



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

100 Cambridge Street Suite 900 Boston, MA 02114 • 617-292-5500

Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kimberley Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor

Rebecca L. Tepper
Secretary

Bonnie Heiple
Commissioner

March 3, 2025

Ellen Weitzler, Acting Water Permit Branch Chief
US EPA Region 1
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100 (OEP06-1)
Boston, MA 02109-3912

Re: Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification for the Charles River Pollution Control District (CRPCD)
2024 Draft NPDES Permit

Dear Ms. Weitzler:

Enclosed please find as Attachment 1 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Clean Water Act (CWA) section 401 certification (State Certification) for the proposed 2024 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the Charles River Pollution Control District (CRPCD) (MA Permit No. MA0102598). MassDEP proposed a draft State Certification for public notice and comment on December 20, 2024. A copy of the published newspaper notice is enclosed as Attachment 2. The public comment period posted for the draft State Certification closed on January 30, 2025. MassDEP received comments from only CRPCD on the draft State Certification during the public comment period. The final State Certification includes edits as determined to be appropriate based on the comments. Enclosed please also find as Attachment 3 the Notice of Appeal Rights for the State Certification.

Please contact Mr. David Boyer, MassDEP's NPDES Section Chief, at (774) 239-7060 or david.boyer@mass.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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

ecc: Elizabeth Taglieri, P.E., Executive Director, CRPCD (ltaglieri@charlesriverpcd.org)
Jesse Riedle, DPW Director, Town of Bellingham (jriedle@bellinghamma.org)
Robert Cantoreggi, DPW Director, Town of Franklin (rcantoreggi@franklinma.gov)
Peter Pelletier, DPW Director, Town of Medway (ppelletier@townofmedway.org)
James McKay, DPW Director, Town of Millis (jmckay@millisma.gov)
Michael Cobb, EPA Region 1 (Cobb.Michael@epa.gov)
Jennifer Wood, MassDEP

Enclosures:

Attachment 1 – State Certification

Attachment 2 – Public Notice

Attachment 3 – Notice of Appeal Rights

Attachment 4 – Communication for Non-English-Speaking Parties

FINAL

Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification
For the 2024 Proposed NPDES Permit
For the Charles River Pollution Control District (CRPCD)
Permit No. MA0102598

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), having examined Charles River Pollution Control District's ("Permittee") National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit application for the Charles River Pollution Control District Wastewater Treatment Plant (CRPCD WWTP)¹ to discharge to Charles River (MA 72-05), and reviewed the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – Region 1's 2024 draft NPDES permit for the CRPCD WWTP (Permit No. MA0102598), issued December 16, 2024 ("2024 draft NPDES Permit"), and considered the public comments received on MassDEP's proposed Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification for the 2024 draft NPDES Permit, presented for public notice pursuant to Clean Water Act Section 401(a)(1) from December 20, 2024 to January 30, 2025, hereby certifies that there is a reasonable assurance that the proposed discharge will not violate applicable Massachusetts water quality requirements, if made in accordance with the provisions of the 2024 draft NPDES Permit and the conditions set forth below, and provided that the 2024 draft NPDES Permit is not modified in a manner inconsistent with this certification:

The following conditions, together with the terms and conditions contained in the 2024 draft NPDES permit for the CRPCD WWTP, are necessary to ensure that the proposed discharge will comply 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 Surface Water Quality Standards published at 314 CMR 4.00:

- a. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 21, §§ 26-53, and 314 CMR 3.00 and 4.00, including 314 CMR 3.11(2)(a)6., and in order to ensure the maintenance of surface waters free from pollutants in concentrations or combinations that are toxic to humans, aquatic life, or wildlife, in accordance with 314 CMR 4.05(5)(e), MassDEP has determined that it is necessary that beginning the first full calendar quarter following 6 months after the effective date of the final version of the 2024 draft NPDES Permit ("final NPDES Permit"), the Permittee shall collect, or require to be collected, annual samples of discharges from all Significant Industrial Users^{2,3} discharging into the CRPCD WWTP using Method 1633.

