
RE: Proposed Revisions to 301 CMR11.00

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To MEPA-regs (EEA) <MEPA-regs@mass.gov>

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Although this comment will be submitted after the deadline I hope that you will consider it.

The proposed amendments contemplate revising the review threshold for wastewater (310 CMR 11.03(5)). The reasoning is that absence of need for new inter-basin transfer of water/wastewater means the area is adequately served.

I believe the premise that the Inter Basin Transfer Act("ITA") is a suitable proxy is false and may harm communities already suffering a disproportionate environmental burden.

Many the Commonwealth's older cities are served by combined sewer systems. The systems routinely overflow, and these discharges of sewage pose a unique environmental and public health threat.

Often these cities have the right to supply water because their system predates the ITA. Waste water from cities within the MWRA district would be exempt from the ITA requirements if the project did not require an increase in the capacity of the MWRA interceptor which serves the community, because the MWRA Enabling Act grants them a right to sewer service which predates the ITA.

Using the ITA as a threshold for the revised regulation means accepting the notion that routine sewage discharges to state waters is normal; that analysis of *real* damage to the environment and communities can be waived. Certainly another measure can be found that furthers the goal of housing production, yet still protects communities burdened by sewage discharges from combined sewer systems.

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