

Interbasin Transfer Act Regional Supplier Application



**MASSACHUSETTS WATER RESOURCES
COMMISSION**

NOVEMBER 13, 2014

Regional Supplier Application



- Objectives: Streamline application process for regional water suppliers to receive permission to transfer water before identifying all customers and to eliminate duplication of work
 - Application consists of one Donor Basin portion and multiple Receiving Area portions
 - Donor Basin and Receiving Area Criteria same as for any full review, but may be completed at different times
 - Time Limit on WRC Acceptance of Donor Basin Criteria
 - 10 Years: Supplier files report describing any changes pertinent to Donor Basin criteria, Commission may revise approval of Donor Basin portion based on report
 - 20 Years: Approval of Donor Basin portion of application effective for 20 years, exception for pending applications

Donor Basin Requirements



- MEPA Compliance
- Reasonable instream flow
- Pumping Test (if a Groundwater Source)
- Cumulative Impacts

Receiving Basin Requirements



- MEPA Compliance
- Identify and develop all viable sources
- Water Conservation
- Comprehensive forestry management program
(on *existing* surface water sources)

Interbasin Transfer Act Interim Policy on Insignificance



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Background and Procedure



- Revisions to ITA regulations delayed longer than anticipated
- Regulations did not anticipate surface water transfers in list of information required
- Proposed surface water criteria developed by an interagency workgroup and discussed at WRC (March, April and May 2014 meetings) and outreach meetings

Insignificance

New Criteria for Surface Waters



- Reservoirs are currently subject to streamflow criteria—difficult to apply and not reflective of system's capacity
- Tested multiple criteria on 35 water supply reservoir systems and 4 ground water withdrawals near impoundments

Proposal: Transfer must be

- less than 5% of drought year inflow (annualized Q90), and
- less than 1% of annual rainfall on drainage area
- Where appropriate, flow augmentation and/or protection measures will be considered.
- Rationale: The first 2 criteria best reflect ecological capacity of the donor system. The last criterion can be used in appropriate situations (such as Cohasset's water sale to Erickson Retirement Community)

New criteria applied to existing projects



New Proposed criteria applied to 5 previously reviewed projects that could not meet the current insignificance criteria:

- ✓ Lakeville Long Pond (sewering project – has not applied formally for review)
- ✗ Plainville Lake Mirimichi well
- ✗ Cohasset surface water withdrawal (Transfer to Erickson Retirement community)
- ✗ Montague Lake Pleasant wells
- ✗ Groton Lake Baddacook wells

The only application that would have met the new proposed criteria was the Lakeville Long Pond project, because it would represent a very small transfer being requested adjacent to a very large reservoir.