¹ The use of this name for the facility rather than "Water Pollution Abatement Facility" as used in the 2024 draft NPDES permit responds to a written comment from the Permittee. This WQC certifies the 2024 draft NPDES permit for the facility described, irrespective of the name used in the final NPDES permit.

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.

- b. Notwithstanding any other provision of the final NPDES Permit to the contrary, all PFAS monitoring results (influent; effluent; sludge; SIUs; and specific industries as specified in the final NPDES permit) and Adsorbable Organic Fluorine monitoring results shall be reported to MassDEP via the eDEP portal, or as otherwise specified in writing by MassDEP to the Permittee, within 30 days after the Permittee receives the sampling results, in addition to the final NPDES Permit reporting requirements. Information regarding the submittal of data via eDEP may be found at <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/submit-wastewater-residuals-pfas-data-via-edep>.
- c. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 21, §§ 26-53, and 314 CMR 3.00 and 4.00, including 314 CMR 3.11(3), 314 CMR 3.19(1), and 314 CMR 4.05, MassDEP has determined that it is necessary to include the following conditions:
 - i. The discharge shall be free from pollutants in concentrations or combinations that settle to form objectionable deposits; float as debris, scum or other matter to form nuisances; produce objectionable odor, color, taste or turbidity; or produce undesirable or nuisance species of aquatic life.
 - ii. The discharge shall be free from pollutants in concentrations or combinations that adversely affect the physical or chemical nature of the bottom, interfere with the propagation of fish or shellfish, or adversely affect populations of non-mobile or sessile benthic organisms.
 - iii. The discharge shall be free from floating, suspended and settleable solids in concentrations and combinations that would impair any use assigned to the receiving water, that would cause aesthetically objectionable conditions, or that would impair the benthic biota or degrade the chemical composition of the bottom.
 - iv. The discharge shall be free from color and turbidity in concentrations or combinations that are aesthetically objectionable or would impair any use assigned to the receiving water.
 - v. The discharge shall be free from oil, grease and petrochemicals that produce a visible film on the surface of the receiving water, impart an oily taste to the edible portions of aquatic life, coat the banks or bottom of the water course, or are deleterious or become toxic to aquatic life.
 - vi. The discharge shall be free from taste and odor in such concentrations or combinations that are aesthetically objectionable, that would impair any use assigned to the receiving water, or that would cause tainting or undesirable flavors in the edible portions of aquatic life.
 - vii. The discharge shall be free from pollutants in concentrations or combinations that are toxic to humans, aquatic life or wildlife.

To meet the requirements of Massachusetts laws, each of the conditions in the 2024 draft NPDES 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.

Signed this 3rd day of March, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lealdon Langley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "L".

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), under authority granted by the Massachusetts Clean Waters Act, M.G.L. c. 21, §§ 26 – 53, and the implementing regulations at 314 CMR 3.00 and 4.00, is proposing to: (1) issue a federal Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed 2024 Draft NPDES Permit (Federal Permit) (MA Permit No. MA0102598) to Charles River Pollution Control District (CRPCD) for the Charles River Water Pollution Abatement Facility (CRWPAF) for their Medway facility's pollutant discharges to the Charles River (MA 72-05); and (2) issue the 2024 Draft Massachusetts Surface Water Discharge Permit (SWDP) for the same discharge pursuant to the Massachusetts Clean Waters Act. CRPCD and the CRWPAF are located at 66 Village Street, Medway, Massachusetts 02053. The proposed WQC, proposed SWDP, and proposed Federal Permit are all available at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massdep-permits-approvals-for-comment>. Alternatively, a copy of the documents can be obtained by contacting Jennifer Wood, MassDEP Surface Water Discharge Program, at 617-835-9886 or at jennifer.wood@mass.gov.

