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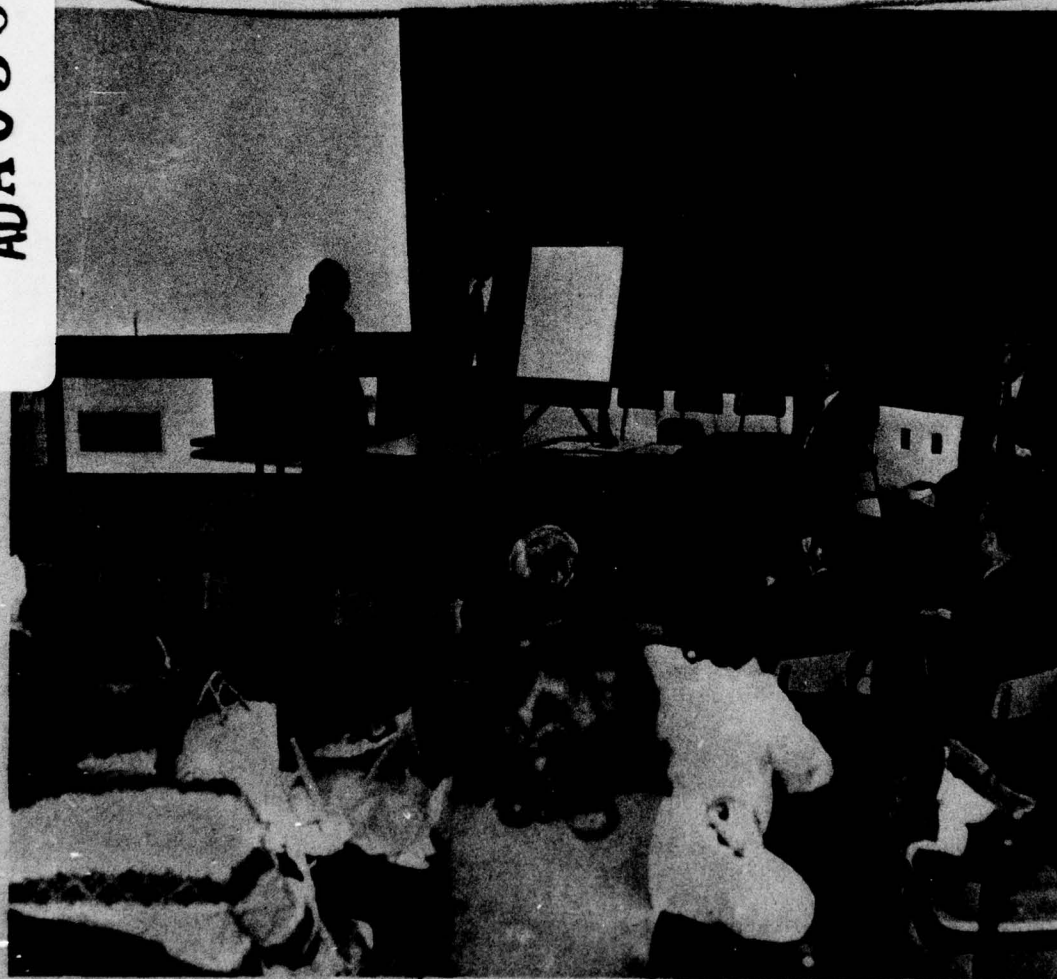
FOR  
**BOSTON HARBOR - EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN AREA  
EMMA STUDY.**

TECHNICAL DATA VOL. ~~14~~ *Volume 14.*  
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT.

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EMMA STUDY - PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT VOL. 14

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WASTEWATER ENGINEERING  
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FOR  
Boston Harbor - Eastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Area  
EMMA STUDY

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Prepared by  
U.S. Army Engineer Division  
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PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

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## A. PLANNING WITH THE CITIZEN

Planning means being ready for the future. When a planner tests his assumptions and findings on the people who will be affected if his work is implemented, chances are that the results will be technically feasible as well as socially and politically acceptable. Then the planner can show that he is committed to open planning.

The process of public involvement in planning is still evolving. It is not enough merely to make the many segments of the public aware of an ongoing planning effort or to ask them to accept decisions that have been or are about to be made. It is essential that the public have a continuing opportunity to help shape those decisions in order to develop plans that are suited for local needs. Public support of such plans is certain to help ensure implementation.

↘ This is a report about open planning in the Boston Harbor-Eastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Area Wastewater Management Study. It shows how the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Environmental Protection Agency, Corps of Engineers, Metropolitan Area Planning Council, and a Citizens' Committee have worked together in a wastewater management study. It shows how they have encouraged public response to planning data and assumptions as well as five different concepts for wastewater management.

↙ This report, however, is not complete. The process of open planning requires a continuing dialogue between planner and public, and further public meetings are expected. It is also beyond the scope of this report to record all informal contacts made during the course of the study.

## B. STRATEGY FOR PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

### 1. Overview of the Eastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Area

#### a. Background and Issues

Traditional planning has focused on engineering, the environment and economics, then -- late in the process -- turned to social and political feasibility. Open planning calls for grappling with all impacts of a project through public involvement early, then often in a planning effort.

Preparations for public involvement began after the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and New England Division of the Corps of Engineers signed an agreement to undertake a joint wastewater management study in the Merrimack River Basin in Massachusetts with extension to the metropolitan area of Eastern Massachusetts. A technical subcommittee consisting of representatives of the Massachusetts Division of Water Pollution Control, Metropolitan District Commission, Office

of State Planning, the Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council was formed, and one of its tasks was to undertake a public involvement program. After the start of the study, a Citizens' Advisory Committee and the Department of Public Health were added to the subcommittee.

This Technical Subcommittee has brought together and integrated, insofar as possible, the talents of professional people from a variety of disciplines. It has met about once a month and its individual members have met more frequently to stay abreast of study progress.

Defining the geographic limits of the Eastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Area presented a challenge in itself. For purposes of the study, it was defined as the 109 cities and towns within a 30-mile radius of the City of Boston. Ninety-nine of the communities are members of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, while 43 are also served by the Metropolitan Sewerage District as part of the Metropolitan District Commission.

The number of once rural communities that have established social and economic ties to Boston has been increasing steadily since World War II. A good part of this growth was spurred on by the construction of Route 128 around the city and the subsequent location of aerospace-oriented electronics firms along the highway, making it famous as the Golden Belt. Suburban growth was also caused by the desire to leave the city for suburbia that accompanied post-war prosperity as well as the attractiveness and convenience to industry of undeveloped areas in close proximity to a major transportation network.

Although the decline of the U.S. space program had a harsh impact on the electronics industry and consequently on the suburban residents who worked for these firms, the growth is far from over. Between 1960 and 1970, the population of the outer suburbs expanded 44 per cent. This population is expected to grow another 92 per cent by the year 2000 when it is expected to total 1,321,300. This figure offers quite a contrast to the 1960 population of 558,000.

Growth was not limited to the outer suburbs between 1960 and 1970. The inner suburbs grew eight per cent in the same period to reach a total population of 1,368,400. Their population is projected to swell another 20 per cent by the year 2000 when 1,614,900 are expected to be living in the inner suburbs.

Suburban growth coincided with population declines in the core area which lost six per cent of its 1,031,600 population in 1960 by 1970. The population of the core area is projected to shrink another eight per cent by 2000 when it is expected to total 870,400.

The shift of population into previously undeveloped areas means an increasing demand for municipal services such as schools, roads

and police and fire protection. All this is reflected in various state and local taxes and, most important, in the local property tax. Neither has been decreasing, and this is a period of unemployment and inflation. For example, the unemployment rate in the Boston Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA) in June 1974 was 8.8 per cent as compared to 7.9 per cent in June 1973. The unemployment rate for the state was 9.0 per cent in June 1974 while it was 7.4 per cent in June 1973. Nationally those percentages were 5.8 and 5.4, respectively.

The shift in population also means that sewerage will be needed. Development has taken place in and continues to be concentrated in areas with soils not suited for on-lot sewage disposal systems such as septic tanks. The result is the creation of potential health hazards through the contamination of ground and surface waters.

Other sources of pollution, of course, are industrial wastes and stormwater runoff, both of which intensify as suburban areas approach the density of urban areas. A severe problem is the overflows from combined sewers that collect both municipal sewage and stormwater runoff.

Exclusive of lakes and ponds, major waterways and their hydrologic basins are Boston Harbor, Charles River, Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Rivers (the SUASCO Basin), Ipswich River, Mystic River, Neponset River, Shawsheen River and South Coastal Streams. Growth has concentrated pollutants in these waterways, thus impairing their natural ability of self-purification. Wastewater treatment facilities, however, can condense the natural self-purification process.

#### b. Perspectives

##### (1) Metropolitan District Commission

The Massachusetts legislature established the Metropolitan Sewerage District (MSD) in 1889 upon the recommendation of the State Board of Health. The basis for the recommendation was the expansion of local sewerage which was discharging raw wastes into the Charles, Mystic and Neponset Rivers, hence into Boston Harbor. The original system of MSD sewers was put into operation in 1895.

Today, the MSD has 43 member cities and towns with an area of about 400 square miles and a 1970 population of about two million people. Each municipality maintains its own sewer system subject to the regulations of the MSD. MSD facilities include two primary treatment plants that are operating at their 350 million gallon per day capacity, approximately 225 miles of trunk sewers with at least 1,800 connections for 5,000 miles of local sewers and 11 pumping stations with a capacity of 1,500 million gallons per day. There is also a new stormwater treatment station on the Charles River in Cambridge.



The MSD comes under the administration of the Metropolitan District Commission, which is a department of the Commonwealth under the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. The commission is composed of a commissioner and four associate commissioners, all of whom are appointed by the governor. They have the administrative authority to carry out the operations and policy delineated by the legislature. The financial operations of the MDC are like those of other state departments, except that member cities and towns reimburse all its expenditures.

In July 1972, the Commonwealth signed an agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency to provide a minimum of secondary treatment at the Deer and Nut Island facilities and to eliminate the discharge of sludge into Boston Harbor. Other aspects of the agreement were that a comprehensive waste management study for the metropolitan area be undertaken, that alternative technologies be considered and that wastewater reclamation for such purposes as maintenance of low flows in streams throughout the metropolitan area be considered.

When the technical subcommittee on Boston Harbor was founded, the MDC agreed that public involvement was an important component of the planning process. Both the commissioner and the environmental planning staff have contributed to and taken part in the conduct of the public involvement program.

## (2) Metropolitan Area Planning Council

As a regional planning agency, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) is a voluntary association of 99 cities and towns with a statutory basis in the provisions of Chapter 40B of the Massachusetts General Laws. MAPC functions as an advisory body in comprehensive planning for its member communities; it is not a governmental body and it has no authority to ensure compliance with its regional plans. MAPC has prepared and maintains a Regional Sewerage Plan that satisfies a requirement for a certain federal funding for its own operations and ensures grant eligibility for its member communities.

MAPC, like other regional planning agencies, derives its representativeness from officials of each community who sit on its governing body. Its funding comes from four major sources: assessments upon individual member communities, HUD 701 matching grants, contracts with federal and state agencies, and limited general state assistance.

For its participation in the study, MAPC has been awarded two contracts. The first was to assist the MDC in the generation of planning data and the second was to develop and carry out a public involvement program for the study. The source of funding for

public involvement was the Corps of Engineers. Until December 1974, MAPC staff carried out most of the functions of coordinating all public involvement activities. Then, because of the Council's own expanded work program and the extension of the study beyond its anticipated original completion date, they were forced to diminish their role. They did, however, continue to participate in public involvement activities throughout the remainder of the study.

### (3) Corps of Engineers

The Corps of Engineers was directed to recommend improvements in wastewater management in the Merrimack River Basin in Massachusetts as well as the Metropolitan Area of Eastern Massachusetts by congressional resolutions in the spring of 1972 through joint planning with the Commonwealth and in consultation with the Environmental Protection Agency. When the Corps of Engineers and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts signed an agreement to undertake a joint study in November 1972, it was agreed that public involvement in plan development would be sought through an open planning process. Guidelines for the process are contained in "Open Planning/The Merrimack," September 1971, a report prepared for the Corps of Engineers by the New England Natural Resources Center.

The Corps of Engineers has provided funding and other support for public involvement. Its wastewater management planning staff have been involved in preparing for and carrying out the effort. Their role became increasingly active in December 1974. Along with the citizens' committee, they took the lead in organizing public meetings, workshops for local officials and other meetings with special interest groups. They also began publishing an information bulletin which helped expand the mailing list and encourage citizen response to the planning effort.

### (4) Other Agencies

Other state agencies serving on the technical subcommittee have been the Office of State Planning, the Division of Water Pollution Control and the Department of Public Health. These agencies have contact with the public in their regular functions. Their staff have both subscribed to and contributed to the public involvement program.

EPA has been the other federal agency on the technical subcommittee. The Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, Public Law 92-500, as administered by EPA, stipulate that public involvement be an intrinsic element in wastewater management planning. EPA staff have taken part in public involvement efforts.

(5) Citizens' Committee

The citizens' committee has represented a sampling of different interests of residents of the metropolitan area. Its members have come from different parts of the area and represented environmental, academic, industrial, and commercial interests. They have attended technical subcommittee meetings. Their function, as defined by the technical subcommittee, was initially to preview and evaluate the public involvement program, then make recommendations on improving the program. As the study progressed the committee members became involved in the full range of issues confronting the Technical Subcommittee.

2. Components

a. Committees

(1) Technical Subcommittee on Boston Harbor

There was a forerunner to the Technical Subcommittee on Boston Harbor. The Boston Harbor Water Quality Management Coordinating Committee, as it was known, was sponsored by the New England River Basins Commission. It was formed about two years before the technical subcommittee and its function was to ensure coordination among the agencies which held responsibilities for planning or undertaking water pollution abatement in Boston Harbor. The coordinating committee disbanded in June 1973, its functions having been assumed by the technical subcommittee.

Perhaps the technical subcommittee met officially for the first time in September 1972 after being organized upon the suggestion of Dr. Charles H.W. Foster, Secretary of Environmental Affairs for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The organization was developed about two months before the Corps of Engineers and Commonwealth signed an agreement to undertake a joint wastewater management study. Agencies represented on the subcommittee included the Metropolitan District Commission as chairman, the Resource Management Policy Council (now the Office of State Planning), the Division of Water Pollution Control, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Corps of Engineers. The Department of Public Health joined the group in July 1974.

The technical subcommittee has been responsible for the conduct of the study with the various tasks to be accomplished divided among the agencies. The MDC has been the lead agency; the efforts of the Corps of Engineers and other agencies have been to supplement the work of the MDC. The subcommittee has striven to work by consensus. It has reported to the State Technical Committee which in turn has reported to the State Policy Committee, then the Governor.

The Corps of Engineers has been on the organization charts of these committees. All members of the subcommittee have taken part in the meetings to encourage public involvement and contributed to the strategy for public involvements.

(2) Citizens' Committee

The technical subcommittee agreed in September 1973 to the formation to a citizens committee. Its members were to come from academic, commercial, environmental, industrial, legislative and other fields, and their purpose was to help the technical subcommittee in its public involvement program, and to make recommendations on how to improve it. The members were welcome to attend technical subcommittee meetings, but they were asked not to report differences of opinion at these meetings to the media.

The citizens' committee has been a sounding board for the engineering concepts developed by the study and for the public presentations of the study. Its members have taken advantage of the opportunity to review and comment upon engineering, institutional and impact assessments reports as they have become available. Their efforts to encourage public response came to the fore in late 1974 and early 1975 prior to and during the recommendation of wastewater treatment system for the cities and towns in or contiguous to the Metropolitan Sewerage District. Speaking both as a committee and as individuals, they took part in the deliberations that led to the study's recommendations. They suggested, and helped organize workshops for public officials in those communities which were potentially most affected by the recommendations of the Technical Subcommittee. They also encouraged local residents to attend public meetings.

At the fourth series of public meetings, held in late May and early June 1975, and the final series, held in September and October 1975 representatives of the Citizens' Advisory Committee served as program moderators.

b. Public Meetings

Five series of public meetings have been an integral part of the public involvement program of the study. The meetings have been held in locations that were as easily accessible as possible throughout the 109 community study area. All members of the technical subcommittee have taken part in the meetings, and the citizens' advisory committee has reviewed the presentations.

The first set of six meetings was held in November and December 1973. The background of the study, study goals and objectives, planning assumptions and available data such as population projections were presented. Questions focused on why sewerage was or would be needed as well as what land use and other controls could prevent the inevitability of sewerage. A notice of the meetings was sent

to about 2,500 agencies, organizations and individuals. A press release and meeting notice were also sent to the media. One hundred forty-eight people attended the meetings.

The second set of six meetings was held in May 1974 after the development of the five engineering concepts (four water-oriented concepts and one land application concept) and the preliminary impact assessments. Much of the interest focused on land application, and few questions were asked about the water-oriented concepts. No adverse reaction to land application was heard until after the public meetings were complete, and the Corps of Engineers, together with the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District, held a meeting with the communities that would be hosts to the land application systems. A press briefing was held before the meetings began, press releases were mailed and about 2,500 meeting notices were sent out. One hundred thirty-one attended the meetings.

The number of meetings was reduced to four for the third set, and they were held in the communities near proposed treatment facility sites. The meetings were scheduled in January 1975, about a month after the technical subcommittee had recommended treatment systems. Perhaps the jump in attendance to 214 people can be attributed to three factors: definitive treatment systems were recommended, extensive individual contacts were made with local officials to ensure awareness of the meetings and informal briefings with public works directors, city and town engineers and other officials were held prior to the meetings both to offer information and gain pre-meeting publicity.

The fourth round of public meetings was held in late May and early June 1975 in six study area communities. At these meetings, consultants to the wastewater study presented a recommended construction staging program, including alternative measures to remedy the problem of combined sewer overflows. They also discussed organizational alternatives for the Metropolitan Sewerage District and several possible bases for the apportionment of the operating costs of wastewater facilities among the member municipalities.

The meetings were attended by 273 people. 190 attended a single meeting held in Quincy. This meeting was acrimonious, in part, because of the circulation of rumors that homes would be taken to accommodate the recommended upgrading of the primary facilities at Nut Island. It was feared that this construction project would greatly disrupt the neighborhood bordering the Nut Island facility. Those who participated in the meeting were also virtually unanimous in opposition to any filling of Quincy Bay for the expansion of the treatment plant facilities to secondary treatment.

There was a suggestion that sewage treatment be discontinued at Nut Island and be moved to Peddock's Island. This proposal is currently under investigation.

Further opposition to the study recommendations surfaced at the Needham meeting. In this case also, an inaccurate report had appeared. One of the local newspapers had reported that the site for a middle-Charles River treatment plant had definitely been selected. Consequently, there were many questions about the reported site, about the site selection process, and about the necessity and environmental impact of the recommended satellite plant.

Those in attendance at the other meetings seemed generally to concur with the study recommendations.

The fifth and final set of public meetings was held in late September and early October 1975 in four study area communities. At these meetings the modifications to the construction schedule that resulted from discussions with the regulatory agencies were presented. At the same time the procedures leading to implementations were discussed. The recommended organization to manage the Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) was presented. The final item presented was the results of the cost allocation study. The resultant financial impacts on each of the 43 communities in the MSD were presented and discussed.

A total of 327 people attended the meetings. Of this total 90 attended the Wellesley meeting and 200 attended the Quincy meeting. The Wellesley meeting focused intently on the recommended Mid-Charles Advanced Waste Treatment Facility. Concerns were voiced relative to the location of the regional facility, the effect on the quality of the Charles River, and why the Mid-Charles was chosen as the site. The attendees at the Quincy meeting were concerned with present operations at the Nut Island primary treatment plant and the recommendations for upgrading and expansion of the primary plant and the extension to secondary treatment. Considerable opposition was voiced to filling about 26 acres of Quincy Bay to create a land area for the secondary treatment plant. A view was also voiced by inhabitants of the Quincy area that the upstream communities should treat their own sewage and not send wastewater to the Nut Island plant for treatment.

#### c. Briefings and Workshops

Briefings are expected to do little more than what their name suggests: brief and inform people. Public response to specific proposals may not be forthcoming. Before the second set up public meetings, a media briefing by the technical subcommittee was arranged by MAPC. Its purpose was to ask the print and broadcast media to publicize the study and encourage study area residents to attend the meetings. About 20 reporters attended, and the result was extensive one-time-only coverage about the meetings.

Workshops on the other hand, are expected to generate a continuing dialogue between agency officials and residents. The technical subcommittee has offered to hold workshops upon request to the MDC. The citizens' committee has taken the initiative to sponsor and run two workshops, one on land application and another on both land application and the MDC sewer connections limitations in the Framingham-Natick area. About 30 to 40 people attended each workshop.

The Corps of Engineers has combined the briefing-workshop format in meetings with cities and towns outside the 109 community study area that would be hosts to land application systems. One of these meetings was sponsored by the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District, and about 35 people attended.

Prior to the recommendation of treatment systems in December 1974, two briefing-workshops were held for officials and residents of communities west of Boston where a decision about treatment systems mattered most. Then, in January 1975, after the recommendations were made and needed to be tested for public response, briefings for public works directors, city and town engineers and other officials were held in the communities directly affected by the systems. These briefings served many purposes; they gave opportunity to comment on the recommendations and provided publicity for the public meetings which followed.

Subsequent to the public meetings, citizens' committee members sponsored a workshop to debate again the merits of a treatment system on the Sudbury River rather than on the Charles River where it was recommended. The net result of all workshops, however, was support for all systems recommended by the technical subcommittee.

A second series of briefings for public officials was held in May 1975, prior to the public meetings, which began at the end of the month. Town engineers, public works directors, and others who participated were encouraged to ask questions and to comment on the various study recommendations and proposals. In addition, a presentation on the study's progress was made a luncheon meeting of the Associated Industries of Massachusetts.

Prior to the final public meetings, a series of three public officials briefings were held in September 1975. The technical subcommittee's recommendations were reviewed along with the modifications to the construction schedule and the cost allocation study. In mid-October 1975 a presentation which focused primarily on cost allocation and industrial cost recovery was made to a joint meeting of the environmental committees of the Associated Industries of Massachusetts and the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce.

#### d. Informal Contacts

Perhaps the best way for agency officials to stay in touch with local sentiments lies in continuing informal contacts with people who make decisions about or are affected by water management issues. For example, the Corps of Engineers learned a great deal about how unpopular the land application concept was in host areas by staying in touch with individuals who stepped up to speak for their communities. All agency officials on the technical subcommittee have, of course, encouraged people to contact them during the public meetings.

During the weeks preceding and following the recommendation of treatment systems, the Corps of Engineers staff stepped up personal contacts with local officials to be certain that they were abreast of study progress and to encourage attendance at upcoming briefings and public meetings.

The process of contacting local officials on an individual basis was continued prior to the meetings in May. These personal contacts along with the briefings facilitate dialogue between municipal officials and those who are overseeing the **EDWA** Wastewater Management Study.

#### e. Media

The mailing list for the study contains the names of approximately 200 newspapers, trade magazines and television and radio stations in the metropolitan area. Press releases and a media briefing have made up the effort to obtain coverage of the study. The purpose of coverage has been two-fold; first, to disseminate information, and second, to encourage people to attend the meetings. Individual contacts with reporters have also helped spread word about the study. Members of the citizens' advisory committee have suggested that "letters to the editor" be written, that increased information be sent to the widely-read weekly newspapers and that newspaper advertisements be taken out.

#### f. Written Materials

The variety of different aspects and materials about the study made it imperative that handouts and information packets be prepared to give the public an opportunity to digest the different engineering concepts and impact assessment of the concepts before and after public meetings.

At the outset of the study, the MDC sent a summary of study purposes to 91 municipalities and other agencies. Mailings have been sent to about 2,500 agencies, organizations and individuals prior to public meetings. A postcard was enclosed in the mailing for the



second set of meetings. If it was returned, an information packet was sent out to provide people with the opportunity to come to meetings prepared to discuss the concepts. This information packet, of course, was available at the public meetings.

Prior to the recommendation of treatment systems, the technical subcommittee issued a progress report to all people on the mailing list. This report contained all the impacts to be considered in the recommendations as well as the relative importance of each impact. Response to the report was requested before the date on which the recommendations were to be made. A description of the recommended systems was included in the notice for the public meetings which followed, and a summary handout of study status was available at the public meetings.

An Information Bulletin was initiated in February 1975. The first issue contained a wrap-up of study progress and schedules, a description of the recommended systems, highlights of questions and answers asked at the public meetings and invitation for readers to contribute to subsequent issues. Although few readers took advantage of the opportunity to see their thoughts in print, several hundred asked to be added to the mailing list or to have their address updated.

A second and third Information Bulletin were sent out before and after the public meetings of late May and early June. The May Bulletin provided a capsule of issues to be discussed at the meetings; these were the construction-staging program, and alternative institutional and financial arrangements. The June Bulletin, issued after the meetings, included a number of the questions raised at the meeting with answers. This issue also gave sources for further information on the study.

A final Information Bulletin was sent out in early September. This issue summoned all of the Technical Subcommittee's recommendations and the modifications to the construction schedule.

At the meetings themselves, a more detailed information packet was available to participants.

C. CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
3/14/72	The Committee on Public Works of the U.S. Senate adopts a resolution directing the Corps of Engineers, together with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to recommend improvements in wastewater management and alternatives thereto in the Merrimack River Basin in Massachusetts and the metropolitan area of Eastern Massachusetts.	
5/24/72	The Environmental Protection Agency and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts agree that the Metropolitan District Commission will provide a minimum of secondary treatment at its Deer Island and Nut Island wastewater treatment facilities, undertake a waste management study of the metropolitan Boston region and eliminate the ocean disposal of sludge from its treatment facilities.	
6/14/72	The Committee on Public Works of the U.S. House of Representatives adopts a resolution directing the Corps of Engineers, together with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to recommend improvements in wastewater management and alternatives thereto in the Merrimack River Basin in Massachusetts and the metropolitan area of Eastern Massachusetts.	
9/25/72	Technical Subcommittee Meeting on Boston Harbor in Boston. (This is perhaps the first official meeting of the technical subcommittee. It was formed at the request of Charles H.W. Foster, Executive Secretary of the Environmental Affairs, who also asked that the MDC expand its wastewater management study to the metropolitan area of Eastern Massachusetts. Subcommittee members had been meeting informally and as part of the Boston Harbor Water Quality Management Coordinating Group under the sponsorship of the New England River Basins Commission. The MDC became chairman of the technical subcommittee. Other members came from the Division of Water Pollution Control, Office of State Planning, Metropolitan Area Planning Council, Corps of Engineers and Environmental Protection Agency.	11

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
	The Department of Public Health joined the subcommittee in June 1974. During the months that followed, the technical subcommittee studied how the study should proceed and prepared scopes of work. It was eventually decided that the Corps of Engineers would supplement the efforts of the MDC, with work in public involvement, an industrial wastes survey, land application, an environmental impact statement, drainage and urban runoff).	
10/12/72	Technical Subcommittee Meeting on Boston Harbor in Boston	11
10/18/72	Technical Subcommittee Meeting on Boston Harbor in Boston	17
10/31/72	Technical Subcommittee Meeting on Boston Harbor in Boston	10
11/7/72	Technical Subcommittee Meeting on Boston Harbor in Boston	13
11/13/72	Boston Harbor Water Quality Management Coordinating Group in Boston	
11/21/72	Technical Subcommittee Meeting on Boston Harbor in Boston	10
11/30/72 12/1/72	Forum, Water Quality of Boston Harbor in Waltham	40
12/18/72	Boston Harbor Water Quality Management Coordinating Group in Boston	9
12/14/72	Technical Subcommittee Meeting on Boston Harbor in Boston	10
12/29/72	Technical Subcommittee Meeting on Boston Harbor in Boston	8
1/14/73	Boston Harbor Water Quality Management Coordinating Group in Boston	9
1/29/73	Technical Subcommittee Meeting on Boston Harbor in Boston	14

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
2/26/73	Boston Harbor Water Quality Management Coordinating Group in Boston	6
3/19/73	Technical Subcommittee Meeting on Boston Harbor in Boston	20
3/21/73	Boston Harbor Water Quality Management Coordinating Group in Boston	9
3/30/73	Technical Subcommittee Meeting on Boston Harbor in Boston	14
4/2/73	MDC Commissioner John Sears forwarded a letter to municipal officials of 91 cities and towns and interested agencies announcing the Boston Harbor-Eastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Area Wastewater Management Study	
4/17/73	Technical Subcommittee Meeting on Boston Harbor in Boston	12
6/19/73	Boston Harbor Water Quality Management Coordinating Group in Boston (This group disbanded at this meeting; its functions having been assumed by the technical subcommittee)	6
7/5/73	Technical Subcommittee Meeting on Boston Harbor in Boston	10
7/12/73	Technical Subcommittee Meeting on Boston Harbor in Boston	22
9/21/73	Technical Subcommittee Meeting on Boston Harbor in Boston (The technical subcommittee agreed to form a citizens' committee at this meeting).	16
10/12/73	Technical Subcommittee Meeting on Boston Harbor in Boston (The technical subcommittee agreed upon dates for the first round of public meetings at this meeting).	18
10/17/73	The first notice of public meetings for the study was mailed to about 2,500 agencies, organizations and individuals with a known interest in water quality in the metropolitan area.	

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
10/25/73	Organization Meeting of Citizens' Committee in Boston	15
10/29/73	A press release announcing the first round of public meetings was mailed to the media (print and broadcast).	
11/5/73	Citizens' Committee in Waltham. (The purpose of this meeting was twofold: first, organization and second, to review presentations for the first set of public meetings).	20
11/6/73	A second notice of the public meetings was mailed to about 2,500 agencies and individuals. A notice to be inserted in community calendars of events was also sent to the media.	
11/15/73	Public meetings in Acton (This meeting was the first of six early stage meetings during the fall of 1973. The public was told of possible changes in the size and makeup of the MDC, land use projections and population projections. Plans to develop different wastewater management concepts were also described. Comments were invited).	37
11/20/73	Public meeting in Danvers	9
12/4/73	Public meeting in Cambridge	35
12/6/73	Public meeting in Newton	43
12/13/73	Public meeting in Medfield	14
12/18/73	Public meeting in Norwell	10
1/4/74	Technical Subcommittee Meeting on Boston Harbor in Boston	21
1/24/74	Citizens' Committee in Waltham (It was announced that alternatives would not be ready until March)	10
2/7/74	Technical Subcommittee Meeting on Boston Harbor in Boston	17

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
2/26/74	Technical Subcommittee Meeting on Boston Harbor in Boston	18
4/4/74	Citizens' Committee in Waltham (The alternatives were explained at this meeting).	12
4/9/74	An announcement of mid-stage meetings was mailed to about 2,500 agencies, organizations and individuals with an interest in water quality. The agenda was to include a presentation of different wastewater management alternatives, anticipated impacts and a comparison of water-oriented and land-oriented treatment.	
4/12/74	A news release about the upcoming meetings was sent to media in the metropolitan area.	
4/16/74	An invitation to a press briefing about the study was mailed to the media	
4/26/74	Press briefing in Boston	25
4/29/74	Technical Subcommittee Meeting on Boston Harbor in Boston	10
5/7/74	Mid-stage public meeting in Acton	15
5/9/74	Mid-stage public meeting in Danvers	12
5/14/74	Mid-stage public meeting in Cambridge	13
5/15/74	Mid-stage public meeting in Newton	37
5/20/74	Mid-stage public meeting in Medfield	25
5/22/74	Mid-stage public meeting in Norwell	29
5/29/74	Meeting on land application with Easton Planning Board and Selectmen	5
6/5/74	Meeting on land application in Taunton sponsored by Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District	30
6/13/74	Technical Subcommittee Meeting on Boston Harbor in Boston	21

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
6/21/74	Technical Subcommittee Meeting on Boston Harbor in Boston (Preparations to evaluate the five different alternative concepts for wastewater management began at this meeting).	12
7/12/74	Meeting of Corps' staff with Congresswoman Margaret Heckler and representatives of Fall River	12
8/8/74	Technical Subcommittee Meeting on Boston Harbor in Boston (The Corps of Engineers recommended that further consideration of the land application concept as a viable alternative be stopped because of unfavorable public response. The Corps also asked that this be publicized).	16
8/9/74	Citizens' Committee Meeting in Lincoln	7
9/19/74	Citizens' Committee Workshop in Natick on land application and the MDC sewer in Framingham	40
9/27/74	Technical Subcommittee on Boston Harbor in Boston	17
10/15/74	Citizens' Committee at Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA) offices in Newton (The committee urged that the public involvement effort be intensified subsequent to this meeting)	10
10/18/74	Technical Subcommittee on Boston Harbor	21
11/7/74	Citizens' Committee at CRWA offices in Newton	10
11/14/74	Briefing for public works and other local officials in Natick (The choices offered by the different wastewater treatment concepts were outlined at this meeting) for middle Charles River Basin communities.	15
11/18/74	Technical Subcommittee on Boston Harbor in Boston (It was agreed to distribute the qualitative ratings used to evaluate the wastewater treatment concepts and their impacts to all names on the mailing list)	20

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
11/27/74	The qualitative ratings for evaluating the five concepts was sent to about 2,500 agencies and individuals. It contained a description of the concepts, all impacts to be considered and the relative importance of each impact. (Responses were requested)	
12/5/74	Briefing in Medway for residents of Upper Charles River Basin communities (The choices for these communities were outlined at this meeting)	35
12/12/74	Technical Subcommittee on Boston Harbor in Boston (A moderately decentralized treatment system for the metropolitan area was recommended. It called for upgrading and expanding the two primary treatment plants in the harbor to secondary treatment plants and building advanced treatment plants along the Neponset River in Canton and the Charles River in Wellesley along with a flow augmentation along the Aberjona River in Woburn)	30
12/13/74	Technical Subcommittee on Boston Harbor in Waltham (A public involvement strategy for the remainder of the study was discussed. It was agreed that the Corps of Engineers would expand its role).	6
12/20/74	A news release describing the recommended treatment systems was mailed to about 200 newspapers, radio and television stations.	
12/27/74	Technical Subcommittee on Boston Harbor in Boston (An expanded public involvement program was established).	12
1/3/75	Pre-public meeting briefing for public works and other officials in 10 middle Charles River and Sudbury River basin communities (This briefing, like the two that followed, offered local officials a preview of the public meeting presentations and an informal opportunity to comment upon the study).	30
1/10/75	Pre-public meeting briefing for public works and other officials for five Aberjona River area communities in Woburn	25



<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
1/10/75	Pre-public meeting briefing for public works and other officials in five Neponset River basin communities in Canton	30
1/10/75	A news release about upcoming public meetings is mailed	
1/15/75	Sierra Club in Cambridge (The recommended systems were presented).	35
1/21/75	Public meeting in Woburn	45
1/23/75	Public meeting in Canton	39
1/28/75	Public meeting in Quincy	80
1/29/75	Public meeting in Needham (Questions asked at the public meetings ranged from the quality of the effluent to the location of the advanced treatment facilities. The impact on downstream aquifers was a frequent question. Most comments about the recommendations were favorable).	55
2/14/75	Citizens' Committee meeting in Framingham (This meeting was requested by the South Middlesex Legislative Caucus and the merits of a Sudbury River advanced treatment plant instead of a Charles River plant were debated).	30
2/15/75	The first Information Bulletin was mailed to about 2,500 agencies, organizations and individuals (The bulletin offered space for readers' comments in upcoming issues, contained a summary of study progress, described the recommended system and asked for revisions to the mailing list).	
3/13/75	Citizens' Committee meeting at CRWA offices in Newton	7
4/17/75	Meeting at Corps of Engineers with U.S.G.S., Water Resources Commission and A.R. Miller of the CAC on river flows in the Sudbury River in Framingham area.	6
4/18/75	Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting in Waltham (There was discussion of the next round of public meetings on the wastewater study).	12

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
4/24/75	Technical Subcommittee Meeting on Boston Harbor in Boston. (The following items were on the agenda: combined-sewer overflow regulation, construction priorities, financial and institutional arrangements, and next series of public meetings).	25
4/25/75	Public hearing at MDC in Boston. (The disposal of sludges from the Deer and Nut Island Sewage treatment plants was considered).	6
5/1/75	Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting in Waltham. (There was further planning for the upcoming series of public meetings).	12
5/5/75	A notice of the public meetings scheduled to begin in late May on the study was sent out to each of about 3,000 agencies, organizations and individuals.	
5/19/75	Dry run of public meeting presentations at Waltham.	15
5/20/75	Meeting for public officials from the Canton area in Canton.	18
5/20/75	Meeting for public officials from the Wellesley area in Wellesley Hills.	18
5/22/75	Meeting for public officials from inner core cities in Boston. (All three day-time meetings gave public officials a preview of the presentation of the general public of the status of the EMMA study).	12
5/28/75	Public meeting in Canton	28
5/29/75	Associated Industries of Massachusetts luncheon in Waltham.	34
5/29/75	Public meeting in Quincy	178
6/3/75	Public meeting in Lexington	12
6/5/75	Public meeting in Needham	46
6/10/75	Public meeting in Cambridge	19

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
6/12/75	Public meeting in Medway	8
6/30/75	Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting in Newton at CRWA office. (The group discussed several items on the agenda at the upcoming meeting of the Technical Subcommittee, namely a preferred wastewater management structure and the issues raised by citizens who participated in the recent public meetings).	6
7/2/75	Technical Subcommittee Meeting on Boston Harbor in Boston	20
7/29/75	Presentation to the Mid-Charles Sewage Treatment Plant Study Committee in Wellesley	40
9/5/75	Citizens' Advisory Committee Meeting at Waltham	10
9/8/75	Information Bulletin mailed to 3000	
9/10/75	Technical Subcommittee Meeting in Boston	20
9/15/75	Public Notice for final meetings mailed to 3000	
9/24/75	Meeting with Quincy Conservation Commission	6
9/29/75	Meeting with local elected officials and public administrators in Canton.	21
9/29/75	Meeting with local elected officials and public administrators in Natick.	19
9/30/75	Meeting with local elected officials and public administrators in Waltham.	11
9/30/75	Public Meeting in Wellesley	90
10/2/75	Public Meeting in Quincy	168 registered 200 estimated
10/7/75	Public Meeting in Canton	17
10/14/75	Meeting with Industrial Interests in Waltham	26

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
10/14/75	Public Meeting in Cambridge	20



Citizens River Watershed Association

Joseph L. [unclear], District  
Planning Division  
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers  
434 [unclear] Road  
[unclear], [unclear]

Dear Mr. [unclear]:

Immediately prior to the first round of public meetings on  
the [unclear] study, several members of the Citizens River  
Watershed Association (CRA) met with [unclear] to discuss  
the [unclear] program. [unclear] and [unclear] were  
present at the meeting.

