



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

Address: 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900, Boston MA 02114 | **Phone:** 617-292-5500

Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kim Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor

Rebecca Tepper
Secretary

Bonnie Heiple
Commissioner

September 10, 2026

David Michelson, P.E., Executive Director (dmichelsen@sesd.com)
South Essex Sewerage District (SESD)
P.O. Box 989
Salem, MA 01970

Re: Final 2026 Modification to the Massachusetts Permit to Discharge Pollutants to
Surface Waters for the South Essex Wastewater Treatment Facility

Dear Mr. Michelson:

Enclosed please find the Final 2026 Modification to the Massachusetts Permit to Discharge Pollutants to Surface Waters (“Final State Permit Modification” or “Surface Water Discharge Permit Modification”) for the South Essex Wastewater Treatment Facility, issued by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (“MassDEP”) pursuant to the Massachusetts Clean Waters Act, as amended (M.G.L. Chap. 21, §§ 26-53), and the implementing regulations at 314 CMR 3.00 and 314 CMR 4.00. On September 10, 2026, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (“USEPA”) issued NPDES Permit Modification MA0100501 to the South Essex Wastewater Treatment Facility and separately numbered NPDES permits to Co-permittees, the Cities of Beverly, Peabody, and Salem, Massachusetts and the Towns of Danvers, and Marblehead, Peabody, and Salem, Massachusetts. Those Cities and Towns are Co-permittees to this Final State Permit Modification and are copied on this letter. The NPDES Permit Modification issuance included MassDEP’s Final Water Quality Certificate. Please note that NPDES and Surface Water Discharge Permits are no longer jointly issued by EPA and MassDEP.

No comments were received on the draft Surface Water Discharge Permit Modification or on the accompanying draft Water Quality Certification. Any existing references to the draft NPDES permit in the draft Surface Water Discharge Permit Modification have been modified to reflect the final NPDES Permit Modification.

The Final State Permit Modification will become effective on the date specified in the permit unless you file a timely appeal with MassDEP’s Office of Appeals and Dispute Resolution. Information regarding the appeals process, including deadlines for filing an appeal, may be found at <https://www.mass.gov/guides/about-the-massdep-appeals->

[process](#). In addition, enclosed please find as Attachment 2 the Notice of Appeal Rights for the Surface Water Discharge Permit.

MassDEP appreciates your cooperation throughout the development of this Final State Permit. Please contact Claire Golden, the MassDEP permit writer, at 617-997-8874 or at claire.golden@mass.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathleen M Baskin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathleen M. Baskin, P.E.
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Water Resources
Department of Environmental Protection
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Enclosures:

Attachment 1: Final State Permit
Attachment 2: Notice of Appeal Rights (Surface Water Discharge Permit)
Attachment 3: MassDEP Communications Document

ecc: Lisa Chandler, P.E., Beverly City Engineer (lchandler@beverlyma.gov)
Stephen King, P.E., Danvers Town Engineer (sking@danversma.gov)
Amy McHugh, Marblehead Water/Sewer Superintendent (mchugha@marblehead.org)
Edward A. Bettencourt, Jr., Mayor of Peabody (mayor@peabody-ma.gov)
Jay Carroll, P.E., Salem City Engineer (jcarroll@salem.com)
Michele Barden, US EPA (barden.michele@epa.gov)
Susannah King, MassDEP
Whitney Fenwick, MassDEP
Claire Golden, MassDEP

MASSACHUSETTS PERMIT TO DISCHARGE POLLUTANTS TO SURFACE WATERS

In compliance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Clean Waters Act, as amended (M.G.L. Chap. 21, §§ 26 - 53) and the implementing regulations at 314 CMR 3.00 and 4.00,

