

The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's (MWRA's) Request to Expand its Service Area as a Regional Water Supply System

Vote to Accept the Donor Basin Application as Complete

Massachusetts Water Resources Commission

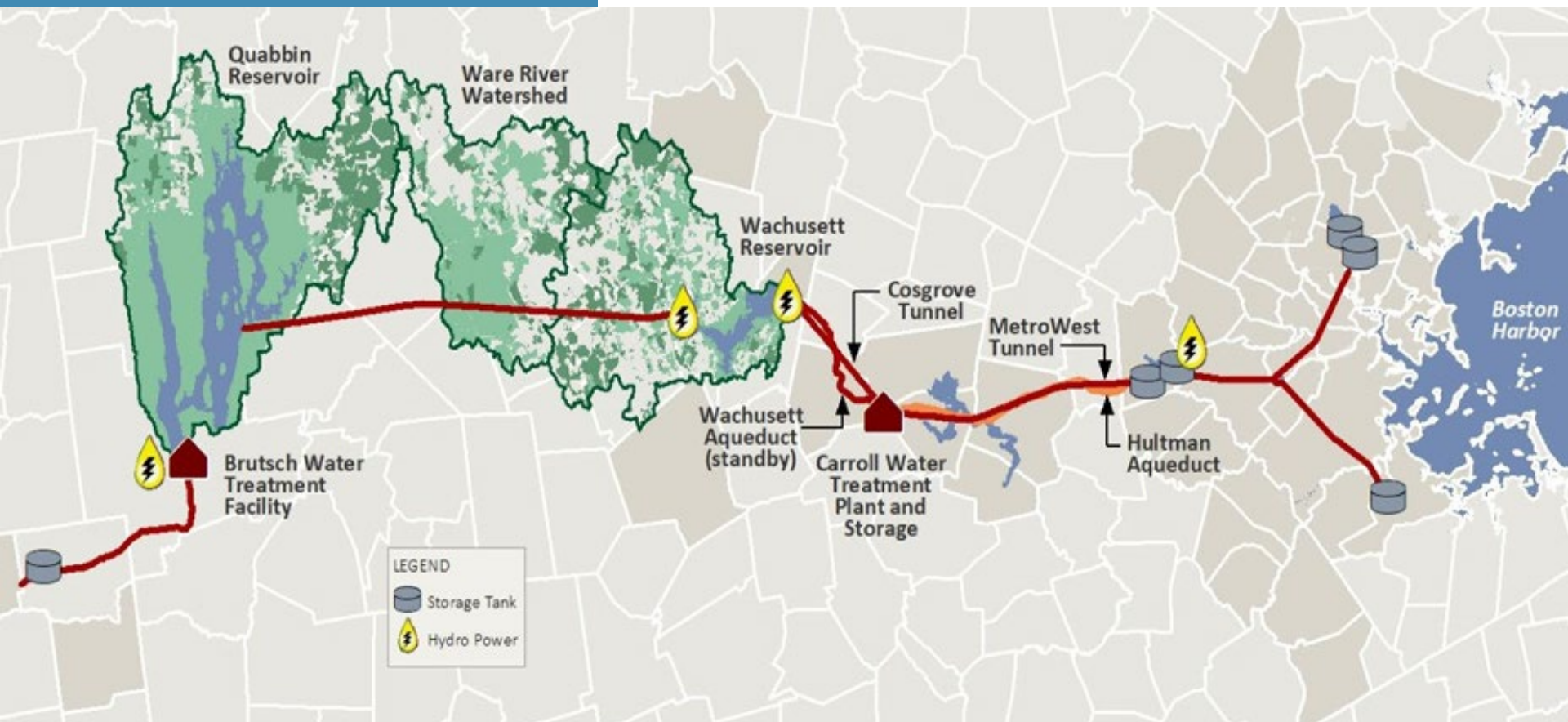
August 13, 2026

FACTS PERTAINING TO THE APPLICATION

- On February 19, 2026, the WRC received a request from MWRA for approval of an action to increase the Present Rate of Interbasin Transfer due to the expansion of the service area of a Regional Water Supply System under the Interbasin Transfer Act (ITA; M.G.L. Chapter 21 Sections 8B-8D).
- WRC staff requested additional information from MWRA on June 19, 2026, which was received on July 28, 2026.

FACTS PERTAINING TO THE APPLICATION

- MWRA is proposing to increase its Present Rate of Interbasin Transfer by 20 million gallons per day (MGD) to accommodate the expansion of its service area to multiple public water systems.
- MWRA has its water supply sources in the Chicopee River and Nashua River Basins.
- The MWRA's application is for the Donor Basin only.



MAP OF MWRA WATER SYSTEM

DONOR BASIN APPLICATION CRITERIA

- Section 4.10 of the ITA regulations (313 CMR 4.0) allows a Regional Water Supply System to file an application that allows the WRC to evaluate and approve criteria applicable to the Donor Basin separately from criteria applicable to the Receiving Area.
- The WRC shall determine whether the Donor Basin application meets the criteria listed under 313 CMR 4.09(3)(a), and (e) through (g);
 - (a) Criterion 1 - Compliance with MEPA
 - (e) Criterion 5 - Reasonable Instream Flow
 - (f) Criterion 6 - Impacts of Groundwater Withdrawals
 - (g) Criterion 7 - Cumulative Impacts

DONOR BASIN APPLICATION CRITERIA

- (a) Criterion 1 - Compliance with MEPA
 - The MEPA office determined MWRA's Donor Basin application does not require MEPA review because MEPA thresholds will not be exceeded and the actual transfer of water will occur only upon Receiving Area approval
- (e) Criterion 5 - Reasonable Instream Flow
 - Application addresses this criterion
- (f) Criterion 6 - Impacts of Groundwater Withdrawals
 - Not applicable; MWRA has only surface water sources
- (g) Criterion 7 - Cumulative Impacts
 - Application addresses this criterion
- WRC staff may seek clarification or additional details during the review process

ADDITIONAL INFO FOR DONOR BASIN & RECEIVING AREA APPLICATIONS

- Receiving Area applications may be reviewed concurrently or after the WRC determines that the Donor Basin application meets the applicable criteria listed in 313 CMR 4.00.
- The Donor Basin applicant does not need to have identified all of the potential Receiving Areas of the Interbasin Transfer.
- Receiving Area applications may be submitted to the WRC separately and non-concurrently from each other.

NEXT STEPS

- Request WRC's vote to accept application as complete today
- Public hearing in the donor basin community will be scheduled and held within sixty (60) days
- An additional hearing to take public comment on the staff recommendation will also be scheduled at a later date
- The WRC will have sixty (60) days from the close of this final public hearing to complete its review and make a Decision on the application