

January 12, 2007

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
Part I.7 Quarterly Ambient Monitoring Report

Dear Mr. Haas and Ms. Murphy:

I am pleased to submit MWRA's quarterly report on ambient monitoring results.¹ Four interpretive reports are available for submission this quarter. These include annual synthesis reports detailing results of our water quality and sediment community monitoring around the outfall, a review of expected and observed effects of nutrient discharges, and a comprehensive review of toxic contaminant discharges and contaminant concentrations in fish tissues and sediments in Boston Harbor and Massachusetts Bay. Both reviews document that secondary treatment and the offshore outfall have led to improvements in Boston Harbor, without causing detectable degradation in the vicinity of the Massachusetts Bay outfall in the five years since outfall start-up.

MWRA will provide raw monitoring data upon request. Please let me know if any of MWRA's staff can give you additional assistance regarding these reports.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Hornbrook
Chief Operating Officer

¹ Part I.7.c.iv of the permit requires "The results of all monitoring required by the ambient monitoring plan or the eutrophication model shall be reported to EPA, MADEP, OMSAP and NMFS, on a quarterly basis."

Enclosure: Four monitoring Reports.

Hunt CD, Hall M, Pala SL and Dahlen DT. 2006. **A Review and Summary of Toxic Contaminants in Boston Harbor and Massachusetts Bay: 1990 to 2005**. Boston: Massachusetts Water Resources Authority. Report 2006-23. 136 p.

Libby PS, Brawley JW, Borkman D, Hunt CD. 2006. **2005 Nutrient Issues Review**. Boston: Massachusetts Water Resources Authority. Report ENQUAD 2006-02. 65p.

Libby PS, Geyer WR, Keller AA, Mansfield AD, Turner JT, Anderson DM, Borkman DG, Rust S, Hyde K and Oviatt CA. 2006. **2005 Annual Water Column Monitoring Report**. Boston: Massachusetts Water Resources Authority. Report 2006-20. 182 p.

Maciolek NJ, Diaz RJ, Dahlen DT, Hecker B, Williams IP, Hunt CD and Smith W. 2006. **2005 Outfall Benthic Monitoring Report**. Boston: Massachusetts Water Resources Authority. Report 2006-19. 166 p.

cc:

Environmental Protection Agency, Region I (EPA)

Matthew Liebman

Todd J. Borci

Roger Janson (cover letter only)

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

Cathy Vakalopoulos

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

Chris Mantzaris

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Public Interest Advisory Committee

Patty Foley (cover letter only)

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Steve Tucker (cover letter only)