South Essex Sewerage District (SESD)
P.O. Box 989
Salem, MA 01970

is authorized to discharge from the facility located at

South Essex Wastewater Treatment Facility
50 Fort Avenue
Salem, MA 01970

to receiving waters named

Salem Sound (Segment MA 93-56);
North Coastal Watershed;
Class SB - Shellfishing

in accordance with the following effluent limitations, monitoring requirements and additional conditions:

1. The issuance date of this permit modification is the date it is signed by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP).¹
2. This permit modification shall become effective on September 10, 2026².
3. This permit modification shall expire on June 30, 2031.
4. This permit modification revises and supersedes the relevant portions of the permit issued by MassDEP on January 30, 2026.
5. Pursuant to MassDEP's authority under M.G.L. c. 21, §§26-53, 314 CMR 3.00, and 314 CMR 4.00, this permit incorporates by reference: Part IA., Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements; Part IB., Unauthorized Discharges; Part IC., Operation and Maintenance of the Treatment and Control Facilities; Part ID., Alternate Power Source; Part IE., Industrial Users and Pretreatment Program; Part IF., Sludge Conditions; Part IG., Special Conditions; Part II, Reporting Requirements; and Part II, Standard

¹ Any person aggrieved by the issuance of this permit may file an appeal within 30 days of the issuance date. See the enclosed Notice of Appeal Rights for further details on appeal rights and how to file an appeal.

² According to 314 CMR 2.08(1), if no comments objecting to the issuance or terms of the permit modification were received by the Department during the public comment period, then the permit modification shall be effective upon issuance. If comments objecting to the issuance or the terms of the permit modification were received by the Department during the public comment period, then the permit modification shall become effective 30 days after issuance.

Conditions, as set forth in the 2025 Final NPDES Permit No. MA0100501, issued by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 1, issued to the South Essex Sewerage District ("Permittee") on December 22, 2025 (2025 Final NPDES Permit) and attached hereto by reference as Appendix 1 and available on EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/massachusetts-final-individual-npdes-permits>, as modified by the 2026 NPDES Permit No. MA0100501 Modification, issued by EPA Region 1 on September 10, 2026 and attached hereto by reference as Appendix 2 and available on EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/massachusetts-final-individual-npdes-permits>; provided, however:

- a. that the reporting required by Part IB.1 shall be in accordance with 314 CMR 3.19(20)(e) (24- hour reporting); and
 - b. that, if there is a conflict between the definitions in 314 CMR 3.02 and/or 314 CMR 4.00 and the definitions in Part IIE, the definitions in 314 CMR 3.02 and/or 314 CMR 4.00 shall control, as applicable.
6. This permit incorporates by reference the Standard Permit Conditions set forth in 314 CMR 3.19.
7. Beginning the first full calendar quarter following 6 months after the 2025 Final NPDES Permit effective date, the Permittee shall collect, or require to be collected, annual samples of discharges from all Significant Industrial Users^{3,4} discharging into the Permittee's Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) using Method 1633.
8. Notwithstanding any other provision of the 2025 Final NPDES permit to the contrary, all PFAS monitoring results (influent; effluent; sludge; SIUs; and specific industries as specified in the final NPDES permit) and Adsorbable Organic Fluorine monitoring results shall be reported to MassDEP via the eDEP portal, or as otherwise specified in writing by MassDEP to the Permittee, within 30 days after the permittee receives the sampling results, in addition to the final NPDES Permit reporting requirements. Information regarding the submittal of data via eDEP may be found at <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/submit-wastewaterresiduals-pfas-data-via-edep>.
9. In order to ensure that the discharge will not cause or contribute to a violation of applicable state water quality standards, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 21, §§ 26-53, and 314 CMR 3.00 and 4.00, including 314 CMR 3.11(3), 314 CMR 3.19(1), and 314 CMR 4.05:
 - a. The discharge shall be free from pollutants in concentrations or combinations that settle to form objectionable deposits; float as debris, scum or other matter

³ Significant Industrial User (SIU) is defined at 40 CFR part 403: All industrial users subject to Categorical Pretreatment Standards under 40 CFR 403.6 and 40 CFR chapter I, subpart N; **and** any other industrial user that: discharges an average of 25,000 GPD or more of process wastewater to the POTW, contributes a process wastestream that makes up 5% or more of the average dry weather hydraulic or organic capacity of the POTW, or designated as such by the POTW on the basis that the industrial users has a reasonable potential for adversely affecting the POTW's operation or for violating any Pretreatment Standards or requirement.

