

September 6, 2002

Mr. Glenn Haas, Director  
Division of Watershed Management  
Department of Environmental Protection  
1 Winter Street  
Boston, MA 02108

Ms. Linda Murphy, Director  
Office of Ecosystem Protection  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Water Technical Unit "SEW"  
P.O. Box 8127  
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, Permit Number MA0103284  
Notification Pursuant to Part I.8. Contingency Plan

Dear Mr. Haas and Ms. Murphy:

On August 23 and 30, I notified you of high Total Suspended Solids (TSS) level in Deer Island Treatment Plant (DITP) effluent for the weeks of August 11 to 17 and August 18 to 24 due to an upset in the secondary treatment process. At that time, we anticipated that the same upset would cause a third violation of MWRA's discharge permit and Contingency Plan limit for the monthly limit. On September 3, 2002 MWRA confirmed that the average monthly TSS for the period August 1 to 31 was 36.1 mg/L. MWRA's discharge of TSS is limited to a monthly average of 30 mg/L, therefore this exceeds the permit limit, and is also a Contingency Plan exceedance, triggering a notification requirement under the Contingency Plan. This letter constitutes that notification.

As described in the letters of August 23 and 30, elevated TSS in the effluent was associated with an "upset" of the treatment plant secondary process, caused by overgrowth of filamentous bacteria. The bacteria growth is believed to be related to a discharge of sulfate-rich industrial effluent to the DITP through MWRA's Alford Street Pump Station.

TSS effluent data for August 2002 are in the table on the following page. Since the time the upset was discovered MWRA staff have been working to bring the microbiological processes in the secondary batteries back into balance. I am glad to report that the treatment plant is now producing effluent with TSS within our permit limit.

**Total suspended solids  
in final DITP effluent**

Day August 2002	TSS (mg/L)
1	8.5
2	14.0
3	15.0
4	14.5
5	11.5
6	13.5
7	19.0
8	16.5
9	12.0
10	8.0
11	14.7
12	16.0
13	22.5
14	41.0
15	49.0
16	74.7
17	102
18	132
19	100
20	62.0
21	56.0
22	50.0
23	33.0
24	21.0
25	26.0
26	26.0
27	27.0
28	25.5
29	51.3
30	28.0
31	28.0
Monthly average	36.1

**Environmental Effects:** Primary treatment has been normal, and bacteria, total chlorine residual and cBOD permit limits have been met throughout this upset. The treatment plant upset has not been lengthy, with one battery of secondary restored to normal operation after three days. As noted previously, we do not anticipate adverse environmental impacts. If there are any impacts in the water column or in the sediment, MWRA expects to be able to detect them through our monitoring at the outfall site.

Please let me know if any of MWRA's staff can give you additional assistance regarding this notification.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Hornbrook  
Chief Operating Officer

Cc:

**Environmental Protection Agency, Region I (EPA)**

Matthew Liebman  
Janet Labonte-Deshais  
Eric Hall  
Roger Janson

**Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)**

Steve Lipman  
Cathy Coniaris

**Outfall Monitoring Science Advisory Panel**

Andrew Solow  
Robert Beardsley  
Norb Jaworski  
Scott Nixon  
Judy Pederson  
Michael Shiaris  
James Shine  
Juanita Urban-Rich  
Robert Kenney

**National Marine Fisheries Service**

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**Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary**

Craig MacDonald

**EOEA**

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**Hyannis Library**

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**MWRA Library**

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**Cape Cod Commission**

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