



Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

# Department of Environmental Protection

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Commissioner

## PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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](mailto: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](mailto: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