⁴ This requirement applies to all Significant Industrial Users and not just those within the sectors identified by EPA in the NPDES permit.

- to form nuisances; produce objectionable odor, color, taste or turbidity; or produce undesirable or nuisance species of aquatic life.
- b. The discharge shall be free from pollutants in concentrations or combinations that adversely affect the physical or chemical nature of the bottom, interfere with the propagation of fish or shellfish, or adversely affect populations of non-mobile or sessile benthic organisms.
 - c. The discharge shall be free from floating, suspended and settleable solids in concentrations and combinations that would impair any use assigned to the receiving water, that would cause aesthetically objectionable conditions, or that would impair the benthic biota or degrade the chemical composition of the bottom.
 - d. The discharge shall be free from color and turbidity in concentrations or combinations that are aesthetically objectionable or would impair any use assigned to the receiving water.
 - e. The discharge shall be free from oil, grease and petrochemicals that produce a visible film on the surface of the receiving water, impart an oily taste to the edible portions of aquatic life, coat the banks or bottom of the water course, or are deleterious or become toxic to aquatic life.
 - f. The discharge shall be free from taste and odor in such concentrations or combinations that are aesthetically objectionable, that would impair any use assigned to the receiving water, or that would cause tainting or undesirable flavors in the edible portions of aquatic life.
 - g. The discharge shall be free from pollutants in concentrations or combinations that are toxic to humans, aquatic life or wildlife.

The Cities of Beverly (NPDES Permit No. MAC010501), Peabody (NPDES Permit No. MAC040501) and Salem (NPDES Permit No. MAC050501), Massachusetts and the Towns of Danvers (NPDES Permit No. MAC020501) and Marblehead (NPDES Permit No. MAC030501), Massachusetts are Co-permittee(s) for Part IB., Unauthorized Discharges; and Part IC., Operation and Maintenance of the Sewer System; and Part I.D, Alternate Power Source as set forth in the 2025 Final NPDES Permit. These sections include conditions regarding the operation and maintenance of the collection systems owned and operated by the Cities of Beverly, Peabody and Salem and the Towns of Danvers and Peabody.

Operation and maintenance of the sewer system shall be in compliance with the General Requirements of Part II and the terms and conditions of Part IB., Part IC., and Part ID. of the 2025 Final NPDES permit. The Permittee and Co-permittees are severally liable under Part IB., Part IC., and Part ID. for their own activities and required reporting with respect to the portions of the collection system that they own or operate. They are not liable for violations of Part IB., Part IC., and Part ID. committed by others relative to the portions of the collection system owned and operated by others. Nor are they responsible for any

reporting that is required of the Permittee and other Co-permittees under Part IB., Part IC., and Part ID. The responsible municipal departments are:

City of Beverly
% City Engineer
Beverly City Hall
191 Cabot Street
Beverly, MA 01915

Town of Danvers
% Town Engineer
Public Works Eng. Div.
1 Burroughs Street
Danvers, MA 01923

Town of Marblehead
% Superintendent
Water/Sewer Department
P.O. Box 1108
Marblehead, MA 01945

City of Peabody
% Mayor
24 Lowell Street
Peabody, MA 01960

City of Salem
% City Engineer
120 Washington Street, 4th Fl
Salem, MA 01970

In addition, the Permittee and the Co-permittees are responsible for all public notifications, public health warnings and all other applicable requirements of 314 CMR 16.00 as they relate to their own collection systems including any approved CSO Notification Plans and/or SSO Notification Plans.

