



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

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PUBLIC NOTICE

TENTATIVE DETERMINATIONS TO ADOPT VARIANCES FOR CSO DISCHARGES to LOWER CHARLES RIVER/CHARLES BASIN and ALEWIFE BROOK/UPPER MYSTIC RIVER

The following is an addendum to the public notice provided by MassDEP on March 8, 2024 (included below). MassDEP is adding a third virtual public hearing scheduled for April 9, 2024, at 7:00 PM. For those planning to attend, registration information is available at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massdep-permits-approvals-for-comment>. Translation services may be requested when registering. Please note that by clicking on the registration link, you will be asked to provide your email address to obtain the Zoom link. This process may take a few minutes.

Notice is hereby given that the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), under authority granted by the Massachusetts Clean Waters Act, M.G.L. c. 21, §§ 26, and the Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards, 314 CMR 4.00, is proposing to adopt a Variance for CSO discharges by the MWRA and the City of Cambridge to the Lower Charles River/Charles Basin (Watertown Dam to New Charles River Dam) for a period not to exceed five years (August 29, 2029), and to adopt a Variance for CSO discharges by MWRA and the Cities of Cambridge and Somerville to the Alewife Brook/Upper Mystic River for a period not to exceed five years (August 29, 2029).

Beginning on March 8, 2024, the Tentative Determinations, Technical Fact Sheets, and Summary Fact Sheets will be available at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massdep-public-hearings-comment-opportunities>. Alternatively, a copy of the documents can be obtained by contacting Cathy Coniaris, MassDEP Surface Water Discharge Permit Program, at catherine.coniaris@mass.gov or 617-835-6693. Written comments on the Tentative Determinations will be accepted until 5:00 PM on April 22, 2024.

Two virtual public hearings are scheduled for March 28, 2024, at 1:00 PM and 6:00 PM. For those planning to attend, registration information will be available at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massdep-public-hearings-comment-opportunities>. Translation services may be requested when registering.

MassDEP strongly encourages written comments to be submitted by email to massdep.publiccommentnpdes@mass.gov, subject line: CSO Variances. If not possible, please send by mail to MassDEP, attention Cathy Coniaris, 100 Cambridge St. Suite 900, Boston, MA 02114

Following the close of the comment period, MassDEP will issue the Final Determinations and a Response to Comments document and will forward copies to each person or organization that submitted written comments.

For special accommodations, please call the MassDEP Diversity Office at 617-292-5751. TTY# MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370. This information is available in alternate format upon request.

By Order of the Department

Bonnie Heiple, Commissioner