Written comments on both the proposed WQC and the proposed SWDP will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on January 30, 2025. MassDEP strongly encourages written comments to be submitted by email to massdep.publiccommentnpdes@mass.gov; subject line: Charles River Water Pollution Abatement Facility. If not possible, please send by mail to MassDEP NPDES Program, C/o Jennifer Wood, 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900, Boston, MA 02114.

Following the close of the comment period, MassDEP will issue a final WQC and final SWDP and forward copies to the applicant and each person who has submitted written comments or requested notice. The final determination will contain information regarding the opportunity to file an adjudicatory appeal pursuant to 310 CMR 1.01. Information regarding intervention and participation can be found at 310 CMR 1.01(7).

For special accommodations, please call the MassDEP Diversity Office at 617-292-5751. TTY# MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370. This information is available in alternate format upon request.

By Order of the Department

Bonnie Heiple, Commissioner

NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS
SECTION 401 CERTIFICATION of FEDERAL NPDES PERMIT

Within 21 days of the issuance of MassDEP's decision to grant or deny a water quality certification of EPA's NPDES permit pursuant to § 401 of the federal Clean Water Act, any person aggrieved may request an adjudicatory hearing with MassDEP's Office of Appeals and Dispute Resolution (OADR) concerning MassDEP's decision.

How should the request for an adjudicatory hearing be made?

A request for an adjudicatory hearing concerning MassDEP's § 401 water quality certification of the federal NPDES permit must be made within 21 days of the issuance of MassDEP's decision to grant or deny the water quality certification, in accordance with 310 CMR 1.01. 310 CMR 1.01(6)(b) establishes the required form and content of the request. Failure to meet the requirements of 310 CMR 1.01 may result in dismissal of the request or the requirement to file a more definite statement.

A person filing a request for an adjudicatory hearing must complete and mail a MassDEP Fee Transmittal Form for the appeal and send it with a valid check to the Commonwealth Master Lockbox, as instructed below, if a fee is required by 310 CMR 4.06. The MassDEP Fee Transmittal Form can be downloaded from: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/adjudicatory-hearing-fee-transmittal-form/download>

The written notice requesting an adjudicatory hearing shall be delivered to MassDEP's Case Administrator together with (i) a photocopy of the decision being appealed, (ii) a photocopy of the completed MassDEP Fee Transmittal Form, if required, and (iii) a photocopy of the check used to pay any adjudicatory hearing filing fee due for the appeal under 310 CMR 4.06. The notice of claim and other items can be sent to OADR by mail, hand delivery, e-mail (Caseadmin.OADR@[mass.gov](mailto:Caseadmin.OADR@mass.gov)) or fax (information at <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/file-an-appeal-with-massdeps-office-of-appeals-and-dispute-resolution>).

Please do not send the original of the completed MassDEP Fee Transmittal Form and check to the Case Administrator. Instead, please follow the instructions below for delivery of the original of the completed Fee Transmittal Form and check to the Commonwealth Master Lockbox.

A \$100 adjudicatory hearing filing fee must be paid, unless (i) a simplified hearing is requested for a reduced fee of \$25, (ii) the person requesting an adjudicatory hearing is a city, town, county, or district of the Commonwealth, federally recognized Indian tribe housing authority effective January 14, 1994, or any municipal housing authority, in which case there is no fee, or (iii) the person requesting the hearing is seeking to have MassDEP waive the adjudicatory hearing filing fee because paying the fee will create an undue financial hardship.

A person who believes that payment of the fee would be an undue financial hardship shall file with the request for adjudicatory hearing a request for waiver of the fee together with an affidavit setting forth the facts the appellant believes constitute the undue financial hardship. For more information on the adjudicatory hearing filing fee and the grounds on which the Department may waive the fee, please see 310 CMR 4.06.

If a fee is required, the completed MassDEP Fee Transmittal Form and a valid check made payable to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the amount of the fee due must be mailed to:

Mass. Department of Environmental Protection
Commonwealth Master Lockbox
P.O. Box 4062
Boston, Massachusetts 02211

Failure to pay the adjudicatory hearing filing fee, if required, may be grounds for dismissal of the appeal.