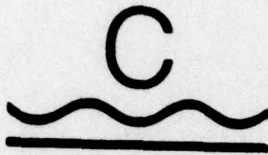
**D. PARTICIPANTS' VIEW OF PROGRAM**

**1. Citizens' Committee**

The Federal Register on the [unclear] Subcommis-  
sion of [unclear] and the [unclear] Protection  
Agency, [unclear] with [unclear] public partici-  
pation to the [unclear] study in [unclear] State  
[unclear] most notably the [unclear] District  
[unclear] and [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]  
[unclear] the [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]  
[unclear] in the [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]  
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]  
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]  
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]

Early in the program [unclear] requested copies for all  
[unclear] of study documents [unclear] [unclear] for review and  
comment. [unclear] initial [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]  
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]  
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Telephone (617)527-2799

Charles River Watershed Association

November 17, 1975

Joseph L. Ignazio, Chief  
Planning Division  
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers  
424 Trapelo Road  
Waltham, Massachusetts 02154

Dear Mr. Ignazio,

Immediately prior to the final round of public meetings on the EMMA study, several members of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) met to discuss reaction to the public participation program. Many if not all of our concerns were communicated to and resolved within the Technical Subcommittee (TS) during the course of our involvement with EMMA. We reiterate them here in the hope that future CACs and TSs will find the going less rocky, less muddy, and therefore more productive.

The federal agencies on the Technical Subcommittee (the Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency) seem much more comfortable with public participation than do the state agencies involved in EMMA. State agencies, most notably the Metropolitan District Commission, must overcome their fear of non-agency participation. Since the MDC appointed the CAC - presumably according to guidelines in Open Planning/The Merrimack - a greater trust in the motives and capabilities of the appointees is merited. Happily, CAC observed significant strides in that direction as the study progressed.

Early in the program CAC members requested copies for all members of study documents being circulated for review and comment. Despite initial opposition this request was eventually granted, and another cause of CAC distress was eliminated. CACs are usually selected for geographic as well as disciplinary diversity and it is unreasonable to expect participants from a study area of 109 communities to share materials. In view of the fact that CAC had a vote on the Technical Subcommittee, reasonable access to

2391 Commonwealth Avenue, Auburndale, Massachusetts 02166

the study materials was imperative.

We were disturbed that the Massachusetts Department of Public Health was not a member of the Technical Subcommittee. Our plea for DPH participation met with some initial resistance. In due time the Department was assigned a seat but lack of participation was notable. In view of the fact that EMMA was to address wastewater management systems not limited to the sewer, the absence of the state agency with responsibility for the state sanitary code was incredible and unfortunate. It did little to assure us that all possible management systems would be addressed and it did little to assure us that our role as citizen advisors to the TS was a valid one.

EMMA/CAC cautions against a dual role for any agency or participant in future efforts. Because the Metropolitan Area Planning Council was represented as the Regional Planning Agency for the study area, its simultaneous role as public involvement contractor suffered. Since a specialist in public participation was not made available to the study, the CAC had to question the ability of EMMA to provide a full public participation program. In point of fact, there was little affirmative effort toward the widespread and continuing two-way communication that we consider essential to involve the public. Press releases and notices of upcoming public meetings constituted the major outreach to the public. CAC pressed for a freer flow of solid digestible information, which had indeed been promised in the Plan of Study. In October 1974, CAC presented its views in a strongly-worded memorandum to the Technical Subcommittee, asking for new direction in the public involvement program. Consequently, the contracting arrangement was not extended and the program improved markedly when the Corps assumed responsibility for it. An excellent albeit tardy rapport with local interests developed when a full-time specialist was assigned to the role.

CAC interpreted its role as a double one of advising on the translation of the study to the public and of relaying public (and its own) concerns to the study. Throughout the study we questioned the basic population projections on which the study was based. Throughout the study, we were disappointed that alternatives to the need for more sewerage were dismissed. Throughout the study we were unable to generate serious discussion of runoff-reducing measures such as porous pavement in considering problems

of combined sewer overflows. To the end we were advised to wait for the beginning of 208 planning.

CAC contributions have not been without merit. As a result of persistent urging by CAC, available data on flows in the Sudbury River being augmented by discharge from a Framingham treatment plant versus increased flows in the Charles River from a mid-Charles treatment plant were consulted and incorporated in the final recommendation for a mid-Charles plant. Another productive contribution of the CAC was its recommendation of a series of public official workshops. Once warmed up, the agency team was willing to go anywhere to make an informal presentation.

It was indeed unfortunate that so much of what we tried to do in assisting the study from our citizen perspective was a test of endurance. "Open planning calls for grappling with all impacts of a project through public involvement early then often in a planning effort." (Page 1, COE Report Volume 14) Had greater effort been made to assess local feelings as the EMMA study progressed, the mistrust of MDC motives and performance that disrupted meetings in Quincy and Needham (May-June 1975) could have been ameliorated. CAC trusts that the pattern of "decide now, spring it later" is headed for retirement.

We trust that in future all public hearings will build into their agenda some flexibility for addressing local concerns. Certain issues are bound to generate controversy in certain locales. For the last round of public meetings CAC recommended giving audiences an opportunity to ask their questions (in writing or verbally) at the beginning of the meeting so they would have some assurance that after scheduled presentations their concerns would be dealt with. Some variation of this approach would be in order routinely.

At any public meeting, however structured and however well-attended by experts, questions will arise that defy answers at that time for one reason or another. EMMA public meetings frequently left questions unanswered, contributing little to public confidence in open planning. In some instances, however, questions were too detailed for the level of the study and could only be answered during final technical design stages not presently authorized. Every effort should be made to determine the answers called for, to develop the information sought, and to put it in the hands of those seeking it. Questions



raised at the public meetings have been circulated in Informational Bulletins, but not always the answers.

We as a duly-appointed committee of citizens felt several quite unnecessary constraints during the study.

CAC members were requested to respond to draft reports only through a single conduit to the agencies, and in one case response to a technical report was delayed for four months in transmission to the author agency. Greater trust would justify less rigid lines of contact among study participants, to the advantage of the study effort.

Open planning, CAC feels, should extend to the media. CAC members were directed by the TS not to communicate differences among the agencies to the press. It was not our intent to generate contention. However, it was our hope that the media be advised of scheduled TS meetings, that they be encouraged to report on the developing study to their respective audiences. The prospect of media presence at TS meetings caused great distress to some TS members and no advance TS meeting notices were circulated to the media. CAC feels that the risk of misinterpretation was less damaging to open planning than was a closed meeting schedule.

Some changes in the selection process for CACs in the future might assure some improvement in their operation and effectiveness. For example, EMMA/CAC underwent several changes in composition, which added to the difficulty of coordination and detracted from continuity and coherence. We suggest that the basis for selection be a stated commitment to serve for the duration of the program with a mechanism for formal resignation or dismissal for the committee when inability to function fully is clearly indicated. We suggest that the criterion of representativeness be discarded, and suggest instead a core of hard-working individuals acting for the study region as a whole. In fact, EMMA/CAC strongly endorses the recommendations of Maria Eigerman for the Merrimack Valley program as described in "Merrimack Wastewater Management, Appendix VI", pp. 118 through 122.

CAC lacked the services of clerical help, which put the burden of coordination of CAC activities on individual members of the committee without compensation. EMMA/CAC recommends that in the future citizen advisory committees be assigned the services of a secretary as needed. Responsibility for notice of CAC meetings, coordination of

review comments, and formal response to questions raised would then be discharged equitably.

CAC recommends a clear policy of funding the CAC role. Something analogous to compensation for job time loss for jury or National Guard duty might be investigated as a way to broaden the segment of the affected population able to serve with impunity. Expeditious reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses is an absolute minimum requirement.

Despite the sometimes negative tone of the commentary, CAC members generally consider the involvement a positive experience. It is obvious that for many the role is not ended. Citizen participation can address the unresolved questions as further study efforts in wastewater management progress and as implementation of the various elements proposed for construction enters the next planning and design stages. CAC members appreciate the importance of the study, the cooperation of fellow participants, and the opportunity to serve. We sincerely hope that our contribution is deemed commensurate with our commitment.

Sincerely,

Citizen Advisory Committee  
Boston Harbor - Eastern  
Massachusetts Metropolitan  
Area Wastewater Study

MEMBERS OF THE CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Original Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Rita Barron	Charles River Watershed Association
Arthur Barnes	Norumbega Associates
Gale Haydock	League of Women Voters
Paul Swatek	Massachusetts Audubon Society
A. Richard Miller	Lake Cochituate Watershed Association
William J. Reid, Jr.	Stoneham Public Works Department
John W. Pierce	Essex County Greenbelt Association
Henry Scammell	Henry Scammell Associates
Gerald R. Mimno	South Middlesex Area Chamber of Commerce
Robert Heustis	Wellesley Board of Health
Joseph Magaldi	
James P. Loughlin	Massachusetts State Labor Council
Joseph Lawless	Massachusetts Legislature
James K. Rogers	Raytheon Company

Final Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Rita Barron	Charles River Watershed Association
Arthur Barnes	Norumbega Associates
Catherine Donaher	Boston Harbor Associates
N. Bruce Hanes	Tufts University
Waldo Holcombe	Neponset Valley Conservation Assoc.
Madeleine Kolb	Sierra Club
A. Richard Miller	Lake Cochituate Watershed Association
Daniel Travers	South Middlesex Area Chamber of Commerce
James K. Rogers	Raytheon Company
Deborah V. Howard	Massachusetts Audubon Society

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D. 2. Letters

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75129 WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT. STATEMENT TO MDC AND ARMY ENG'R CORP.

BY WHOM: NORMAN B. SAUNDERS IS A REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER IN MASSACHUSETTS. HIS WORK AS AN INSTRUCTOR IN A MICROBIOLOGY LABORATORY, STUDIES OF THE CINCINNATI WATERWORKS SYSTEM, AND OTHER WORK CULMINATED IN THE DEGREE OF CHEMICAL ENGINEER. BROUGHT UP ON RECYCLED OHIO RIVER WATER, HE 25 YEARS AGO MOVED INTO A TOWN WITH NO SEWERS IN ACTION UPON HIS BELIEF THAT ONE OF THE BIGGEST UNNECESSARY LOADS UPON SOCIETY IS SEWERS.

THE SHINING EXAMPLE: THE NEW MARLBORO SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT HAS NOTHING WRONG WITH ITS ADMINISTRATION. JOHN HARTLEY IS ONE OF THE SMARTEST MEN I'VE EVER MET. HE WILL GET EVERYTHING POSSIBLE OUT OF THE SYSTEM. OVER AND ABOVE THE COST OF THE SEWERS AND ON THE BASIS OF EACH PERSON USING IT, THE CAPITAL COST IS ABOUT A THOUSAND DOLLARS AND THE RUNNING COST PER YEAR ABOUT TEN DOLLARS IN WAGES AND ANOTHER TEN FOR POWER AND MATERIALS. THE SYSTEM REMOVES PHOSPHOROUS AND SOLIDS BUT RECOVERS NOTHING. NITROGEN IN THE EFFLUENT STILL CAUSES SOME PROBLEMS. THE DIFFICULTY IS IN THE CONCEPT. THE AEROBIC SYSTEM IS POWER HUNGRY AND ALSO BURNS UP THE POTENTIAL ENERGY IN THE INFLUENT.

FOR COMPARISON: TAKE AN INDIVIDUAL SYSTEM, MINE. THE SEPTIC TANK AND FIELD SERVES FOUR PEOPLE AT ABOUT THE SAME CAPITAL COST PER PERSON FOR PLANT AS THE MARLBORO SYSTEM BUT WITH NO COST FOR SEWERS. THE TANK NEEDS TO BE PUMPED EVERY FEW YEARS AT ABOUT HALF THE LABOR COST FOR THE MARLBORO PLANT. MATERIAL COSTS ARE NIL. POWER COSTS ARE THE SAME BECAUSE THE ADJACENT GROUND-WATER IS CONTINUOUSLY PUMPED TO FERTILIZE GRASS WHICH IN TURN FERTILIZES THE VEGETABLE GARDEN IN COMPLETION OF THE CYCLE. THE FINAL EFFLUENT PROBABLY HAS LESS BIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL LOADING THAN EVEN NATURAL FOREST RUN-OFF. THE INDIVIDUAL SYSTEM IS GIVING BETTER PERFORMANCE AND AT LOWER COST THAN THE MUNICIPAL SYSTEM.

THE DIRECTION TO GO: FOR CITY OR INDIVIDUAL THE PROBLEM IS PROBABLY IN THE UNKNOWN. WHAT STRANGE NON-DECOMPOSABLE ELEMENTS ARE WE INTRODUCING INTO THE SYSTEM? BORON, CADMIUM, LEAD, DDT, ABS, ETC. PERHAPS MARGIE STONE'S MASTERS THESIS AT TUFTS WILL HELP TELL US. IF TRACE ELEMENTS ARE NO PROBLEM, THE INDIVIDUAL SYSTEM IS PROBABLY BEST; IF THERE ARE PROBLEMS REQUIRING COMMUNITY HANDLING, SO BE IT. DO CONSIDER A SYSTEM WITH ONLY (1) GRIT REMOVAL, (2) SCREENING TO REMOVE PLASTICS, WOOD, ETC., (3, 4, 5) SUCCESSIVE SETTLING TANKS, (6) DEWATERING TO EXTRACT THE SOLIDS, (7) COMPOSTING OF THEM, AND (8) A POND TO REMOVE NUTRIENTS. RUN THE TANKS ANEROBICALLY TO CATCH AND USE THE GASSES RELEASED. COMPOST THE SOLIDS SO THAT THEY CAN BE SOLD AS FERTILIZER. LET THE POND FILL IN WINTER AND THEN IN SPRING, SUMMER, AND FALL GROW DUCKWEED, WATER-HYACINTHS OR OTHER VEGETATION FOR HARVEST, COMPOSTING, AND USE AS FERTILIZER.

FINALLY: SOME SUCH SCHEME TO RECOVER, NOT JUST REMOVE, THE FUEL VALUES AND NUTRIENTS SEEMS INDICATED IN OUR TIMES.



**EASTON PLANNING & ZONING BOARD**  
NORTH EASTON, MASS. 02356



June 5, 1974

Mr. John Sears, Commissioner  
Metropolitan District Commission  
20 Somerset Street  
Boston, Massachusetts

Reference: Boston Harbor-Eastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Area Wastewater Management Study

Dear Mr. Sears:

Subject: Letter of Admonition  
Waste Water Study Comments

The Town of Easton takes pride in its pursuit of effective land use management. The Easton Planning & Zoning Board accepts very seriously our obligation and responsibility to the public. Successful municipal planning and zoning does not merely occur. Maximizing the opportunities of man with the minimum unsought or detrimental consequences to the physical environment must be effectively and functionally studied and implemented to insure the safety, convenience, welfare and health of the public.

The Easton Planning & Zoning Board is totally appalled at the recent action taken by the M.D.C. pertaining, in particular, to the above referenced study. In this era of "inappropriate use of power" and "Big Brother" attitudes, the M.D.C., as evidenced in the forward of said report, has failed to actually communicate with the affected municipalities in Easton.

The forward states that the early stage public meetings were held in November of 1973, and the mid-stage public hearings are being held May 7-22, 1974. Well,--doesn't the M.D.C. feel that it is appropriate to notify the municipalities and also furnish study information? Only through a coincidence on 22 May 74 in the p.m. involving a discussion regarding sewerage were we made aware of the mid-stage meeting on May 22, 1974, at the Town Hall in Norwell. Why didn't the M.D.C. notify Easton about the early stage public meetings?--the mid-stage public meetings?--especially when the proposal intends to dump the Metropolitan area effluent into a Town outside the Metropolitan area.

MET. DISTRICT COMM.  
JUN 7 2 05 PM '74  
ADMINISTRATIVE

Area Wastewater Study

This Board immediately notified the surrounding affected communities\* to send a delegate to said meeting. Even though Wednesday evening happened to be a heavily scheduled meeting of this Board, we dispatched two members to attend the mid-stage meeting in Norwell.

Our next query is why did the M.D.C. arrange for a meeting in Norwell? Not only is Norwell not affected, but also it is not even in the area of the affected Towns. Why wasn't mid-stage packet information sent to the various affected communities?

Is this the type of management that can be expected from or prevails in the M.D.C.? We note from the report that \$1,575,000 will be expended for the STUDY, of which \$800,000 is federal monies and \$775,000 from the State. We, therefore, feel it appropriate to notify our Congresswoman Margaret Heckler and State Senator Quinlan and State Representative John Ames of our displeasure regarding this matter by copy of this letter to them.

Our displeasure was conveyed to the "Chair" at the public meeting.

We compliment the Corps of Engineers, and, in particular, Messrs. David Kenyon and James Callahan, who are members of the Study Committee and who were unaware of circumstances surrounding the notifications--enough so they volunteered to come to Easton the next Wednesday evening to discuss the study with the Selectmen, Planning & Zoning Board, and other Town officials. We applaud their efforts! We were enlightened with the film they presented and candid discussion regarding the application of spray irrigation.

Our displeasure in the administrative mode of operation mentioned above has, in no way, influenced our constructive comments outlined below, which were made as a result of our cursory review of the report, supplementary information, and the 1:24,000 scale map presented at the above mentioned Easton meeting with the Corps of Engineers.

.1 Reference (1): Mid-Stage Report, page 33, under the Mansfield Area--it indicates that approximately 365 acres are available for spray irrigation.

.2 Reference (2): 1:24,000 map indicates approximate location, based on ten foot contours, and where the various areas--separate and remote from each other--are located.

We were informed that the other surrounding communities were not notified also.

Comments:

- .A The 1:24,000 map does not reflect the conditions existing in Easton in 1974, and for that matter, not in the "70's". Many of the proposed areas have been built up with residential housing since the printing of the map. It would be a natural assumption that areas conducive for spray irrigation, i.e., gently sloped wooded areas, would also be conducive to residential housing.
- .B Other areas outlined on the proposed location map are in the planning stage for future development.
- .C Our overall assumption regarding .A & .B above is-- Similar conditions must prevail in other affected communities, and without "ownership" now, what assurance of future land acquisition for spray irrigation is there--especially after spending so much money for the study?
- .D Other large areas were directly in locations influencing the Town wells of Easton, Norton, and the proposed Town well of Mansfield. These locations must be immediately dismissed from possible sites for spray irrigation.
- .E Our next overall assumption regarding .D above is that similar conditions could exist in other affected communities.
- .F There was no map or soil information presented reflecting prevailing ground water elevations. Recognizing the water table and ground water swelling that occurs (possibly a two to three foot fluctuation during the year), it is essential that the subsurface conditions in the proposed areas be known. Some of the proposed locations in Easton have a high ground water elevation and are not suitable to absorb any reasonable quantity of discharged liquid within a specified period of time--intermittently or not! Plotting of subsurface ground water elevation is essential.
- .G Our next overall assumption regarding .F above is that similar conditions could exist in other affected communities.



Comments (cont.):

- .H Consideration of costs with due regard to engineering economies to be presented in a table and graph is suggested. Concern regarding sizing of pipes and lengths of runs with respect to potential discharge areas should be clearly documented. A suggested form for a cursory indicator is:

Size Pipe	Length Of Run	Av. Cost/Lineal Foot In Place Under Roadway	Cost	Available Area In Acres For Pro- posed Irrigation	Q discharge potential/ acre/day
--------------	------------------	--	------	---	---------------------------------------

Then prepare graphs to reflect costs for various sizes of pipe with respect to known pipe Q and proposed Q/acre/day, after which you establish runs to remote sites.

- .I It is apparent that considerable study is necessary regarding feasibility of remote sites taking into consideration .F above.

- .J Advantages to a community to accept spray irrigation??

- .1 Tax benefit?
- .2 Loss of real estate revenue
- .3 Open space
- .4 Recreational areas in off season? winter?
- .5 Mosquitoes
- .6 Future increased Q demand due to increased population and lack of other new or available sites
- .7 Administrative, operating personnel and security personnel for safety--costs?
- .8 Floods and major storms--backup?
- .9 Agricultural use potential?
- .10 Future methane CH<sub>4</sub> danger. Residual effect of entrapped gases.
- .11 Land conducive to spray irrigation is conducive to residential housing; hence, question misuse of land.

- .K Considering .J.9 above, it appears that perhaps a "Sub-Study of Potential or Existing Agricultural Sites in Massachusetts" should be considered, thereby actually providing a benefit "crop fertilization", further review of the agricultural paragraph on pg. 47 of said report.

Area Wastewater Study

Comments (cont.):

- .L Considering .J.4, it appears that a thoroughly realistic approach is necessary with due respect to public health, uses, and time period and seasonal considerations.
- .M Storm drainage structures throughout the Town have been constructed based on a potential runoff resulting from a twenty-five year storm. The contributory area to each drainage structure and drainage line which could be affected by the discharge of effluent combined with a 25-year storm should be thoroughly investigated to insure safe conditions will prevail.
- .N The Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health's detailed comments regarding this proposal should be solicited by your Committee, as well as proper public distribution to affected communities of same.
- .O What research was made or discussion had with the Old Colony Planning Council with respect to sewerage in this area? O.C.P.C. has prepared a study regarding sewerage. At mid-stage it appears a lot more "homework" is essential.

Certainly numerous other comments are forthcoming from those knowing about the study. Perhaps many more comments would be productive if the appropriate officials from affected communities have an opportunity to so comment.

You will note that nowhere in the above comments have we rejected or endorse spray irrigation in Easton or anyplace else.

Proceeding further on this study would appear to be merely an academic exercise without retracing some steps. We hope we have been helpful to at least provide some "food for thought" before pursuing haphazardly further stages of development. Also, recognizing the further expenditure of taxpayers' monies at this stage without some rethinking based on the above does not appear to us as being appropriate. Further, a mid-stage report should, in our opinion, have incorporated the above typed comments.

We look toward the future of this study with hope that appropriate effective action and meaningful public concern is physically evident by the steps taken to insure same by the M.D.C.

Sincerely,

*Edmund J. McAdam*

Edmund J. McAdam, P.F., Chmn.

CC: Selectmen, Bd. of  
Health, Bd. of  
Mansfield Planning Board  
Norton Planning Board  
Raynham Planning Board  
Public Works, Dept. of

CC: Hon. Margaret Heckler  
Hon. John Ames III  
Hon. John Quinlan  
Old Colony Planning Council  
Mass. Dept. of Public Health  
39 Martin Cosgrove, Chmn., Tec



TOWN OF MATTAPOISETT

MASSACHUSETTS 02739

OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN

June 7, 1974

*cc: [unclear]*  
*at [unclear]*  
*brief*  
*Piscataway*  
*response*

RECEIVED  
EPA

JUN 14 1974

Mr. John A.S. McGlennon  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
2203 J.F.K. Federal Building  
Boston, Massachusetts 02203

Dear Mr. McGlennon:

This is in reference to the Corps of Engineers' and Metropolitan District Commission's plans to dispose of effluent from secondary wastewater treatment plants upon land in Southeastern Massachusetts.

Although, as the Board of Selectmen understand the plan, Mattapoisett is not directly affected, the Board feels that, as a member of the region it has a vital interest in major projects affecting member communities. Any plan to pump large quantities of sewage to Southeastern Massachusetts where it would be disposed of over large areas of land, polluting the land and possibly the ground water sources in the region, could and may have a serious detrimental affect even on this Town.

The Board of Selectmen would like to be recorded as being completely opposed to this plan and would hope that a local solution to the Boston wastewater problem could be found.

Very truly yours,  
For  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

*George M. Hall*  
George M. Hall  
Executive Secretary

GMH/cjp



EMERIAN F. CAHIR, CHAIRMAN  
ERNEST H. FORNI  
ARRY H. JOHNSON

# TOWN OF BOURNE

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

BOURNE, MASS. 02532

TEL. 759-4486 OR 759-4487



June 11, 1974

RECEIVED  
EPA

JUN 13 1974

Paul G. Keough, Director  
Public Affairs Division  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
J. F. K. Building  
Boston, Massachusetts 02203

Dear Mr. Keough:

Per a conversation that I have had with Mrs. Margaret Koskela, who spoke to you last Saturday night at the William Ruckelhaus affair, I am writing to you regarding the Waste Water Management Study that is being prepared for the Boston Harbor-Eastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Area by the Metropolitan District Commission Planning Division.

On May 22 Mrs. Koskela and I attended a public meeting at the Cushing Memorial Town Hall in Norwell regarding the mid-stage reports and the plans for the treatment of the sewerage that is presently going through Deer and Nut treatment plants which service the Metropolitan District Area. At that meeting there were five alternatives proposed for the disposal of treated sewage.

The one concept that interested us the most was the concept numbered five which proposed to apply waste water that had received secondary treatment onto land in eastern Massachusetts. This concept in developing the land application is being developed by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers which would bring together the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the U.S. EPA in a combined effort to determine the technical feasibility of the land application method of disposing of sewage either by spray irrigation or rapid infiltration.

If concept five is adopted, it would mean a pipeline running from the Metropolitan District Area to the Town of Sandwich. It is stated in the report that in order to accomplish this they would need 3,500 acres of land in the Town of Bourne for rapid sand infiltration and 1300 acres for the spray irrigation method in the Town of Sandwich.

Paul G. Keough

Page 2

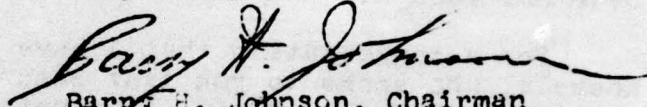
June 11, 1974

We feel that this concept is totally undesirable, unfeasible both socially, economically and politically for the disposal of sewage in our area.

The Town of Bourne is presently undertaking a sewage project of its own, and just as recently as May 14, 1974, raised and appropriated \$67,000 to conduct a study that would allow us to finally make the necessary grant applications to the proper agencies under the new EPA guidelines for funding, in order that we might start to clear up the existing sewage problems within our own town.

I would appreciate your looking into this matter for us, and ask that you kindly respond with any comments or reactions you might have regarding this waste management study.

Very truly yours,



Barry H. Johnson, Chairman  
Sewerage Works Building Committee

BHJ:ils



TOWN OF WAREHAM  
**Board of Selectmen**

Wareham, Mass.

Telephone 295-0800

**CLAIRE J. McWILLIAMS**  
Chairman  
**RAYMOND D. CARDOZA**  
**CARLETON D. HAMMOND, JR.**  
**ANDREW J. McGRAW**  
**CHARLES H. DECAS**

**BERT R. SHERMAN**  
Executive Secretary

June 11, 1974

Mr. David Hewitt  
U. S. Corps of Army Engineers  
424 Trapelo Road  
Waltham, Mass.

Dear Mr. Hewitt:

The Wareham Board of Selectmen through a meeting of the Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District held recently in Taunton are acquainted with the possibility of proposed plans for the disposal of treated waste water throughout southeastern Massachusetts.

Such a proposal meets with immediate disfavor among town officials pending further thorough study and engineering data in respect to its affect on the environment. This board wishes to go in record in requesting complete reports as to the detrimental affects of such a plan in this area of extensive recreational and agricultural useage.

Very truly yours,

\* *Claire J. McWilliams*  
\* *Raymond D. Cardoza*  
\* *Charles H. Decas*  
\* *Carlton D. Hammond Jr.*  
\*

BOARD OF SELECTMEN



TOWN OF MANSFIELD  
MASSACHUSETTS  
PLANNING BOARD

MFC

JUL 2 REC'D

June 26, 1974

OFFICE AT  
50 WEST STREET

Commissioner John Sears  
Metropolitan District Commission  
20 Somerset Street  
Boston, Massachusetts

Re: Boston Harbor-Eastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Area Wastewater Management Study Concept #5.

Dear Commissioner Sears:

The Mansfield Planning Board has reviewed the MDC proposal concept #5 for the spray irrigation alternative for handling wastewater from the Metropolitan Boston area. The Planning Board has also received a copy of a letter to you from the Easton Planning and Zoning Board relative to the same study.

The Mansfield Planning Board is in complete agreement with the stand taken by the Easton Planning Board on this matter and feels that they have stated the local objectives very succinctly.

In 1970 the U.S. Department of Agriculture prepared for the Town of Mansfield an operational soil study which classified the various types of soil within the community. Over 1/3 of the Town of Mansfield was classified as very poorly drained land, which would be unsuitable for development.

It should be noted that a large portion of Mansfield, approximately 1300 acres, is proposed for the spray irrigation process. Representatives of the Mansfield Tri-Town Sewer Study Committee attended a meeting in Taunton with representatives of the Corps of Engineers. They were given the impression that the Corps was not aware of the existence of the soil maps and that the proposal was based on information obtained by the Corps prior to 1970. It would seem only prudent that when the MDC is considering as one of its alternatives to utilize another area of the State for disposal of waste from greater Boston that prior to presenting its proposal it should investigate all of the facts relative to the area.

It should also be noted that the Massachusetts Department of Public Health has just approved a well site along the Canoe River very near the discharge point for the spray irrigation. The Towns of Easton and Norton also have wells in this general area. It is apparent that the location of these water resource facilities were not taken into consideration when this concept was established. The current environmental concern is relative to the approval of water quality. The intent of the alternative is to dispose of the waste from the Metropolitan Boston area. This should not be done to the detriment of local water supplies.

June 26, 1974  
Boston Harbor-Eastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Area Wastewater  
Management Study Concept #5.  
Page 2

The Mansfield Planning Board would appreciate being kept informed  
with the progress of this alternative.

Very truly yours,

MANSFIELD PLANNING BOARD

*Eleo J. Zaffini*

Eleo J. Zaffini  
Chairman

EJZ/pg

cc: Mansfield Board of Selectmen  
Mansfield Board of Health  
Easton Planning Board  
Representative John Ames III



Anthony Souza Catojo, Jr.  
313 Main Street  
Fairhaven, Mass.

June 27, 1974

JUN 28 1974

Congressman Gerry Studds  
Washington  
D.C.

Dear Congressman Studds:

The U. S. Army Corp of Engineers is considering a plan to pump treated sewage waste from Boston to areas in Bristol County including Dartmouth, Dighton, Freetown and Fall River.

I am opposed to the use of Bristol County as a dumping area for the waste of Boston.

As has been pointed out in the news media, there is the possibility of contamination of our underground water supplies and the potential problem of a high nitrogen content of water from the secondary treatment plants which could pollute rivers and ponds by increasing plant and algae growth.

I ask you, as our Congressman representing some areas of Bristol County, to intercede with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and to advise them that we do not want Boston's sewage waste pumped into Bristol County.

Yours truly,

*Anthony Souza Catojo Jr.*  
Anthony Souza Catojo, Jr.

