

Notice of Treated CSO Discharge MWRA Cottage Farm CSO Treatment Facility

In accordance with the conditions of the Lower Charles River Basin Variance for Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO) issued by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to the MWRA on August 31, 2016, you are hereby notified of a discharge of treated combined sewage to the Charles River at MWRA's Cottage Farm CSO Treatment Facility (Outfall MWR 201).

The Variance allows CSO discharges, and requires the MWRA to notify local health agents, DEP, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Charles River Watershed Association by email within 12 hours of a discharge. **The Cottage Farm CSO Facility discharged on Friday, October 21, 2016, beginning at approximately 10:58 PM and ending on Saturday, October 22, 2016, at approximately 1:25 AM.**

The Cottage Farm CSO Treatment Facility is located adjacent to the Charles River at 660 Memorial Drive in Cambridge, between Magazine Park and the BU Bridge. The facility provides hydraulic relief for MWRA's North and South Charles Relief Sewers and is the primary upstream relief point when wet weather flows in large storms exceed the hydraulic capacity of MWRA's Ward Street Headworks in Boston. The headworks direct flows to the Deer Island Wastewater Treatment Plant via a deep rock tunnel. Hydraulic relief through the facility and other CSO outfalls is necessary to prevent system surcharging and backups into streets and buildings in large storms. The Cottage Farm CSO Facility provides screening, sediment reduction, and disinfection (with dechlorination) of combined storm water and sewage before discharging to the Charles River. The Cottage Farm CSO Facility discharges only during large storms.

There are several other permitted combined sewer overflow outfalls which also discharged untreated combined sewage on the Boston-side of the Charles River Basin, located approximately from the Massachusetts Ave. Bridge downstream to the Charles River Dam. CSO discharges from these outfalls occurred from approximately 10:10 PM to 11:20 PM.

If you need additional information about the most recent discharge at the Cottage Farm CSO Facility, please contact the MWRA Wastewater Operations Control Center at 617-305-5940.

For related information, please visit the following links:

Description of CSO Discharges and MWRA's CSO Control Program

<http://www.mwra.state.ma.us/03sewer/html/sewco.htm>

Charles River Variance

http://www.mwra.state.ma.us/harbor/html/cso_variance.htm

Charles River Water Quality

http://www.mwra.state.ma.us/harbor/html/cr_wq.htm

CSO Discharge Monitoring Reports

<http://www.mwra.state.ma.us/harbor/pdf/currentdmrcso.pdf>