Issued on this 10th day of September, 2026



Kathleen M. Baskin, P.E.
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Water Resources
Department of Environmental Protection

NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS for STATE SURFACE WATER DISCHARGE PERMIT

Within 30 days of the issuance of MassDEP's decision to grant or deny a Surface Water Discharge Permit pursuant to M.G.L. c. 21, § 43, and 314 CMR 3.00, any person aggrieved may request an adjudicatory hearing.

How should the request for an adjudicatory hearing be made?

A request for an adjudicatory hearing for the state Surface Water Discharge Permit must be made during the 30-day period following issuance of the state permit, in accordance with 314 CMR 2.08 and 310 CMR 1.01. 310 CMR 1.01(6)(b) establishes the required form and content of the request. Failure to meet the requirements of 310 CMR 1.01 may result in dismissal of the request or the requirement to file a more definite statement.

A person filing a request for an adjudicatory hearing must complete and mail a MassDEP Fee Transmittal Form and send it with a valid check to the Commonwealth Master Lockbox, as instructed below, if a fee is required by 310 CMR 4.06. The MassDEP Fee Transmittal Form can be downloaded from:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/service/approvals/transmittal-form-for-payment.html>.

The written notice requesting an adjudicatory hearing shall be delivered to MassDEP's Case Administrator together with (i) a photocopy of the decision being appealed, (ii) a photocopy of the completed MassDEP Fee Transmittal Form, if required, and (iii) a photocopy of the check used to pay any adjudicatory hearing filing fee due for the appeal under 310 CMR 4.06. The notice of claim must be made in writing and sent by email to Caseadmin.OADR@state.ma.us.

Please do not send the original of the completed MassDEP Fee Transmittal Form and check to the Case Administrator. Instead, please follow the instructions below for delivery of the original of the completed Fee Transmittal Form and check to the Commonwealth Master Lockbox.

A \$100 adjudicatory hearing filing fee must be paid, unless (i) a simplified hearing is requested for a reduced fee of \$25, (ii) the person requesting an adjudicatory hearing is a town, a municipal agency, a county or a municipal housing authority, in which case there is no fee, or (iii) the person requesting the hearing is seeking to have MassDEP waive the adjudicatory hearing filing fee because paying the fee will create an undue financial hardship.

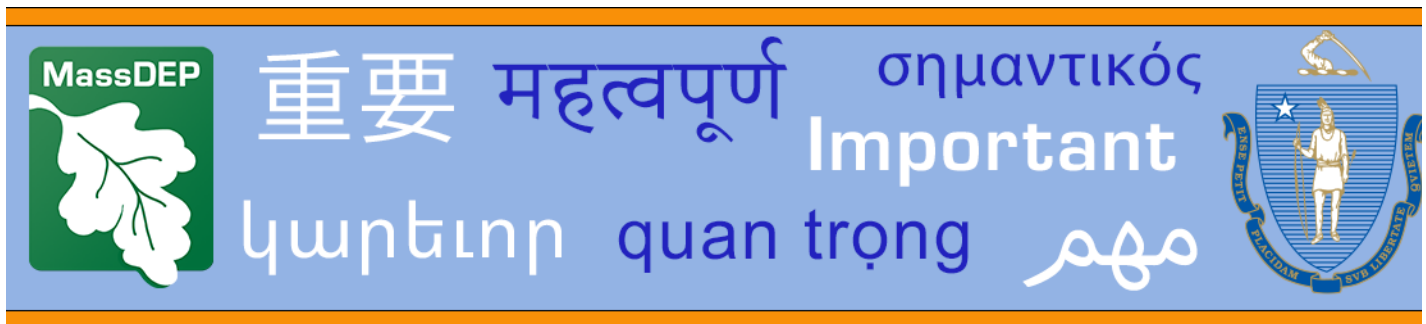
A person who believes that payment of the fee would be an undue financial hardship shall file with the request for adjudicatory hearing a request for waiver of the fee together with an affidavit setting forth the facts the appellant believes constitute the undue financial hardship. For more information on the adjudicatory hearing filing fee and the grounds on which the Department may waive the fee, please see 310 CMR 4.06.