COPY

CITY OF FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS  
02720  
INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION  
CITY HALL

Office of the  
Executive Director

Area Code 617  
672-6969

July 11, 1974

Congresswoman Margaret M. Heckler  
303 Canon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congresswoman Heckler:

Attached is a copy of a Resolution which was unanimously adopted by the Fall River Development & Industrial Commission at its July 9, 1974 meeting. The Industrial Commission would appreciate your review and support of this Resolution.

To provide some background, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently completed a study on the usage of Fall River land for sewage wastewater from the Boston Harbor-Eastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Area, and among the recommendations contained in that study was usage of Fall River land to deposit sewage waste from Boston and 109 neighboring communities.

In essence what was recommended by the Corps of Engineers was to use 7,820 acres located in Fall River, Freetown and Dartmouth to dump its sewage. This recommendation was made as a fifth concept in the Corps proposal. The area would be spray irrigated and after the year 2000 the study reports it could be reclaimed as valuable property.

I have already expressed displeasure to the Corps of Engineers over the recommendations and assured them that a well organized campaign to defeat their proposal will be initiated.

A breakdown of the area shows 4,915 acres located in Fall River, 2,365 acres located in Dartmouth and 540 acres in Freetown. The land is part of and abutting the Fall River-Freetown State Forest.

Of that land, 1,770 is public land: 1,109 acres of the Watuppa Reservation and 661 acres of the Fall River-Freetown State Forest. The remaining 6,050 acres is privately owned. Forests are mainly mixed hard and soft woods with heights ranging from 20 to 60 feet. There are approximately 100 buildings on the land.

COPY

COPY

Under the Corps of Engineers proposal wastewater that has received secondary treatment will be deposited in this area. The two suggested methods of land application, spray irrigation and rapid infiltration have been used throughout the United States and have attracted attention in recent years as an alternative to the construction of advanced wastewater treatment facilities that discharge effluents into our nation's waterways.

The effluent would be piped from the Boston area and the total daily flow of secondary effluent to be applied to land here is estimated at 155 million gallons.

Location of such a wastewater facility in the proposed area would not only be detrimental to the industrial and economic growth of the Greater Fall River area, but would create a potential health hazard to our citizenry.

Granting that after the year 2000 the land being proposed may become valuable to a farm community, I must point out that Fall River is not a farm community, nor is she ever planning to become one. Fall River is an industrial community, the core city for Somerset, Swansea, Freetown, Westport and Tiverton and we have a responsibility to our own people to protect our land and protest the use of it for a wastewater shed for the people of Boston.

It is also felt that the Fall River area, because of its geographical location, the amount of annual rainfall and natural characteristics does not need sewage as a nutrient to its soil.

Thank you for your support, and the Industrial Commission Office will be available to answer any questions pertaining to the U.S. Corps of Engineers report.

Sincerely,

/s/ George T. Darmody

George T. Darmody  
Executive Director

GTD/jf

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Joseph Byrnes

COPY

COPY

By a unanimous vote at the July 9, 1974, Fall River Development & Industrial Commission Meeting, the following Resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has recommended the Fall River area as a possible site for construction of a wastewater pond for sewage from the Boston Harbor-Eastern Massachusetts Metropolitan area encompassing 109 communities

AND WHEREAS, the 7,820 acres recommended is located in the same general area as the Fall River Airport Industrial Park

AND WHEREAS, the effluents being deposited will be a detriment to all wildlife, become a breeding ground for insects and pose an immediate and constant health hazard to our citizenry

AND WHEREAS, the area's proximity to the City of Fall River's reserve watershed will present a constant potential danger to the city's drinking water supply

AND WHEREAS, this type of wastewater facility will act as a detriment to the area's ability to attract industry and therefore will be a hinderance to the economic growth and development of the City of Fall River

BE IT RESOLVED, that all efforts to create such a wastewater facility be actively opposed. And monies be expended to initiate informational brochures and/or publications, in coordination with all other municipal departments wishing to participate, explaining the health and economic hazards of such a facility located in the Greater Fall River Area. And an effort in opposition to this facility be initiated and continued until such time as concept five of the Boston Harbor-Eastern Massachusetts U.S. Corps of Engineers plan is abandoned.

COPY



FRANCIS W. SARGENT  
GOVERNOR

ARTHUR W. BROWNELL  
COMMISSIONER

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Department of Natural Resources*  
*Levee Salt Stall Building*  
*100 Cambridge Street Boston 02202*

*file*

July 16, 1974

George T. Darmody, Executive Director  
Industrial Commission  
City Hall  
Fall River, Massachusetts 02720

Dear Mr. Darmody:

Your concern for the Corps of Engineers' proposal to use the Fall River area for land treatment of the sewerage from the Boston area has also been expressed by other communities within the area.

The Corps of Engineers' proposal is only that - a proposal for land treatment of treated sewage. The Corps was charged to study alternate methods of advanced treatment of sewage of the Boston area and one of the alternatives was the land treatment method. The Corps made other proposals but the only one that really everyone has heard about is the land treatment.

This Department has expressed grave concern for the Corps' proposal and question the practicality of such a proposal and the overall cost of the project. On paper, the alternative of land treatment may look good, but in reality it may not work.

We will continue to monitor the Corps' study and we will express your concern to the Corps along with our's over their land treatment proposal.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur W. Brownell  
Commissioner



Town of Framingham, Massachusetts

*file*

OFFICE OF SELECTMEN

ARTHUR E. SCHNEIDER, CHAIRMAN  
ROBERT F. KELLIHER, CLERK  
JOHN C. LUND

July 17, 1974

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
424 Trapelo Road  
Waltham, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

At a Meeting held on Tuesday July 16, 1974 the Selectmen voted to endorse the resolution adopted by the Fall River Industrial Commission on July 9, 1974 pertaining to the construction of a wastewater pond for sewage in the Fall River area.

*[Handwritten signature]*  
Joseph S. Reed Jr.  
Voter Registrar and  
Clerk of the Water Board

Very truly yours,

Calvin L. Gardner  
Executive Secretary  
by direction  
Board of Selectmen

CLG/alm  
cc: F.R. Industrial Comm.



CITY OF FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

*file*

WATUPPA WATER BOARD

July 18, 1974

Industrial Commission  
City Hall  
123 North Main Street  
Fall River, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Darmody:

The Watuppa Water Board at its July 15, 1974 meeting went on record as opposed to the dumping of any potentially dangerous and harmful materials in to the vicinity of the North Watuppa Pond watershed. With the proclamation they are automatically opposed to the plan of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers for the dumping of effluents in an area bordering Fall River's watershed.

Sincerely,  
WATUPPA WATER BOARD

By

*Joseph S. Rego Jr.*  
Joseph S. Rego Jr.  
Water Registrar and  
Clerk of the Water Board

JSR/cc



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

STATE HOUSE • BOSTON 02133

FRANCIS W. SARGENT  
GOVERNOR

July 23, 1974

Dear Mr. Darmody:

Thank you very much for your recent letter on the possible usage of Fall River land for sewage wastewater and for sending me the copy of the Resolution adopted by your Development and Industrial Commission.

As you know, the Fall River site is one of eight possible alternatives being considered. State officials are very sensitive to the feelings of local communities on this matter. No decision will be made without thorough consideration of the views of all concerned.

I have forwarded your letter to Vincent Ciampa of the Office of State Planning and Management for his information.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Mr. George T. Darmody  
Executive Director  
Industrial Commission  
City Hall  
Fall River, Massachusetts 02720





# City of Fall River, Massachusetts

02720

## INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

CITY HALL

OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AREA CODE 617  
672-6969

July 31, 1974

Colonel John H. Mason  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
New England Division  
424 Trapelo Road  
Waltham, Massachusetts 02154

Dear Colonel Mason:

Thank you for your informative letter of July 26, 1974, concerning the Boston Harbor-Eastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Area Wastewater Management Study. However, the Fall River Development & Industrial Commission is not yet satisfied.

Noting that the first four concepts of the study call for discharge of treated effluents into the waterways, the Greater Fall River Area is not the fifth concept, but the first concept that "specifies land application to achieve advanced treatment after a minimum of secondary treatment".

I point to paragraph nine of your letter, "All five concepts will be analyzed and evaluated for their aesthetic, biological, hygienic and socio-economic impacts. If the assessment of any of the concepts proves adverse, that concept will be eliminated from active consideration."

May we point out aesthetically, the land under consideration is an area which is part of a preserved forest, which is aesthetically beautiful and the proposed wastewater facility would turn that beauty into ugliness.

Biologically, the area contains an abundance of wild life and approximately 100 homes. A wastewater facility in this area would not only create the costly task of relocating these families, but would also put the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the position of judge, pronouncing the death penalty on many of the animals inhabiting the area.

Please analyze and evaluate the hygenic impact very closely and assure the people of the City of Fall River that a wastewater facility of this type will not become a breeding ground for mosquitoes and other insects nor will it produce a virulent virus, which may have an affect on all surrounding communities.

May we also point out that the area being proposed is in the same area as the Fall River Airport Industrial Park, and it is the strong feeling of this agency that the wastewater facility suggested will have a detrimental affect on the economic growth of the Greater Fall River Area.

In addition, we also fear that the wastewater facility's proximity to our domestic water supply could provide a source of pollution and create an enormous adverse affect upon the entire population.

Therefore, because this concept will have an adverse affect, we respectfully suggest the fifth concept of your proposal be eliminated from further consideration.

Further reference is made to the first sentence in paragraph 10, "Public opposition to one of the concepts will also cause its elimination." Attached please find copies of communications received by this agency expressing opposition to your fifth concept proposal.

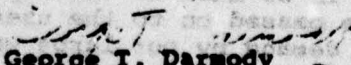
May I also point to opposition recorded during a meeting at U.S. Representative Margaret M. Heckler's office on July 12, 1974. Congresswoman Heckler told your representatives that if 3,000 people were needed to display opposition from Fall River, your agency could see that type of demonstration.

It is my belief that this agency could also supply 3,000 people opposing concept five of your proposal to enhance the Honorable Mrs. Heckler's group.

The Fall River Development and Industrial Commission feels that it has shown the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sufficient opposition to justify a Corps announcement to eliminate the proposal from further consideration.

Reference first paragraph of this letter ----- Then we will be satisfied.

Sincerely,

  
George T. Darnody  
Executive Director

cc: David Hewitt

U.S. Representative Margaret M. Heckler

**SOUTH MIDDLESEX AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

109 CONCORD STREET  
FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS 01701  
TEL 617 879-5600

August 14, 1974

Mr. John R. Harrington  
Metropolitan Area Planning Council  
44 School Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

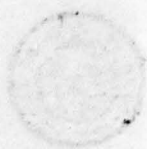
Dear Mr. Harrington:

I appreciate the Citizen's Advisory Committee receiving draft reports of the Eastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Area Waste Water Management Study. I have read the more organized reports cover to cover and skimmed those others which go into great detail about very specialized subjects. My primary interests have been: 1) proposals concerning the western suburbs, 2) general treatment of industry, 3) and who is going to pay for proposed improvements.

Concerning the western suburbs, I would like to make two points. In general the area is characterized by the growth towns of Natick, Framingham and Ashland and the non-growth towns surrounding these. Natick, Framingham and Ashland would like to have more sewer capacity as soon as possible. I do not see in the draft reports any kind of priority which would indicate how the problems in these three towns could be quickly attended to. Meanwhile, the non-growth towns don't want sewers as the absence of sewers is the legal basis for the large lot zoning these towns are using as their major land use policy.

The towns that don't want sewers do want to know how they can keep septic tanks working and what standards to apply to mini-systems for downtown and package systems for isolated condominiums. For all the money being spent on EMMA, it is not answering the questions which the western suburbs have.

Concerning industry, the largest companies in our Chamber are acutely sensitive to water costs; we have learned of substantial reductions in water usage through adoption of conservation techniques. In as much as the capital costs anticipated by the study will be passed on to the users, there will be extensive shrinkage in demand by our large water users. I have not seen this reflected in your demand projections.



Relative to who will pay, our organization finds the projected capital costs a frightening prospect. These costs must be considered in context with other billions required for water supply, transportation, and such items as modernizing inner city schools and public pensions. I do not see in the drafts any consideration of a least cost alternative.

I am in the process of summarizing some of the reports to better inform town officials of the progress of the waste water study and will keep you informed of any reaction I get from our towns.

Yours truly,

*Gerald R. Minno*

**Gerald R. Minno  
Director of Planning**

**CC: Martin F. Cosgrove  
Martin Weiss**



# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Framingham, Massachusetts

one 872-3559

## COMMISSIONERS

SUE GALVIN, CHAIRMAN  
LAWRENCE H. GIARGIARI, CLERK  
JOHN F. JORDAN

December 5, 1974

Mr. John Harrington  
Metropolitan Area Planning Council  
44 School Street  
Boston, Mass. 02108

Dear Mr. Harrington:

We are writing to you to submit our comments on the progress report on the Boston Harbor-Eastern Massachusetts Wastewater Management Study issued by Colonel John H. Mason of the Army Corps of Engineers on November 27, 1974.

We urge the adoption of Concept 1 - Upgrading Systems of the Existing Deer and Nut Island Treatment Plants. We feel, as we have stated previously, that Framingham formerly had its own treatment system but that subsequently, when we were presented with the opportunity to join the MDC's South Metropolitan sewer system we were convinced that we could sell the land where our treatment plant had been located, without concern for the future discharge of sewage.

We also feel that the time element is a major factor in selecting Concept 1, the more so since the two present systems could be improved and maintained for approximately the same cost as the other concepts. There is no question in our minds but that by choosing Concept 1 we would remedy the problem much sooner than by use of any other concept. We base this thinking on the statement that Concept 1 could be completed in five years, while other concepts could take as long as twelve years.

We realize that there are some good reasons for considering the concept of putting wastewater back into the ground. However, we want to point out that any treatment plant built in or near Framingham would be in a location which would require us to reverse the direction of flow in our trunk lines.

Perhaps it should be agreed that anyone developing a sewer system in the future should join a regional system, but for those already in the MDC, Concept 1 appears to be the best solution.

We are enclosing copies of weekly records of sewer flows

Mr. John Harrington  
Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Page 2.

from Framingham. The first study was made by Haley & Ward, Inc.,  
engineers; the second was made by our own personnel.

Very truly yours,

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

*Sue Galvin*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sue Galvin, Chairman

SG:CAH:jp  
Enc.

HALEY AND WARD, INC.  
25 Fox Road  
WALTHAM, MASS. 02154

UNCLASSIFIED DOCUMENT

Phone (617) 890-3930

Metropolitan District Commission  
20 Somerset Street, Room 407, Sewer Div.  
Boston, Mass. 02103

DATE	March 8, 1974	JOB NO.	
ATTENTION	Mr. Monahan		
RE	Sewage Flows to MDC at Framingham		

EN:

WE ARE SENDING YOU  Attached  Under separate cover via \_\_\_\_\_ the following items:

- Shop drawings     Prints     Plans     Samples     Specifications  
 Copy of letter     Change order     \_\_\_\_\_

DATE	NO.	DESCRIPTION
		Flow measurements into the MDC Sewer at Framingham, for the week of March 1 - 7, incl., 1974

RE TRANSMITTED as checked below:

- For approval     Approved as submitted     Resubmit \_\_\_\_\_ copies for approval  
 For your use     Approved as noted     Submit \_\_\_\_\_ copies for distribution  
 As requested     Returned for corrections     Return \_\_\_\_\_ corrected prints  
 For review and comment     \_\_\_\_\_  
 FOR BIDS DUE \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_  PRINTS RETURNED AFTER LOAN TO US

Flow at location "A" is by depth measurement in 42" sewer, and includes the Town of Ashland discharge.

Flow at location "B" is by Parshall Flume measurement.

Flow at location "C", is estimated by observation, subject to correction later.

Flows measured at 8 AM; Noon; and 4PM.

27 Feb 84 Framingham

*[Handwritten signature]*

FRAMINGHAM, MASS. - P.W.D.

SEWAGE FLOW AT MDC CONN.

WEEK - MARCH 1-7, Incl. 1974

Date	Location	8 AM	Noon	4 PM	District Average
FRI	A B Dist	4.82	6.55	5.52	5.73
3/1/74	B Sax	2.75	2.25	2.25	2.42
	C Central	0.80	1.50	1.00	1.10
	Total	8.37	10.30	9.08	9.25
SAT	A	4.82	4.82	4.47	4.70
3/2/74	B	2.50	2.25	2.25	2.33
	C	0.80	1.50	1.00	1.10
	Total	8.12	8.57	7.72	8.13
SUN	A	4.47	4.44	4.82	4.48
3/3/74	B	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25
	C	0.80	1.50	1.00	1.10
	Total	7.52	7.89	8.07	7.83
MON	A	4.47	6.19	6.19	5.62
3/4/74	B	2.25	2.49	2.25	2.33
	C	0.80	1.50	1.00	1.10
	Total	7.52	10.18	9.44	9.05
TUES	A	4.47	6.19	6.55	5.74
3/5/74	B	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25
	C	0.80	1.50	1.00	1.10
	Total	7.52	9.94	9.80	9.09
WED	A	3.24	3.53	4.47	3.55
3/5/74	B	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25
	C	0.80	1.50	1.00	1.10
	Total	6.29	7.58	7.72	7.30
THUR	A	4.82	6.19	5.47	5.49
3/8/74	B	2.25	2.25	1.99	2.16
	C	0.80	1.50	1.00	1.10
	Total	7.87	9.94	8.46	8.75
Weekly Average		7.60	9.20	8.61	8.47

A = Forest Lane Sewers B = Gassville Area C = Central Area

Note: A includes  
Town of Ashland



M.G.D.

	8:00 A.M.			12:00 Noon			4:00 P.M.		
	B. Day	Sax.	Total	B. Day	Sax.	Total	B. Day	Sax.	Total
pril									
22	4.82	2.25	7.07	4.82	2.25	7.07	5.47	2.25	7.72
23	5.14	2.25	7.39	6.19	2.25	8.44	6.55	2.74	9.29
24	4.47	2.25	6.72	6.55	1.99	8.54	6.19	1.99	8.18
25	4.14	1.55	5.69	6.55	1.99	8.54	6.19	1.99	8.18
26	4.14	1.32	5.46	6.55	1.99	8.54	6.19	1.99	8.18
27	4.14	2.25	6.39	5.14	2.25	7.39	5.47	2.25	7.72
28	4.14	2.25	6.39	4.82	2.25	7.07	5.83	2.25	8.08

WAREHAM FIRE DISTRICT

271 MAIN ST., WAREHAM, MASS. 02571

295-0450

December 10, 1974

Mr. John Harrington  
Metropolitan Area Planning Council  
44 School Street  
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Sir:

The Wareham Board of Water Commissioners was represented by its Chairman, Gilbert C. Phinney, at a meeting sponsored by the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District at which the U. S. Army Corp. of Engineers presented the proposal for the disposal of sewage effluent from the Boston Metropolitan District by the living filter method in areas in close proximity to the Wareham Fire District water shed area.

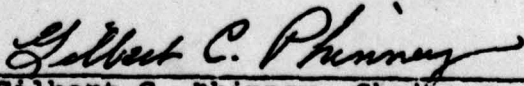
At that time opposition was voiced due to the concern that undesirable materials such as heavy metals, nutrients, odors, tastes, viruses, etc., might ultimately saturate the area and enter into the ground water aquifer which we have reason to believe is of some considerable capacity and therefore of great value to this community.

No assurance was given that in the long term this would not be the effect. We feel that there is also the possibility that changes in the ground water levels and flows might also have an adverse effect.

We wish therefore to enter this as a formal objection to the implementation of Concept 5 as proposed in the Boston Harbor - Eastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Area Waste Water Management Study as being totally unacceptable to this community and the Wareham Fire District.

Very truly yours,

WAREHAM FIRE DISTRICT  
Board of Water Commissioners

  
Gilbert C. Phinney, Chairman.

GCP:hs



# Town of Southborough

IN WORCESTER COUNTY,  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

TOWN HALL • SOUTHBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS 0177

Phone (617) 485-0710

December 11, 1974

Mr. John Harrington  
Metropolitan Area Planning Council  
44 School Street  
Boston, MA. 02108

Mr. Harrington, the Board of Selectmen has reviewed the five concepts for Wastewater Management in the Eastern Mass. Metropolitan Area, and at this time the Selectmen officially favor Concept #3 - A Regional Plan for the Expansion of Deer and Nut Islands Service Area.

While the Selectmen officially favor this concept, they are pleased to note that all five study concepts include the Town of Southborough and some sort of a regional concept.

The Selectmen, therefore, offer their official support both to Concept #3 and to the entire process and wish to be kept informed of any additional activity in regard to this process.

For the Board of Selectmen

John A. Lundblad  
Administrative Assistant

jal/mrp





# SIERRA CLUB • New England Chapter

14 BEACON STREET, ROOM 719, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, 02108 • 617-227-5339

December 19, 1974

Mr. John Harrington  
Metropolitan Area Planning Council  
44 School Street  
Boston, Massachusetts, 02108

Dear Mr. Harrington:

The events of the past two weeks concerning the selection of a long range plan for wastewater management for Eastern Massachusetts warrant some comments.

The very close vote which took place last week indicates that there are several items which are not well enough defined and understood. Intelligent decisions can not be made until all the facts or at least more facts are known. I would like to offer the following thought for your consideration.

First, as a general principle containment of wastewater in the watershed of origin is desirable and in some cases necessary basis of the plan. This raises many questions: What are the long range effect of withdrawing water from the Sudbury Reservoir and transferring it to Boston Harbor? What is the level of treatment needed so that wastewater can be safely discharged into the Sudbury? What is the long range flow prediction for the Charles and Sudbury? What is happening to underground aquifers? The answers to these and many more questions must be known before intelligent decisions can be made concerning the Wastewater Management Plan.

Second, while the need for increased sewage facilities for Framingham etc. is recognized such pressure should not force a plan whose long term implications have not been well studied. A decision that is hastily made may cause even more serious problems at some later date.

Third, discharge of sewage within the watershed of origin is sound water supply management as well as sound wastewater management since the possibilities of recycling are not rendered impossible. The supply of water must be considered in the same breath with the discharge of water.

I urge that the final decision on which plan to eventually adopt is deferred until adequate answers are available to the types of questions which have been raised in this letter.

Sincerely,

*Robert E. Zimmerman*

Robert E. Zimmerman, Political Action Ch.

Thoreau Group, Sierra Club

875 Old Conn. Path  
Framingham, Ma. 01701

MASSACHUSETTS STATE GROUP  
ESSEX COUNTY GROUP  
GREATER BOSTON GROUP  
THOREAU GROUP  
MT. HOLYOKE GROUP  
BERKSHIRE GROUP

•VERMONT STATE GROUP  
CENTRAL VERMONT GROUP  
CHAMPLAIN VALLEY GROUP  
CONNECTICUT VALLEY GROUP  
OTTER VALLEY GROUP

•NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE GROUP  
MONADNOCK GROUP  
UPPER VALLEY GROUP  
•MAINE GROUP  
•RHODE ISLAND

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BOSTON

7 WATER STREET  
Corner of Washington Street  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109  
TELEPHONE 723-4583

VICE PRESIDENTS  
MS. LOUISE BONAR  
1ST VICE PRESIDENT  
MRS. CAROL McA'NULTY  
2ND VICE PRESIDENT  
MISS LIBBY BLANK  
3RD VICE PRESIDENT

MRS. ELIZABETH HARTL, PRESIDENT

MRS. SELMA LAMKIN  
TREASURER

MRS. GAUNZETTA MITCHELL  
RECORDING SECRETARY

December 26, 1974

Mr. John Harrington  
Metropolitan Area Planning Council  
44 School Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

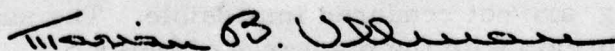
Dear Mr. Harrington:

The Boston Harbor Committee of the League of Women Voters of Boston has studied with interest the alternatives outlined in the November 27 Progress Report of the Boston Harbor-Eastern Massachusetts Wastewater Management Study. Though we understand the implications and effects outlined in the report, we believe we do not have the technical competence to make specific recommendations.

One of the prime concerns of this committee is the improvement of the quality of Boston Harbor water. We are concerned that the maximum enlargement of the area serviced by Deer and Nut Islands Treatment Plants, Concept 3, may not be in the interest of improved water quality in the harbor. We urge the Technical Subcommittee to recommend an alternative that is beneficial to the water quality of the harbor as well as that of the rivers flowing into it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Chairman  
Boston Harbor Committee



City Post  
Marlboro, MA  
25 Oct 73  
Also in:  
Assabet Valley Beacon  
Acton, MA  
25 Oct 73

## Area Wastewater Study Series To Begin In Acton

ACTON — A study to determine solutions to the wastewater management needs of the metropolitan Boston area is being conducted by The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Metropolitan District Commission, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Colonel John H. Mason of the Corps of Engineers announced this week. This effort is the result of a need to determine the future requirements of the Metropolitan Sewerage District facilities, and of a Congressional authorization to the Corps of Engineers. The progress of the study is being directed by a joint State, Federal and regional subcommittee, he said.

Federal and State agencies responsible for conducting the study have asked the Metropolitan Area Planning Council to assist them in informing and involving the public of the study area. The area is comprised of 100 communities, 43 of which are currently members of the Metropolitan Sewerage District.

As part of the public involvement effort, an initial series of six meetings has been scheduled. At these meetings, detailed description of the scope, nature, and objectives of the study will be presented.

The meetings will offer citizens an opportunity to review the planning assumptions and criteria from which future wastewater flows will be derived, and present their views, to influence the development of wastewater management systems that satisfy Federal and State criteria, and help to meet other regional and local needs.

The first meeting will be held at the Acton-Boxborough Regional High School, of Hayward Road and Charter Road, in Acton on November 15, 1973 at 8:00 p.m.

Mirror  
Hingham, MA  
26 Oct 73  
Also in:  
News Mirror  
Hull, MA  
26 Oct 73

## Harbor Planning Meeting

BOSTON - The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Metropolitan District Commission, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, are conducting a study to determine solutions to the wastewater management needs of the metropolitan Boston area. This effort is the result of a need to determine the future requirements of the Metropolitan Sewerage District facilities, and of a Congressional authorization to the Corps of Engineers. The progress of the study is directed by a joint State, Federal and regional subcommittee.

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council has been requested by the Federal and State agencies responsible for conducting the study to assist them in informing and involving the public of the study area. The area is comprised of 109 communities, 43 of which are currently members of the Metropolitan Sewerage District.

As part of the public involvement effort, an initial series of six meetings has been scheduled. At these meetings, a detailed description of the scope, nature, and objectives of the study will be presented.

These meetings will also offer you an opportunity to review the planning assumptions and criteria from which future wastewater flows will be derived.

We know that you are interested in the quality of the water in the Boston Harbor - Eastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Area, and want a chance to present your views, to influence the development of wastewater management systems that satisfy Federal and State criteria, and help to meet other regional and local needs. We urge you to attend one or more of these meetings.

We have scheduled the first meeting at the Acton-Boxborough Regional High School at the intersection of Hayward Road and Charter Road in Acton on November 15 at 8:00 P.M.



Bedford Patriot  
Bedford, MA  
1 Nov 73

# Around and About

by Carol C. Amick



(selected excerpt)

The Commonwealth, Metropolitan District Commission, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are conducting a study to determine solutions to the wastewater management needs of the metropolitan Boston area. This effort is the result of a need to determine the future requirements of the Metropolitan Sewerage District facilities, and of a Congressional authorization to the Corps of Engineers. The progress of the study is directed by a joint State, Federal and regional subcommittee.

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council has been requested by the Federal and State agencies responsible for conducting the study to assist them in informing and involving the public of the study area. The area is comprised of 100 communities, 43 of which are currently members of the Metropolitan Sewerage District.

As part of the public involvement effort, an initial series of six meetings has been scheduled. At these meetings, a detailed description of the scope, nature, and objectives of the study will be presented.

The first meeting will be held at the Acton-Borborough Regional High School on Nov. 15 at 8 p.m.

Tired of bumping over Bedford st. in your car on the way to Route 128?

The patching job done by the Lexington-Bedford Telle Sewer contractor is to be repaired, according to the selectmen, who received a letter of complaint from Charles Mistretta, district engineer of the State Dept. of Public Works.

The board asked DPW Supt. Ken Pedersen to contact the sub-contractor who did the patch job.

Watergate Judge John J. Sirica turned away from questioning reporters and photographers last week to listen to the life and drum music of the Bedford Minuteman Company.

The Minutemen were the only company invited to perform at the American Judges Association convention held at the Statler Hilton Hotel in Boston.

Captain Lloyd Walker and his minutemen marched in with the head table guests - including Judge Sirica - and gave a brief history of the Bedford flag before playing their rousing Colonial music.

The minuteman company felt honored to perform, and later saw themselves on network television. According to one member of the company, many of the famous judges present asked the group about the flag and their Colonial styled costumes.

Judge John Forte and wife Priscilla of 4 The Grant rd. were among the 300 judges present.

Enterprise-Sun  
Marlboro, MA  
8 Nov 73

Also in:  
Sun  
Hudson, MA  
8 Dec 73

# MDC study forecasts population explosion

Marlboro's population will have reached 35,000 with a work force of 11,200 people in another 20 years. By that time Hudson will employ 5,200 workers in a community of 26,500 people.

Berlin in 20 years will have grown to a town of 5,400; Bolton will still be the smaller with a total near the 4,700 figure; Stow should have reached a population of 6,000; and Southboro should have 9,400 residents.

With statistics reaching into the year 2000 and all the way up to 2020 (when many under 30 today will be numbered among the senior citizens) and 2050 (when only this generation's children are likely to remain), the survey is trying to determine the long range sewage and water needs for the region for the next 50 years.

Its plans must include services for a present population of 2 million people in which individual communities could double and triple in population by the year 2020 - let alone 2050 - on an area which remains the same 400 square miles.

The Wastewater Engineering and Management study encompasses the Eastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Area - extending as far west as Bolton, Berlin, Northboro, and Westboro; as far north as Boxford, Ipswich, and Rockport; Bellingham and Wrentham to the southwest and Pembroke and Duxbury on the southeast.

When Congress in mid-1972 asked the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to plan improvements in wastewater management for Boston Harbor and Eastern Massachusetts, the Corps developed a technical subcommittee. The subcommittee includes the Environmental Protection Agency, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, the Massachusetts Division of Water Pollution Control, the Office of State Planning and Management and the Metropolitan District Commission. (Wastewater is a term for domestic sewage, stormwater and industrial wastes).

All these agencies, besides plotting what to do with wastewater for the next 50 years, will also be working to bring the Commonwealth toward the goals of the 1972 Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendment.

The 1972 Pollution Control Act stipulates that waters be clean enough for fishing and swimming by mid-1983 and reach zero pollutant discharge by 1985.

According to David C. Kenyon of the Army Corps of Engineers located in Waltham the study scheduled for completion in September 1974 will propose:

- 1 - possible changes in the size and make-up of the Metropolitan Sewage District.
- 2 - treatment plants providing a minimum of secondary treatment at Deer and Nut Islands (in Boston Harbor).

- 3 - Advanced regional plants for wastewater treatment. These will be in addition to the local plants now required under previous clean water laws and meeting the requirements of the 1972 Pollution Control Act.

- 4 - ways to use reclaimed wastewater

- 5 - how to pay for these advanced plants

- 6 - who will pay for these plants

However, Kenyon points out the study will not:

- 1 - resolve the individual sewage problems of each of the 109 communities. State and local governments must do this.

- 2 - Change the present EPA schedule for state implementation of goals set up by the Division of Water Pollution Control.

- 3 - Begin immediate construction of advanced wastewater treatment plants.

- 4 - require communities to become part of the present Metropolitan Sewage District.

Marlboro, for example, is not part of the Metropolitan District and with its two sewage plants for secondary and tertiary treatment is self-sufficient enough without the District's help (although it does share water on a District basis).

When the soon-to-be completed easterly sewage plant in Marlboro is at last finished, it will be one of the most sophisticated on the

whole Eastern coast," boasts Marlboro's DFW Head Paul Shanon. Already groups from Tufts, Northeastern, and other local universities have begun touring the facility which will provide tertiary sewage treatment.

Tertiary treatment is the ultimate removing phosphates and nitrates. (Nitrates while not obvious in any but chemical tests can cause brain damage in concentrated amounts).

The treatment plants in Boston Harbor on Deer and Nut Islands are functioning presently as primary treatment plants - a plant which does little more than remove the solid wastes. The survey hopes that they will become at least secondary with chemicals, aeration or filtering to remove more of the pollutants.

After the present study of the Eastern Massachusetts region is concluded, the Corps has proposed another phase of study dealing specifically with the problems of the harbor pertaining to circulation, bottom deposits, and pollution.

Nashoba Free Press

Acton, MA

8 Nov 73

Also in:

Assabet Valley Beacon

Independent

Littleton, MA

8 Nov 73

## Public Asked For Input In Wastewater Management Study

ACTON — The first of a series of open planning meetings to obtain the public's views on wastewater management is scheduled for Thursday, November 15, in the cafeteria of the Acton-Boxborough Regional High School in Acton. At this meeting, residents of 23 area communities are urged to participate in the Boston Harbor-Eastern Massachusetts planning study covering 109 communities inhabited by 3 million people within a 30-mile radius of Boston.

The communities involved in the Acton session are: Acton, Berlin, Billerica, Bolton, Boxborough, Carlisle, Chelmsford, Concord, Hopkinton, Hudson, Lincoln, Littleton, Marlborough, Maynard, Northborough,

Southborough, Stow, Sudbury, Tewksbury, Wayland, Westborough, Westford and Weston.

(The other five meetings in the series will be announced as soon as arrangements have been completed. Subsequent series of meetings will be held throughout the study.)

The \$2 million clean water planning effort is aimed at developing alternatives for treatment of domestic sewage and other wastewater as required by the 1972 Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

The study will produce a

blueprint for upgrading Boston Harbor, major waterways in Eastern Massachusetts and possible reuse for the renovated water.

The public meetings are sponsored by Metropolitan District Commission, Metropolitan Area Planning Council and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which are among the agencies participating in the study. The study costs are jointly financed by the MDC and the Corps.

Other participating agencies are Massachusetts Division of Water Pollution Control, Massachusetts Office of State Planning and Management and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Emphasis is being placed on

open planning, a process that involves people from the study area in the decision-making process to determine the most viable methods of wastewater management. These choices will affect the quality of water in Eastern Massachusetts for generations to come.

All these agencies, however, will not — and cannot — make decisions about wastewater management for the metropolitan area without substantial public participation, and open planning begins with this initial meeting.

For further information, please contact Mr. Martin Weiss, director of environmental planning of the Metropolitan District Commission, at 727-699.

