

IN ONE GENERATION

It was only 25 years ago that Boston Harbor was known as the “dirtiest harbor in America.” Today, it’s a “great American jewel.”

THE \$3.8 BILLION INVESTED in the treatment facilities at Deer Island have proven to be a great success and the harbor clean-up is widely recognized as one the nation’s greatest environmental achievements.

FOR OVER ONE HUNDRED YEARS, the disposal of the daily waste of Boston and its surrounding communities got only limited treatment before being dumped right into the harbor. In one generation, the damage has been reversed.

NO ADVERSE EFFECTS attributable to the discharge have ever been found. Meanwhile, the beaches and ecosystem of Boston Harbor have rebounded.

IN ADDITION, THE MWRA is spending \$850 million on combined sewer overflow (CSO) projects to protect beaches, shell fishing beds and other sensitive waters from overflows due to heavy rains.

DURING THIS TIME, the area’s drinking water system has also been completely modernized. This once great system had also been ignored, with the last major expenditure the creation of the Quabbin Reservoir in the 1930s. And with the repair of leaks and aggressive conservation measures, water demand has been reduced by over 100 million gallons a day since the 1980s.



1985

July: MWRA assumes control of regional water and sewer systems.



July: MWRA Board of Directors votes to build new wastewater treatment facilities on Deer Island

1986

May: Federal District Court Judge A. David Mazzone orders 13-year schedule for new Deer Island Treatment Plant and related facilities



November: MWRA adopts drinking water demand management policy in lieu of seeking new sources

1988

May: Groundbreaking for new Deer Island Treatment Plant



December: MWRA ceases discharge of scum into Boston Harbor

1989

January: Water demand drops below safe yield at Quabbin for the first time in 20 years



1990

February: Construction begins on sludge-to-fertilizer facility in Quincy



August: Construction begins on 9.5-mile Deer Island outfall tunnel



1991

April: Construction begins on 4.8-mile Inter-Island Tunnel between Nut Island and Deer Island

December: MWRA ends discharge of 40 dry tons of sludge a day to Boston Harbor

December: MWRA begins processing sludge into fertilizer



1992



July: New Clinton Wastewater Treatment Plant completed

1993

June: Bedford joins MWRA water system

July: Legislature enacts Sewer Relief Fund to ease ratepayers' burden



1994

February: \$1.7 billion Integrated Water Supply Improvement Program begins



1995

January: Start-up of new primary treatment facilities on Deer Island



November: Mining of Inter-Island Tunnel completed

1996

June: Interim Corrosion Control facility completed in Marlborough stabilizing pH and alkalinity of drinking water to reduce lead at customers' taps



June: Construction begins on 17.6-mile MetroWest Water Supply Tunnel to provide redundant supply line

1997

August: Start-up of first three batteries of secondary treatment at Deer Island

September: Beginning of secondary treatment marked by dramatic decrease in BOD

October: Completion of pump station and pipeline improvements allow Spot Pond reservoir to be taken off-line



1998

March: Start-up of next three batteries of secondary treatment at Deer Island

July: South system waste water flows now sent to Deer Island for treatment, ending discharges from Nut Island



1999

May: Public access at Nut Island opened



2000

September: New effluent outfall tunnel completed and on-line-wastewater discharges to Boston Harbor ended



2001

March: Last batteries of secondary treatment on-line at Deer Island



2002

May: Public access at Deer Island opened



June: 10 MWRA field sites now consolidated at new Chelsea facility

July: Stoughton joins MWRA water system

2003

November: MetroWest Water Supply Tunnel completed

November: Hultman Aqueduct and Norumbega Reservoir taken off-line



2004

June: Norumbega covered storage facility completed

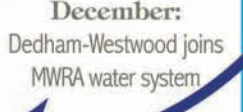


2005

August: John J. Carroll Water Treatment Plant in Marlborough brought on-line using ozone as primary disinfectant

November: Reading joins MWRA water system

December: Dedham-Westwood joins MWRA water system



2006

March: Landmark agreement reached with EPA on long-term CSO control plan



2007

September: Mining begins on 2.1-mile South Boston CSO Storage Tunnel

October: Judge A. David Mazzone honored with memorial at Deer Island

November: MWRA receives "Leading By Example" award for sustainable and renewable energy projects



2008

May: First solar power installed at Deer Island producing 100 kW of clean energy



August: Mining complete on South Boston CSO Storage Tunnel

August: Construction begins on East Boston Sewer Relief project

2009

May: Wilmington joins MWRA water system

August: Blue Hills Water Storage Tanks in Quincy brought on-line



November: First wind turbines installed at Deer Island, producing 1.2 MW of clean energy