If a fee is required, the completed MassDEP Fee Transmittal Form and a valid check made payable to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the amount of the fee due must be mailed to:

Mass. Department of Environmental Protection
Commonwealth Master Lockbox
P.O. Box 4062
Boston, Massachusetts 02211

Failure to pay the adjudicatory hearing filing fee, if required, may be grounds for dismissal of the appeal.

In accordance with 314 CMR 2.08(5), any person, other than the permit applicant or permittee, who files a request for an adjudicatory hearing with the Department pursuant to 314 CMR 2.08(2) on an individual permit or general permit coverage, also shall simultaneously send a copy of the request by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the applicant or permittee. Any person who files a request for an adjudicatory hearing with the Department pursuant to 314 CMR 2.08(2) on a general permit also shall simultaneously send a copy of the request by certified mail, return receipt requested, to each permittee covered by the general permit.



Communication for Non-English-Speaking Parties

This document is important and should be translated immediately.

If you need this document translated, please contact MassDEP's Director of Environmental Justice at the telephone number listed below.

Español Spanish

Este documento es importante y debe ser traducido inmediatamente. Si necesita traducir este documento, póngase en contacto con el Director de Justicia Ambiental de MassDEP (*MassDEP's Director of Environmental Justice*) en el número de teléfono que figura más abajo.

Português Portuguese

Este documento é importante e deve ser traduzido imediatamente. Se você precisar traduzir este documento, entre em contato com o Diretor de Justiça Ambiental do MassDEP no número de telefone listado abaixo.

繁體中文 Chinese Traditional

本文檔很重要，需要即刻進行翻譯。
如需對本文檔進行翻譯，請透過如下列示電話號碼與 MassDEP 的環境司法總監聯絡。

简体中文 Chinese Simplified

这份文件非常重要，需要立即翻译。
如果您需要翻译这份文件，请通过下方电话与 MassDEP 环境司法主任联系。

Ayisyen Kreyòl Haitian Creole

Dokiman sa a enpòtan epi yo ta dwe tradui l imedyatman. Si w bezwen tradui dokiman sa a, tanpri kontakte Direktè. Jistis Anviwònmanal MassDEP a nan nimewo telefòn ki endike anba a.

Việt Vietnamese

Tài liệu này và quan trọng và phải được dịch ngay. Nếu quý vị cần bản dịch của tài liệu này, vui lòng liên hệ với Giám Đốc Phòng Công Lý Môi Trường của MassDEP theo số điện thoại được liệt kê bên dưới.

ប្រទេសកម្ពុជា Khmer/Cambodian

ឯកសារនេះមានសារៈសំខាន់
ហើយគួរត្រូវបានបកប្រែភ្លាមៗ។
ប្រសិនបើអ្នកត្រូវការអោយឯកសារនេះបកប្រែ
សូមទាក់ទងនាយកផ្នែកយុត្តិធម៌បរិស្ថានរបស់
MassDEPតាមរយៈលេខទូរស័ព្ទដែលបានរាយដូចខាងក្រោម។

Kriolu Kabuverdianu Cape Verdean

Es dokumentu sta important i tenki ser tradusidu imediatamenti. Se nho ta presisa ke es dokumentu sta tradisidu, por favor kontata O Diretor di Justisia di Environman di DEP ku es numero di telefoni menxionadu di baixo.