Citizen  
Sudbury, MA  
8 Nov 73

### PUBLIC OPINION AT ACTON

The first of a series of open planning meetings to obtain the public's views on wastewater management is scheduled for Thursday, November 15, in the cafeteria of the Acton-Boxborough Regional High School in Acton. At this meeting, residents of 23 area communities are urged to participate in the Boston Harbor-Eastern Massachusetts planning study covering 100 communities inhabited by 3 million people within a 30-mile radius of Boston.

The communities involved in the Acton session are: Acton, Berlin, Billerica, Bolton, Boxborough, Carlisle, Chelmsford, Concord, Hopkinton, Hudson, Lincoln, Littleton, Marlborough, Maynard, Northborough, Southborough, Stow, Sudbury, Tewksbury, Wayland, Westborough, Westford and Weston.

(The other five meetings in the series will be announced as soon as arrangements have been completed. Subsequent series of meetings will be held throughout the study.)

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Emphasis is being placed on open planning, a process that involves people from the study area in the decision-making process to determine the most viable methods of wastewater management. These choices will affect the quality of water in Eastern Massachusetts for generations to come.

All these agencies, however, will not -- and cannot -- make decisions about wastewater management for the metropolitan area without substantial public participation, begins with this initial meeting.

For further information, please contact Mr. Martin Weiss, director of environmental planning of the Metropolitan District Commission, at 727-8230.

Minute Man  
Lexington, MA  
8 Nov 73

Also in: Fence Viewer-Sudbury, MA  
Herald-Belmont, MA  
Times-Union-Burlington, MA

## 7 Area Towns Involved in Water Study

Seven area towns will be involved in the first of a series of open planning meetings on wastewater management to be held at the Acton-Boxborough Regional High School in Acton on Thursday, Nov. 15.

The local communities participating are Acton, Billerica, Boxborough, Carlisle, Concord, Lincoln and Sudbury.

Residents are urged to participate in the Boston Harbor-Eastern Massachusetts planning study - a \$2 million clean water planning effort aimed at developing alternatives for treatment of domestic sewage and other wastewater as required by the 1972 Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

The study will produce a blueprint for upgrading Boston Harbor, major waterways in Eastern Mass. and possible reuse for the renovated water.

The public meetings are sponsored by the Metropolitan District Commission, Metropolitan Area Planning Council, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The study costs are financed by the MDC and the Corps.

Other agencies involved are the Massachusetts Division of Water Pollution Control, Massachusetts Office of State Planning and Management and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Northboro Star  
Acton, MA  
8 Nov 73

## Northborough Invited To Area Wastewater Planning Meeting

### AREA —

The first of a series of open planning meetings to obtain the public's views on wastewater management is scheduled for Thursday, November 15, in the cafeteria of the Acton-Boxborough Regional High School in Acton.

At this meeting, residents of 23 area communities are urged to participate in the Boston Harbor-Eastern Massachusetts planning study covering 100 communities inhabited by 3 million people within a 30-mile radius of Boston.

The communities involved in the Acton session are: Acton, Berlin, Billerica, Bolton, Boxborough, Carlisle, Chelmsford, Concord, Nopkinton, Hudson, Lincoln, Littleton, Marlborough, Maynard, Northborough, Southborough, Stow, Sudbury, Tewksbury, Wayland, Westborough, Westford and Weston.

The \$2 million clean water planning effort is aimed at developing alternatives for treatment of domestic sewage and other wastewater as required by the 1972 Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

The study will produce a blueprint for upgrading Boston Harbor, major waterways in Eastern Massachusetts and possible reuse for the renovated water.

The public meetings are

sponsored by Metropolitan District Commission, Metropolitan Area Planning Council and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which are among the agencies participating in the study. The study costs are jointly financed by the MDC and the Corps.

Other participating agencies are Massachusetts Division of Water Pollution Control, Massachusetts Office of State Planning and Management and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Emphasis is being placed on open planning, a process that involves people from the study area in the decision-making process to determine the most viable methods of wastewater management. These choices will affect the quality of water in Eastern Massachusetts for generations to come.

All these agencies, however, will not — and cannot — make decisions about wastewater management for the metropolitan area without substantial public participation and open planning begins with this initial meeting.

For further information, please contact Mr. Martin Weiss, director of environmental planning of the Metropolitan District Commission, at 727-8680.

South Middlesex News  
Framingham, MA  
16 Nov 73

# Towns told: get involved in water cleanup

By JOHN ADAMS  
of the News Staff  
ACTON — Public involvement will be a major key to the success of a large federal and state project designed to clean up the waterways of eastern Massachusetts by 1985.

Local participation was stressed at a meeting last night at the Acton-Boxborough Regional School which presented the goals and preliminary work on the project which is scheduled to be completed by January 1975.

Speaker Martin Weiss of the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) told an audience of 40 people that the project has a mandate to clean up Boston Harbor and eastern state waterways by 1985, to achieve wherever possible water that is clean enough for swimming, other recreational uses and the protection of fish shellfish and wildlife by 1983, to develop alternatives for sewerage and wastewater treatment and to study reclamation methods for the reuse of nutrients found in wastewater.

The study project has received funding of \$2 million, Weiss said, and is supported by the 1972 federal Water Pollution Control Act.

The act, which has the strongest anti-pollution measures to date, is basis for the study which will affect 100 communities with a current population of 3 million within a 30-mile radius of Boston, Weiss said.

He said the project is a response to the fact that many state waterways are nothing more than open sewers and that current means of sewerage transport and treatment are expected to be inadequate by the end of the century.

Groups involved in the project and represented at the meeting were the MDC, the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE), the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), the state

Division of Water Pollution Control (DWPC), the state office of Planning and Management (OPM), and the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACE representative David Kenyon told the audience: "Open planning and local participation is the only way to build something in your backyard and not have you say 'we don't want it.'"

In response to questioning by officials from Acton,

Littleton and other area towns, Kenyon said that area industries, municipalities and the state will be included in several plans under consideration for financing the construction and maintenance of study recommendations.

Specific plans will best provide management, financing and construction for plants and facilities to carry and treat sewerage, new systems for storm water drainage and plants

for reclaiming valuable chemicals and minerals from wastewater.

All recommendations will have to receive approval and some funding from the legislature, Weiss said.

Weiss also said that decisions concerning area transfer from septic tanks to sewers may be left to the localities involved. But, Weiss said, if and when the transfer is required, the study will provide plans for connecting new sewers into the MDC system.

Last night's preliminary meeting covered Hopkinton, Hudson, Marlboro, Northborough, Southborough, Sudbury, Wayland, Westboro and 15 other area cities and towns. No officials from Marlboro, Hudson, Northborough or Southborough attended.

New England Construction  
Lexington, MA  
19 Nov 73

### **MDC And Army Engineers Are Studying Wastewater Management Needs Here**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Metropolitan District Commission, and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, are conducting a study to determine solutions to the wastewater management needs of the metropolitan Boston area.

This effort is the result of a need to determine the future requirements of the Metropolitan Sewerage District facilities, and of a Congressional authorization to the Corps of Engineers.

The progress of the study is directed by a joint State, Federal and regional subcommittee.

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council has been requested by the Federal and State agencies responsible for conducting the study to assist them in informing and involving the public of the study area. The area is comprised of 109 communities, 13 of which are currently members of the Metropolitan Sewerage District.

As part of the public involvement effort, an initial series of six meetings has been scheduled. At these meetings, a detailed description of the

scope, nature, and objectives of the study will be presented.

These meetings will also offer an opportunity to review the planning assumptions and criteria from which future wastewater flows will be derived.

The first meeting at the Acton-Boxborough Regional High School in Acton was held on November 15.



## Wastewater Management Public Meetings Listed

BOSTON — Three public meetings for residents of area towns will be held in December to study and develop wastewater management systems within Eastern Massachusetts.

The Boston-Harbor-Eastern Massachusetts study is being conducted jointly by the Metropolitan District Commission and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The \$2 million study will produce a blueprint for upgrading Boston Harbor, major waterways in Eastern Massachusetts and possible reuse for the renovated water and will develop alternatives for treatment of domestic sewerage and other wastewaters required by the 1972 Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

At 8 p.m. Dec. 6, a meeting will be held at Newton City Hall, War Memorial Auditorium, at the intersection of Commonwealth

Ave. and Chestnut St. Residents of the following communities are urged to participate:

Braintree, Canton, Dedham, Hingham, Holbrook, Milton, Needham, Norwood, Quincy, Randolph, Stoughton, Walpole, Wellesey, Westwood, Weymouth, Ashland, Framingham, Natick and Newton.

Another meeting for residents of Foxboro, Medfield, Sharon, Bellingham, Dover, Franklin, Holliston, Medway, Milford Millis, Norfolk, Sherborn and Wrentham is scheduled at 8 p.m. Dec. 13 at Medfield High School auditorium, Pond Street.

At 8 p.m. Dec. 18 a public meeting will be held at the South Shore Natural Science Center, Jacobs Lane, Norwell, for residents of the following communities: Avon, Cohasset, Duxbury, Hanover, Hull, Marshfield, Norwell, Pembroke, Rockland and Scituate.

Another meeting for communities north of Boston, including Cambridge and Somerville, as well as Boston, will be held at 8 p.m. Dec. 4 at Cambridge City Hall council chambers, 786 Mass. Ave.

Assabet Valley Beacon  
Acton, MA  
22 Nov 73

## Public Asked To Aid In Wastewater Management Study

AREA — Questions from the audience at a meeting on wastewater management in Acton last week were addressed to a panel of representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers, Metropolitan District Commission, and Metropolitan Area Planning Council. These agencies are involved in a planning effort to clean up Boston Harbor and find solutions to sewage disposal problems in the entire metropolitan area of Eastern Massachusetts. (see separate article).

Acton Selectman Stephan Lewis asked whether a town such as Acton might be required to install a townwide sewerage system.

He was told that the purpose of the study is not to tell you when to put in a sewerage system, but how wastewater from such a system will be treated. "The decision to switch from septic tanks will depend more on local problems and recommendations from the local board of health, he was advised.

Metropolitan Area Planning Council representative John Harrington commented that MAPC offers technical assistance to communities on development of sewerage system plans.

Duncan Brown of the Boxborough Board of Health Advisory Committee asked how projections on gallons per

The hydrologic cycle begins with evaporation from oceans and lakes. Clouds form, and under the right climatic conditions release precipitation. The rain or melting snow either percolates into the soil recharging groundwater, or flows overland to collect in streams and rivers. Aeration breaks down and treats limited amounts of organic waste as a stream flows to the ocean. Human activities are now contributing more pollution than a water system's natural capacity can accommodate, Harrington said, and as a result, some waterways are little more than open sewers.

Population growth and advanced technology have contributed additional and more complex waste, requiring construction of more extensive and complex treatment facilities, Harrington further explained. Several alternative treatment methods will be examined in the study.

The Commonwealth's 1972 Environmental Capital Outlay provided funds for the Metropolitan District Commission to undertake the wastewater study, said Martin Weiss of MDC. Under the administration of MDC, THE Metropolitan Sewerage District, established in 1889, serves 43 communities and a population of almost two million in the Greater Boston area. Existing sewage treatment facilities are reaching their installed capacities, Weiss said, and must be improved to meet requirements of Federal legislation.

In addition to the Federal goals for clean water, the Wastewater Study should result in recommendations for management of sewage in the Metropolitan area for the next eighty years, according to David C. Kenyon of the Army Corps of Engineers. Projections of population, employment, land use, water quality and consumption, and waste loads have been made to cover that span of time, he said. Another objective of the study is to determine whether the 109 communities will make up one sewerage district or the area will be divided into several

smaller districts. "For each district a variety of waste treatment systems will be examined," Kenyon explained.

Computer modeling and other techniques are being used in an "all-out" effort to solve the problem of combined sewer overflow of both raw sewage and stormwater, one of the most severe problems in Eastern Massachusetts, Kenyon said.

He also pointed out that industry is required by Federal law to pay its "fair share" for wastewater treatment. A basis for charging industries for treatment of their waste should be another result of the study, he said.

Kenyon also said that the choice of systems will be based on environmental, aesthetic, hygienic and socio-economic impact and will probably require some "tradeoffs." "To make these choices, we must learn and understand the desire of the people of Eastern Massachusetts," he said. "We want to develop systems that are best for you and your community."

Public participation meetings will be held after the first of the year and as technical efforts to develop alternative systems, are completed. The program also offers a speaker's bureau and technical workshops for discussion of social and ecological aspects of the study, through the Environmental Planning office of MDC, 727-8880

Sun  
Quincy, MA  
6 Dec 73

## Waste Water Management Meeting To Be Held Tonight

A series of six open meetings to inform residents of Quincy and surrounding communities on future plans for waste water management in the metropolitan Boston area will start tonight (Thursday) at 8 p.m., at Newton War Memorial Auditorium. interested people in the area to attend.

The meetings are planned to inform the public of a study being conducted by the Commonwealth of Mass. and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers along with the Metropolitan District Commission to determine future requirements of the Metropolitan Sewerage District facilities which Quincy uses.

The meetings offer concerned citizens a chance to review and influence the planning assumptions and criteria from which future sewerage flows will be planned.

The agencies conducting the study have requested formation of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council to assist in informing and involving the people in the study area. The area is comprised of 109 communities, 43 of which are currently members of the Metropolitan Sewerage District, including Quincy.

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council will all

Advocate  
Arlington, MA  
6 Dec 73

## Engineer Attends Wastewater Study

Town Engineer Robert Higgins recently attended a meeting at the Acton-Boxborough Regional High School in connection with a study by the Commonwealth of Mass. the MDC and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine a solution to the wastewater management needs of the metropolitan Boston area.

The study has come about as the result of a need to determine the future requirements of the Metropolitan Sewerage District facilities and of a Congressional authorization to the Corps of Engineers.

Today there are 43 cities and towns in the Metropolitan Sewerage District, and the population served is almost 2 million people from an area greater than 400 square miles.

To coordinate the metropolitan Boston study with other statewide projects, a Technical Subcommittee on Boston Harbor Eastern Mass. was formed. The committee is composed of the Corps of Engineers,

Environmental Protection Agency, Metropolitan Area Planning Council, Mass. Division of Water Pollution Control, Office of State Planning and Management and MDC.

The Committee formulated a joint work program, and with the engineering firm it has completed a detailed scope of work for the entire project.

The study area comprises 109 municipalities. The concept is to look into the best solutions for providing sewerage facilities for these cities and towns. However, this does not necessarily mean that every one of these communities are to become members of the Metropolitan Sewerage District.

Higgins explained that several presentations relative to the proposals were given at the meeting held in Acton. He added that citizen and group participation in the program were suggested.

A second meeting was scheduled for Nov. 20 in Danvers, a third on Dec. 4 in Cambridge, and a fourth in Newton on Dec. 6.

Four major engineering alternatives will be examined to establish limits and systems for the Eastern Mass. Metropolitan area.

Included are: No expansion of the present Metropolitan Sewerage District with improvements only to the existing service area.

Limited expansion, possibly adding 16 more communities, or contraction deleting some outlying communities.

Ultimate expansion to include the entire study area.

No District, a decentralized system with a regional concept.

## Porous pavement

News Natick Bureau  
NEWTON — Porous pavement could be the thing of the future.

Metropolitan District Commissioner John Sears is looking into that eventuality as a solution to what he termed one of the major foreseeable problems in water management.

The MDC, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are sponsors of the Regional Wastewater Management Study, a long-range planning tool which involves regional meetings to be held in various towns.

Commissioner Sears' comments came at the first such meeting, held last night in Newton.

Study projections calculate as far ahead as the year 2060 and Sears noted that the projections in some cases are "like trying to predict what today's world would be like from the year 1880." However, while the projected town populations and similar data may be offset by unforeseeable developments, he said, identification of the anticipated problem areas remains valid to a certain extent.

Sears said one of the first problems is obviously going to be groundwater depletion.

If groundwater is used and not replaced at the projected rates, according to data presented at the meeting, the Charles River flow level by 1980 would be at zero level for 14 days per year.

One of the things Sears said he finds alarming is the way in which one precious resource, rainwater, is channeled into catchbasins and wasted. Meanwhile, he said, the MDC lines are already facing the problem of overuse.

The most hopeful solution to this groundwater depletion would seem now to be porous asphalt, Sears said. Such asphalt is being manufactured and could be marketed within the near future. However, testing on the substance, which would look and act like the asphalt now in use on roadways except for its ability to absorb water, has to date not included testing on its resistance to New England winters. The first usage the new material is likely to see will be in Texas or Florida, according to data presented at the meeting.

Patriot Ledger  
Quincy, MA  
7 Dec 73

## Waste Water Usable, Newton Group Told

By LISA BREMS

Patriot Ledger Correspondent

NEWTON — "Two things we have discovered about sewage treatment over the years are that waste water is an asset — we can use it — and that we should leave water pretty much where we find it. Moving it around too much for treatment upsets the balance of nature," Metropolitan District Commissioner John W. Sears said last night.

### Initial Findings

Representatives of the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC), Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers last night presented initial findings and projections of the eastern Massachusetts wastewater management study to 60 interested citizens at the Newton City Hall War Memorial Auditorium.

The study, authorized by the federal Environment Outlay Act of June 1972, will first project waste water treatment needs of 100 eastern Massachusetts communities for the next 30 years based on anticipated population distribution and employment patterns, Commissioner Sears said.

The second phase of the study will include research of various technical solutions to the problems of treating waste water.

The final step of the study will be to recommend the best of the solutions for implementation, added Mr. Sears.

During a question and answer period, A. Richard Miller, a private consulting physicist and member of the Natick Conservation Commission, suggested one way to keep water from flowing out of an area would be to use porous surfacing on roads and parking lots.

A thinner coating of asphalt on pebbles used in surfacing will mean rain water could drain through road surfacing instead of running off, Mr. Miller said.

"Porous surfacing sounds very promising so far, but funds to study how it reacts to frost and

heavy use so far are almost lacking," Mr. Miller added.

Mrs. Rita Barron, executive director of the Charles River Watershed Association, suggested that while future waste water needs are being researched, it is a good time to identify exactly where all the area's water recharge areas are located.

She added that this is important to know so that they can be left in their natural state, and not drained and built over.

David C. Kenyon, of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, said that the Corps is doing a review of geological and other studies to get a better idea of water resources, including where recharge areas are.

Westwood sewer commissioner Lester Gaynor expressed concern over the study's projected growth figures for the south west area of the state.

"Where are we going to get the water for all those people?" he asked.

Commissioner Sears responded that the MDC is doing a separate concurrent study on water resources.

"Essentially their job is to fluoroscope eastern Massachusetts," he said.

## Sewerage slows Charles' flow and still water runs rotten

Will the Charles River reverse direction between Natick and Waltham in the future? According to A. Richard Miller, consulting physicist and Executive Director of the Lake Cochituate Watershed Association, we may eventually have not only zero but negative flow on this stretch of the Charles, if we do not stop dumping so much waste water.

Miller raised the question at a hearing called by John Sears, chief Metropolitan District Commissioner, on wastewater management for 19 communities in the Boston Harbor-Eastern Massachusetts area.

Rita Barron of the Charles River Watershed Association recommended that wastewater be kept within the watershed where it originates. New theories circulating among conservationists attribute some water mismanagement crises to the practice of collecting water from one watershed region and dumping it into another. Sewage treatment plants make the situation worse.

"Man's activities," summarized MDC planner John Harrington, "have produced more pollution than the natural system can accommodate." No self-purification exists in most parts of the globe any more. Too often, rivers are used to carry off wastes, and waterways become open sewers, necessitating sewage treatment. The original MDC plants at Deer and Nut Islands provided only primary treatment (separating out settleable solids from liquid effluent). Only

recently has it become mandatory to treat liquid effluent. Since then, Sears said, almost 20 clam beds in the Boston Harbor area have been reopened. Modernization of Nut and Deer will include secondary treatment, in which bacteria consume the organic parts of wastes, after the solids settle out.

The Dec. 6 session was one of six during November and December seeking input, as requested by federal and state agencies, from citizens of the affected area comprising 109 communities bounded by Boston Harbor, Brockton, Bellingham, Holliston, Boxboro, Chelmsford and Andover. Only 43 of these currently belong to the MDC Sewerage District, the base system needing modernization and expansion.

According to Sears, Deer and Nut are in trouble. The original district, now 80 years old, was created in 1889 and began operating in 1895 at Deer Island. It is essentially the same today.

Martin Weiss of MDC revealed that the MDC sewerage serves almost two million people over 400 square miles, with 11 pumping stations and two large treatment plants. Operation now costs almost \$7 million per year. A storm water treatment station at BU Bridge is a recently-added installation to process water before it adds pollutants to the Charles. Priscilla Lett

## Energy Crisis Expected To Slow Population, Employment In Area

BOSTON — The energy crisis is expected to slow population growth and employment gains in Boston and suburbs in the next decade, according to a preliminary draft forecast conducted by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council.

The preliminary survey conducted by the MAPC and Metcalf and Eddy for the MDC, as part of the Boston Harbor-Eastern Massachusetts Wastewater Management Study was made in October before the extent of the fuel oil shortages had been announced by the Administration. However, the consultants had made their projections in the preliminary draft on the impending reduction of fuel available for the area.

The MAPC survey includes 109 communities as far west as the Berkshires and as far south as Foxboro, Bridgewater, and Duxbury including most of The Patriot Ledger circulation area with the exception of Plymouth, Kingston, Abington, Whitman and Hanson.

The study found that the factors that are expected to have a negative effect on the economy are the cost of fuel which is 10 to 20 per cent above the national average, with industrial power costs 10 per cent above the national average.

The lack of natural resources in the state; the cost of living that is above the national average; the high state and local taxes; the high cost of unskilled

labor; and the low expenditures made for public education are factors cited that will put a damper on employment opportunities in the state from the period from 1970 to 1990, according to a summary of the projections.

High unemployment, welfare payments and taxes are not expected to be alleviated until after 1980. Unemployment is expected to increase in manufacturing, particularly in paper, leather, and electrical machinery during the next decade.

However, insurance, medical services, private education and business services will continue to be the most important non-manufacturing export industries.

Finance, real estate, business and professional services will experience rapid growth and tourism is expected to increase.

### Negative Side

But other factors on the negative side of the regional economic picture will be a reduction in federally subsidized research programs and hefty decreases in defense-related industries which will add to the unemployment figures. In addition, the state's stringent environmental protection regulations are expected to discourage new industry and manufacturing.

The study found that not only are wages for unskilled labor higher than the national average, there will be a surplus of white collar workers adding to the unemployment statistics.

The slowdown in the population growth in the MAPC area is based on lower birth rate assumptions. The birth rate is projected at about a 2 per cent increase. The projection of the number of people moving into the region varies from an additional five to 10 thousand through the year 2000.

In the Southeast area of the region studied, a population increase of 57.6 per cent is projected from the year 1970 to the year 2025, about 10 per cent more than the increase forecasted for the whole MAPC region.

These forecasts of population growth and the employment declines are being evaluated by the MAPC and are expected to be refined, according to a staff spokesman.



# How to keep water clean 80 years

By Clayton Jones  
Staff writer of

The Christian Science Monitor

Boston

The narrow's water-pollution problems may be on the way to solution — but what about the day after tomorrow?

In the 21st century, projections indicate, more than 4 million people will be generating wastes that could re-pollute Boston Harbor and its tributaries.

Mindful of federal requirements for zero-discharge of pollutants into waterways by 1985, state sewerage planners are going a step further and beginning to decide how waste water is to be managed for the next 80 years.

But to do that, state officials say they have had to forecast the size, shape, and makeup of eastern Massachusetts for the 21st century.

Using computers, census figures, and past projections, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) completed such a study and for the past few months has been airing it at public meetings in the Boston suburbs.

## Data to aid coordination

This information, planners reason, will help them coordinate future sewage treatment on the Mystic, Charles, and Neponset Rivers that funnel through the Boston drainage basin.

As it now flows, some towns and cities — outside the inner 43 of the Metropolitan Sewage District — have not forecast the effects of their polluted waters on surrounding communities — and, officials note, the effect on the overloaded and "inadequate" Nut and Deer Island treatment plants in Boston Harbor.

Sewage from more than 2 million people now passes through these plants which use outdated primary treatment, said a MAPC official.

Public meetings held in the region in the last three months have stressed one point: Those Boston suburbs which will be expanding the most in the next 80 years are the ones with the worst or no sewage treatment.

These are the suburbs around Interstate 495 where population will be increasing while Boston's population will be decreasing.

Population will climb to somewhere between 4.1 and 5.2 million people in 2050 for the 109 communities surrounding Boston, said John Harrington of MAPC, as compared with the present population of 3.3 million.

Continued on 4B

Christian Science Monitor

Boston, MA

4 Jan 74

Continued from 4A

But, the study projected, New England will suffer a slower growth in employment and business between 1970 and 1990 compared with the remainder of the U.S.

Citizen reaction to these forecasts generally has been one of "Where will everyone live?" and "How many more sewers will this mean for my town?"

But, says Mr. Harrington, forecasting for a specific community is not nearly as accurate as projecting conditions for a region. Towns will be asked to take a regional approach to their problems and solutions.

With a year to go before the entire \$1.2 million Waste water engineering and management study is presented for public acceptance again, planners say the work will:

- Propose secondary treatment for the sewage flowing to Deer and Nut Island plants.

- Suggest advanced regional

plants for waste water treatment. This is in addition to the local plants now required under the Federal Water Pollution Control act of 1972. It also includes the idea of piping sewage inland — up to 100 miles from Boston — to be sprayed over farm, forest, and recreation land and purified by filtering through the topsoil.

- Present possible changes in the number of cities and towns now included in the Metropolitan Sewage District.

- Offer ways to use reclaimed waste water. "Waste water is a resource. We can use it," said MDC Commissioner John W. Sears at a meeting of citizens in Newton last week.

- Propose how and who will pay for new treatment plants. Federal guidelines for financing municipal plants now are 75 percent federal, 15 percent state, and 10 percent local. Industry, too, must pay its "fair share" for treating its wastes, says the federal law.

Globe  
Boston, MA  
22 Jan 74

## Boston casts its sludge to the sea, hoping it will stay there

By R. S. Kindleberger  
Globe Staff

While New York City worries about a massive bed of sewage sludge that scientists believe could wash up on Long Island beaches in as little as three years, this area continues to pump its sludge into Boston Harbor.

Boston, New York and Philadelphia are believed the only major cities in the country that still practice ocean sludge disposal. Could the environmental disaster feared in New York happen here?

Boston's sludge discharge, estimated at 140 tons a day from the Deer and Nut Islands treatment plants, is much smaller than New York's. And unlike New York, this area dumps its dredging spoils

in a separate area, some 15 miles east of Lynn.

But Dr. Guy C. McLeod, a New England Aquarium biologist who has probably studied Boston Harbor as much as anyone, does not rule out the possibility that a century's buildup of harbor sludge could invade Boston area beaches.

"Until a very good study is done, you can't really predict where this stuff will end up. But you can assume there's substantial transport," McLeod said.

"This stuff" is a murky mixture of digested sewage solids, oil, trace metals and pesticide residues. It contains human viruses and huge counts of fecal coliform bacteria. One scientist described the mess as resembling black mayonnaise.

McLeod estimates that

as much as 10 square miles of Boston Harbor floor are blanketed with sludge buildup, at depths of three to four feet in many places.

"You get metal concentrations that would almost make it worthwhile to mine the ocean floor, if you could separate the metals," McLeod said.

"We can identify residues of at least 90 different types of pesticides. We can identify almost any metal you want to name."

At a legislative hearing in 1972, McLeod predicted continued dumping of large amounts of sludge would eventually destroy the harbor. Already parts of it can barely sustain life, and shellfish harvesting is banned or restricted throughout the harbor because of pollution.

The Metropolitan Dis-

trict Commission (MDC) has yielded to Federal pressure and agreed to end the sludge discharges by May 1, 1976. Plans are going ahead for an incinerator to burn the sludge instead.

In the past the MDC has justified its disposal practice on grounds that the sludge, mixed with chlorinated waste water, is

flushed to sea only on the outgoing tide and therefore is carried away.

But studies have shown that at least 30 percent of it is washed back into the harbor, according to McLeod.

Patriot Ledger  
Quincy, MA  
18 Apr 74

Office  
Boston, MA  
SS Jan 74

## \$1B Regional Sewage Treatment System Urged

Federal and state agencies will recommend \$1 billion regionalization of sewage facilities in Greater Boston in a study to be released next Friday.

### Urging Smaller System

The Army Corps of Engineers, Metropolitan Area Planning Commission and Metropolitan District Commission are suggesting contraction of the present 100-community system which now has only two major outfalls — at Deer Island, Winthrop, and Nut Island, Quincy.

The two systems are grossly overloaded and cannot properly handle sewage from the area, according to the report, and must be complemented by auxiliary sewers in the outlying communities.

The three agencies plan a public meeting next week to outline material from the report including environmental impact of the present system and the proposed new regionalization.

The report recommends institution of secondary treatment at all facilities.

Item  
Wakefield, MA  
19 Apr 74

South Middlesex  
Framingham, MA  
13 Apr 1974

## Meetings Scheduled on Sewage Treatment Plans

During the month of May local officials and interested citizens from Wakefield will be participating in a series of meetings on alternative regional sewage treatment plans, developed by the Boston Harbor-Eastern Massachusetts Wastewater Management Study.

The meetings are designed to further encourage public participation in the selection of areawide wastewater management plans.

On Thursday, May 9 at 8 p.m. at the Riverside School in Danvers the program for the evening will include a presentation of preliminary plans illustrating alternative regional treatment systems to serve through the year 2000.

These public meetings, organized through the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, will attempt to trans-

late the technical aspects of the study into layman's terms and to relate engineering options to key issues raised by local governments. Local officials, special interest groups and individual taxpayers are urged to become involved in the evaluation and selection process to determine the future expenditure of public funds.

AM 11:00 AM  
AP 11:00 AM

## Regional sewage plans to be mulled

Six meetings in May will be held throughout Eastern Massachusetts gauging public reaction to an ongoing study of alternative regional sewage treatment plans.

Preliminary plans illustrating the proposals

through the year 2000 will be shown.

The Massachusetts Area Planning Council said it will cost \$1 billion to construct water-oriented disposal system regionally for the 100 involved communities, which include Ashland, Framingham, Hopkinton, Hudson, Marlboro, Northborough, Southborough, Natick, Sudbury, Wayland, Westboro, Holliston, Medway, Milford, Millis.

The 8 p.m. meetings will be held May 1 at Acton-Boxborough Regional High School, May 9 at Riverside School, Danvers; May 14 at Cambridge City Hall; May 15 at War Memorial Auditorium, Newton; May 20 at Medfield High School; and May 22 at Cushing Memorial Town Hall, Norwell.

MAPC and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers joined with the Metropolitan District Commission and other agencies in preparing the plans.

# South Boston story

All the many splendid ways to enjoy the outdoors become so possible, so necessary on warm spring days. In two weeks the buds will be leaves and the harshness of winter a rare memory. Stretching into that warm sun, circulating mightily with life - it's good, so good to be alive.

**WHERE IS THE RIGHT PLACE TO PUT AN AIRPORT?** If you live a football field's length from the fence of the South Weymouth Naval Air Station, you'd violently insist that wasn't the place. If you have a summer home on a hillside overlooking a verdant valley down toward Plymouth, you'd say that valley was not the place. If you're a businessman on the south shore who does a lot of flying, you'd say Logan's becoming an impossibility. And if you lived in Chelsea or any of the communities bordering Logan, you'd say the airport never should have been put there.

Where is the right place to put an airport? On a flock of aircraft carriers tethered offshore? In a distant rural spot? No, aircraft carriers get tossed around in storms and rural spots don't remain rural when something like an airport is built. And who wants the airport to be a hundred miles away?

There is no perfectly right place to build an airport, just as there's no right place for roads, rail lines, and any other modern communication setup that produces noise and chemical pollution, disfigures the countryside and is a safety hazard.

But planes are here to stay, in ever changing forms, and more airports will be needed to service more people. Especially on the south shore, which could have nearly a million residents by early in the 21st century. Maybe by that time the plane will have been tamed - it'll be a totally safe, clean, quiet vehicle you wouldn't mind having a football field away. We think that is where the emphasis should be - on technological improvement of the plane. And until then, who could blame the people who enjoy life in Weymouth from becoming a mite panicky when the state suggests that 747's or DC-10's should be allowed to perch on the runways of the South Weymouth Naval Air Station.

homes bordering the bays seep pollutants from cesspools and septic tanks into those bays. Those pollutants mingle with sewage from nearby towns and add to the overall mire of the waters of the greater Boston region. You can't clam the mud flats around the bays of Hull. And it takes a husky storm to flush out inlets to the point where swimming doesn't leave a foul taste in the mouth.

By 1985, however, Hull will have to clean up its sewage mess because the 1972 Federal Water Pollution Act Amendments require that discharge of pollutants into the metropolitan area's waters be eliminated. And within ten years all the waters around Hull will have to reach quality levels to allow completely safe fishing and swimming.

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) estimates that the cost to clean up Hull and all the other 109 communities and industries of the metropolitan area will be around \$1 billion. The MAPC, in concert with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other agencies involved in the Boston Harbor - Eastern Massachusetts Wastewater Management Study, will begin in May releasing to the public some of the findings of the study. We'll digest their opinions and pass them on to you. We hope that you're interest will be piqued to the point where you take an active interest in cleansing and preservation of the south shore's most valuable natural resources - the waterways and the coast.

Mirror  
Hingham, MA  
24 Apr 74

Townsmen  
Wellesley, MA  
25 Apr 74

## Public Meetings Examine Sewage Treatment

Citizens are invited to participate in a series of six meetings on alternative regional sewage treatment plans, developed by the Boston Harbor Eastern Massachusetts Wastewater Management Study.

Meetings have been scheduled for the following dates and locations: May 7, Acton-Boxborough Regional High School, Charter Road, Acton; May 9, Riverside School, Liberty Street, Danvers; May 14, Cambridge City Hall, City Council Chambers, 795 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge; May 15, War Memorial Auditorium, City Hall, 1000 Commonwealth Ave., Newton; May 20, Medfield High School Auditorium, Pound Street, Medfield; May 22, Cushing Memorial Town Hall, 673 Main Street, Norwell. Time is 8:00 p.m.

Under Federal mandate, the waters (tributaries, rivers, harbors) of the eastern Massachusetts region are expected to be fit for water recreation and the propaga-

tion of fish by 1983. The Amendments of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972 also sets a goal which calls for the discharge of pollutants into the metropolitan area's waters to be eliminated by 1985.

The program for the public session will include a presentation of preliminary plans illustrating alternative regional treatment systems to serve through the year 2000. These systems have been designed to meet the standards mandated by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments.

The plans, developed by the Metropolitan District Commission, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other participating agencies, include four water-oriented wastewater disposal systems, as well as a land-oriented system for advanced treatment of effluent from inland areas. Discussion will also focus on the types of impacts these alternative plans will have on the physical, social

and economic environment of individual municipalities, and the region as a whole.

