

FINAL

Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification  
For the Proposed 2020 Federal NPDES Permit  
For the Blackstone Steam Plant  
MA Permit No. MA0004901

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), having examined Harvard University's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit application for the Blackstone Steam Plant, reviewed the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – Region 1's draft 2020 Federal NPDES permit (MA Permit No. MA0004901) for the Blackstone Steam Plant issued June 30, 2020, and considered the public comments received on MassDEP's proposed Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification for the draft 2020 Federal NPDES Permit for the Blackstone Steam Plant, and in consideration of the relevant water quality considerations, hereby certifies:

1. that the following conditions, together with the terms and conditions contained in the proposed 2020 Federal NPDES permit for the Blackstone Steam Plant, are necessary to assure compliance with the applicable provisions of the Federal Clean Water Act Sections 208(e), 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 and with appropriate requirements of State law, including, without limitation, the Massachusetts Clean Waters Act, M.G.L. c. 21, §§ 26-53 and the Massachusetts Water Quality Standards published at 314 CMR 4.00:
  - a. Pursuant to 314 CMR 3.11 (2)(a)6., and in accordance with MassDEP's obligation under 314 CMR 4.05(5)(e) to maintain surface waters free from pollutants in concentrations or combinations that are toxic to humans, aquatic life, or wildlife, within six (6) months of the effective date of the 2020 Federal NPDES permit, the permittee shall submit to MassDEP an evaluation of whether the facility uses any products containing any per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and whether use of those products can be reduced or eliminated. The analysis shall be submitted electronically to [massdep.npdes@mass.gov](mailto:massdep.npdes@mass.gov).
  - b. Pursuant to 314 CMR 3.11 (2)(a)6., and in accordance with MassDEP's obligation under 314 CMR 4.05(5)(e) to maintain surface waters free from pollutants in concentrations or combinations that are toxic to humans, aquatic life, or wildlife, within six (6) months after EPA's multi-lab validated method for wastewater is made available to the public on EPA's Clean Water Act methods program website<sup>1</sup>, or two (2) years from the effective date of the 2020 Federal NPDES permit, whichever is earlier, the permittee shall conduct monitoring of the effluent for PFAS compounds as detailed in the table below. If EPA has not issued a validated test method by twenty (20) months after the effective date of the 2020 Federal NPDES permit, the permittee shall contact MassDEP ([massdep.npdes@mass.gov](mailto:massdep.npdes@mass.gov)) for guidance on an appropriate analytical method.

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.epa.gov/cwa-methods/other-clean-water-act-test-methods-chemical> and <https://www.epa.gov/cwa-methods>.

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

TTY# MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370

MassDEP Website: [www.mass.gov/dep](http://www.mass.gov/dep)

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**Effluent (Outfall 002)**

Parameter	Units	Measurement Frequency	Sample Type
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS)	ng/L	Quarterly <sup>2</sup>	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

Notwithstanding any other provision of the 2020 Federal NPDES permit to the contrary, monitoring results shall be reported to MassDEP electronically ([massdep.npdes@mass.gov](mailto:massdep.npdes@mass.gov)) within 30 days after they are received. Those results do not need to be reported to EPA through NetDMR, unless EPA establishes a requirement through a future permitting action.

- c. Pursuant to 314 CMR 3.11 (2)(a)6., and in accordance with MassDEP's obligation under 314 CMR 4.05(5)(e) to maintain surface waters free from pollutants in concentrations or combinations that are toxic to humans, aquatic life, or wildlife, after completing one year of monitoring, if four (4) consecutive samples are reported as non-detect for all six (6) PFAS compounds, then the permittee may submit a request to MassDEP to discontinue PFAS monitoring. Any such request shall be made in writing and sent to [massdep.npdes@mass.gov](mailto:massdep.npdes@mass.gov). The permittee shall continue such monitoring pending written approval from MassDEP to discontinue it.
2. that there is a reasonable assurance that the activity will be conducted in a manner which will not violate applicable state water quality standards.

To meet the requirements of Massachusetts laws, each of the conditions cited in the draft permit and this certification shall not be made less stringent unless new data or other information is presented and MassDEP determines modification of this certification is appropriate in consideration of the relevant water quality considerations.

If any condition in the draft 2020 Federal NPDES permit for the Blackstone Steam Plant is changed during EPA's review in any manner inconsistent with this certification, the Department reserves the right to modify this certification in consideration of the relevant water quality considerations. In addition, the Department reserves the right to modify this certification if there is a change in Massachusetts law or regulation upon which this certification is based, or if a court of competent jurisdiction or MassDEP Office of Appeals and Dispute Resolution stays, vacates or remands this certification, as provided by 40 C.F.R. § 124.55.

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<sup>2</sup> 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).

Signed this \_\_28th\_\_ day of \_\_August\_\_, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lealdon Langley', written in a cursive style.

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Lealdon Langley, Director  
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Water Resources  
Division of Watershed Management