

November 9, 2009

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

Mr. Stephen Perkins, 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
Report Pursuant to Part I.8. Contingency Plan: Outfall Monitoring Overview
and Part I.20.f Notification to the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary

Dear Mr. Haas and Mr. Perkins:

I am pleased to enclose the report, *2008 Outfall Monitoring Overview Results*, in compliance with Part I.8.a of MWRA's NPDES Permit which requires, "The results of any monitoring, required by the contingency plan shall be reported to EPA, MADEP and the public on a yearly basis by November 15..."

MWRA's ocean outfall began operation September 6, 2000. Therefore, 2008 was the eighth complete year of ambient monitoring of the discharge. The enclosed report focuses on 2008 results in the context of the baseline monitoring, and discusses Contingency Plan results for effluent, water column, sediment, and flounder health. In addition, Section 6, Special Studies, describes MWRA work to develop an improved method for calibrating field measurements of chlorophyll, an update on predicting red tides, changes in nutrient loadings to Boston Harbor, benthic nutrient flux results in Boston Harbor and Massachusetts Bay, and marine mammal observations.

Section 7 of the *2008 Outfall Monitoring Overview* reports on monitoring results relative to the Stellwagen Marine Sanctuary ("SBNMS"). This section, together with any additional data requested by SBNMS for the year 2008, comprises the report required by the permit in Part I.20.f:

"On or before January 1st of each year, for the life of this permit, MWRA shall submit a report to the SBNMS that: (1) includes all monitoring and related data from the Ambient Monitoring Plan that relates to the SBNMS, and (2) documents the effects of the Deer Island discharge on Sanctuary resources and qualities regarding the previous year."

Overall, the eighth complete year of monitoring continued to show no adverse impacts from the outfall, and no impacts on SBNMS were detected. The results are consistent with previous years. Region-wide events such as red tides and *Phaeocystis* blooms as well as regional variations in water chemistry over time have been observed; these are attributable to large-scale oceanographic and climatic factors and not to the discharge.

The report is available online as report number 2009-16 from MWRA's Technical Reports List at <http://www.mwra.state.ma.us/harbor/enquad/trlist.html>

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

Sincerely,

Michael J. Hornbrook
Chief Operating Officer

Attachment:

Werme C et al. 2009. *2008 Outfall Monitoring Overview* Boston: Massachusetts Water Resources Authority. Report 2009-16. 69p.

Cc:

Hyannis Library
Ann-Louise Harries

MWRA Library
Rebecca Kenney

National Marine Fisheries Service
Chris Mantzaris

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
Craig MacDonald

Environmental Protection Agency, Region I
Matthew Liebman

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Cathy Vakalopoulos

Cc: Cover letter only, please contact MWRA at (617) 788 4940 if you would like hard copy

Environmental Protection Agency, Region I

Todd J. Borci
Roger Janson

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

Cathy Vakalopoulos

Outfall Monitoring Science Advisory Panel

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

EOEA

Kathy Baskin

Inter-Agency Advisory Committee

Michael Bothner
Todd Callaghan
Tom Fredette
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Robert Buchsbaum
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Maggie Geist
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Vivien Li
Tara Nye

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John Lipman