In order to meet federal requirements, it is estimated that total capital costs involved in constructing water-oriented disposal systems will be on the order of \$1 billion. Eligible capital costs, not including operation and maintenance, will qualify for 75 percent federal and 15 percent state financial assistance. The remaining 10 percent is expected to be provided by local cities and towns.

These public meetings, organized through the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, will attempt to translate the technical aspects of the study into layman's terms and to relate engineering options to key issues raised by local governments. Local officials, special interest groups and individual taxpayers are urged to become involved in the evaluation and selection process to determine the future expenditure of public funds.

Other participating agencies include the Massachusetts Division of Water Pollution Control, the Massachusetts Office of State Planning and Management and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

## Acton to host wastewater study series

Journal  
Concord, MA  
25 Apr 74  
Also in:  
Minute Man-Lex  
Fence Viewer-  
Sudbury  
Times-Union-  
Burlington  
Citizen-Belmont

Acton will host the first of a series of six meetings on alternative regional sewage treatment plans developed by the Boston Harbor-Eastern Mass. Wastewater Management Study, according to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council.

The meeting will be held in the Acton-Boxborough Regional High School on Charter rd., on Tuesday, May 7 at 8 p.m. All Minute-man towns are in the study area.

The meetings are designed to further encourage public participation in the selection of areawide wastewater management plans.

The program for the evening will include a presentation of preliminary plans illustrating alternative regional treatment systems to serve through the year 2000. These systems have been designed to meet the standards mandated by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972. The plans, developed by the Metropolitan District Commission, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other participating agencies, include four water-oriented wastewater disposal systems, as well as a land-oriented system for advanced treatment of effluent from inland areas. Discussion will also focus on the types of impacts these alternative plans will have on the physical, social and economic environment of individual municipalities, and the region as a whole.

In order to meet federal requirements, it is estimated that total capital costs involved in constructing water-oriented disposal systems will be on the order of \$1 billion. Eligible capital costs, not including operation and maintenance, will qualify for 75 percent federal and 15 percent state financial assistance. The remaining 10 percent is expected to be provided by localities and towns.

These public meetings, organized through the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, will attempt to translate the technical aspects of the study into layman's terms and to relate engineering options to key issues raised

by local governments.

Local officials, special interest groups and individual taxpayers are urged to become involved in the evaluation and selection process to determine the future expenditure of public funds.



Advocate  
Arlington, MA  
25 Apr 74

## Meetings Scheduled On Regional Sewage

During the month of May officials and residents are invited to a series of six meetings on alternative regional sewage treatment plans developed by the Boston Harbor-Eastern Massachusetts Wastewater Management Study.

The meetings, organized through the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, will include presentation of preliminary plans illustrating alternative regional treatment systems designed to meet Federal Water Pollution Control Act standards.

The 8 p.m. meetings are scheduled: May 7, Acton-Boxborough Regional High School; May 9, Riverside School, Danvers; May 14, Cambridge City Hall; May 15, War Memorial Auditorium, Newton; May 20, Medfield High School; May 22, Town Hall, Norwell.

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WASTEWATER ENGINEERING AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR BOSTON HARBOR - --ETC (U)  
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2 of 2  
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Assabet Valley  
Beacon  
Acton, MA  
26 Apr 74

## Wastewater Management Study To Hold Local Area Meeting

**AREA** — Under Federal mandate, the waters (tributaries, rivers, harbors) of the eastern Massachusetts region are expected to be fit for water recreation and the propagation of fish by 1983. The Amendments of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972 (PL 92-500) also set a goal which calls for the discharge of pollutants into the metropolitan area's waters to be eliminated by 1985.

How will the 109 communities and numerous industries within the region comply with the goals of this Federal law? To achieve these goals, what costs will be passed down to the taxpayer and what benefits can be expected to derive from the implementation of water quality programs?

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Metropolitan District Commission, and other agencies participating in the Boston Harbor-Eastern Massachusetts Wastewater Management Study will have some answers to these very critical questions when they meet with residents on Tuesday, May 7 at 8 p.m. in the Acton-Boxborough Regional High School.

Using water quality requirements set up by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Massachusetts Division of Water Pollution Control and information gathered from local concerns by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, engineering alternatives have been developed for meeting the region's water quality requirements through the year 2000.

Choosing among these different courses of action is not a job for the professionals alone. Local officials, special interest groups and the individual taxpayer have the right and obligation to become involved in the evaluation and selection process.

The meeting is designed to further encourage public participation in the selection of area-wide wastewater

management plans.

The program for the evening will include a presentation of preliminary plans illustrating alternative regional treatment systems to serve through the year 2000. These systems have been designed to meet the standards mandated by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972. The plans, developed by the Metropolitan District Commission, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other participating agencies, include four water-oriented wastewater disposal systems, as well as a land-oriented system for advanced treatment of effluent from inland areas. Discussion will also focus on the types of impacts these alternative plans will have on the physical, social and economic environment of individual municipalities, and the region as a whole.

In order to meet federal requirements, it is estimated that total capital costs involved in constructing water-oriented disposal systems will be on the order of \$1 billion. Eligible capital costs, not including operation and maintenance, will qualify for 75 percent federal and 15 percent state financial assistance. The remaining 10 percent is expected to be provided by local cities and towns.

These public meetings, organized through the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, will attempt to translate the technical aspects of the study into layman's terms and to relate engineering options to key issues raised by local governments. Local officials, special interest groups and individual taxpayers are urged to become involved in the evaluation and selection process to determine the future expenditure of public funds.

Other participating agencies include the Massachusetts Division of Water Pollution Control, the Massachusetts Office of State Planning and Management and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Herald-American  
Boston, MA  
27 Apr 74

## 4 Sewerage Plans to Be Heard

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council yesterday announced a series of six meetings throughout eastern Massachusetts to obtain public reaction to four proposed plans to upgrade the sewerage systems and treatment facilities in 100 communities.

The meetings will be held: Tuesday, May 7, Acton-Boxborough Regional High School, Acton; Thursday, May 9, Riverside School, Liberty st., Danvers; Tuesday, May 14, Cambridge City Hall; Wednesday, May 15, Newton City Hall; Mon-

day, May 20, Medfield High School, and Wednesday, May 22, Cushing Memorial Town Hall, Norwell.

Forty-three of the 100 communities involved are in the Metropolitan Sewerage District. These 43 communities have a population of almost 2 million persons and occupy an area of more than 400 square miles.

The hearings are in conjunction with a study being undertaken by the MDC, the Army Corps of Engineers, Metropolitan Area Planning Council, Office of State Planning and Management,

Division of Water Pollution Control and Environmental Protection Agency.

The study is aimed at meeting a federal mandate that the 100 communities upgrade the quality of their waterways to "fishable" and "swimmable" levels in less than 10 years.

The 1972 Federal Water Pollution Control Act amendments also set a goal which calls for the discharge of pollutants into the metropolitan area's waters to be eliminated by 1985.

Sunday Post  
Lynn, MA  
28 Apr 74

## Future Water Waste Treatment Planning Meeting On May 9

**DANVERS** — During the month of May local officials and interested citizens from 109 communities are invited to participate in a series of six meetings on alternative regional sewage treatment plans, developed by the Boston Harbor — Eastern Massachusetts waste water management study.

North Shore area meeting will be held Thursday, May 9, at the Riverside school, Liberty st., Danvers, at 8 p.m.

The program for the evening will include a presentation of preliminary plans illustrating alternative regional treatment systems to serve through the year 2000. These systems have been designed to meet the standards mandated by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act amendments of 1972. The plans, developed by the Metropolitan District Commission, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and other participating agencies, include four water-oriented wastewater disposal systems, as well as a land-oriented system for advanced treatment of effluent from inland areas. Discussion will also focus on the types of impacts these alternative plans will have on the physical, social and economic environment of individual municipalities, and the region as a whole.

These public meetings, organized through the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, will attempt to translate the technical aspects of the study into layman's terms and to relate engineering options to key issues raised by local governments. Local officials, special interest groups and individual taxpayers are urged to become involved in the evaluation and selection process to determine the future expenditure of public funds.

Other participating agencies include the Massachusetts Division of Water Pollution Control, the Massachusetts Office of State Planning and Management and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency.

## MAPC Presenting Waste Treatment Plans

BOSTON — Four concepts of wastewater treatment engineering plans, designed to meet a federal clean water mandate by 1985, will be presented to the metropolitan area communities in a series of meetings by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council next month.

Area meetings have been scheduled on Monday, May 20, at Medfield High School Auditorium, Pond Street, Medfield; and Wednesday, May 22, Cushing Memorial Town Hall, 673 Main Street, Norwell; both at 8:00 p.m.

### Comments Asked

The 109 communities will be asked to comment on and question the four preliminary concepts that have evolved from the first part of a study conducted by the MDC, the Army Corps of Engineers and other agencies participating in the Boston Harbor-Eastern Massachusetts Wastewater Management Study.

Another series of meeting will be held in December or January with more detail and definitive recommendations. The MDC will make application for necessary grants for construction in 1975 after the final plan has been selected.

According to John Harrington of the MAPC, the capital costs for the treatment facilities and major interceptor sewers range from \$970 to \$1,130 million. The most centralized system, costing an estimated \$980 million would be the maximum expansion of the Deer and Nut Islands treatment plant service. The most decentralized system, with six additional regional systems, is estimated at \$1,130 million. The funding would be 75 per cent federal, 15 per cent state, and 10 per cent local.

— Concept One proposes

upgrading the MDC Nut and Deer Island wastewater treatment plants to ultimately serve 50 communities including the core cities of Boston, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, and Somerville. Service would be provided to Hopkinton, Lincoln, Lynnfield, Sharon and Weston to include 48 cities and towns. The remaining 59 communities of the region would be served by regional and municipal systems.

Area regional plants under consideration would be located in Medfield, Scituate, Rockland and Cohasset; expanding the existing municipal plants to regional plants.

### Service Area

— Concept Two would reduce the service area of the Deer and Nut Islands treatment plants to 32 communities and create five additional regional treatment systems. Area communities would include Braintree, Dedham (in part), Hingham, Holbrook, Milton (in part), Quincy, Randolph, and Weymouth, with tributaries to Nut Island.

Regional systems proposed in the area would be established in Dedham, Needham, Wellesley, Canton, Norwood, Sharon, Stoughton, Walpole, and Westwood.

— Concept Three would extend the Deer and Nut Island treatment plants to serve 50 communities, including Hopkinton, Lincoln, Lynnfield, Sharon and Weston as well as communities that lie within the

Upper Charles River basin and that are located around the present MDC water supply reservoir in the Sudbury River basin.

— Concept Four would decentralize the present system tributary to the Nut and Deer Island treatment plants by developing six additional regional systems within the present service area of the MDC.

### Deer, Nut Islands

Deer and Nut Island plants would serve 24 communities, including Braintree, Dedham (in part), Hingham, Holbrook, Milton (in part), Quincy, Randolph and Weymouth.

Possible regional systems in the area would be located in Dedham, Needham, Wellesley, Canton, Norwood, Sharon,

Stoughton, Walpole, and Westwood.

David Kenyon, a spokesman for the Army Corps of Engineers, noted that the study revealed the use of land for assimilating wastes as an alternative to building extensive advanced treatment plants on river banks was limited by the fact there is only 16,000 acres available for all 109 communities in the study area. Also salt water in the coastal community sewers eliminates the possibility of land use.

News  
Milford, MA  
1 May 74

## Wastewater Treatment Meeting To Be In Medfield

**MEDFIELD** — Four plans for wastewater treatment engineering, which were designed to meet a federal clean water mandate by 1985, will be presented to area communities in a series of meetings by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) beginning next month.

The area gatherings will begin with a meeting on Monday May 20 at Medfield High School Auditorium, Pond street. At these meetings 109 communities will be asked for their opinions and comments on the four preliminary concepts that have evolved from the first part of a study conducted by the Metropolitan District Commission, the Army Corp. of Engineers and other agencies participating in the Boston Harbor-Eastern Massachusetts Wastewater Management Study.

The followup series of meetings will be held in December and January for a more definitive recommendation on which program to follow. The MDC will make application for the necessary grants for construction in 1975 after the final plan has been chosen.

### Central System

John Harrington of the MAPC has estimated that the capital costs for the treatment facilities and interceptor sewers range from \$970 to \$1,130 million.

The most centralized system, costing an estimated \$980 million would be the maximum expansion of the Deer and Nut Islands treatment plant service. The most decentralized plan, including the addition of six regional systems, is estimated at \$1,130 million. The funding would be 75 percent federal, 15 percent state and 10 percent local.

### Use of Land

David Kenyon, a spokesman for the Army Corp of Engineers, notes that the study revealed the use of land for assimilating wastes, as an alternative to building extensive advanced treatment plants on river banks, was limited by the fact that there are only 16,000 acres available for all 109 communities in the study area.

Also salt water in the coastal community sewers eliminates the possibility of land use in these areas.

Chronicle  
Ipswich, MA  
2 May 74

Also in: News-Amesbury, MA  
Messenger-Marblehead, MA

## Danvers meeting to eye wastewater disposal

During the month of May local officials and interested citizens from 109 communities are invited to participate in a series of six meetings on alternative regional sewage treatment plans, developed by the Boston Harbor - Eastern Massachusetts Wastewater Management Study.

Included in the study area are the towns of Boxford, Danvers, Hamilton, Ipswich, Topsfield, and Wenham.

The meetings are designed to further encourage public participation in the selection of area-wide wastewater management plans. One of the meetings has been set for May 9 at 8 p.m. at the Riverside School, Liberty street, Danvers.

The program for the evening will include a presentation of preliminary plans illustrating alternative regional treatment systems to serve through the year 2000. These systems have been designed to meet the standards mandated by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972. The plans, developed by the Metropolitan District Commission, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and other participating agencies, include four water-oriented wastewater disposal systems, as well as a land-oriented system for advanced treat-

ment of effluent from inland areas. Discussion will also focus on the types of impacts these alternative plans will have on the physical, social and economic environment of individual municipalities, and the region as a whole.

In order to meet federal requirements, it is estimated that total capital costs involved in constructing water-oriented disposal systems will be on the order of \$1 billion. Eligible capital costs, not including operation and maintenance, will qualify for 75 percent federal and 15 percent state financial assistance. The remaining 10

percent is expected to be provided by local cities and towns.

These public meetings, organized through the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, will attempt to translate the technical aspects of the study into layman's terms and to relate engineering options to key issues raised by local governments. Local officials, special interest groups and individual taxpayers are urged to become involved in the evaluation and selection process to determine the future expenditure of public funds.



Hull=Nantasket Times  
Hull, MA  
2 May 74

## Meetings On Sewage Treatment Plans

During the month of May local officials and interested citizens from 109 communities are invited to participate in a series of six meetings on alternative regional sewage treatment plans, developed by the Boston Harbor - Eastern Massachusetts Wastewater Management Study. The meeting for the South Shore Area will be May 22, Town Hall, Norwell.

The meetings are designed to further encourage public participation in the selection of area wide wastewater management plans.

The program for the evening will include a presentation of preliminary plans illustrating alternative regional treatment systems to serve through the year 2000. These systems have been designed to meet the standards mandated by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972. The plans, developed by the Metropolitan District Commission, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other participating agencies, include four water-oriented wastewater disposal systems, as well as a land-oriented system for advanced treatment of effluent from inland areas. Discussion will also focus on the types of impacts these alternative plans will have on the physical, social and economic environment of individual municipalities, and the region as a whole.

In order to meet federal requirements, it is estimated that total capital costs involved in constructing water-oriented disposal systems will be on the order of \$1 billion. Eligible capital costs, not including operation and maintenance, will qualify for 75 percent federal and 15 percent state financial assistance. The remaining 10 percent is expected to be provided by local cities and towns.

These public meetings, organized through the Metropolitan Area Planning

Council, will attempt to translate the technical aspects of the study into layman's terms and to relate engineering options to key issues raised by local governments. Local officials, special interest groups and individual taxpayers are urged to become involved in the evaluation and selection process to determine the future expenditure of public funds. Other participating agencies include the Massachusetts Division of Water Pollution Control, the Massachusetts Office of State Planning and Management and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

includes MM area

# Officials unveil far-ranging study on waste disposal

by Dick Solito

The Minute-man area towns are situated near the geographical center of 109 communities included in a monumental, \$1.3 billion wastewater management study which proposes sewerage treatment facilities estimated to cost about \$1 billion.

The wraps were taken off the study, which is about 50 percent completed, at a news conference at Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) headquarters in Boston on April 26.

Besides the MAPC, the study team includes the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC), the Army Corps of Engineers, the Office of State Planning and Management, the Division of Water Pollution Control and the Environmental Protection Agency.

They are conducting the "Eastern Massachusetts-Boston Harbor Wastewater Management Study" with the avowed intention of meeting the Federal Water Pollution Control Act mandate that calls for the elimination of discharge of pollutants into the metropolitan area's waters by 1975.

The cities and towns involved also are required to improve the quality of their waterways to "fishable" and "swimmable" levels in less than 10 years.

The MDC's goal is to eliminate the discharge of digested sludge from the Deer Island and Nut Island treatment plants into Boston Harbor and to provide a minimum of secondary treatment for all wastes discharged by these plants.

The study team has outlined four alternative systems or concepts, plus the possibility of a land treatment solution currently under examination.

The concepts weigh the possible expansion of MDC treatment plants to serve more municipalities and construction of inland facilities to discharge highly treated effluents into the Mystic, Charles or Neponset Rivers, or combination of these.

"Satellite" plants, it is believed, could relieve the pollution load on Boston Harbor and provide increased flow to the rivers especially during the drier summer months, and preclude the need of installing large relief sewers for the present system.

MAPC spokesman John Harrington said the need for and cost of the system are "of serious concern to the cities and towns." He noted that in addition to the \$1 billion for major capital expenses referred to earlier for improvement within the MDC, the cost could equal another billion for "local collection systems for

communities outside the MDC sewerage district."

Only 43 of the 109 municipalities in the study area are in the MDC system.

In order to include public participation in the choice of system and facilities for wastewater management, Harrington said a series of public meetings will be held so that the citizens may "help us decide how their tax money is spent."

## Acton briefing

The first public hearing will be held in Acton at the Acton-Boxborough Regional High School on Tuesday, May 7 at 8 p.m.

Minute-man area towns figure in all of the concepts envisioned by the study groups. Area towns which are in the MDC system are Bedford, Belmont, Burlington and Lexington and all have town sewers ranging from fully sewered to partly sewered.

Towns outside the MDC, with no town sewers, are Acton, Carlisle, Lincoln and Sudbury; Concord, about 60 percent sewered and Billerica, 90 percent sewered.

Concept 1 calls for the upgrading of sewerage facilities of the 43 communities within the MDC and extension of MDC interceptors to seven other communities including Lincoln. Since there are less treatment facilities involved, this would cost \$375 million.

This concept also raises the possibility of establishing a set of regional and municipal systems outside the area served by Deer and Nut Islands treatment plants.

Of local interest is the suggestion of a new, larger treatment facility than the present one in Concord to serve Acton and several other communities.

Also, the municipal system in Billerica would become regional after 2000 to combined with Carlisle.

A new regional plant would be built in Sudbury to serve that town and Wayland.

These three local, regional systems are part of each of the concepts.

The drainage basin for the Concord-Billerica facilities is the Concord River and that for the Sudbury plant would be the Sudbury River.

Concept 2 would reduce the existing MDC service area to 32 towns and create five additional regional treatment systems. The approximate cost of the plan is \$1.650 billion. The four area towns within the MDC would be among the 32 communities continued to be

Continued on Page 6

Continued ...

# Waste disposal study

Continued from Page 8

served by the Deer Island and Nut Island treatment plants.

None of the regional systems would be built within area communities. However, Lincoln would be served by a plant which would be located in Watertown.

Concept 3 is an expansion of Concept 1 and would include 60 communities, including Lincoln. Its cost is estimated at \$980 million.

Concept 4 would decentralize the present system by developing six additional regional systems within the present service area of the MDC at a cost of \$1.130 billion.

Burlington would be served by a treatment plant in Woburn, Lincoln by the plant in Watertown and Bedford, Belmont and Lexington by a plant in Medford.

## Impact on rivers

The study discusses impacts on aquatic environment on the Assabet, Concord and Sudbury Rivers.

It states the Assabet will benefit from the addition of "substantial flow" during periods of low flow as the result of a plant in Marlboro. The new water level will increase aquatic plant life and "a rich source of nutrients" depending on the efficacy of wastewater treatment.

There would be "a significant environmental improvement in polluted Nagog Brook" as the result of a treatment plant and intercepting sewer system on the Concord River, the study said. It also said ammonia from the plant may produce localized toxic effects, similar to that of the Marlboro plant on the Assabet River.

Wastewater from the Sudbury River watershed will be discharged to Boston Harbor after treatment at Nut Island, thus the impact is believed to be neutral.

One of the speakers at the MAPC briefing, David C. Kenyon of the Corps of Engineers, discussed land application as an alternative to building extensive advanced treatment plants.

Kenyon said there is nothing new about land application as "it is the oldest form of waste treatment known to man."

He added, "But to take our present waterborne waste and apply it to land rather than dumping it into streams is new."

Kenyon said there are restrictions to land application under the present circumstances since at least 100,000 acres and up to 500,000 acres would be needed if the system were to be used for all 109 communities in the study. Actually, he said, there are only 16,000 acres within the study area that appear to be suitable for land application.

MDC spokesman Martin Cosgrove explained that the MDC sewer facilities include approximately 225 miles of trunk sewers serving 3,000 miles of local sewers. The district has 11 pumping stations, four headworks and the two large-scale primary treatment plants at Deer Island and Nut Island.

The plants have an average daily treatment capacity of more than 450 million gallons, with a combined capability of handling maximum flows at the rate of 1.2 billion gallons a day.

Cosgrove said, "The primary reason the MDC has undertaken this wastewater management and engineering study is that many of the existing Metropolitan Sewerage District facilities have reached their installed capacity. The time has come to determine if the MSD system should be expanded, contracted or remain at its present size. In any event, because of both increasing population and water consumption, additional facilities must be constructed."

Other speakers besides Harrington, Kenyon and Cosgrove were Martin Weiss of the MDC

and Daniel McGillicuddy of the Office of State Planning and Management.

They said 75 percent of the project costs would be paid by the federal government, 15 percent by the state and 10 percent by the local community.

Other comments included the point that:

The purpose of the plants inland is to discharge effluent, after suitable treatment, into rivers operating under a regional system.

The advantage of satellite plants is that wastewater is generated from sources outside the river and added to the river basin itself.

The purpose of wastewater management is to improve the quality of the water.

Issues might arise over where treatment plants, which will require five to 10 acres, will be placed.

The greater water flow in rivers, especially during the low flow periods, would be swimmable and possibly drinkable with proper treatment.

It was also suggested that there are certain degrees of pollution throughout the study area.

One speaker said, "Every river in the study area is in trouble now. Without this study all will be in more trouble. We are trying to head off a crisis."

Minute Man - Bedford, Mass. 5/2/74

Item  
Wakefield, MA  
3 May 74

(PL93-600) also set a goal which calls for the discharge of pollutants into the metropolitan area's waters to be eliminated by 1985.

By mid-spring, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Metropolitan District Commission, and other agencies participating in the Boston Harbor-Eastern Massachusetts Wastewater Management Study will begin to have some answers to these very critical questions. Using water quality requirements set up by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Massachusetts Division of Water Pollution Control and information gathered from local concerns by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, engineering alternatives have been developed for meeting the region's water quality requirements through the year 2000.

## Public Meeting On Water Pollution Control

Under Federal mandate, the waters (tributaries, rivers, harbors) of the eastern Massachusetts region are expected to be fit for water recreation and the propagation of fish by 1983. The Amendments of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972

Choosing among these different courses of action is not a job for the professionals alone. Local officials, special interest groups and the individual taxpayer have the right and

obligation to become involved in the evaluation and selection process.

Beginning in May, a series of public meetings will be conducted by the agencies involved to encourage citizen participation in the decision-making process.

A meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, May 9 at 8 p.m. at the Riverside School on Liberty St in Danvers.

The six public meetings will attempt to translate the technical aspects of the study into layman's terms and to relate engineering options to the key issues raised by local governments.

Globe  
Boston, MA  
5 May 74

## Public to aid in planning sewage war

By Evelyn Keene  
Globe Correspondent

The sewage created by 109 cities and towns in eastern Massachusetts during the next 50 to 80 years is among current topics of concern to several Federal and state agencies.

Public officials point out that in the past the sewage problem was something municipalities usually delegated to engineers and planners.

However, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, enacted in 1972, is about to bring about some major changes in the approach to the sewage problem. The law calls for public participation in planning elimination of pollutants in the nation's navigable waters by 1985.

The Federal law also requires by 1983 the rivers, harbors and tributaries of the eastern Massachusetts region be fit for water recreation and fish propagation.

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) is urging the public to attend any of six public meetings being held this month throughout western Massachusetts to learn more about sewage problems and participate in future sewage plans.

One of the major problems of the future is the Metropolitan District Commission's (MDC) sewer system. Existing MDC sewer facilities serve 43 cities and towns with a population of more than two million in an area greater than 400 square miles. There are 225 miles of MDC trunk lines, serving 5000 miles of local sewer lines, with 11 pumping stations, and two large-scale primary sewage treatment plants at Deer Island and Nut Island in Boston Harbor.

But now these facilities have reached their capacity. Martin Cosgrove, the MDC's chief engineer, says: "The time has come to determine whether the Metropolitan sewer system should be expanded, contracted, or remain at its present size."

A wastewater management study was undertaken by an engineering firm with the aid of a technical committee consisting of representatives of the MDC, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency, MAPC, the State Division of Water Pollution Control and the Office of State Planning and Management.

The study group has recommended four alternative plans of action that range in cost from \$970 million to \$1.30 billion. In carrying out such a project 75 percent of the costs of new sewage treatment facilities will be assumed by the Federal government, 15 percent by the state, and 10 percent by the municipalities.

The four alternative plans recommended by the six-agency committee are:  
—No expansion of the Metropolitan Sewerage District, with improvements only to the existing areas.

—Limited expansion, possibly adding 16 more communities to the present 43, or contraction deleting some outlying communities.

—Ultimate expansion to 109 communities.

—No District — a centralized system with a regional system of satellite sewage treatment plants in local communities.

The MAPC meetings are scheduled for 8 p.m. at the following places:

May 7—Acton-Boxboro Regional High School, Charter road, Acton.

May 9—Riverside School, Liberty street, Danvers.

May 14—Cambridge City Hall, City Council Chambers, 795 Massachusetts av.

May 15—War Memorial Auditorium, City Hall, 1000 Commonwealth av., Newton.

May 20—Medfield High School Auditorium, Pound street.

May 22—Cushing Memorial Town Hall, 873 Main st., Norwell.

New England Construction  
Lexington, N.A.

8 May 74 **Local Officials and Interested Citizens  
Are Invited to Participate in Meetings  
on Regional Sewage Treatment Plans**

During the month of May, local officials and interested citizens from 109 communities are invited to participate in a series of six meetings on alternative regional sewage treatment plans, developed by the Boston Harbor—Eastern Massachusetts Wastewater Management Study.

The meetings are designed to further encourage public participation in the selection of areawide wastewater management plans.

The program for each evening will include a presentation of preliminary plans illustrating alternative regional treatment systems to serve through the year 2000.

These systems have been designed to meet the standards mandated by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972. The plans, developed by the Metropolitan District Commission, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and other participating agencies, include four water-oriented wastewater disposal systems, as well as a land-oriented system for advanced treatment of effluent from inland areas.

Discussion will also focus on the types of impacts these alternative plans will have on the physical, social and economic environment of individual municipalities, and the region as a whole.

In order to meet federal requirements, it is estimated that total capital costs involved in constructing water-oriented disposal systems will be on the order of \$1 billion.

Eligible capital costs, not including operation and maintenance, will qualify for 75 per cent federal and 15 per cent state financial assistance. The remaining 10 per cent is expected to be provided by local cities and towns.

These public meetings, organized through the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, will attempt to translate the technical aspects of the study into layman's terms and to relate engineering options to key issues raised by local governments.

Local officials, special interest groups and individual taxpayers are urged to become involved in the evaluation and selection process to determine the future expenditure of public funds.

**Participating**

Other participating agencies include the Massachusetts Division of Water Pollution Control, the Massachusetts Office of State Planning and Management and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The meetings in each instance will get under way at 8 p.m.

The first one is scheduled for May 7 at the Acton-Boxborough Regional High School, Charter Road, Acton. On May 9 the Riverside School on Liberty Street in Danvers will be the site.

A May 14 meeting has been scheduled for Cambridge City Hall, City Council Chambers, 795 Mass. Ave. Cambridge, with another on the following evening at War Memorial Auditorium, City Hall, 1000 Commonwealth Ave., Newton.

The two final sessions are set for May 20 at the Medfield High School Auditorium, Pound Street, Medfield and Cushing Memorial Town Hall, 673 Main Street, Norwell on May 22.

Herald

Danvers, MA

9 May 74

Also in: Tri-Town Transcript

Topsfield, MA

8 May 74

## Danvers meeting to eye wastewater disposal

During the month of May local officials and interested citizens from 109 communities are invited to participate in a series of six meetings on alternative regional sewage treatment plans, developed by the Boston Harbor - Eastern Massachusetts Wastewater Management Study.

Included in the study area are the towns of Boxford, Danvers, Hamilton, Ipswich, Topsfield, and Wenham.

The meetings are designed to further encourage public participation in the selection of area-wide wastewater management plans. One of the meetings has been set for May 9 at 8 p.m. at the Riverside School, Liberty street, Danvers.

The program for the evening will include a

presentation of preliminary plans illustrating alternative regional treatment systems to serve through the year 2000. These systems have been designed to meet the standards mandated by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972. The plans, developed by the Metropolitan District Commission, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and other participating agencies, include four water-oriented wastewater disposal systems, as well as a land-oriented system for advanced treatment of effluent from inland areas. Discussion will also focus on the types of impacts these alternative plans will have on the physical, social and economic environment of individual municipalities, and the region as a whole.

In order to meet federal requirements, it is estimated that total capital costs involved in constructing water-oriented disposal systems will be on the order of \$1 billion. Eligible capital costs, not including operation and maintenance, will qualify for 75 percent federal and 15 percent state financial assistance. The remaining 10 percent is expected to be provided by local cities and towns.

These public meetings, organized through the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, will attempt to translate the technical aspects of the study into layman's terms and to relate engineering options to key issues raised by local governments.

Assabet Valley Beacon  
Acton, MA  
9 May 74

## Wastewater Management Alternatives Presented In Regional Meetings

ACTON — About twenty people attended a regional briefing session on the Boston Harbor-Eastern Massachusetts Wastewater Management Study at Acton-Boxborough Regional High School Tuesday night. The study, conducted jointly by the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC), the Army Corps of Engineers, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) and other state and federal agencies, is intended to determine the future size of the Metropolitan Sewerage District (administered by MDC) and to propose and evaluate advanced wastewater management systems for 109 communities in Eastern Massachusetts.

"Water clean enough for swimming ... and clean enough for the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish and wildlife" by 1983, and "no discharge of pollutants into the Nation's waters" by 1985, are the goals, as established in the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972.

MDC maintains primary treatment plants at Deer and Nut Islands in Boston Harbor as well as about 223 miles of trunk lines, 11 pumping stations and four headworks. The primary treatment plants are operating at full capacity and MDC plans to upgrade them with secondary treatment plants. Under the guidance of four alternative engineering concepts, which were explained at the meeting, towns in Eastern Massachusetts were studied to determine sewerage needs and how they relate to the Deer and Nut Islands treatment systems.

Concept 1 calls for upgrading the MDC sewerage facilities to provide for future needs within its present service area, utilizing regional and municipal

systems to serve the remaining communities within the study area. The systems considered for servicing the remaining communities are based on retaining wastewater in the basin of origin. The cost of providing treatment facilities and intermunicipal interceptor sewers would be approximately \$1006 Million.

Under Concept 1, Acton, Boxborough, Concord, Part of Littleton, and Maynard would possibly be served by a regional system (under "active consideration") based in Concord.

Concept 2 would involve a "limited expansion or contraction of the Deer and Nut Islands treatment plant service area." Communities outside the present MDC treatment plants service area would be served by regional systems as in Concept 1. The cost of providing treatment facilities and intermunicipal interceptor sewers under Concept 2 would be approximately \$1038 million.

In Concept 3, maximum expansion of the Deer and Nut Islands treatment area would include those communities that are not presently served and that are naturally tributary to the existing system. Service would not be extended to those municipalities that are not "naturally tributary," since it is felt that the needs of these municipalities would be better provided for through developing regional and municipal systems within their drainage basin. Under this plan, the Deer and Nut Islands treatment plants, which presently serve 43 communities, would be expanded to serve 58 communities. Cost of Concept 3 is approximately \$1105 million.

Concept 4 would achieve "decentralization" of the present system by developing six additional regional systems within the present service ar

of the Metropolitan District System. The Deer and Nut Islands wastewater treatment plants would then serve 24 communities. Cost of Concept 4 is estimated at \$1123 million. The six Potential plant locations within the service area are Framingham, Dedham, Canton, Watertown and Woburn.

Concept 5. The Army Corps of Engineers is developing an alternative concept called "land application," which involve "spray irrigation" and "rapid infiltration" methods of disposing of wastewater that has received secondary treatment on land.

The land application method of disposal, as explained in the information packet distributed at the meeting, "combines the natural forces of air, soil, and vegetation to remove the nutrients and most suspended solids that remain in water after secondary treatment. In the process, the renovated water can be collected for reuse elsewhere or allowed to supplement groundwater supplies. The nutrients and other organic substances in the water stimulate plant growth and enrich the soil where they have been applied."

"In spray irrigation, the partially renovated wastewater is sprinkled on forested and agricultural areas that have permeable loamy soils. The water seeps down through the ground and is either collected or becomes part of the groundwater. In the forest, the nutrients in the water are recycled through the trees, the leaves, other vegetation and the forest floors. In agricultural areas the nutrients are drawn into plant roots and carried off in such harvested crops as hay.

In rapid infiltration, the partially renovated wastewater is applied in measured volumes to permeable sandy beds. The

cleansing of the water is completed as it passes through at least 20 or 30 feet of sand and gravel to either a collection system or the groundwater. Nutrients are carried away by grass and other plants grown and harvested in the application beds."

Slides of these processes were shown at the meeting. In response to questions from the audience, representatives of the Corps of Engineers said that the Corps of Engineers and the Mass. Department of Public Health is "receptive" to the concept of land application, but would require demonstration project with a "proven time of three years" before approving the method for a municipal system. A small land application project in Falmouth is being studied and a demon-

stration project is being conducted in Muskegon, Michigan.

