



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION I
5 POST OFFICE SQUARE SUITE 100
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109-3912

February 15, 2018

Michael J. Hornbrook, Chief Operating Officer
Massachusetts Water Resources Authority
Charlestown Navy Yard
100 First Avenue, Building 39
Boston, MA 02129

Re: Final 2017 Contingency Plan Threshold modifications

Dear Mr. Hornbrook:

With this letter, EPA Region 1 approves the two Contingency Plan Threshold modifications proposed in your November 13, 2017 to EPA and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. MWRA proposed the following changes:

- Delete the Contingency Plan Caution Level threshold for *Phaeocystis*; and
- Delete the upper range only thresholds currently tested for infaunal diversity.

These threshold modifications were discussed at the Outfall Monitoring Science Advisory Panel (OMSAP) meeting on October 27, 2016. Both the OMSAP and the Public Interest Advisory Committee to OMSAP supported these modifications. MWRA submitted these proposed changes to EPA and MassDEP as interim modifications on January 3, 2017. On February 3, 2017 EPA sent a letter to MWRA stating that we did not object to these interim changes.

This proposal was distributed via the EPA Region 1 electronic notification listserver for the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) Contingency Plan. The MWRA also published the proposed modification in the Environmental Monitor.

With this approval, these modifications will take place immediately. Please note that this approval is only for modifications to the Contingency Plan thresholds. MWRA will continue to monitor *Phaeocystis* and infaunal diversity as per the monitoring plan.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me via email at liebman.matt@epa.gov or by phone at 617-918-1626.

Thank you.

Matthew Liebman, Ph.D
Ocean and Coastal Protection Unit