (Farsi [Persian]):

این سند مهم است و باید فوراً ترجمه شده است. اگر شما نیاز به این سند ترجمه شده، لطفاً با ما تماس تنوع مدیر MassDEP در شماره تلفن های ذکر شده در زیر.



14 Français (French):

Ce document est important et devrait être traduit immédiatement. Si vous avez besoin de ce document traduit, s'il vous plaît communiquer avec le directeur de la diversité MassDEP aux numéros de téléphone indiqués ci-dessous.



15 Deutsch (German):

Dieses Dokument ist wichtig und sollte sofort übersetzt werden. Sofern Sie die Übersetzung von diesem Dokument benötigen, wenden Sie sich bitte an den Diversity Director MassDEP unter der unten aufgeführten Telefonnummer.



16 Ελληνική (Greek):

Το παρόν έγγραφο είναι σημαντικό και θα πρέπει να μεταφραστεί αμέσως. Αν χρειάζεστε μετάφραση του παρόντος εγγράφου, παρακαλούμε επικοινωνήστε με τον Διευθυντή Διαφορετικότητας του MassDEP στους αριθμούς τηλεφώνου που αναγράφονται παρακάτω.



17 Italiano (Italian):

Questo documento è importante e dovrebbe essere tradotto immediatamente. Se avete bisogno di questo documento tradotto, si prega di contattare il Direttore di Diversità di MassDEP ai numeri di telefono elencati di seguito.



18 Język Polski (Polish):

Dokument ten jest ważny i powinien zostać natychmiast przetłumaczony. Jeśli potrzebujesz przetłumaczonej wersji dokumentu, prosimy o kontakt z dyrektorem ds. różnorodności MassDEP pod jednym z numerów telefonu wymienionych poniżej.



19 हिन्दी (Hindi):

यह दस्तावेज़ महत्वपूर्ण है और तुरंत अनुवाद किया जाना चाहिए. यदि आपको इस दस्तावेज़ का अनुवाद करने की आवश्यकता है, तो कृपया नीचे सूचीबद्ध टेलीफोन नंबरों पर मासडेप्स डाइवर्सिटी के निदेशक से संपर्क करें।