

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY – REGION 1 (EPA)
WATER DIVISION
5 POST OFFICE SQUARE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109

EPA **EXTENSION OF PUBLIC NOTICE PERIOD** OF A REVISED DRAFT NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT TO DISCHARGE INTO WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES UNDER SECTION 402 OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT (CWA), AS AMENDED.

ORIGINAL PUBLIC NOTICE PERIOD: **January 16, 2025 to February 18, 2025**

PUBLIC NOTICE EXTENDED TO: **April 21, 2025**

PERMIT NUMBER: MA0100382

NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF APPLICANT:

City of Fall River Sewer Commission
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE FACILITY WHERE DISCHARGE OCCURS:

Fall River Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)
1979 Bay Street
Fall River, MA 02724 and 18 combined sewer overflow (CSO) outfalls

RECEIVING WATER AND CLASSIFICATION:

Mount Hope Bay (MA61-06); Class SB - CSO [Outfall 001 and 7 CSOs]
Taunton River (MA62-04); Class SB - CSO [4 CSOs]
Quequechan River (MA61-05); Class B – Warm Water Fishery and CSO [7 CSOs]

PREPARATION OF THE REVISED DRAFT PERMIT:

EPA is issuing for public notice and comment the Revised Draft NPDES Permit for the Fall River WWTP, which discharges treated domestic and industrial wastewater. Sludge from this facility is transported to Cranston, RI for incineration. The effluent limits and permit conditions have been drafted pursuant to, and assure compliance with, the CWA, including EPA-approved State Surface Water Quality Standards at 314 CMR 4.00. MassDEP cooperated with EPA in the development of the Revised Draft NPDES Permit. MassDEP retains independent authority under State law to publish for public notice their CWA § 401 certification and a separate state Surface Water Discharge Permit for the discharge, not the subject of this notice, under the Massachusetts Clean Waters Act, M.G.L. c. 21, §§ 26-53.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE REVISED DRAFT PERMIT:

The Revised Draft Permit and explanatory Statement of Basis may be obtained at no cost at <https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/massachusetts-draft-individual-npdes-permits> or by contacting:

Michele Duspiva
Telephone: (617) 918-1682
Email: Duspiva.Michele@epa.gov

Any electronically available documents that are part of the administrative record can be requested from the EPA contact above.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND REQUESTS FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS:

All persons, including applicants, who believe any revised condition of this Revised Draft Permit is inappropriate must raise all reasonably ascertainable issues and submit all reasonably available arguments supporting their position by **April 21, 2025**, which is the close of the public comment period. Comments should be submitted to the EPA contact at the email listed above. If you prefer to submit comments by mail, please call or email the EPA contact above to make arrangements for that. Upon the close of the public comment period, EPA will make all comments available to MassDEP. All commenters who want MassDEP to consider their comments in the state decision-making processes (*i.e.*, the separate state permit and the CWA § 401 certification) must submit such comments to MassDEP during the state comment period for the state Draft Permit and CWA § 401 certification. For information on submitting such comments to MassDEP, please follow the instructions found in the state public notice at: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massdep-public-hearings-comment-opportunities>.

Any person, prior to the close of the EPA public comment period, may submit a request in writing to EPA for a public hearing on the Revised Draft Permit under 40 CFR § 124.10. Such requests shall state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised in the hearing. A public hearing may be held if the Regional Administrator finds that response to this notice indicates significant public interest.

In reaching a final decision on this Revised Draft Permit, the Regional Administrator will respond to all significant comments and make the responses available to the public.

FINAL PERMIT DECISION:

Following the close of the comment period, and after a public hearing, if such hearing is held, the Regional Administrator will issue a final permit decision and notify the applicant and each person who has submitted written comments or requested notice.

KEN MORAFF, DIRECTOR
WATER DIVISION
U.S. EPA – REGION 1