

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

FACT SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS PERMIT TO DISCHARGE POLLUTANTS TO SURFACE WATERS

MA PERMIT NUMBER: MA0003832

NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF APPLICANT:

Procter and Gamble-Gillette
One Gillette Park
Boston, MA 02127

NAME AND ADDRESS OF FACILITY WHERE DISCHARGE OCCURS:

Procter and Gamble-Gillette
One Gillette Park
Boston, MA 02127

RECEIVING WATER AND CLASSIFICATION:

Fort Point Channel
Boston Inner Harbor (MA70-02), Class SB (CSO)

PUBLIC NOTICE DETAILS:

Public comment time period: January 15, 2026 – February 16, 2026
Address where comments can be received:

Via email: massdep.publiccommentnpdes@mass.gov or to the below mailing address
Include the following subject line: Procter and Gamble-Gillette

MASSDEP CONTACT:

Person to contact for additional information:
Xiaodan Ruan, 857-256-4172, xiaodan.ruan@mass.gov

MAILING ADDRESS:

MassDEP NPDES Program, C/o Xiaodan Ruan, 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900, Boston, MA 02114.

This Fact Sheet for the above-referenced draft MassDEP Surface Water Discharge Permit (SWDP) incorporates by reference the entire Fact Sheet for the 2026 draft NPDES Permit No. MA0003832, issued by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 1, to the Procter and Gamble-Gillette on January 15, 2026, including all attachments and appendices to the Fact Sheet. In addition to the information contained in the EPA Fact Sheet incorporated herein by reference, MassDEP includes the information that follows.

NARRATIVE EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

The 2026 draft Procter and Gamble-Gillette NPDES Permit does not include certain narrative effluent limitations included in the previous discharge permit issued jointly by MassDEP and EPA to Procter and Gamble-Gillette. In order to ensure that the discharge does not cause or contribute to a violation of the Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards set forth in 314 CMR 4.00, MassDEP has included appropriate narrative effluent limitations in its draft Surface Water Discharge Permit (SWDP) and draft Water Quality Certification (WQC). These effluent limitations are included pursuant to MassDEP's authority under M.G.L. c. 21, §§ 26-53, and 314 CMR 3.00 and 4.00, including but not limited to 314 CMR 3.11(3), 314 CMR 3.19(1), and 314 CMR 4.05.

PER – AND POLYFLUROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS)

MassDEP is concerned about the potential impacts that PFAS in wastewater discharges may have on downstream drinking water, recreational, and aquatic life uses. The Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards do not include numeric criteria for PFAS. However, the narrative criterion for toxic pollutants at 314 CMR 4.05(5)(e) states:

All surface waters shall be free from pollutants in concentrations or combinations that are toxic to humans, aquatic life or wildlife.

In addition, this narrative criterion is further elaborated on at 314 CMR 4.05(5)(e)2.e. which states:

Unlisted Pollutants; Combinations of Pollutants. Any pollutant or combination of pollutants within the meaning of 314 CMR 4.05(5)(e) for which 314 CMR 4.05(5)(e)1. does not establish a generally applicable criterion shall not be discharged to surface waters in a quantity or manner that would: i. exceed safe exposure levels for aquatic life as determined by toxicity testing using methods approved by MassDEP pursuant to 314 CMR 4.03(6); or ii. cause adverse human health effects due to the ingestion, inhalation or dermal absorption of such toxins attributable to such waters during their reasonable use as designated in 314 CMR 4.00; or iii. result in a human health excess lifetime cancer risk level greater than 10 for -6 individual carcinogens.

To assess whether PFAS is in wastewater discharges and whether PFAS may be contributing to a violation of the narrative toxics criteria, MassDEP requires that most Massachusetts Surface Water Discharge Permits include monitoring requirements for PFAS. While EPA is requiring monitoring for PFAS only for certain types of facilities, MassDEP feels it is appropriate at this time to require monitoring by a broad range of facilities. PFAS is ubiquitous in the environment and given that monitoring of wastewater effluent for PFAS is still relatively new in Massachusetts, MassDEP requires comprehensive data in order to fully characterize the contributions of wastewater to PFAS in the environment. Additionally, this monitoring may allow MassDEP to identify types of facilities that contribute PFAS, but were previously not known to contribute PFAS. Because MassDEP acknowledges that some discharges may not contain PFAS, this permittee may request discontinuation of PFAS sampling after four consecutive years of monitoring PFAS as non-detect in their effluent.

MassDEP requires that all monitoring results for PFAS be submitted to the MassDEP electronic database referred to as eDEP. This will provide a means for MassDEP to better access all the data relative to its water quality standards. Information about submitting data to eDEP is available at the following website: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/submit-wastewaterresiduals-pfas-data-via-edep>. Also, data is available for review by the public at the following website: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/portal#!/search/npdes>.

REQUEST FOR A PUBLIC HEARING

According to 314 CMR 2.07(1), the applicant or permittee for a surface water discharge permit can request a public hearing, or the Department can determine a public hearing is in the public interest. In either case, the Department shall schedule and conduct such hearing in a community within the area(s) affected by the facility or discharge which is the subject of the permit. The Department may satisfy a public hearing requirement through a public hearing jointly held with EPA.