

Extension of Public Comment Period
Massachusetts Department of Environment Protection
Water Resources Management Program Regulations 310 CMR 36.00

The comment period for the Water Resources Management (WMA) regulations revisions has been extended from June 10, 2014 to **July 10, 2014**. Written comments on all proposed revisions will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on **July 10, 2014**, and may be submitted electronically via email to dep.talks@state.ma.us or by direct mail to:

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Resource Protection – Water Management Regulatory Comment Box
One Winter Street, Fifth Floor
Boston, MA 02108
Attention: Elizabeth McCann

The proposed regulations are available from the MassDEP website at:
www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/news/comment.

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, the **MA Department of Environmental Protection** (MassDEP) gives notice of its intent to amend the **Water Resources Management Program Regulations** (310 CRM 36.00) promulgated under the Massachusetts Water Management Act (M.G.L. c. 21G).

Summary:

The proposed revisions to the Water Resources Management (WMA) regulations incorporate a new methodology for calculating “safe yield” and the concept of “streamflow criteria” as developed through the multi-year Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) stakeholder process known as the Sustainable Water Management Initiative (SWMI). SWMI was started in 2010 by EEA for the purpose of incorporating the best available science into the management of the Commonwealth’s water resources and involved a wide range of stakeholders and support from EEA, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Fish and Game, and the Department of Conservation and Recreation. The draft regulations reflect a carefully developed balance to protect the health of our waterbodies while meeting the needs of communities for water. The regulatory package also clarifies WMA permitting requirements and processes.

Please contact Beth McCann at elizabeth.mccann@state.ma.us or 617-292-5901 with any questions about the public comment process.