

# Interbasin Transfer Act

## Proposed Regulation Revisions

### 313 CMR 4.00



**MASSACHUSETTS WATER RESOURCES  
COMMISSION**  
**OCTOBER 13, 2016**



# Goals of Revision



## Goals

- 1) Incorporate ITA policies adopted by WRC over the years
- 2) Incorporate 21<sup>st</sup> century water resources science
- 3) Streamline procedures
- 4) Clarify terms and improve organization



# Overview of Major Changes



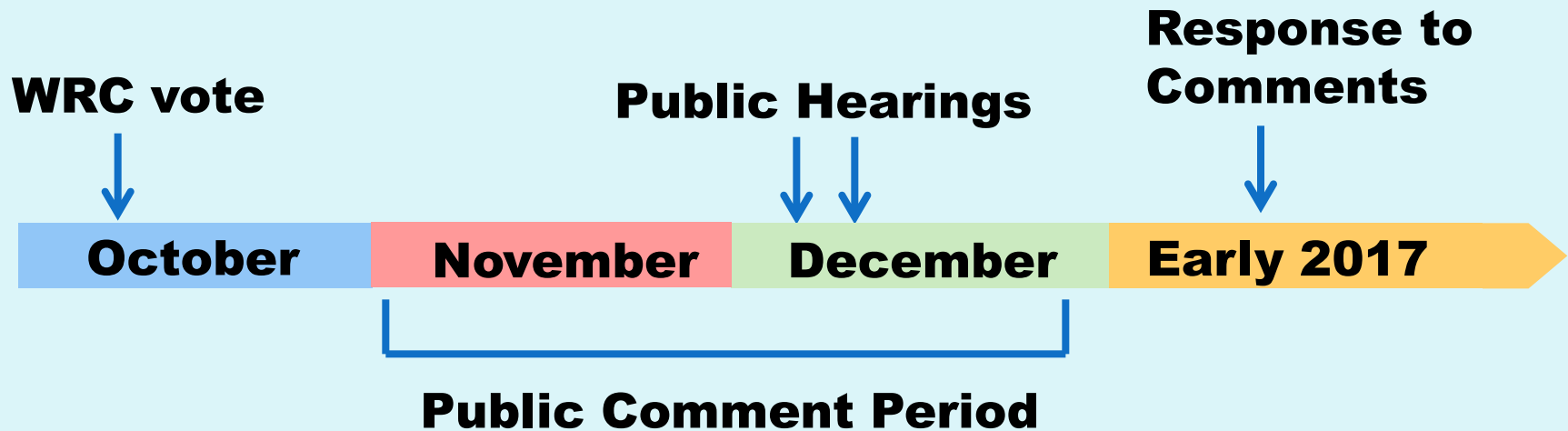
- Specified Process for Wastewater Transfers
- Updated Insignificance Criteria (revised streamflow metrics and added lakes/impoundments metrics)
- Added Streamlined Option for Transfers  $\leq 10,000$  gpd
- Added a Regional Water Supply Approval Process
- Revised Approach to Local Water Resources Planning Requirements



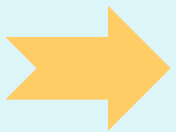
# Next Steps



If WRC votes today to release revisions for public comment:



- WRC review and vote
- Administrative review
- Promulgation





# Contact



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# Questions?



# Insignificance



- Current regulations treat all requests as direct river withdrawals (hardly ever the case)
- Revisions specify review process for:
  - Wastewater transfers
  - Transfers mainly impacting streamflow
  - Transfers mainly impacting a lake or reservoir
- Added streamlined option for transfers  $\leq 10,000$  gpd





# Insignificance – Streamflow Criteria



- Criteria for transfers impacting streams
  - Updated metrics based on 21<sup>st</sup> century hydrologic analysis
  - Environmentally protective
  - Road-tested using past projects





# Insignificance – Lake or Reservoir



- Criteria for transfers impacting a lake or reservoir
  - New metrics developed
  - Environmentally protective
  - Where appropriate, flow augmentation and/or protection measures will be considered



# Insignificance - Option for Smaller Transfers



- Added streamlined option for transfers  $\leq 10,000$  gpd
- Initial screening looks for potentially impacted:
  - Nearby water bodies (at source and wastewater discharge point)
  - Special resource values
  - Community water or wastewater systems
- Based on screening WRC can require further review.



# Regional Water Supply Approval Process



- Regional Suppliers can seek approval of Donor Basin Criteria before identifying all Receiving Areas
  - One-time approval of Donor Basin portion of the application eliminates duplicate review
  - Donor Basin and Receiving Area Criteria same as for any full review, but may be completed at different times
  - Time Limits:
    - Ten Year Check-In
    - Twenty Year Expiration





# Local Water Resources Management Plan



- Today, these plans are redundant with other local planning efforts.
- Information required by the plans is generally supplied in the EIR, which the WRC uses as the ITA application.
- Replaced criterion with a requirement to provide an evaluation of how the transfer supports the long-range water resources planning of the applicant



# Wastewater Transfers



- Incorporated 1987 guidance
  - Added wastewater definition of Receiving Area
  - Added wastewater definition of Viable Sources
- Requires data specific to wastewater
  - Provide new areas to be sewerred
  - Evaluate potential in-basin discharge areas
  - Provide information on impacts to NPDES permits, 7Q10 flows and available capacity at the WWTP

