

Summary of Updates to the MassDEP Estimated Sewer System Service Area Boundaries Dataset

MassDEP’s Water Utility Resilience Program (WURP) continues to maintain and enhance the quality of the [Estimated Sewer System Service Area Boundaries](#) published via MassGIS. This document provides a summary of updates included in the most current version of the data. Additional documentation describing the dataset, including data sources and verification processes, are available in the [metadata](#). Please use the following citation to reference these data: *MassDEP. Water Utility Resilience Program. 2025. Publicly-Owned Treatment Work and Non-Publicly-Owned Sewer Service Areas (PubV2025_10)*.

Data Updates

In 2024, MassDEP began a joint federal partnership with the United States Geological Society (USGS). Under this agreement, USGS worked with MassDEP staff in updating service areas not previously confirmed. As described in Table 1 (below), the data quality has improved through confirmation of additional polygons representing areas served by publicly-owned treatment works (POTWs) and private treatment works (non-POTWs). In total, the current dataset (PubV2025_10) confirmed 269 of 333 POTW service areas delineated and 116 of 280 non-POTW service areas delineated. This represents an increase of 16% POTWs and 13% non-POTWs in service areas confirmed compared to the previous publication (PubV2024_12).

Table 1: Summary of changes in the number and percent of service areas (SA) confirmed by publicly-owned treatment works (POTWs) and private treatment works (non-POTWs) from the previous 2024 data release (PubV2024_12) and the current 2025 data update (PubV2025_10).

	POTW	POTW %	NON-POTW	NON- POTW %
Confirmed SA 2024 (PubV2024_12)	208	64%	83	30%
Unconfirmed SA 2024 (PubV2024_12)	120	36%	193	70%
Total 2024 (PubV2024_12)	328	-	276	-
Confirmed SA 2025 (PubV2025_10)	270	82%	115	41%
Unconfirmed SA 2025 (PubV2025_10)	61	18%	165	59%
Total 2025 (PubV2025_10)	331	-	280	-
SA Removed 2025 (PubV2025_10)	0	-	1	-
New SA added 2025 (PubV2025_10)	4	-	4	-

Details regarding additions and changes to the service areas are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2: Documented updates to publicly-owned treatment works (POTWs) and non-POTWs service areas completed for the MassDEP Estimated Sewer System Service Area Boundaries Dataset (PubV2025_10).

	POTW	NON-POTW	TOTAL
Service areas confirmed with area edits:	35	4	39
Service areas confirmed with no area edits:	27	29	56
Total service areas confirmed in 2025:	-	-	95
Service areas edited but not confirmed:	8	3	11
Total service areas with edits in 2025:	-	-	47
Newly added systems in 2025 - confirmed	1	0	1
Newly added systems in 2025 - unconfirmed	3	4	7
Total new service areas added in 2025:	-	-	8
Placeholders updated to estimated areas (unconfirmed) in 2025:	4	0	4
Systems mapped with a placeholder:	1	7	8
Service areas removed in 2025 due to the permit becoming inactive:	0	1	1
Systems edited in 2025 and previously confirmed:	3	1	4
Systems reverted to unconfirmed due to changes in 2025:	0	0	0

USGS also developed a methodology and an automated process to create statistics for the number and percent of developed parcels within each of the service areas. These statistics have been added to service areas with facility type “POTW” and sector type “Municipal/Regional/District”. See the [metadata](#) for detailed description and calculation methods for percent statistics. For these same types of POTW service areas, information has also been added to each feature to describe the number of POTW systems servicing the municipality, how the service area originated, additional sewer areas in that municipality, and whether the POTW overlaps other towns. Updates made during this period (October 2024 to October 2025) are reflected in a version referenced as *MassDEP, Water Utility Resilience Program. 2025. POTW and Non-POTW Sewer Service Areas (PubV2025_10)*.