Two other points made in the Information Packet are the fact that "Recreational and other uses ... would be compatible with the implementation of a land application system," and "If the concept proves acceptable, appropriate institutional and financial arrangements will be needed. These arrangements should include reimbursement for the land as well as options for communities that are hosts to land application systems to join the systems."

The "preliminary capital cost estimate" for the facilities needed in Concept 5 is \$7,031,000,000.

Other public meetings are scheduled this month in Danvers (Thursday, May 9; Cambridge, Newton, Medford and Norwell.



## MAPC Studies Methods To Upgrade Waterway's Quality

Under federal mandate, 109 cities and towns of the Greater Boston region will be required to upgrade the quality of their waterways to "fishable" and "swimable" levels in less than 10 years. The 1972 Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments also set a goal which calls for the discharge of pollutants into the metropolitan area's waters to be eliminated by 1985.

It is estimated that the total capital costs involved in constructing the wastewater treatment facilities required to meet these federal standards by the 1985 deadline will be on the order of \$1 billion for the study area.

How will the 109 communities and numerous industries within the region comply with the goals of this federal law? To achieve the required water quality levels, what costs will be passed down to the taxpayer and what benefits can he expect to derive from the implementation of water quality programs?

Beginning in May the Metropolitan District Commission, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other agencies participating in the Boston Harbor - Eastern Massachusetts Wastewater Management Study began getting some answers to these very critical questions.

Today there are 43 cities and towns in the Metropolitan Sewerage District, the population served is almost 2 million people from an area greater than 400 sq. miles.

The Metropolitan Sewer District facilities include approximately 225 miles of trunk sewers, serving nearly 5,000 miles of local sewers. The district has 11 pumping stations, four headworks, and two large - scale primary treatment plants at Deer Island and Nut Island. These plants have an average daily treatment capacity of more than 450 million gallons per day, with a combined capability of handling maximum flows at the rate of 1.2 billion gallons per day.

The primary reason the Metropolitan District Commission has undertaken this wastewater management and engineering study is that many of the existing Metropolitan Sewerage District facilities have reached their installed capacity. The time has come to determine if the MSD system should be expanded, contracted, or remain at its present size. In any event, because of both increasing population and water consumption, additional facilities must be constructed.

A second reason for making a study at this time is that the District's treatment facilities must be improved to meet recently enacted federal legislation, Public Law 92-500, the Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972. Among other requirements of this act are industrial cost recovery, user charges, industrial pretreatment, enforcement of regulations; all of which require that new methods and procedures must be developed to administer a large regional wastewater system that now serves the 43 cities and towns.

This Engineering and Management Study is also part of a program agreed to with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Under the program, the MDC is committed to eliminating the discharge of digested sludge from the Deer Island and Nut Island treatment plants into Boston Harbor, and, to provide a minimum of secondary treatment for all wastes discharged from these plants. Some basic questions to be answered by the study are:

—How best can the waters in the Eastern Massachusetts Metropolitan area be managed as a precious resource?

—What will be future levels of population, water consumption, employment, economic activity and land use? These ingredients are necessary to determine sewerage system requirements for the next 50-80 years.

—What is the magnitude of the combined sewer overflow problem and what are the possible solutions? Although there is agreement that this is a major source of pollution to Boston Harbor, the problem has yet to be quantified.

—Should the MDC treatment plants be expanded to serve more municipalities or should inland facilities be built discharging highly treated effluents into the Mystic, the Charles, or the Neponset Rivers? Satellite plants could relieve the pollution load on Boston Harbor, provide low flow augmentation to these rivers, and preclude the necessity of installing large relief sewers for the present system.

—What is the order of priorities? Which facilities should be built first? What legislation will be required to implement the study recommendations?

These are just a few of the many questions that have to be looked at in order to meet some of the public demands for a better environment.

The Boston drainage basin has three major rivers, the Mystic, Charles and Neponset, which funnel through Boston and empty their accumulated flows and impurities into Boston Harbor. Prior to 1889, the increased expansion of local sewer systems discharging their wastes directly into these rivers gave rise to considerable public concern. While the need for common action was clearly indicated, voluntary cooperation by the interested municipalities surrounding the core City was not attainable. Accordingly, in 1889 at the request of the Legislature, the State Board of Health completed an exhaustive investigation and recommended passage of the act establishing the Metropolitan Sewerage District.

After having the responsibility of providing sewer service for the past 80 years, the M.D.C. is now planning for the next 80 years. The public demands not only cleaner waters but unified management of water as a precious resource. How far this type of management should extend geographically for the Metropolitan Sewerage District is a complex question that will be resolved through the planning effort now in progress for the Eastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Area.

Included in the agreement are the requisite comprehensive engineering and management studies. An engineering report has been completed on the disposal of sludge by the firms of Havens & Emerson. They investigated various disposal methods such as land disposal, incineration and intermediate air oxidation. They recommend incineration. The report is being evaluated.

The consulting engineering firm of Metcalf & Eddy was engaged to undertake the engineering and management studies. The Corps of Engineers has received congressional authorization to participate with the Commonwealth in a joint wastewater management study for the Boston metropolitan area.

To coordinate the metropolitan Boston study with other statewide projects, a Technical Subcom-

Continued ...

Committee on Boston Harbor and Eastern Massachusetts was formed. The committee includes the following agencies: Corps of Engineers; Environmental Protection Agency; Metropolitan Area Planning Council; Massachusetts Division of Water Pollution Control; Office of State Planning and Management; Metropolitan District Commission.

The Committee formulated a joint work program, and with the engineering firm it has completed a detailed scope of work for the entire project.

The study area comprises 109 municipalities. The concept is to look into the best solutions for providing sewerage facilities for these cities and towns.

In order to assist in developing basic data for detailing sewerage systems, the management firm of Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co. was engaged as a subcontractor to Metcalf & Eddy. Forecasts of population, water consumption, employment, economic activity and land use for the study area have been made for the years 1990, 2020 and 2050.

Four major engineering alternatives will be examined to establish limits and systems for the Eastern Massachusetts Metropolitan area. These are:

1. No expansion of the present Metropolitan Sewerage District with improvements only to the existing service area.
2. Limited expansion, possibly adding 16 more communities, or contraction deleting some outlying communities.
3. Ultimate expansion to include the entire study area.
4. No District, a decentralized system with a regional concept.

For each of these alternative consideration will be given to advanced treatment facilities, land disposal of effluents, and re-use and reclamation of wastewater. Alternatives for sludge processing at inland treatment plants will include taking a look at centralized facilities and also facilities for mixing both sludge and refuse.

Environmental, social, and economic impact analysis will be made and integrated with the cost effectiveness of the major alternatives.

Following the selection of the most desirable systems for wastewater management in the Eastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Area, a preliminary engineering plan will be developed to provide the required treatment of the Deer Island and Nut Island wastewater flows.

A major source of pollution to Boston Harbor and its tributaries has been identified as the network of combined sewer overflows. Computer modeling and simulation techniques will be used to make an all-out approach at solving this problem. The model will be used to determine not only the quantity and quality of the combined sewage at various overflow structures, but will measure its effect on the receiving waters in coordination with other on-going modeling ef-

serious consideration and evaluated against established criteria. Alternative rate structures will be developed on the basis of flow, assessed value, population equivalent living units, planned usage, provisions for combined sewer overflows, and industrial wastes. Alternative financial arrangements and methods of financing will be thoroughly investigated.

Finally, a public participation program or what is termed "open planning" is being started. This is being directed by Metropolitan Area Planning Council, who is providing the link between the study and the communities. The M.D.C.

will assume a leading role in public presentations jointly with the Corps of Engineers.

There will be a Citizen's Advisory Committee of 7 members, to assist the technical subcommittee in preparing the proposed public participation program and to evaluate the program in terms of its effectiveness.

There will be 6 public meetings in the study area running from Nov. 15 to Dec. 13.

Boston Marine Guide - Boston, Mass.

5/10/74

Herald

Danvers, MA

9 May 74

Also in: Tri-Town Transcript  
Topsfield, MA 8 May 74

## Experts will discuss regional sewage treatment plans

During the month of May local officials and interested citizens from 109 communities are invited to participate in a series of six meetings on alternative regional sewage treatment plans, developed by the Boston Harbor - Eastern Massachusetts Wastewater Management Study. A meeting will take place at 8 p.m. on May 20 at Medford High School.

The meetings are designed to further encourage public participation in the selection of areawide wastewater management plans.

The program for the evening will include a presentation of preliminary plans illustrating alternative regional treatment systems to serve through the year 2000. These systems have been designed to meet the standards mandated by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972. The plans, developed by the Metropolitan District Commission, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and other participating agencies, include four water-oriented wastewater disposal systems, as well as a land-oriented system for advanced treatment of effluent from inland areas. Discussion will also focus on the types of impacts these alternative plans will have on the physical, social, and economic environment of individual municipalities, and the region as a whole.

In order to meet federal requirements, it is estimated that total capital costs involved in constructing water-oriented disposal systems will be on the order of \$1 billion. Eligible capital costs, not including operation and maintenance, will qualify

73 percent federal and 15 percent state financial assistance. The remaining 10 percent is expected to be provided by local cities and towns. These public meetings, organized through the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, will attempt to

translate the technical aspects of the study into layman's terms and to relate the process to determine the future expenditure of public funds.

Other participating agencies include the Massachusetts Division of Water Pollution Control, the Massachusetts Office of State Planning and Management and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

# "A Crisis Is Around Bourne"

Marge Koskela

Several weeks ago, I was handed a press release which read in part — "Metropolitan Boston wastewater disposal plans may include Cape Cod it was learned this week by the Cape Cod Planning and Economic Dev. Comm. The Boston Harbor-Eastern Mass. Area Wastewater Management Study involving 109 metropolitan Boston communities is currently holding public hearings on its proposals.

"One of the study's five proposals involves disposal of waste water (effluent) on the land through spray irrigation or rapid infiltration techniques. These techniques require a considerable amount of land and the Study suggests that certain areas outside of the metropolitan area such as Cape Cod may be suitable for spray irrigation sites. Two specific areas in Sandwich and Bourne containing over 5,000 acres have been indicated as possible disposal sites." The underlining is mine.

I inquired of a member of the Commission while I was down at the college listening to Matt Connelly on Federal management of the coastal areas just what it could mean. He reassured me by saying, "well, you know those meetings, sometimes someone just out of the blue says, 'Why not pipe it to the Cape, and a new study is born' . . .

Well, I went along in part but jumped at the chance to accompany selectman Barry Johnson to Norwell to hear this proposal. Hang onto your hats kids. This wasn't an off the cuff, airy-fairy light and airy fantasy, its a darn serious one-million-and-three funded FACT. Pipe to the Cape, why it's the easiest thing in the world, according to the proponents, fly it across the Canal??, don't have to, going to have a twelve-inch main across Bourne Bridge. Think the old lady is kidding you?? Just wish I were.

When Barry told the Engineer

Corps men that we'd even been told to microwave Cable TV because the bridge wouldn't stand it, no response, we still went on discussing, seriously mind you, the proposition that 109 or 119 communities will send their sewerage via a pipeline to Myles Standish Forest, where the first big dump will occur, then to Bournedale, where another dump will be set up, and across Bourne bridge to Sandwich.

One thing I made very clear to the members of the panel. I don't appreciate the attitude they took that they had communicated with the REGIONAL planning agent for this area. REGIONAL my foot, when you go to Barnstable and skip over the communities who have been selected to be the "recipients" in this deal, you are deliberately evading. I was pleased that Barry took the bull by the horns and made sure that open hearings will be held in THIS area, not Hyannis.

I was again astounded when someone asked for a timetable and March 1 next was offered as a possibility for implementation. Now, do you see why I constantly urge you to attend hearings. Go, go. I know I sound like a demented yoyo most of the time, but can you see what's apt to happen?

I told one pretty gal whom I regard as intelligent and her reply took my breath away. "Oh, good, my cesspool overflows every week and that'll stop it". I patiently went back

and said "Dearie, you're the RECIPIENT not the injured party in this little charade. Well, when it percolated, she went up like a skyrocket. But do you see what I mean.

It's like Solid Waste Disposal, sure, sure, go ahead, just don't put it in my town'. I know you'll have a factual statement from Barry, who almost blew a gasket when he hears some of the proposal, too, so I don't feel I'm being an alarmist. This is just my way of getting your attention focused on what can happen.

Martin Weiss led the meeting with Mr. Callahan of the U.S. Engineers doing the slide presentation that shows how they spray lumbering projects in Pennsylvania, the wildlife out west, and recreation parks. When I broached the subject to the Planning Board, one scamp whom you all know for his elfin sense of humor said, "Oh, whoopee, we can go over to the Scenic Park and watch the pretty colors the oil makes coming out of the fountains, huh?" Seriously folks, you must

Courier  
Wareham, MA  
29 May 74

take a good, long look at this proposition. When they said a million and three they weren't talking jelly beans, and when they made the statement that they were about half way thru, your arithmetic work as well as mine did?? So you figure a half million has gone into this already, not likely to be abandoned just because two fuddy duddy old towns don't want it, right??

Alternate systems whereby collector projects would lead this back to the Charles, Mystic and Merrimack rivers was discussed, but you know without half a eye, the sandy, expanses of Cape Cod just made their eyes light up.

They talked MAPC and they talked Environmental Impact and everything else, but it came down to the basic, Sandwich and Bourne are going to be asked to

(Cont. on Page A-5)

# Bourne is tagged for Boston's wastes

The towns of Bourne, Sandwich, Carver and Plymouth may receive wastewater from 109 communities in the Boston area if a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers study proposal is carried through.

The Corps plan, one of five alternatives on how to handle wastewater management problems anticipated for the Metropolitan Sewerage District by the year 2000, recommends piping treated effluent to specific sites in southeastern Massachusetts and applying the effluent to vast stretches of land by either "spray irrigation" or "rapid infiltration" methods.

Specific sites suggested for some of the projected 155 million gallons of secondary effluent each day include

Myles Standish Forest in Carver-Plymouth, an area in Bourne just north of the Cape Cod Canal and an area in the middle of Sandwich.

According to the study just released earlier this month:

— In the spray irrigation method, recommended for the Carver and Sandwich sites, "the partially renovated wastewater is sprinkled on forested and agricultural areas that have permeable soils . . . seeps down through the ground and is either collected or becomes part of the groundwater."

— In rapid infiltration method, recommended for the Bourne site, "the partially renovated waste water is applied in measured volumes to permeable sandy beds."

Breakdown of the total land mass of 20,000 acres suggested for land application sites outside the metropolitan study area allocates: Plymouth-Carver, 5,000 acres; Bourne, 3,500 acres; Sandwich, 1,300 acres; Freetown, 7,500 acres; and

Mansfield 2,000 acres.

The study, entitled "Boston Harbor — Eastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Area Wastewater Management Study", is the cooperative effort of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Metropolitan District Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

It states that "a land application system must be carefully managed to prevent viral or bacterial contamination of the soils and groundwater", but added that surveys of existing land application systems "found no mention of specific health hazards and found little concern over threats to the health of those who come in contact with land-applied wastewater."

A public meeting to discuss the land application method and its effects will be held June 5, at 7:30 p.m. at the E. Pole School, Route 140, Taunton. The meeting is sponsored by SRPEDD and will keynote representatives of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

— Axel Bane

Courier  
Wareham, MA  
29 May 74

## RAYNHAM

Louise Porter, 824-4368 Brent Jaquet, 878-8944

### ConCom Mulls Status Of Subdivision Wetland

RAYNHAM — Conservation Commission members studied the town soil survey at their regular meeting Monday night in an effort to determine the wetland status of several sections of a proposed 94-lot subdivision to be called King Phillip Estates.

Commission Chairman Arthur G. Lazarus Jr. said that several members will also conduct an on-site investigation of the property this week. He said a commission statement on the matter will be presented at a special meeting scheduled by the Planning Board for Monday night at 8 p.m.

The developer of the subdivision, Ervin E. Chickering Jr., has also been asked to attend the meeting.

In other business, the board issued an order of 15 conditions that must be met if any further construction is begun on a house on King Phillip St. being built by Chickering. The action follows a hearing conducted by the commission. The house is being built on the edge of the Pine Swamp.

It was announced that the

state will hold a hearing on a proposed sewerage treatment and disposal plan on June 5 at 7:30 p.m. at the Elizabeth Pole School in Taunton.

According to Lazarus, an Army Corps of Engineers proposal would establish a treatment plant for Boston waste water in one of five Southeastern Massachusetts sites. He said plans call for the sewerage to be piped down to the plant for disposal. If constructed, the facility would treat 155 million gallons of waste material a day.

In other business, plans were announced for a June 15 Taunton River canoe trip for commission members. The trip, which is expected to take about three hours, will begin near Church St. and end around the Rte. 24 bridge.

The commission's new bylaws were distributed at the Monday night meeting. Chairman Lazarus said he wanted each member to study the new laws before voting on them at the next meeting.

Chairman Lazarus reported that he and John Welch, a commission member, had remarked the trail through the Locust St. State Forest. He added that they planted a white lilac tree near the entrance only to have the tree stolen the next week.

Committee member Joseph T. Ferreira said that he will install poles for the entrance sign on Saturday. A trail guide for the park is reported to be ready for publication.

Herald News  
Fall River, MA  
4 June 74

## Effluent Disposal in Area To Be Discussed Tonight

The Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District has notified Freetown selectmen of a meeting at 7:30 tonight at the Elizabeth Pole School in Taunton, open to the public, at which David Hewitt of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will give a presentation on the proposal to dispose of effluent from secondary wastewater treatment plants upon land in southeastern Massachusetts.

Tentative locations for disposal are at the Mansfield-Norton, Fall River-Freetown, and Plymouth-Carver and Bourne boundaries and also in Sandwich on Cape Cod.

Approximately 155 million gallons of treated wastewater

from the Boston area would be subjected to land disposal in Southeastern Massachusetts.

The Fall River-Freetown disposal site is located in the State Forest. This is the second largest of the proposed sites, composed of 7,820 acres — 1,109 acres in the Watuppa Reservation, 661 in the State Forest and the rest privately owned land.

Under the plan, treated wastewater would be pumped from the Boston area through tunnels and pipes, and when it arrives in this area, it would be sprayed into the air and allowed to percolate into the soil, where phosphates and nitrates in the water can be used as nutrients.

## Boston Waste May Come To Southeastern Mass.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Metropolitan District Commission are completing a plan for the treatment and disposal of metropolitan Boston's waste water. The Corps and the MDC have developed five alternatives. One of these alternatives is of concern to the residents of southeastern Massachusetts.

It provides for the application of effluent from secondary waste water treatment plants upon land in southeastern Massachusetts. Tentative locations for disposal are at the Mansfield-Norton, Fall River-Freetown, and Plymouth-Carver and Bourne boundaries, and also in Sandwich on Cape Cod.

The Zoning, Land Use and Environmental Planning Committee, and the Public Utilities Committee of SRPEDD are sponsoring a public meeting today at which time Mr. David Hewitt of the Army Engineers will be present to discuss this alternative and its effects. The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the E. Pole School, Route 140, Taunton, Massachusetts.

Approximately 155 million gallons of treated waste water from the Boston area would be subject to land disposal in south-

eastern Massachusetts if this alternative is chosen.

SRPEDD did not participate in the development of this proposal, nor does SRPEDD endorse this proposal. SRPEDD is sponsoring this public meeting so as to provide local communities with information and the opportunity to comment.

For further information contact Juan Mariscal at 636-8944.



Standard Times  
New Bedford, MA  
5 June 74

## Waste sites meeting set

An Army Corps of Engineers plan to dispose of treated BOSTON waste water on land in southeastern Massachusetts will be the subject of a public meeting at 7:30 tonight at the Pole School, Route 140, in Taunton.

The Army plan, one of five alternatives proposed, calls for secondary waste water to be disposed on sites in the Plymouth-Carver, Fall River-Freetown, and Mansfield-Norton areas, including sites in state forests and private land. Cape sites are also proposed.

The plan will be explained by David Hewitt of the Corps of Engineers. The Army developed the plan for the Metropolitan District Commission.

News and Foxboro Times  
Mansfield, MA  
6 June 74

## City plans wastewater disposal area here

The Mansfield-Norton area is one of five locations presently under consideration by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Metropolitan District Commission as a disposal area for effluent from secondary treatment plants handling Boston's wastewater.

Approximately 155 million gallons of treated wastewater from the Boston area would be subjected to land disposal in

Other tentative locations for such disposal include Fall River-Freetown, Plymouth-Carver, Bourne and Sandwich.

southeastern Massachusetts if this area is chosen.

Meetings were scheduled for last evening in Taunton with the zoning, land use, environmental planning and public utilities committee of the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic and Development District.

SRPEDD has noted that it did not participate in the development of this proposal, nor does it endorse it. SRPEDD sponsored the public meeting in order to provide local communities with information and the opportunity to comment.

Old Colony Memorial  
Plymouth, MA  
6 June 74

## **Boston sewage may be headed for Plymouth**

**PLYMOUTH** — On June 5, a meeting for area residents will be held to discuss U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' ~~plans for disposing of~~ Boston's sewage in the Plymouth-Carver area.

The Corps and the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) are currently completing a plan for the treatment and disposal of metropolitan Boston's wastewater. One of the alternatives under consideration is that of the disposal of approximately 155 million gallons of treated wastewater in land disposal areas sited in southeastern Massachusetts. Tentative locations for disposal are Mansfield-Norton, Fall River-Freetown, and Plymouth-Carver and Bourne boundaries and also in Sandwich on Cape Cod.

The Zoning Land Use and Environmental Planning Committee of the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SR-PEDD) is opposed to the plan and will hold a public meeting at which time David Hewitt of the Army Corps will explain the project. Residents are urged to attend the meeting on June 5 at 7:30 p.m. at the E. Pole School, Route 140, Taunton, Mass.

## Sewage to return to land

By CHRISTINE KANE

Journal-Bulletin Staff Writer

Treated sewage from the Boston area—up to 155 million gallons per day—may one day be piped to five sites in southeastern Massachusetts, to eventually be reapplied to the land.

Dispersal facilities would be built on the Fall River-Freetown line, the Plymouth-Carver line, the Bourne-Wareham line, near the Cape Cod Canal the Mansfield-Norton-Easton juncture, and in Sandwich. The largest site, 7,500 acres, is in the Fall River area.

The "land application" plan is one of five proposals now being considered as a means of dealing with future wastewater management in the Boston Harbor-Eastern Massachusetts area.

The plan was presented last night at a public meeting of the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD).

David C. Kenyon and Robert Satterwhite, both from the Army Corps of Engineers, fielded discreetly hostile questions from the audience of 50, gathered at the Elizabeth Pole School in Taunton. The Army Corps is one of six agencies involved in long-range planning for dispersal of the metropolitan area's effluents.

Although the administrative and financial details of the proposal have not been worked out, Kenyon said 44 communities in the Boston area would probably purchase the waste treatment service from those southeastern communities involved.

On four sites the wastewater, which would receive secondary sewage treatment would be returned to forests or farm land, through irrigation spraying. Kenyon said the organic materials in the waste would seep through the soil and be reabsorbed by plant growth, enriching the land without doing it damage.

On the Bourne-Wareham site the effluent would be filtered through sandy beds, 20-30 feet deep. In this "rapid filtration" technique, the water would be recycled and the filtered wastes disposed of, perhaps for solid landfill.

Satterwhite said the spraying irrigation concept differs from traditional methods of waste treatment in that it "recycles a valuable resource, the organic nutrients found in wastewater." Traditional methods concentrate on cleaning and recycling the water without reusing the solid waste materials in the effluent.

He said the land application of wastewater has been used for 80 years in Australia but the concept is unpopular in this country.

If the land application plan is ever implemented, it will initially cost over one billion dollars.

Martin Weiss of the Metropolitan District Commission said the six cooperating agencies will decide in three or four weeks which components of the five proposals are politically and economically feasible. Final plans for metropolitan wastewater treatment probably won't be ready until January, 1975, Weiss said.

Standard Times  
New Bedford, MA  
6 June 74

# Area skeptical of Boston

By FRANK ROYLANCE

Standard-Times Staff Writer

TAUNTON — Representatives of area communities reacted with skepticism last night to a proposal by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to pump 135 million gallons of treated Boston-area sewage per day to disposal sites in southeastern Massachusetts.

The scheme is one of five possible solutions to metropolitan Boston's wastewater problems under preliminary study by the multi-agency Boston Harbor-Eastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Area Wastewater Management Study.

Proposed disposal sites include land in Dartmouth, Freetown, Fall River, Plymouth, Wareham, and Bourne, as well as 14 other communities.

Area spokesmen questioned David Kenyon and Robert Satterwhite of the Corps of Engineers about why the Boston area should turn to southeastern Massachusetts as a disposal site; what benefits, if any, this region would receive from the scheme; how area wells and cranberry crops would be affected; and

what safeguards would be built into the system.

Kenyon and Satterwhite provided answers where they could, but emphasized the scheme was in early study stages, and that all the answers were not yet available.

No one in the audience of about 50 expressed any enthusiasm for the proposal, and several dismissed it outright.

Edmund B. Staples of Wareham, a regional commissioner on the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District Commission, which sponsored the meeting, and Gilbert Flinney, Wareham Water Commissioner, both expressed concern for their town's water resources and the cranberry industry.

The Army representatives admitted they had no information on the effect of nutrients from treated wastewater on cranberries.

Joseph Arruda of Fall River Mayor Wilfred C. Driscoll's staff called the scheme "preposterous", although he ad-

mitted he had had only a superficial exposure to it and had no knowledge of the scientific principals involved.

A spokesman for the Town of Mansfield gave Kenyon a firm "no" on the proposal, saying Mansfield had "enough problems of its own" with sewage disposal.

The Army scheme calls for 135 million gallons of wastewater a day to be pumped from secondary sewage plants in metropolitan Boston to on-land disposal sites in rural sections.

The Fall River-Freetown site includes a total of 7,530 acres, with 1,775 acres on the Watuppa Reservation and the Freetown-Fall River State Forest, and 2,355 acres in Dartmouth.

The Plymouth site totals 8,355 acres, with 600 acres in Wareham and 3,600 acres in the Myles Standish State Forest. Another site includes another 1,150 acres of Plymouth land.

On these sites, the wastewater would be released by "spray-irrigation", at a rate designed to allow natural plant and chemical action to purify the waste. The

## Seen Crawling with Infectious Material Waste Pond in Freetown 'Shocking'

The Army Corps of Engineers is interested in building a pond on some 1,400 acres of woodland in Freetown, near the Fall River line. However, the pond would not be used for recreation but would be filled by a daily flow of 150 million gallons of waste water from Metropolitan Boston.

Joseph Arruda, management research specialist in the office of Mayor Driscoll, called the engineering plan "one of the most incredible things I have ever heard" when he spoke against the plan at a meeting of the Southeast Regional Planning and Economic Development District this week.

Arruda calls the proposal "absolutely shocking" and says he is stunned that the Army

Corps of Engineers could make such a suggestion without investigating the potential of mosquito and insect infestations.

He sees the plan as a potential health hazard of tremendous magnitude despite assurances by the Army engineers that continued treatment could eliminate problems.

"No consideration has been given to the side effects of this preposterous proposal," Arruda declared. He added that even with chlorine treatment, the virus and bacterial content of the pond could pose a dangerous health condition.

"The argument posed by the Army engineers is that in the Midwest secondary treated waste water is applied to crops and that Boston's sewage would be a valuable asset to this area's soil," Arruda remarked.

He continued that such an argument is ludicrous at best since this region has a natural replenishment of the nutrients in the soil because of the amount of rainfall.

Arruda pictured the scene of a pond "crawling with infectious material" and located some two or three miles from the city's northernmost section.

"The Army engineers' plan would lay waste to the land, as it filled annually with some 50 billion gallons of treated sewage from Metropolitan Boston.

He further indicated that the engineers did not provide any information as to the pond's effect on the area's water table.

Arruda said the Army engineers could have been "doing some fancy footwork" in indicating that the suggestion was part of a five

year study of disposing of Metropolitan Boston's treated waste water. He said that a selection of alternatives is due in three weeks, and he is concerned that action will be taken without proper considerations for the health and safety of area residents.

The management research specialist said the Army engineers have come up with a proposal "that leaves many serious questions unanswered and no guarantees." He said the proposal is based on superficial studies.

He observed that the Army engineers pointed out that in the Midwest, farmers pay for such treated waste water as fertilizer. Arruda commented: "I told them (the engineers) that if the treated waste water was that valuable, they should package it and sell it, but not store it here."

Arruda commented that the engineers were implying that this area would benefit from storing Boston's waste water. He remarked "That's awful hard to swallow."

He said that the proposal "sounds like a crude joke but few people are laughing at the prospects of having a bacteria-infested pond in their midst."

The Army engineers prepared an "information packet" on waste water management in which the plan was explained. The Fall River - Freetown area was one of several recommended locations where the waste water would be piped and is the second largest area proposed for utilization. Only Plymouth is proposed for a larger dumping area with 8,356 acres 3,050 acres of which are located in Myles Standish State Forest.

Standard Times  
New Bedford, MA  
11 June 74

## Dartmouth delays plea for museum

Dartmouth selectmen got a request last night to give temporary custody of the unused Smith Neck School to the bicentennial committee.

Kenneth P. Harrison, committee chairman, asked that his committee be given temporary custody of the former school for use as a museum in conjunction with the bicentennial celebration.

However, selectmen indicated they did not want to release the structure on a temporary basis and no decision was made.

In a related matter, selectmen appointed Harrison and Mrs. Regina Rebelle to fill two vacancies on the historical commission.

In other business, selectmen:

**DISCUSSED** the request of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Bushnell, summer residents from out of state, for a shellfish permit but took no action on the request.

**WILL MEET** with the Park Board and School Department representatives to discuss having a curfew at school playgrounds and town parks after receiving reports of drinking at several locations.

**WILL ASK** the Health Board, Public Works Department and town planner to get facts on the Army Corps of Engineers' proposal to pipe waste water into the area from Boston.

**WILL DISCUSS** requirements and regulations with the police regarding special police officers, after receipt of new rules from the chief.

# Sewage Site in County

## Protested

Gazette  
Taunton, MA  
13 June 74

By LARRY LAUGHLIN  
Gazette Staff Reporter  
FALL RIVER — A concept to pump treated sewage from the Boston area to Southeastern Mass. received the avowed opposition of Congresswoman Margaret M. Heckler (R-Wellesley) during a conference in her Postal Building office here yesterday.

Mrs. Heckler told representatives of the Army Corps of Engineers that the idea is "totally, outrageously unacceptable."

The idea, — — and it was

stressed that it is still only an idea is to pump treated waste from 109 communities in the northeast section of the state into Fall River, Dartmouth and Freetown where it will be used as fertilizer on forest and crop lands.

The concept is of five disposal systems developed by the Corps in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency, the state, and regional planning groups as part of a two-year study begun in early 1973.

David Kenyon, an engineer in the Corps' planning division, said the study was authorized to be generated over the next 20 years. "Under law, he added, "all possible ways of preserving the quality of water must be investigated," including the land treatment system calling for the use of land in Bristol County.

#### Four Other Concepts

Under the other four concepts that have come out of the study, wastes would be treated and disposed of in the Metropolitan Boston area where they originate.

Each of the plans would cost approximately one billion dollars to implement, with the money coming from combined federal and state sources, Kenyon, said. Localities involved in the systems would also contribute a small percentage.

The pumping concept would call for a pipeline to be installed from the Boston area to the land application sites. The tentative route of the line shows one branch crossing the eastern section of Taunton and Berkley along Route 24 into Freetown while another traverses the length of Middleboro. Otherwise, none of the communities in Greater Taunton would be directly involved in the system.

#### Southeast Distance

Kenyon said, "The geological and soil resources of the entire state were examined with particular attention paid to the eastern part of the logical reason that

it is the shortest distance possible for pumping the wastes." He said Southeastern Massachusetts also provides the large amounts of unused acreage need for land treatment.

Unfortunately, as Kenyon pointed out, the same lands that are good for development are also the best for treatment.

Describing the land treatment concept, Kenyon said the sewage receives secondary treatment and is chlorinated before being sent down the pipeline. When it arrives, the waste is applied to the land either by simple spraying or by being poured onto sandy beds.

While filtering down through the soil, nutrients are removed from the wastes and used by vegetation. The cleansed water can then be collected or allowed to become part of the groundwater.

Fall River officials, however, are deeply concerned about the prospect because one of the application areas mentioned in the concept is the Watuppa Pond Reservation which is near the

city's reservoir at Watuppa Pond. The site is about 12 miles from Taunton's water source at Assawompsett Pond.

Kenyon assured officials that all possible safeguards against water pollution are part of the concept.

#### Forget Bristol County

The land treatment sites would occupy about 4,915 acres in Fall River, 2,365 in Dartmouth and 540 in Freetown.

Mrs. Heckler urged the engineers to forget about the concept involving Bristol County and concentrate on the remaining four. "This area cannot become a place for dumping refuse from Boston," she stated, promising to "initiate a torrent of opposition" if the concept is taken seriously. "This is unfair to these communities."

Kenyon indicated that there is little cause for concern at this point, noting that "we're still in the early stages of developing this plan. We're not going to force anything on anybody."

The study, he added, is still a year away from completion.



# Army May Abandon Area Waste Water Pond Plan

A representative of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has all but conceded abandonment of a proposal to utilize a section of Fall River, Freetown and Dartmouth for disposal of waste water originating in Metropolitan Boston.

David Kenyon, study leader for the corps, said here Friday that he believes the corps will drop the plan.

Kenyon was put on the defensive at a meeting called by U.S. Rep. Margaret M. Heckler and held in her Post Office suite. Several municipal government officials attended.

Mrs. Heckler, asserted her total opposition to any plan that would bring effluent from Boston to the Freetown-Fall River State Forest area. She was supported by the city delegation.

About a month ago, it became known that the corps was interested in building a pond on some 7,500 acres of land in this area. The pond would be filled by a daily flow

of 150 million gallons of waste water from Boston.

Kenyon noted, Friday, that the idea was but one of five possibilities advanced to handle the sewage disposal problem. The other four proposals would not involve transportation of waste out of the metropolitan area.

He said he recognized the conflict in land use — for economic growth or sewage disposal — and noted that a decision must be made as to how to utilize limited resources.

Venturing an opinion of his own, Kenyon indicated it would not be wise to carry out the plan for a waste-water pond here.

In several instances, he declared it would be for the people to determine the outcome. The corps of engineers, he added, was merely presenting information and a study position. "We're not going to force anything on anybody," Kenyon responded at one point.

The corps, nevertheless, has

cited the value of recycling treated wastes to provide nutrients for the soil.