重要 महत्वपूर्ण σημαντικός
Important
կարևոր quan trọng مهم



Communication for Non-English-Speaking Parties

This document is important and should be translated immediately.

If you need this document translated, please contact MassDEP's Diversity Director at the telephone number listed below.

Español Spanish

Este documento es importante y debe ser traducido de inmediato. Si necesita este documento traducido, comuníquese con la Directora de Diversidad de MassDEP al número de teléfono que aparece más abajo.

Português Portuguese

Este é um documento importante e deve ser traduzido imediatamente. Se precisar de uma tradução deste documento, entre em contato com o Diretor de Diversidade da MassDEP nos números de telefone listados abaixo.

繁體中文 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聯絡 MassDEP 多元化負責人。

简体中文 Chinese Simplified

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 的多元化主任聯繫。

Ayisyen Kreyòl Haitian Creole

Dokiman sa-a se yon bagay enpòtan epi yo ta dwe tradwi l imedyatman. Si ou bezwen dokiman sa a tradwi, tanpri kontakte Direktè Divèsite MassDEP la nan nimewo telefòn endike anba.

Việt Vietnamese

Tài liệu này rất quan trọng và cần được dịch ngay lập tức. Nếu quý vị cần dịch tài liệu này, xin liên lạc với Giám đốc Đa dạng của MassDEP theo các số điện thoại ghi dưới đây.

ប្រទេសកម្ពុជា Khmer/Cambodian

ឯកសារនេះគឺសំខាន់ហើយគួរត្រូវបានបកប្រែភ្លាមៗ។ ប្រសិនបើអ្នកត្រូវការឱ្យគេបកប្រែឯកសារនេះ សូមទាក់ទងមកនាយកដ្ឋានពិធីកម្មរបស់ MassDEP តាមលេខទូរស័ព្ទខាងក្រោម។

Kriolu Kabuverdianu Cape Verdean

Kel dokumentu li é inportáti y debe ser traduzidu imediatamenti. Se bu meste di kel dokumentu traduzidu, pur favor kontakta Diretor di Diversidádi di MassDEP na numeru abaxu indikadu.



Contact **Glynis L. Bugg, Acting Diversity Director/Civil Rights 857-262-0606**
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
100 Cambridge Street 9th Floor Boston, MA 02114

TTY# MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370 • <https://www.mass.gov/environmental-justice>
 (Version revised 1.5.2023) 310 CMR 1.03(5)(a)

Русский Russian

Это важный документ, и он должен быть безотлагательно переведен. Если вам нужен перевод данного документа, пожалуйста, свяжитесь с директором по вопросам многообразия (Diversity Director) компании MassDEP по указанному ниже телефону.

العربية Arabic

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

한국어 Korean

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

հայերեն Armenian

Այս փաստաթուղթը կարևոր է և պետք է անմիջապես թարգմանվի:
Եթե Ձեզ անհրաժեշտ է այս փաստաթուղթը թարգմանել, դիմեք MassDEP-ի բազմազանության տնօրենին ստորև նշված հեռախոսահամարով:

فارسی Farsi Persian

این سند مهم است و باید فوراً ترجمه شود.
اگر به ترجمه این سند نیاز دارید، لطفاً با مدیر بخش تنوع نژادی MassDEP به شماره تلفن ذکر شده در زیر تماس بگیرید.

Français French

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

Deutsch German

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

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.

Italiano Italian

Comunicazione per parti che non parlano inglese. Questo documento è importante e dovrebbe essere tradotto immediatamente. Se avete bisogno di questo documento tradotto, potete contattare il Direttore di Diversità di MassDEP al numero di telefono elencato di seguito.

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.

हिन्दी Hindi

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

Contact **Glynis L. Bugg, Acting Diversity Director/Civil Rights 857-262-0606**
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
100 Cambridge Street 9th Floor Boston, MA 02114

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