Contact Deneen Simpson 857-406-0738

**Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
100 Cambridge Street 9th Floor Boston, MA 02114**

TTY# MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370 • <https://www.mass.gov/environmental-justice>
(Version revised 8.2.2023) 310 CMR 1.03(5)(a)

Русский Russian

Это чрезвычайно важный документ, и он должен быть немедленно переведен. Если вам нужен перевод этого документа, обратитесь к директору Департамента экологического правосудия MassDEP (MassDEP's Director of Environmental Justice) по телефону, указанному ниже.

العربية Arabic

هذه الوثيقة مهمة وتجب ترجمتها على الفور.

إذا كنت بحاجة إلى ترجمة هذه الوثيقة، فيرجى الاتصال بمدير العدالة البيئية في MassDEP على رقم الهاتف المذكور أدناه.

한국어 Korean

이 문서는 중대하므로 즉시 번역되어야 합니다. 본 문서 번역이 필요하신 경우, 매사추세츠 환경보호부의 "환경정의" 담당자 분께 문의하십시오. 전화번호는 아래와 같습니다.

հայերեն Armenian

Այս փաստաթուղթը կարևոր է, և պետք է անհապաղ թարգմանել այն: Եթե Ձեզ անհրաժեշտ է թարգմանել այս փաստաթուղթը, դիմեք Մասաչուսեթսի շրջակա միջավայրի պահպանության նախարարության (MassDEP) Բնապահպանական հարցերով արդարադատության ղեկավարին (Director of Environmental Justice)՝ ստորև նշված հեռախոսահամարով

فارسی Farsi Persian

این نوشتار بسیار مهمی است و باید فوراً ترجمه شود. اگر نیاز به ترجمه این نوشتار دارید لطفاً با مدیر عدالت محیط زیستی MassDEP در شماره تلفن ذکر شده زیر تماس بگیرید.

Français French

Ce document est important et doit être traduit immédiatement. Si vous avez besoin d'une traduction de ce document, veuillez contacter le directeur de la justice environnementale du MassDEP au numéro de téléphone indiqué ci-dessous.

Deutsch German

Dieses Dokument ist wichtig und muss sofort übersetzt werden. Wenn Sie eine Übersetzung dieses Dokuments benötigen, wenden Sie sich bitte an MassDEP's Director of Environmental Justice (*Direktor für Umweltgerechtigkeit in Massachusetts*) unter der unten angegebenen Telefonnummer.

Ελληνική Greek

Το έγγραφο αυτό είναι πολύ σημαντικό και πρέπει να μεταφραστεί αμέσως. Αν χρειάζεστε μετάφραση του εγγράφου αυτού, παρακαλώ επικοινωνήστε με τον Διευθυντή του Τμήματος Περιβαλλοντικής Δικαιοσύνης της Μασαχουσέτης στον αριθμό τηλεφώνου που αναγράφεται παρακάτω

Italiano Italian

Questo documento è importante e deve essere tradotto immediatamente. Se hai bisogno di tradurre questo documento, contatta il Direttore della Giustizia Ambientale di MassDEP al numero di telefono sotto indicato.

Język Polski Polish

Ten dokument jest ważny i powinien zostać niezwłocznie przetłumaczony. Jeśli potrzebne jest tłumaczenie tego dokumentu, należy skontaktować się z dyrektorem ds. sprawiedliwości środowiskowej MassDEP pod numerem telefonu podanym poniżej.

हिन्दी Hindi

यह दस्तावेज महत्वपूर्ण है और इसका अनुवाद तुरंत किया जाना चाहिए। यदि आपको इस दस्तावेज का अनुवाद कराने की जरूरत है, तो कृपया नीचे दिए गए टेलीफोन नंबर पर MassDEP के पर्यावरणीय न्याय निदेशक से संपर्क करें।

Contact Deneen Simpson 857-406-0738

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
100 Cambridge Street 9th Floor Boston, MA 02114

TTY# MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370 • <https://www.mass.gov/environmental-justice>

(Version revised 8.2.2023) 310 CMR 1.03(5)(a)