Mrs. Heckler remarked that she was gratified to hear that the public would be the ultimate decision-maker. She said she knows how the people of Greater Fall River will decide.

Branding the plan as "totally unacceptable," the congresswoman warned that she would "personally initiate a torrent of objections" to the pumping of waste water into the Fall River - Freetown - Dartmouth section.

Furthermore, Mrs. Heckler labeled the proposal as unfair to this area — a part of the state which is trying to bounce back from economic reverses.

Maintaining that she favors a study of the waste disposal problem and even recycling, Mrs. Heckler stood adamant in her position that the effluent would not be "delivered into my (congressional) district."

Fall River Industrial Agent  
Continued on Page 12

Herald News  
Fall River, MA  
13 June 74



U.S. Rep. Margaret M. Heckler conducts a meeting on the proposed waste-water pond construction here. Identifiable, clockwise, are Steven Caruso, Redevelopment Authority staff engineer; Assistant Water Supt. Michael Biszko; Mrs. Heckler; David Kenyon; and James Callahan, chief of the corps' waste-water studies branch. Herald News Photo

## Army Engineers May Drop Pond Plan—

Continued from Page 12

George T. Darmody and Assistant Water Superintendent Michael Biszko expressed apprehension about possible harmful effects to the North Watuppa Pond and Copicut Reservoir watersheds.

Biszko noted, too, that long range plans could include expansion of water resources into Freetown. Darmody spoke of the city's North End as about the only section left for industrial growth.

Steven Caruso, staff engineer for the Redevelopment Authority, also voiced concern about the potential im-

pact of a waste-water pond.

As envisioned by the corps of engineers, the pond would be used for "spray irrigation" over 4,915 acres of land in Fall and 2,365 acres in Dartmouth River, 540 acres in Freetown

Kenyon said the corps is currently engaged in a "full range of environmental impact studies."

By early to mid 1975, the corps' conclusive report will be available, Kenyon went on. He said, however, that public hearings will be scheduled long before then — tentatively this fall.

He explained that a study committee is looking into the

benefits of waste-water recycling. And Kenyon cautioned that the corps doesn't want to pass up the Fall River - Freetown - Dartmouth pond possibility, only to be faulted in the future if the day comes when people regret they turned down the proposal.

The study leader felt that a hybrid plan may evolve taking the best of the five alternatives.

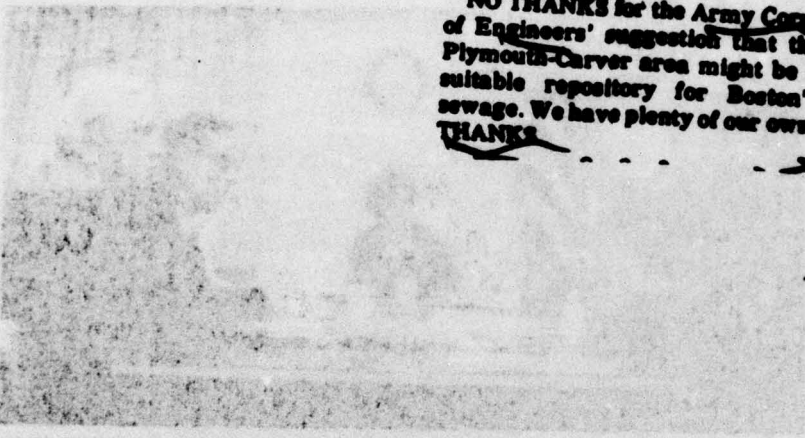
In a quick response to that statement, Mrs. Heckler insisted that no part of a plan to build a pond here would be "desirable or acceptable."

"Such an idea would constitute a devastating concept for us," she concluded.

# Army May Abandon Area Water Pollution Plan

Old Colonial Memorial  
Plymouth, MA  
13 June 74

**NO THANKS** for the Army Corps  
of Engineers' suggestion that the  
Plymouth-Carver area might be a  
suitable repository for Boston's  
sewage. We have plenty of our own,  
**THANKS**



*[Faint, illegible text captioning the photograph above]*

*[Faint, illegible text, likely the main body of the letter or article, which is mostly obscured by the low quality of the scan.]*

Standard Times  
New Bedford, MA  
15 June 74

## Disposal sites

It was a straightforward enough proposal by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to officials of 20 Southeastern Massachusetts communities

The Greater Boston area would pump 155 million gallons of treated waste water in one or more proposed disposal sites in Southeastern Massachusetts.

The proposed sites include large tracts in Dartmouth, Freetown, Fall River, Plymouth, Wareham and Bourne.

In return, the communities involved would receive whatever economic benefits may be derived from such activities as recovering nutrients from the purified waste water.

Unfortunately the Army Corps of Engineers representatives who broached the subject with an estimated 50 officials of communities in the region were long on glowing generalities and short on specifics.

Among other things, the Army spokesmen said:

—They have no information on the effect of nutrients from treated waste water on cranberries.

—No figures yet are available on the possible economic benefits to the region.

—Questions about viruses, heavy

metal industrial waste and other byproducts of such a system cannot be answered because, among other things, scientists still do not understand them thoroughly.

One of the Army officials told of a Lubbock, Tex. farmer who has allowed that city to use his land for disposal purposes for the last three decades — and became a millionaire in the process.

The Lubbock newspaper told The Standard-Times the farmer does exist, although the editor could not estimate his net worth or his profit from the waste-water venture.

Assuming the benefits are as widespread and generous as indicated, we feel the communities that generate the waste water should be allowed to reap any profits derived from a treatment system.

There are large undeveloped tracts of land in Greater Boston — Waltham, Weston, Lincoln and Belmont come to mind — not to mention the uninhabited islands in Boston Harbor.

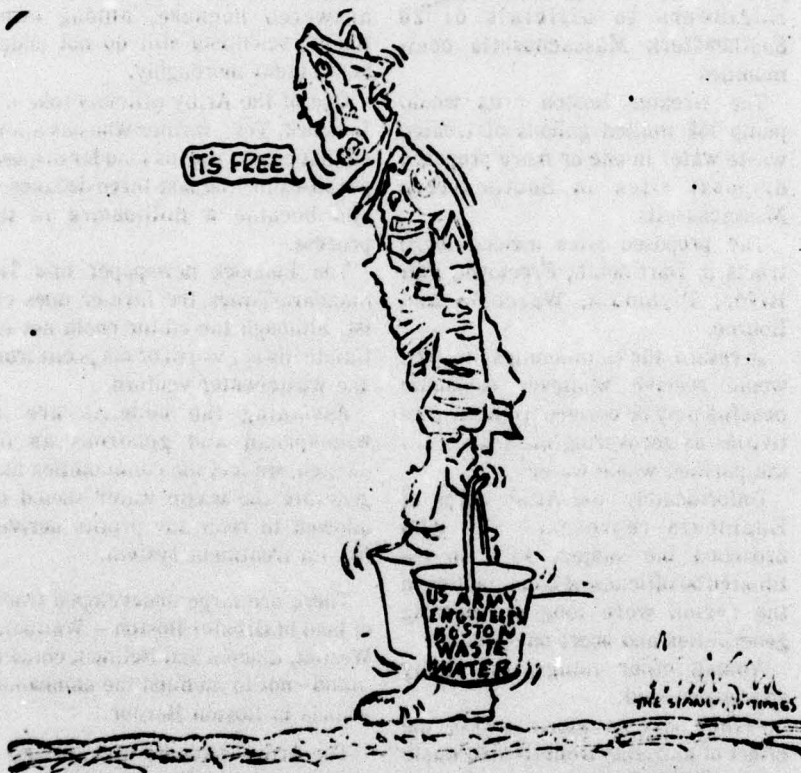
The Army would be well advised to consider these possibilities first before turning its eyes toward Southeastern Massachusetts, particularly since officials are talking in terms of a \$1 million feasibility study.

Standard Times  
New Bedford, MA  
15 June 74

Standard Times  
New Bedford, MA  
15 June 74

Disposal sites

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I DON'T THINK WE WANT IT, SOLDIER.

Transcript  
North Adams, MA  
25 June 74

## Three-pronged benefits

# Spraying sewage on land studied

BOSTON (AP) — A federal agency is studying the idea of spraying partially treated sewage over vacant land, with the three-pronged benefit of cleaning up polluted waterways, enriching the soil and providing drinkable water.

The process is called land application and involves the use of air, soil and plants to help man break down his waste products.

Dave Hewitt, a spokesman for the Army Corps of Engineers, says the partially treated waste water can be absorbed by the soil and plants on vacant land in eastern Massachusetts. As the waste breaks down, clean water is left to filter down to ground water supplies.

Researchers on the billion-dollar plan — which looks 80 years into the future — say the water would be pure enough to drink.

"I would, of course, expect us to monitor the water for several years before we would let anyone drink it," says Hewitt. "The water that does seep down to the ground water would pose no problems at all."

The land application plan is one of five programs being considered by the Corps and the Metropolitan District Commission to bring eastern Massachusetts in compliance with the 1972 amendments to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

The law sets 1983 as a deadline to make waterways safe for recreational use and fishing. By 1985, any discharge of pollutants into waterways would be barred.

Hewitt says land application would be ideal for vacant areas.

"We would suggest...state forests, park land," he says. "The process is very appropriate for use in recreational lands with no danger to people or wildlife."

However the plan poses a problem of land availability.

Hewitt says 100,000 to 500,000 acres of vacant land would be needed for the land application program — and that kind of open space may not be available in the 109-community area under study.

The 109 communities make up the Eastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Area, bounded roughly by Interstate 495 on the west, Boxford on the north, and Duxbury to the south.

Sewage from the eastern Massachusetts towns and cities eventually drains into Boston Harbor — and the MDC's environmental affairs director, Martin Weiss, says the two sewage treatment plants on the harbor are operating at nearcapacity levels.

The MDC encompasses 43 com-

munities in its treatment area, which lies within the 109-community metropolitan area.

One MDC proposal under study would cut the district from 13 to 24 towns, with satellite treatment plants serving areas cut out of the district.

Another MDC plan calls for the construction of a sewage treatment plant in the Framingham area, taking some of the load off one of the harbor facilities, the Deer Island plant.

The second MDC plant is on Nut Island.

Weiss says the MDC studies were undertaken "to determine whether we want to expand or contract these facilities. We have to see how many communities we should be servicing."

# Area waste solution? Spraying sewage on vacant land

By STEPHEN C. KARNAS  
BOSTON (AP) — A federal agency is studying the idea of spraying partially treated sewage over vacant land, with the three-pronged benefit of cleaning up polluted waterways, enriching the soil and providing drinkable water.

The process is called land application and involves the use of air, soil and plants to help man break down his waste products. Dave Hewitt, a spokesman for the Army Corps of Engineers, says the partially treated waste water can be absorbed by the soil and plants on vacant land in

eastern Massachusetts. As the waste breaks down, clean water is left to filter down to ground water supplies. Researchers on the million-dollar plan — which looks 50 years into the future — say the water would be pure enough to drink.

"I would, of course, expect us to monitor the water for several years before we would let anyone drink it," says Hewitt. "The water that does seep down to the ground water would pose no problems at all."

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However the plan poses a problem of land availability.

Hewitt says 100,000 to 500,000 acres of vacant land would be needed for the land application program — and that kind of open space may not be available in the 100-community area under study.

The 100 communities make up the Eastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Area, bounded roughly by Interstate 495 on the west, Boxford on the north, and Duxbury to the south.

Sewage from the eastern Massachusetts towns and cities eventually drains into Boston Harbor — and the MDC's environmental affairs director, Martin Weiss, says the two sewage treatment plants on the harbor are operating at near-capacity levels.

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## Study treated sewage usage

By STEPHEN C. KARNAS  
BOSTON (AP) — A federal agency is studying the idea of spraying partially treated sewage over vacant land, with the three-pronged benefit of cleaning up polluted waterways, enriching the soil and providing drinkable water.

The process is called land application and involves the use of air, soil and plants to help man break down his waste products.

Dave Hewitt, a spokesman for the Army Corps of Engineers, says the partially treated waste water can be absorbed by the soil and plants on vacant land in eastern Massachusetts. As the waste breaks down, clean water is left to filter down to ground water supplies.

Researchers on the billion-dollar plan — which looks 80 years into the future — say the water would be pure enough to drink.

"I would, of course, expect us to monitor the water for several years before we would let anyone drink it," says Hewitt. "The water that does seep down

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The land application plan is one of five programs being considered by the Corps and the Metropolitan District Commission to bring eastern Massachusetts in compliance with the 1972 amendments to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

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Press  
Bristol, CT  
25 June 74

## (Land Application Studied

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### Drains Into Harbor

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The second MDC plant is on Nut Island.



News  
Gardner, MA  
25 June 74

## Pollution Cleanup Studied By Agency

By **STEPHEN C. KARNAS**  
Associated Press Writer

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Weiss says the MDC studies were undertaken "to determine whether we want to expand or contract these facilities. We have to see how many communities we should be servicing."

## (Spraying of Sewage) Is Studied for State

The Associated Press

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TURN TO SPRAYING, Page Two

## Spraying

Continued From Page One

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Call  
Woonsocket, RI  
25 June 74

In About 80 Years

## 'Land Application Plan' Seen Aiding Water Supply

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Dave Hewitt, a spokesman for the Army Corps of Engineers, says the partially treated waste water can be absorbed by the soil and plants on vacant land in eastern Massachusetts. As the waste breaks down, clean water is left to filter down to ground water supplies.

Researchers on the billion-dollar plan — which looks 80 years into the future — say the water would be pure enough to drink.

"I would, of course, expect us to monitor the water for several years before we would let anyone drink it," says Hewitt. "The water that does seep down to the ground water would pose no problems at all."

The land application plan is one of five programs being considered by the Corps and the Metropolitan District Commission to bring eastern Massachusetts in compliance with the 1972 amendments to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

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However the plan poses a problem of land availability.

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The 100 communities make up the Eastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Area, bounded roughly by Interstate 495 on the west, Boxford on the north, and Duxbury to the south.

Sewage from the eastern Massachusetts towns and cities eventually drains into Boston Harbor — and the MDC's environmental affairs director,

Martin Weiss, says the two sewage treatment plants on the harbor are operating at near-capacity levels.

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## Triple benefits In water study being explored

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Transcript Telegram  
Holyoke, MA  
25 June 74

## Plan Under Study To Make Use Of Sewage Wastes And Water

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# Partially Treated Sewage May Be Used

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Associated Press Writer  
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The 100 communities make up the Eastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Area, bounded roughly by Interstate 95 on the west, Bedford on the north, and Dunbury to the south.

Sewage from the eastern Massachusetts towns and cities eventually drains into Boston Harbor — and the MDC's environmental affairs director, Martin Weiss, says the two sewage treatment plants on the harbor are operating at near-capacity levels.

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The second MDC plant is on Nut Island.

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Foster's Democrat  
Dover, NH  
25 June 74

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Journal  
Lewiston, Maine  
25 June 74

## Federal Agency Studies Spraying Sewage On Vacant Mass. Land

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## Land Application Process Considered For Bay State

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## Freetown Being Considered For Storage of Partially Treated Boston Sewage

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Freetown is one of the areas being considered for an experimental "waste pond." Some 7,500 acres of woodland would be used. It would be filled by a daily flow of 150 million gallons of waste water from Metropolitan Boston.

The proposal was strongly criticized on June 8 by Joseph Arruda, management research specialist in Mayor Driscoll's office in Fall River.

Arruda called it one of the most incredible plans he'd ever heard. He voiced his criticism at a meeting of the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District. He termed the proposal "absolutely shocking," and a "potential health hazard of tremendous magnitude." He complained that no consideration had been given to side effects of "this preposterous proposal."

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Standard Times  
New Bedford, MA  
26 June 74

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Daily Sentinel and Leominster Enterprise  
Fitchburg, MA  
26 June 74

## Sewage May Help Enrich Soil

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6/27/74

## Water Plan Studied For Eastern Mass.

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The Chronicle  
Dartmouth, MA  
4 July 74

## Planning the future

by Wesley J. Ewell, Dartmouth Planner

### BOSTON SEWAGE

The Army Corps of Engineers has proposed taking treated sewage from metropolitan Boston and spraying it into the woods of Freetown and North Dartmouth. A spokesman for the mayor of Fall River has called the plan preposterous while admitting he knew nothing about it. Other area officials, including Dartmouth Selectmen, are wary of the proposal, but wisely want to know more about it.

The plan in question is one of five suggested for long-range development of sewerage in greater Boston. The first four plans are all conventional plans for sewage treatment and discharge into streams. The fifth plan is offered as an alternative that would "recycle" the water supply by putting it back into the ground.

Under this plan, sewage from the outlying suburbs, from Reading to Stoughton, would be treated at local plants scattered throughout the area. Liquid wastes from the treatment plants would be piped to disposal sites in Freetown, Dartmouth, Plymouth and Sandwich. The liquid wastes would then be sprayed onto the land with normal irrigation equipment, where it would be filtered by the soil and vegetation before returning to the ground water supply.

The concept is known as Land Filter Disposal. It has been used for years in Europe, England, Texas, and several thousand other places. Pennsylvania State University has been using this system for ten years. They dispose of all the wastes from the university and its host town of State College by spraying it over fields and into woods near the campus. They also lead in research and development of land filter disposal

Two years ago I attended a four-day seminar on the land filter method at Penn State. While there I watched the system in operation and was surprised by many of the things I saw. Spruce trees three times the height of similar trees in unsprayed control plots; fields of dense, tall, and super-productive corn stalks; acid mine tailings transformed into productive topsoil; and deer, rabbits and birds living in the woods that were sprayed regularly. The biggest surprise was the location of the University's water supply wells just a few hundred yards downhill from the disposal area. In ten years of operation, they have never been contaminated.

The Penn State system is a perfect model, however, and may not be typical of what we would get here. Their treated waste is nearly pure enough to drink before it is sprayed, their researchers are constantly working to improve the operation, and every step is carefully and continually monitored.

I have seen other systems that were not as good. Seabrook Farms (the Birdseye people) spray their wastewater into the woods with such force and volume

that the trees have all died, and swamps have developed where the water table was once 50 feet below the surface. But even this sloppy system has not contaminated the ground water supply.

What will become of the Army's proposal? Probably nothing. It has the potential of increasing our ground water supply, renewing worked-out farmland, and taking some pollution out of the metropolitan area. But it is not the cheapest alternative, and it is certainly unconventional. More likely, they will simply up-date their present disposal plants. It is too soon to discount the plan completely, though, and we will be keeping a close watch over its progress in the coming months.

## Scrapping of waste dumping denied

**WALTHAM** — A spokesman for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers this morning denied a report in a Providence newspaper that a proposal to dump treated Boston sewage on land in Fall River, Freetown and Dartmouth had been scrapped.

Lt. Col. Arcade G. Boivin, an assistant division engineer at the Corps' New England Division headquarters in Waltham, said study would continue on the proposal to pipe 155 million gallons a day from 100 eastern Massachusetts communities to 10 land disposal sites in Southeastern Massachusetts.

Boivin admitted, however, that in view of negative public reaction to the proposal, "it doesn't appear this one is going to fly."

Other disposal sites being considered include land in Plymouth, Wareham and Bourne.

The proposal is one of five being studied in connection with the Boston Harbor-Eastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Area Wastewater Management Study. The study is being conducted by federal, state and Regional Agencies and administered by the Metropolitan District Commission.

The other four proposals call for expansion or development of wastewater treatment facilities within the 100 communities directly involved in the study.

Announcement of the piping of waste into Southeastern Massachusetts brought quick official criticism.

Boivin said the Corps was not dropping "Concept 5", as it is known as an "alternative to be considered and rendered in the final report."

He said the corps would continue to study the "geographic, physical, hygienic and aesthetic impact" of the concept, including the tone of local reaction to the proposal. The corps is "very sensitive to public reaction," Boivin said.

A progress report on the study would be issued "in a week or two" and would be widely distributed to let the public know where the project stands, he noted.

The final report on Concept 5 would be issued probably next June, Boivin said.

"Our obligation is to continue this thing," he said. Perhaps 10 years from now, he added, public attitudes will have changed and the finished study will be available for re-evaluation.



South Middlesex Daily News  
Framingham, MA  
19 Aug 74

## Natick meeting to air area sewer questions

**NATICK** — The Lake Cochituate Watershed Association (LCWA) and the Thoreau Group of the Sierra Club will host a public meeting on Thursday at 8 p.m., concerning regional sewer needs and proposals to accommodate future demands.

The meeting will be at the Morse Institute, located one block east of Rte. 27 on Rte. 135 in downtown Natick.

In the light of the Eastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Area Wastewater Management Study on this region's future sewage plan, the meeting will focus on study projections for

South Middlesex communities and adjacent towns in the SUASCO and Charles River watershed areas.

Among topics to be considered is the controversial wastewater recycling, which is the application of treated wastewater to the ground instead of into a waterway, utilizing nutrients for crop growth and naturally-filtered water for local groundwater recharge.

Representatives of various state and local agencies will be present to respond to audience questions and comments.

South Middlesex News  
Framingham, MA  
15 Sept 74

## Area sewer meeting in Natick Thursday

**NATICK** — Officials from a wide area of South Middlesex towns are expected to attend a sewerage study meeting here next week, according to one of the officials sponsoring the program.

South Middlesex Area Chamber of Commerce Planning Director Gerry Mimno has contacted departments of public works and planning board officials, asking them to come to the meeting, said A. Richard Miller, executive director of the Lake Cochituate Watershed Association.

The meeting, Thursday, Sept. 19 at 8 p.m. in the Morse Institute Library, E. Central St., Natick, is an "experiment" designed to get citizen and official input into Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) plans for future uses for sewage.

Miller and Mimno have both stated growth in the South Middlesex area will be hampered by the lack of adequate sewerage, predicting a critical shortage of adequate disposal methods within two years.

Some of those methods — particularly controversial ones like recycling waste water by spraying it over open land — will be discussed at the Thursday meeting.

Officials in towns bordering the Charles River, including Sherborn, Medfield, Millis and Medway, will be asked to attend by the Lake Charles River Watershed Association, Miller said.

Miller said he hopes for attendance from citizens and officials from towns throughout the South Middlesex Area.

Representatives of Metcalf and Eddy, the engineering consultant firm handling the Metropolitan District Commission study concerning the future of MDC sewerage, and state officials will be on hand to answer technical questions, but sponsoring groups do not want the meeting to get "bogged down" with technical discussion, Miller said.

Included in the presentation will be a film, "Our Wastewater Bonanza," which Miller said will be "exciting to any environmentalist."

"To my knowledge," he said, "it will be the first time anyone from the general public will be able to see the film."

Two public hearings have been held on the future possibilities for sewage, Miller said, but the Thursday meeting will be the first one set-up and run by local rather than state officials.

Miller said the Citizens' Advisory Committee to the MAPC Eastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Area (EMMA) waste water study suggested local officials would have a better idea of what issues appeal to residents in their area.

"This meeting was set up as an experiment," Miller said "to see if the format will work."

## Regional Sewage Proposals Ready

**BOSTON** — After a long study, a technical subcommittee will make recommendations Dec. 12 on five proposals, each costing a minimum of \$1 billion, for future wastewater treatment needs of 100 communities in the metropolitan Boston area.

The sweeping recommendations, prompted by a federal order, will lead to the selection of one plan to upgrade the sewage treatment systems now operated at Nut Island and Deer Island.

The Eastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Area Wastewater Management Study has been anticipated to require major capital investment and expansion of the present Metropolitan Sewerage District (MSD) of 43 communities.

The estimated cost of the plans range from \$1 billion to \$1.16 billion, and estimated annual operation and maintenance costs vary from \$35 million to \$84 million.

Concept I would upgrade MSD treatment facilities at Deer and Nut Islands and add five communities to the district. Upgrading treatment facilities and intermunicipal-interceptor sewers would cost \$1 billion, and annual operation and maintenance would cost \$38 million.

A second plan would reduce the service area tributary to the Deer and Nut Islands plants to 32 communities by creating five additional regional treatment systems, including two new treatment facilities in Canton. The other new facilities would be in Watertown, Dedham and Framingham.

This plan would cost \$1.04 billion, and operation and maintenance annually is estimated at \$50 million.

Concept III would extend the Deer and Nut Islands plants service area to include the Charles River Basin and

communities adjacent to present MDC water supplies in the Sudbury River Basin. The 33 communities would be served by two MSD treatment plants.

The treatment facilities and interceptors would cost \$1.1 billion to build and \$35 million annually to operate.

The fourth plan would decentralize the present system of the Deer and Nut Islands plants by developing six additional regional systems within the present MSD service area. The number of communities served by the two MSD plants would be reduced to 24.

The six additional systems with treatment facilities would be located at Woburn, Medford, Watertown, Dedham, Canton and Framingham.

The plan to decentralize would cost \$1.12 billion to implement, and estimated annual operation and maintenance would be \$84 million.

Concept V would collect the effluent of five of the regional systems proposed in Concept IV and convey it to southeastern Massachusetts for further treatment instead of providing advanced treatment within the five systems. Land application may be feasible in some cases on a small scale within the study area, according to the report.

This plan would cost \$1.16 billion, with annual operation cost estimated at \$36 million.

The subcommittee preparing the recommendations consists of representatives of the Metropolitan District Commission; members of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, the federal Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the state Division of Water Pollution Control, the state Department of Public Health, the Resource Management Policy Council and a citizens advisory committee.

# Sewer-expansion study visualizes expenditure of at least \$1 billion

Christian Science  
Monitor  
Boston, MA  
4 Dec 74

## MDC, state, and federal agencies outline long-term plans for Boston-area suburbs

By Richard INN  
Staff writer of  
The Christian Science Monitor

### Frammingham, Mass.

Suburbanites are going to watch a few of their tax dollars almost literally go down the drain in the next few years to pay for expanding sewer facilities in the Boston area.

At least \$1 billion will be required to build adequate sewer lines for the metropolitan Boston area. In addition, taxpayers will have to put up another \$36 million to \$64 million annually to operate and maintain an upgraded sewerage system.

These estimates were produced by a \$1.2 million waste-water management study being conducted by the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) with seven other state and federal agencies to determine the sewerage needs of 100 cities and towns in eastern Massachusetts for the next 80 to 85 years.

### Agencies to choose concept

Next week the government agencies, after nearly two years of work, will choose a sewer-development concept they consider best suited to meet sewerage problems for the area. After public hearings on the concept early next year, planners hope their recommendations will be implemented by state and federal policy-makers.

Of five concepts studied, the plan most favored at the present time calls for upgrading MDC sewerage facilities to provide for future needs within the district's present service area of 48 communities.

The project would utilize regional and municipal systems to serve the remaining towns and cities within the study area. Five additional communities — Lynnfield, Lincoln, Weston, Sharon, and Hopkinton — would become part of the MDC's Deer and Nut Islands treatment-plant service area.

Cost of building treatment facilities and interceptor sewers under the plan would be \$1 billion, with an additional annual operation and maintenance expense of \$36 million.

### Regional plants proposed

Another concept being seriously considered would decentralize the present MDC system serviced by the treatment plants at Deer and Nut Islands. Six regional treatment plants — which would be built at Woburn, Medford, Watertown, Frammingham, Dedham, and Canton — would reduce the number of communities serviced by the two island facilities to 24.

Estimated annual operation and maintenance cost for the system would run about \$36 million after an initial building cost of \$1.13 billion.

To pay for the initial sewerage line expansion and facility construction, the federal government would put up 75 percent of the cost, the state would provide 15 percent, and each municipality would chip in 10 percent.

"One of the things bothering us right now is that the Environmental Protection Agency requires that a sewer-use charge be established before federal funds can be put into a project of this type," explained Martin F. Cosgrove of the MDC's sewer division, who is chairman of the study's technical subcommittee.

### MDC lacks authority

"People living in the communities to be serviced would have to be charged for sewer use. Right now the MDC does not have the authority to make towns and cities impose this charge."

A bill will be filed in the 1975 Legislature, according to Mr. Cosgrove, to give the MDC authority to force cities and towns to charge a sewer-use fee. If municipalities still did not charge residents, the MDC would be able to impose its own charge.

Although a final proposal has not been made as to how to best meet future sewer needs, the study already has met with some criticism.

### Study method questioned

"The study skips over the question of what is to be sewered and just examines how the area will be sewered," contends Gerald R. Mimno, director of planning for the South Middlesex Chamber of Commerce. "It assumes that everything will be sewered."

Mr. Mimno explained that towns wanting to control growth would lose one of the major mechanisms they use for preserving one-acre and two-acre zoning if they received additional sewer capacity.

Mr. Cosgrove says, however, that each community has been taken into consideration. "With present growth rates and our present water-pollution problems, eventually every community will have to be sewered properly. It's just a matter of time."

Courier  
Wareham, MA  
4 Dec 74

# Boston's wastes may not flow our way

The Eastern Mass. Metropolitan Area Wastewater Management Study has under consideration five concepts for managing future wastewater flows from 109 cities and towns in the metropolitan Boston area.

On Dec. 12 the systems best suited to the future needs for wastewater treatment will be recommended and subsequently submitted to State and Federal policymakers for implementation.

The study encompassed a range of wastewater treatment systems; the most controversial for Cape Cod is concept five, a plan to collect the effluent of five regional systems and convey it to southeastern Massachusetts for further treatment in lieu of treatment on site.

Twenty-three factors were considered in evaluating the concepts. Concept five, for which construction costs are estimated at \$1.16 billion and annual operation and maintenance of \$36 million, scored highest in both engineering and environmental factors. In this particular study, the higher the score the less desirable the concept.

Receiving the lowest or most desirable score was concept one — upgrading the Metropolitan District sewerage facilities to provide for future needs within its present service area of 43 communities, and utilizing regional and municipal systems to serve the remaining communities within the study area.

It is estimated that construction of

facilities would be \$1 billion with annual operation and maintenance at \$36 million.

Rated next was concept two which would reduce the service area tributary to the Deer and Nut Islands treatment plants to 32 communities by creating five additional regional treatment systems within the present MSD service area.

Approximate cost of concept two is \$1.04 billion with operation and maintenance pegged at \$36 million annually.

Third ranking was concept three which would extend Deer and Nut Islands treatment plants service area by increasing the present limits to include the Charles River Basin in its entirety and communities adjacent to present MDC water supplies in the Sudbury River basin.

Estimated pricetag for concept three is \$1.1 billion with annual operation and maintenance at \$35 million.

Concept four would decentralize the present system tributary to the Nut and Deer Islands treatment plants by developing six additional regional systems within the MDC service area.

Estimated cost for this concept is \$1.16 billion and yearly operational costs of \$36 million.

Public discussion on the concept is still sought. Comments may be directed before Dec. 12 to John Harrington, Metropolitan Area Planning Council, 44 School St., Boston 02108 or phone 523-2454.

Gretta Estey

Suburban Press and Recorder  
Natick, MA  
5 Dec 74

## Open meeting held on wastewater treatment

Local officials and the citizens of 16 communities are invited to attend a meeting to discuss alternative wastewater treatment proposals for the area. The meeting, on Dec. 5 at 8 p.m. in the Town Hall at 155 Village Street, Medway has been arranged by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council on behalf of the Technical Subcommittee which is conducting the study.

The Subcommittee, consisting of representatives of the Metropolitan District Commission, Corps of Engineers, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Metropolitan Area Planning Council, Massachusetts Division of Water Pollution Control, Department of Public Health and Resource Management Policy Council, is scheduled to select a preferred system on Dec. 12.

Although previous meetings have been held on

the subject, the areas of the Upper Charles River and Upper Sudbury River involve some of the more complex decisions to be made: consequently, the subcommittee is looking for additional public reaction to the alternatives.

Citizens and officials of the

following communities are urgently requested to attend this meeting: Ashland, Bellingham, Dover, Framingham, Franklin, Hoolliston, Hopkinton, Medfield, Medway, Milford, Millis, Natick, Norfolk, Sherborn, Southborough and Wrentham.

News  
Milford, MA  
7 Dec 74

# Area Town Officials Exchange Views

**MEDWAY** — A discussion and exchange of views on alternative approaches to wastewater treatment concepts were discussed by about 40 local and state officials at a meeting in the Sanford Conference Room, sponsored by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council.

In general, MAPC stressed that "local input" regarding future wastewater treatment concepts was a necessity for the purpose of long-range and effective planning.

Sixteen area towns from Middlesex and Norfolk counties were invited to the meeting at which five concepts for future wastewater treatment methods were discussed.

Each of the towns is expected to forward its feelings regarding the concepts to the MAPC or Army Corp. of Engineers within 10 days; MAPC in turn will forward the recommendations to the state legislature for its consideration.

"We are interested in your point of view and what you would like to see in planning for future wastewater treatment concepts," David Kenyon, of the Army Corps of Engineers said, "are you interested in the least costly method, which uses the minimum treatment of sewerage and limits the uses of water, or are you interested in paying more for cleaner water which can be used in later years for irrigation, industrial uses, and supports aquatic life and promotes aesthetic and environmental use," he added.

In presenting the different concepts of treatment available, Kenyon said a decision on a preferred system has been scheduled for Dec. 12 and additional public reaction to the alternative concepts was being sought by the technical subcommittee before making recommendations to the legislature.

Officials pointed out that the concepts presented would not affect the current status of Medway-Franklin's application for federal funding for the districts proposed treatment facility, which would be incorporated into the final proposal.

## Plan Of Future

"The concepts may take years to implement fully" Jekabs Bittands of Metcalf & Eddy said, "and your need is immediate."

The concepts proposed in the Crops of Engineers study include:

—Concept 1, a minimal expansion of the present Metropolitan Sewerage District of 43 communities and utilizing regional and municipal systems to serve the remaining communities within the study area.

The approximate cost of building treatment facilities and intermunicipal interceptor sewers is \$1 billion. The estimated annual operation and maintenance cost is \$38 million.

Concept 2, would expand the Metropolitan Sewerage District by creating 5 additional regional treatment systems within the present service area.

The approximate cost of building treatment facilities and interceptor sewers is \$1.04

—Concept 3 would extend the Deer and Nut Island treatment plants service area by increasing the present limits to include the Charles River Basin in its entirety and communities adjacent to the present MDC water supplies in the Sudbury River Basin; 59 Communities would be serviced by the two Metropolitan Sewerage District, treatment plants.

MAPC said the estimated cost of building treatment facilities and intermunicipal interceptors is \$1.1 billion. The estimated annual operation and maintenance cost \$35 million.

—Concept 4 is a decentralized system which would be achieved by developing six additional regional systems within the present Metropolitan Sewerage District service area.

The estimated cost of building treatment facilities and intermunicipal interceptors is \$1.12 billion. The estimated annual operation and maintenance cost is \$64 million.

—Concept 5 is a wastewater management plan utilizing land application, collecting the effluent of the five regional systems in concept 4 and conveying it to southeastern Massachusetts for further treatment.

