



# MASSACHUSETTS WATER RESOURCES AUTHORITY

Charlestown Navy Yard  
100 First Avenue, Building 39  
Boston, MA 02129

Frederick A. Laskey  
Executive Director

Telephone: (617) 242-6000  
Fax: (617) 788-4899  
TTY: (617) 788-4971

January 13, 2022

Todd Borci  
EPA Region 1  
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100  
Mail Code ECAD4-4  
Boston MA, 02109-3912

Catherine Vakalopoulos  
Department of Environmental Protection  
1 Winter Street  
Boston, MA 02108

RE: Massachusetts Water Resources Authority  
Permit Number MA 0103284  
Quarterly Ambient Monitoring Results and Contingency Plan Reporting

Dear Mr. Borci and Ms. Vakalopoulos:

In fulfillment of Part I.7.c.iv of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's ("MWRA") Deer Island Wastewater Treatment Plant permit, "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," I am pleased to submit MWRA's quarterly report on ambient monitoring results. These reports are also available on MWRA's website at <https://www.mwra.com/harbor/html/bhrecov.htm>.

Three reports were completed this quarter. The first report summarizes the findings of sea-floor (benthic) monitoring in Massachusetts and Cape Cod Bays for 2020. The second summarizes MWRA's continuous biological monitoring in Massachusetts Bay, with emphasis on marine algae through chlorophyll measurements. The third report is MWRA's Contingency Plan Report for the fourth quarter of 2021 for Ambient Monitoring. In this report, the dissolved oxygen threshold exceedances observed during the November survey in Stellwagen Basin are briefly discussed. Regulatory and public notifications for these exceedances were made on November 19, 2021, in accordance with Part I.8.b (Contingency Plan) of the permit.

As has been observed since outfall start-up in September 2000, findings in these reports continue to indicate that the Deer Island Treatment Plant outfall discharge is not adversely impacting the environment.

MWRA will provide raw monitoring data upon request. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please email Betsy Reilley at [betsy.reilley@mwra.com](mailto:betsy.reilley@mwra.com).

Sincerely,

Carolyn M. Fiore  
Deputy Chief Operating Officer

**Enclosures:** Three Ambient Monitoring reports. These reports are available online. To request a hard copy, please email [web.enquad@mwra.com](mailto:web.enquad@mwra.com) or email Betsy Reilley at [betsy.reilley@mwra.com](mailto:betsy.reilley@mwra.com).

**Reports:**

Rutecki DA, Hecker B, Nestler EC, Madray ME. 2022. [2020 Outfall Benthic Monitoring Results](#). Boston: Massachusetts Water Resources Authority. Report 2021-06. 65 p.

Roesler CS. 2021. [Continuous Hourly Observations of Chlorophyll Fluorescence, Turbidity and Irradiance in Massachusetts Bay, 2005 - 2020](#). Boston: Massachusetts Water Resources Authority. Report 2021-11. 25 p.

MWRA. 2022 [Contingency Plan Report, Fourth Quarter 2021: Ambient Monitoring](#). 11p.

**Cc:**

**Environmental Protection Agency, Region I**

Matthew Liebman

**National Marine Fisheries Service**

Christine Vaccaro

**Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary**

Peter DeCola

**US Food and Drug Administration**

David Lamoureux

**MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs**

Vandana M. Rao

**MA Division of Marine Fisheries**

Jeff Kennedy

Terry O'Neil

**MA Dept of Public Health**

Michael Moore

**Cape Cod Commission**

Timothy Pasakarnis

**Outfall Monitoring Science Advisory Panel**

Robert Beardsley

Peter Burn

Virginia Edgcomb

Loretta Fernandez

Robert Kenney

Mark Patterson

Judith Pederson

Jeffrey Rosen

Juliet Simpson

Juanita Urban-Rich

**Public Interest Advisory Committee**

Bruce Berman

**Hyannis Library**

Antonia Stephens

**MWRA Library**

Karen Graham