## Estimated Cost

The estimated cost for building treatment facilities and intermunicipal interceptions for the initial plan is \$1.16 billion. The estimated annual operation and maintenance cost is \$38 million.

Twenty-three factors were considered by the Crops in evaluating the concepts and were weighted for importance and as a guide by the technical subcommittee in recommending a concept.

Concept 1 was rated first, concept 4 second, concept 2 third and concept 3 rated fourth. The last concept no 5. was rated last because the total amount of acreage needed for treatment purposes by the year 2000 would be 7500 acres of land using up all developable land in the area.

The reason for choosing concept 1 over concept 3 officials said was that in Concept 1 the wastewater would be treated by advance treatment facilities and would leave clean water in the basins, whereas in concept 3 which is less expensive the treatment plant is centralized and uses minimum standards and the effluent is piped directly into Boston Harbor which according to officials can accept a reasonable amount of raw sewerage.

This in turn, they pointed out drains out streams and leaves room for stagnant and undesirable vegetation.

Rita Barron from the Charles River Watershed Association commented that there is a great deal of flexibility built into the concepts and with the advances of technology, changes could be made and adapted to suit the needs of the area served.

Citizens interested in further information on the concepts may read the Corps of Engineers study at the local library.

Sun-Chronicle  
Attleboro, MA  
7 Dec 74

## Wastewater Treatment Systems Considered

**WRENTHAM** - At a wastewater planning meeting in Medway Thursday night, 40 citizens from 16 area towns vented their concern about regional wastewater treatment.

A two million dollar study mandated by Congress is considering five concepts for future wastewater treatment. Affected are 109 cities and towns in the metropolitan Boston area, including Franklin and Wrentham.

The subcommittee in charge is chaired by the Metropolitan District Commission and includes members of the Metropolitan Area Council, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Army Corps. of Engineers, the Division of Water Pollution Control, Department of Public Health, Resource-Management Policy Council, and a citizen advisory committee.

They will present their final recommendation at a Dec. 12 meeting in Boston.

Five different types of wastewater treatment systems are under consideration. They are minimal expansion of the present metropolitan sewage district of 43 communities, expansion of the M.S.D. to 59 communities, two alternatives for de-

centralized systems with additional treatment facilities within the present area of the M.S.D., land application for 44 of the 109 communities, and sewage collection in five regional treatment facilities for further treatment in southeastern Massachusetts.

Both Wrentham and Franklin would be in a regional system with Bellingham, Medway and Holliston under three of the proposals. In another proposal, they would be included in the Boston sewage system.

After the Dec. 12 hearing, the final proposal will be sent to state and federal agencies for review and further open hearings are planned for area towns.

Wrentham member, David Stonefield, did not attend the meeting but when telephoned commented that Wrentham is not ready for regional sewage treatment. He explained that projected town population figures do not indicate sewage treatment planning is needed at this time.

Town Selectmen have also told Wrentham town officials they are not interested in sharing a regional treatment facility.



Globe  
Boston, MA  
11 Dec 74

# Panel to choose a sewer plan

The shape of things to come in sewer management for metropolitan Boston may be defined tomorrow, when a multi-agency subcommittee of the Boston Harbor-Eastern Massachusetts Wastewater Management Study is scheduled to recommend implementation of one of five proposed plans.

At stake are the role and scope of the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) in handling wastewater flows.

Four alternatives are encompassed in the five plans developed by the MDC and the Army Corps of Engineers: expansion of the MDC district to 59 communities; minimal expansion of the present 43-community district; two proposals decentralizing the MDC and establishing regional wastewater treatment plants; conveyance of wastewater to southeastern Massachusetts for treatment.

"Whichever concept we choose will be just a recommendation," Martin Weiss, MDC director of environmental planning, said.

Representatives of eight participating agencies will meet tomorrow at 1 p.m. at MDC headquarters in Boston. The agencies are the MDC, the Army Corps of Engineers, the US Environmental Protection Agency, the Massachusetts Division of Water Pollution Control, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, the Department of Public Health, the Resource Management Policy Council and a nine-member Citizens Advisory Committee.

The proposal agreed upon will be studied further, then resubmitted to the agencies before the plan is submitted to the Legislature, Weiss said.

The subcommittee appears to be leaning toward the first option, but MDC Comm. John Sears has indicated he would be unlikely to approve it.

Sears argues that that option, which calls for adding communities to the existing 44-member sewer district and expanding the Deer and Nut islands treatment plants to accom-

modate them, would be next to impossible to accomplish.

It would require doubling the size of the Nut Island plant, Sears said, "by filling in Boston Harbor or taking a chunk of Quincy." For that and other reasons, he said, "I don't think it will fly."

The Citizens Advisory Committee last week voted to support the two proposals which shift the handling of effluent to suburban treatment plants.

Plans 1 and 3 would expand the MDC district by five and 16 communities respectively, retaining primary wastewater treatment at MDC facilities at Nut and Deer islands for release into Boston Harbor.

Plan 5, under which wastewater would be piped to Cape Cod and southeastern Massachusetts, has aroused opposition from those regions and is not expected to be considered seriously.

Globe  
Boston, MA  
13 Dec 74

## Satellite sewage-treatment plants proposed to cut harbor pollution

By Evelyn Keene  
Special to The Globe

A plan to reduce Boston harbor pollution by decreasing the load on the Deer Island and Nut Island sewage treatment plants and building satellite plants has been adopted by a special technical subcommittee on waste water management.

The subcommittee, whose chairman is the Metropolitan District Commission's chief engineer, Martin Cosgrove, in-

cludes representatives of the US Army Corps of Engineers, the US Environmental Protection Agency, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, as well as several state agencies including the division of Water Pollution Control, the Public Health Department, and the Resource Management Policy Council.

Meeting at MDC offices yesterday, the group approved a plan that would reduce from 43 to 32 the number of communities now served by the MDC at the Deer Island and Nut Island treatment plants, and add one sewage treatment plant in Woburn, another in Canton, and possibly a third in either Framingham or Dedham.

The plan, which will require public hearings and legislative approval, would cost about \$738 million.

The subcommittee eliminated four other concepts presented in a Boston Harbor-Eastern Massachusetts waste water management study. One called for land disposal of treated sewage from five regional

systems and its distribution to various points in southeastern Massachusetts.

Public hearings on this method demonstrated public distaste for the technology, one of the newest methods of disposing of sewage from wastewater treatment plants.

SOUTH MIDDLESEX  
DAILY  
NEWS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1974

## New sewage plant or larger pipes?

A decision on whether to build a new wastewater treatment plant for Framingham or a bigger trunk line leading ultimately to Boston Harbor is expected by the Metropolitan District Commission today.

Either way, it is expected to solve sewer restriction problems for the South Middlesex area by about 1980, and in Framingham, Ashland, and Hopkinton particularly as they would be served by the new plant.

Thursday a special sub-committee of state and federal agencies voted 3-3 on a modified

concept of decentralization of MDC lines and building plants in at least two towns.

The MDC voted for the wastewater treatment plant for Framingham and the other agencies agreed, according to Marty Weiss of the MDC, to let that organization vote again today, and abide by it.

"What we wanted was a sense of priority for this area," Gerry Mimno of the South Middlesex Area Chamber of Commerce said today, "and we got it."

The plant, if voted today, would be on the Wayland line in

(Continued on Page 6A)

what Rep. Barbara Gray, R-Framingham, called the "Oxbow" area south of Petter and Little Farms Road in a mostly wooded area where there are sand pits.

Even if the MDC votes for the plant it would be just a recommendation requiring public hearings and legislative approval.

No estimate of cost for the plant was made but Mimno said it would be a 19,000-gallon a day facility treating sewage and putting excess water or effluent into the Sudbury River at the site.

According to Mimno, the original capital costs would be borne by the federal government but subsequent operating costs of plants or new lines may have to come from local communities although there is a possibility of all MDC towns paying.

Rep. Gray said because of the possibility of excess sewage also going into the river, "I'm opposed to it."

Another possibility according to Mimno is for an additional trunk line going to Dedham where a plant could possibly be built instead of Framingham.

He said it would cost \$36 million for the 66-inch line to Wellesley and the 72-inch line from there to Dedham, a total of more than 70,000 feet.

But he said either way it would eventually increase the area's sewer capacity and allow for expansion of business and home building here.

There are now restrictions on sewer tie-ins on communities relying on MDC lines which go from here to Boston Harbor Nut and Deer Island treatment plants.

The plan voted Thursday would cost about \$758 million and reduce Boston Harbor pollution by treating it in plants in Woburn and Canton, and possibly reduce the number of communities on MDC lines from 43 to 32.

Other plant sites are either Framingham or Dedham or Wellesley.

Mimno said the group gave Framingham top priority because "we're the area with restrictions now."

"We got first priority either in building a new plant or enlarging lines," he said.

The only question unresolved Thursday he said was whether this area "should have a local plant or a bigger pipe."

He said "We're going to have

to rely on their recommendations," on how a plant would affect the Sudbury River.

A Citizens Advisory Committee which also voted for the plant in Framingham wanted 90 per cent instead of the previously mentioned 80 per cent of phosphorus and nitrogen compounds removed from the water and sewage before it goes into the river.

Rep. Gray said "it would prove a big job" in the river and she would ask officials to recommend the plant or pipe to come to Framingham "to get more local input."

She said "Any wastewater treatment plant would cost us money to maintain, it would be up to the community to correct it if it broke down."

But besides that, she said "Almost equal are the biological implications of putting even treated sewage into the Sudbury River."

Mimno said "The main reason for doing it is to augment the low flow," of the river but Rep. Gray said "If you discharge water into it it's going to back up," and possibly flood.

The recommendation will come after an extensive study

Voting with the MDC and Citizens Advisory Committee for a Framingham plant was the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Voting against it were the Environmental Protection Agency, state Department of Public Health and Division of Water Pollution Control.

# EMMA Study Nears Final Recommendation Phase For Expansion of Regional Sewage District

While the Council begins gearing up to conduct a comprehensive, area-wide wastewater management study, another study in which it has been involved begins to wind down.

Recommendations developed in the course of the Boston Harbor-Eastern Massachusetts Wastewater Management Study, also referred to as EMMA, were presented at a series of public meetings in January. While the Council's new "208" study and plan (see Page 1) will consider solutions to all sources of water pollution in the region, EMMA is primarily concerned with future improvements to and expansion of the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) Sewage District.

## Council Participation

During the study and recommendation process, the MAPC participated on a Technical Subcommittee chaired by the MDC, the agency responsible for overseeing the study. Other agencies serving on the subcommittee include: the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), state Division of Water Pollution Control, Department of Public Health and Office of State Planning. In addition, a Citizens Committee serves in an advisory capacity to the study group.

A primary function performed by the Council was the organizing and publicizing of an initial series of public meetings designed to encourage maximum citizen participation throughout each phase of the study and to ensure local representation in the state and federal decision-making process. MAPC participation involved working with the region's news media as well as contacting interested citizen groups within the EMMA Study's 109 community area. Local official and citizen reaction to proposed alternatives for improving the sewage district was then evaluated by the technical subcommittee and incorporated into preliminary recommendations.

## More Meetings

Beginning next month, another series of public meetings will be held to evaluate construction priorities including alternatives for treating combined sewer overflows and management arrangements for implementing the study's recommendations.

The estimated capital costs for treatment facilities, accompanying interceptors and pumping stations recommended by the EMMA study is \$735 million. Under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 (Public Law 92-500), the costs will be shared as follows: 75 percent federal, 15 percent state and 10 percent, or \$73.5 million, local. Annual operation and maintenance costs, for which there are no federal or state funds available, are expected to total \$29 million.

## RECOMMENDATIONS (See map)

There are 109 communities in the study area, including 43 members of the MDC-administered Metropolitan Sewage District (MSD). Treatment systems have been considered for all study area communities, and those recommended encompass 60 cities and towns.

The subcommittee has endorsed moderate, decentralized treatment systems for the MSD. This would be accomplished by maintaining the present service area of the Deer Island sewage treatment plant, reducing the service area of the Nut Island sewage treatment plant and serving the outer area of the MSD with inland treatment facilities.

Recommendations are based upon providing secondary treatment at the Boston Harbor facilities and advanced treatment, which includes secondary treatment plus nutrient removal, at the inland facilities discharging into rivers. Toxic substances in industrial wastes would be subject to EPA pre-treatment regulations prior to discharge into sewer systems and alternative strategies for controlling combined sewer overflows will be proposed.

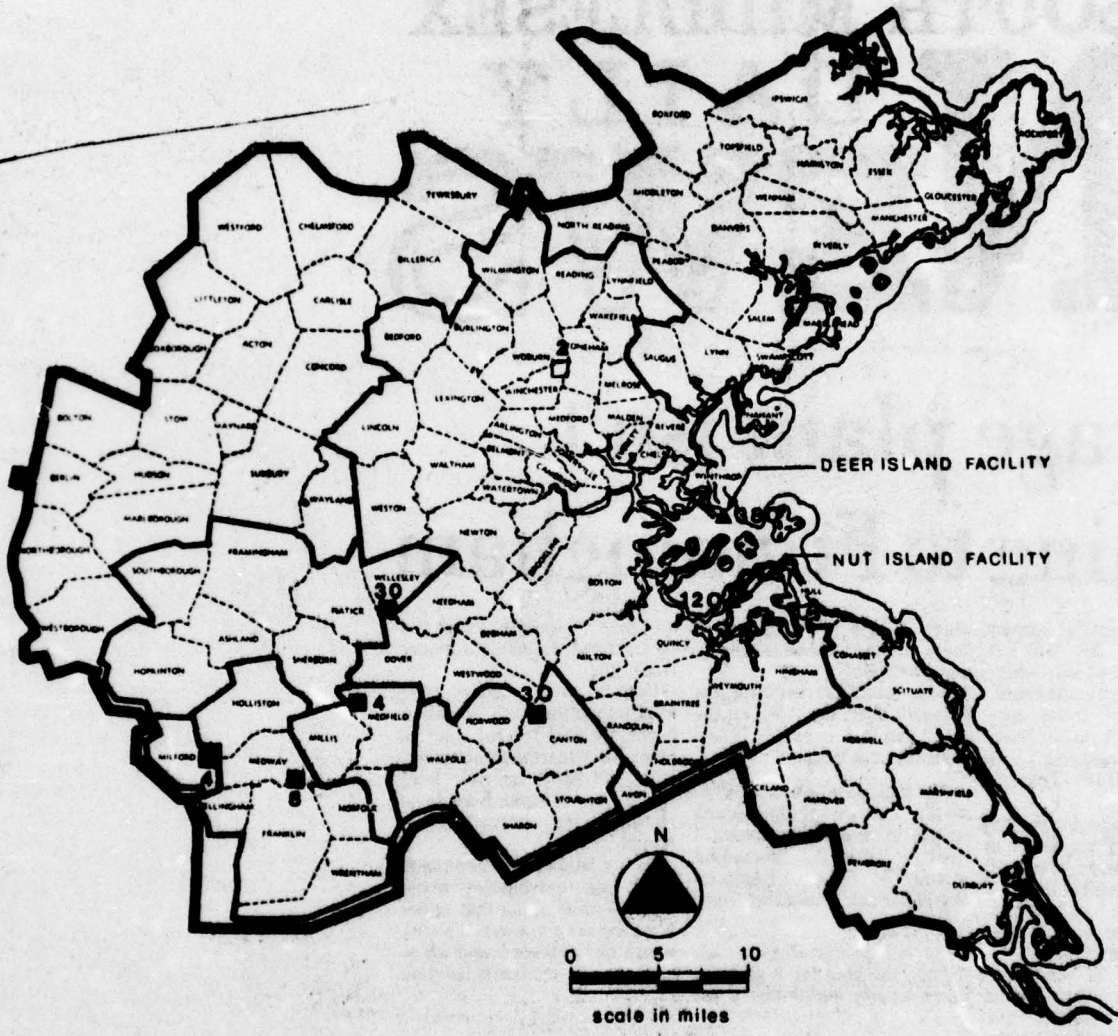
**Boston Harbor:** Upgrading the present primary treatment plant at Deer Island to a secondary treatment facility handling anticipated flows of 380 million gallons per day (mgd) in the year 2000. The Nut Island primary treatment plant would also be expanded and upgraded to secondary treatment to handle an anticipated flow of 120 mgd in the year 2000. The two plants are currently designed for 343 mgd and 112 mgd. Sludge produced at these facilities would be incinerated rather than discharged into the harbor. These improvements would benefit overall water quality and help safeguard public health, especially at recreational areas. It should be noted that the restoration of Boston Harbor water quality will depend mostly upon abating several other causes of pollution, notably the combined sewer overflows.

**Neponset River:** An advanced treatment facility would be located in the Canton area. It would treat approximately 30 mgd in the year 2000 from the towns of Canton, Norwood, Walpole, Sharon and Stoughton. This facility would reduce the service area of the Nut Island plant and keep reclaimed wastewater as far upstream in the Neponset River Basin as possible. The highly treated effluent should help the Neponset River by improving flows in dry summer months.

**Charles River:** The Wellesley area would be the location for an advanced treatment facility to serve the towns of Wellesley, Framingham, Ashland, Hopkinton, Natick and Southborough, as well as parts of Dover and Sherrborn when sewerage is provided there. This 30 mgd

facility would reduce flows to the Nut Island plant by the year 2000 and help retain reclaimed wastewater in its basin of origin. Adding these flows of clean water to the Charles River will be helpful to water quality in dry seasons. The treatment facilities which are in various stages of implementation in the Medfield, Medway and Milford areas should also benefit the river.

**Aberjona River:** An advanced treatment facility of about two mgd in the Woburn area is under consideration as an alternative to serve the special purpose of augmenting flows in the Aberjona River during summer months when additional water is needed in the river. Other means of providing low flow augmentation will be evaluated to determine which is the most cost-effective.



**EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN AREA  
WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT STUDY**

- Study Area Boundary
  - Recommended Service Areas
  - 120** Approximate Capacity of the Facility in MGD
  - ▲** Secondary Treatment Facility
  - Recommended Advanced Treatment Facility
  - Flow Augmentation Facility
- Source of data: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

# SOUTH MIDDLESEX DAILY *The* NEWS

## Sewage plant isn't coming to Framingham

A new wastewater treatment plant will not be built in Framingham. Instead, steps will be taken to "provide relief" for the existing trunk line, according to Richard Noss, environmental engineer with the Metropolitan District Commission.

The ultimate plan for solving sewer restriction problems in the South Middlesex area will center around construction of a satellite plant to handle sewerage flow on the Charles, possibly in Wellesley, Noss said.

Gerry Mimno of the South Middlesex Area Chamber of Commerce applauded the decision saying it will solve the immediate capacity problem and also provide a long range opportunity to reuse the water at some time in the future.

Framingham, Ashland, Natick and Hopkinton would benefit from use of another trunk line, Mimno said.

The proposal to build a treatment plant in Framingham was probably defeated, Mimno said, because the Sudbury is a low-flow river and the technology does not exist that could forecast the effect more nutrients would have on it.

Noss would not detail specifics of why the Framingham plant proposal was defeated, but said there were "a number of reasons."

"There were problems with both directions," he said.

The MDC's decision was not the last word on the matter however, as public hearings will be held in January to present plans for the entire area.

study, Noss said "Response of those hearings will be taken into consideration."

Noss would not say how the different agencies voted on the plan, but said it evoked "considerable discussion."

The decision will be subject to review "by the policy-making people in state government," Noss added, including primarily the Regional Metropolitan Planning Commission.

For all practical purposes, though, the plan for a plant in Framingham was killed when

the MDC voted to "shift its focus" toward making a bigger trunk line.

Under either plan, the original capital costs would be borne by the federal government but subsequent operating costs of plants or new lines would have to come from local communities, according to Mimno.

He has said that an additional trunk line to Wellesley would cost \$36 million, but that either way, the area's sewer capacity would be increased and allow for business and home building growth.

## New sewage plant or larger pipes?

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1974

# SOUTH MIDDLESEX DAILY *The* NEWS

## Another vote asked on area sewage plan

Although a state agency last week recommended another trunk line to solve South Middlesex area sewage problems, a citizens advisory committee may ask reconsideration, favoring a new wastewater treatment plant.

The committee was one of six voting on the proposal last week which came after an extensive study.

Chairman Rita Barron of Newton said Monday she will meet with the committee sometime this week to review the decision which she said "wasn't expected."

When the committee met with several other state and federal agencies last week she said they didn't expect to make a final recommendation.

The Metropolitan District Commission's vote Friday recommending an additional trunk line leading ultimately to Boston Harbor came a day after a 3-3 tie vote on whether to favor a new treatment plant in Framingham instead.

The additional line would be 66 inches to Wellesley where a treatment plant may be built instead and 72-inches from there to Dedham where it would tie into the MDC system leading

to Boston Harbor.

The proposal was to solve the area's sewer restriction problems because of MDC lines having reached capacity, limiting tie-ins.

The MDC recommendation is not final however as there will be public hearings in January for the entire Eastern Massachusetts area studied.

The proposal was a modified concept of decentralization of MDC lines and building satellite plants in at least Woburn and Canton.

Mrs. Barron however said, "We had not gone to the meeting expecting to vote on specific satellite plants, but agreed to the concept of reducing the load on the Boston Harbor plants."

The committee voted for a new wastewater treatment plant in Framingham although she said Monday "Framingham has a serious problem that has to be dealt with but which way I don't know."

A. Richard Miller of the Lake Cochituate Watershed Assoc. and the advisory committee said however he would ask for a reconsideration.

"We were faced with a nasty 11th hour dilemma to vote for

one or the other based on inadequate information," he said of the trunk line-treatment plant vote.

Miller said there is a problem with the Charles River possibly drying up for a week each year by 1990 if an additional trunk line is used.

He said a U.S. Geological Survey citing that possibility was not admitted into testimony until the meeting last week.

"The river is going to dry up if we take water out and use it and send it somewhere else," he said.

Miller said he favored "continued planning for a facility on the Sudbury River," at the Framingham site although there is not yet enough information he felt to vote on either proposal.

He said the vote last week and subsequent MDC vote swinging the recommendation came "because they felt they wanted to make a decision that day."

Miller felt there is not enough information on how ground water around rivers or how their flow would be affected.

"Priorities are upside down and topay turvy," he said, adding the vote was "really flying blind in some ways" and "uncomfortably close to closing your eyes and throwing a dart."

Gerry Mizano of the South Middlesex Area Chamber of Commerce however said the additional trunk line would enable more growth for the area, allowing business and residential tie-ins to sewers.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1974



# New England Sierran

VOLUME 6

No. 1 • JAN. 75

SIERRA CLUB • NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER BULLETIN

## Waste Water Disposal

The next Greater Boston Group General Membership meeting will be Wednesday, January 15, 7:30 p.m. at the M.I.T. Student Center, Mezzanine Lounge. There will be a discussion of sewage disposal problems and a report on the study by the Army Corps of Engineers and the M.D.C. on wastewater disposal in Eastern Massachusetts.

As required by the 1972 Water Pollution Control Act, the Corps and the M.D.C., with input from a Citizens' Advisory Group, have drawn up a basic wastewater treatment plan for the 109 M.D.C. communities, with particular focus on the 50-odd cities and towns in the Greater Boston area.

The plan will have profound impact not only on regional water quality, but also on land use, future population growth, and the flow of four major rivers.

The plan would decentralize the M.D.C. wastewater disposal system by establishing a number of satellite sewage treatment plants.

Discharges from these plants would raise water levels in the Charles, Neponset, Mystic and Sudbury Rivers. Area communities are now withdrawing more water than they release from these rivers.

An especially controversial issue is the construction of a secondary treatment plant on Deer Island in Boston Harbor. At present, sewage from Boston area communities receives only primary treatment; i.e., solids are removed from the water. The 1972 Water Pollution Control Act requires that all municipal waste receive secondary treatment, which removes up to 90 per cent of the organic matter in sewage, by 1977 (the M.D.C. cannot meet this deadline). If a secondary treatment plant is built on Deer Island, this could destroy the island's recreational potential.

The M.D.C. and the Corps are required by law to solicit public comment on their plan. This is your chance to be heard — you don't have to be an expert to have a say in the future of Greater Boston's water supply. For further information call Madeleine Kolb at 547-1223.



Patriot Ledger  
Quincy, MA  
30 May 75

## Nut Island Filling, Sewerage Opposed

QUINCY — Houghs Neck residents and City Councilor Leo Kelly strongly voiced their opposition last night to the filling of the Nut Island bay area, which the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) is considering to expand the sewage treatment plant located there.

The crowd of 400 applauded and cheered Mr. Kelly at the wastewater management public meeting at the Lincoln-Hancock School when he explained that his feeling was the same as that of his constituents.

Mr. Kelly warned of the sludge deposit and flooding which may occur in the area if the 23-acre bay area adjacent to Nut Island is filled in.

Martin Weiss, MDC Environmental Planning Office director, later countered this remark by saying that facilities would be built to incinerate the sludge rather than discharge it into the harbor.

Numerous residents asked why the MDC would prefer not to utilize Peddocks Island to upgrade the Nut Island plant. Mr. Weiss' answer was that it would cost more money, even though the MDC owns the island.

Mr. Weiss said that running pipes underwater from Nut Island to Peddocks Island would outrun the cost of extending Nut Island by filling the bay by several million dollars.

Aside from the cost involved, Mr. Kelly said even though Peddocks Island was originally obtained by the MDC for recreation and conservation purposes, the use of 25 of its 130 acres could be transformed, according to law.

Mr. Weiss stated that MDC primary sewage treatment plants on Deer Island and Nut Island have reached their capacities. Additional plants are needed, he

said, and upgrading to secondary status is necessary at the primary plants.

The MDC has endorsed a plan to decentralize the present sewage system. Proposed are two advanced treatment plants; one along the Neponset River in the Canton area, and another along the Charles River in the Wellesley area. Also, a small flow augmentation facility for the Aberjona River in the Woburn area is being considered.

Mr. Kelly assured irate residents that no proposal to take over homes was being considered in bay fill plan. Residents pointed out that views of downtown Boston and Dorchester Bay would be blocked by a treatment plant extension on an enlarged Nut Island.

A representative from Metcalf and Eddy, consultants to the study, said that up to 10 years ago, rainfall diluted much of the pollutant material in wastewater. Jakob Vitlands, the Eastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Area project manager for the study, said that today, rainwater is already polluted, lessening the diluting effect to the wastewater.

Mr. Kelly praised the use of chlorine in the bay to improve the quality of the water. Partially treated sewerage has been overflowing from the Nut Island plant, he said, and chlorination has helped improve the situation.

Including water pollution controls, the entire project is expected to cost approximately \$300 million. The study was started in March 1973.

The metropolitan area population in 1970 was 3,129,200. In 2000, the population is expected to be 3,806,000. The 30-year projected plan is for construction of treatment plants that will sufficiently handle this increase.

# 400 Oppose MDC Bay Fill Plan

## Quincy

QUINCY — The city is "doomed to destruction," according to City Councillor Leo J. Kelly, if a proposal to fill in 26 acres of Quincy Bay is approved.

Mr. Kelly led some 400 opponents of the plan at a hearing last night sponsored by the Eastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Area (EMMA) wastewater management study.

Participants in the study include the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) and the Army Corps of Engineers and the proposal includes expansion of Nut Island to include secondary sewerage treatment facilities.

The group proposes to fill in 26 acres of the bay adjacent to Nut Island but Mr. Kelly said the filling would have disastrous effects on the bay's tidal flow.

As it is, the bay is not fully flushed out by the tide, and with the filling, Mr. Kelly predicted tidal flushing would be reduced to a trickle, resulting in a waterfront "that is nothing but a cesspool of smelly, stinking mud flats."

An accountant, an MDC official, and an engineer all made presentations but the audience was more interested in finding out what had been done about complaints made at a meeting in April.

Mr. Kelly said the bay is already in terrible condition without destroying tidal flow, with the level of dissolved oxygen dangerously low and the level of toxic metals such as lead, mercury, chrome, zinc and nickel very high.

The low oxygen level and the

metals as well as gases from the treatment plant have also resulted in very little marine life, said Mr. Kelly.

Both Mr. Kelly and Councillor Dennis Harrington asked why there is no Quincy representative on the EMMA study group or its citizen advisory committee with Mr. Harrington suggesting EMMA couldn't stand the heated opposition from the area.

"Concentrate on primary treatment on Nut Island and prove you can do that and forget any plans at all to fill in any part of Quincy Bay," said Mr. Harrington.

Councillor Warren Powers reiterated the environmental hazards of the project and added, "Why does Quincy have to be the dumping ground for everywhere else? — Let's have some of the other towns share these problems," a sentiment voiced by numerous other persons at the hearing.

Martin Weiss of the MDC said Mr. Kelly had taken many of his facts and figures out of context but Mr. Kelly countered "the facts are not taken out of context — you already know there's little flushing there now."

Harold Davis, the school committee's representative on the park and recreation commission, said that with the MDC's previous inaction, any project

it puts forth "strains the imagination."

Mr. Davis joined in the call for a Quincy representative on the EMMA committee.

Pasquale DiStefano, president of the Quincy Citizen's Association, said no filling of Quincy Bay can be contemplated — "too much of our precious bay has already been desecrated," he said.

Questioning the validity of the hearing, Mr. DiStefano said, "If Quincy says 'no' is it going to be 'no' or are you just putting us on — I think you are."

Mr. Weiss said he could not believe anyone from the MDC had ever said the water coming out of the present Nut Island plant would be "crystal clear."

However, several persons, including Joseph Brophy of the park and recreation commission, said they had been told by the MDC "you can practically drink the water," when the plant was constructed in 1950.

The plant at Nut Island serves 22 communities "and Westwood and Medford and all of that can damn well go and build their own plants," said Mr. Brophy.

"We've lived here too long to believe anything you (the MDC) or the Army Corps of Engineers has to say. We don't want 'is here."

The crowd was

the whole works, primary and secondary treatment plants, to Paddock's Island but Mr. Weiss' reply that Paddock's Island "is reserved for open space and recreational use" brought boos from many of the audience.

Councillor Kelly, however, said the MDC can use the island for waste treatment facilities.

The hearing had originally been scheduled for the auditorium in the Kennedy Health Center on Hancock Street which has 122 seats.

Earlier yesterday Mr. Kelly questioned whether the MDC and Army Engineers were likely to discourage discharges of the study by choosing such a small hall.

In any case, the meeting was adjourned to the library of the Vocational-Technical School and later to the school's gymnasium to accommodate the large crowd.

Mayor Walter J. Hanson and his opponent in the November mayoral race, Joseph J. LaRia, both said they would like to see the present Nut Island plant running at its optimum level.

"I don't know that the plant has ever run right," said Mr. Hanson, adding the trucking of thousands of tons of fill through Boston Neck would create an unbearable hardship on residents of the area.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency is scheduled to prepare an environmental impact statement on the project "and I just hope it will show a better solution to this problem than filling," said Mr. LaRia.

Further statements of the District River Waterways Authority  
to the public hearing held by the Senate, 1950-1951  
concerning the proposed dam on the River, and  
the District River Waterways Authority, 1950-1951.

It is noted that the District River Waterways Authority  
has been advised that the Senate will be holding a public  
hearing on the dam project in the near future.

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**D. 4. Written Statements Received at the Final Meetings**

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Further statement of the Charles River Watershed Association to the public meeting held by the Boston Harbor Eastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Area Wastewater Management Study. September 30, 1975, Junior High School, Wellesley, Massachusetts.

I am Lydia R. Goodhue, 90 Dover Road in Wellesley, speaking for the Board of The Charles River Watershed Association. We submitted a statement at the June 5 meeting in Needham (a copy of which is attached). This statement:

1. Approved the principle of a decentralized system with improvements of Deer and Nut Island treatment.
2. Opposed a plant on the banks of the river. Good planning - and indeed all the recent Charles River plans - calls for recreational and scenic uses of the river banks. Only water-related structures such as boat houses should be encouraged on the river's edge.
3. Called for a great deal of input from citizens and local officials before a site or even site alternatives are chosen.
4. Applauded the high priority given to the problem of urban run-off.

Since then we have seen little if anything happen which would lessen our concerns.

Unless a citizen group has some immediate and real input in the over-all decisions, we fear that citizen activity will be reactive and defensive rather than creative and positive. We believe that citizen input should go not only to the matter of the site, but also to the matter of design and operation. We are worried about:

1. Sludge disposal
2. Smell
3. Noise
4. Nutrient removal
5. Record of experience of an existing plant of similar design

We feel the need of more water quality data upon which to base these decisions. For instance, what is the data information on the effect on the river of the effluent under the worst possible conditions? What of emergency conditions? In case of failure of the operation, would the raw sewage go into the river?

And, finally, we are concerned about the problem of operation - whether the plant will be operated by trained and high-quality staff and supervised by an alert staff at the agency level.

Statement of the Charles River Watershed Association  
to the Public Meeting held by the Boston Harbor-  
Eastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Area Wastewater  
Management Study. June 5, 1975 Pollard School Needham

I am Mary H. Fyffe of Pond Rd., Wellesley, representing the Board of the Charles River Watershed Association. We are an association of concerned citizens from all parts of the Charles River's Watershed who care about the river, its banks, and the condition of the entire watershed as it affects the river and citizens' enjoyment of it.

We approve the principle of a decentralized system for the Metropolitan Sewerage District with improvement of Deer Island and Nut Island treatment and with an advanced treatment plant in the mid-Charles watershed. We realize that the M.D.C. system is often surcharged here and that the river would benefit from added flow if it is clean.

However, we object to the phrase "along the Charles River in the Wellesley area" because:

1. The treatment plant should not be on the banks of the river. The river is a great recreational and environmental asset to the region, and only those structures which are water-linked (such as a boat house) should occupy land adjacent to the river, especially in the Wellesley-Dover area, one of the most scenic locations.
2. We have long supported planning which promotes the recreational and scenic uses of the river banks, notably the Department of Natural Resources' input into the Corps of Engineers' 5-year study of the Charles and the most recent SENE proposal of the New England River Basins Commission.
3. We do not think that a site or even site alternatives should be chosen without a great deal of formal input from local citizens, citizens' associations, and town and city officials.

We are glad that storm water regulation has been assigned a high priority because urban run-off is a serious pollutant of the Charles River.

9/30/75

STATEMENT OF WELLESLEY BOARD OF SELECTMEN TO THE M.D.C.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

My name is Richard L. Gardner, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Wellesley. I am attending this public information meeting to indicate the opposition of the Town of Wellesley to the alternative recommended by the Boston Harbor-Eastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Area ("E.M.M.A.") Wastewater Management Study for the provision of sewage treatment facilities in the Greater Boston area. This recommended plan includes a system of supplementary satellite treatment plants, a management structure for the wastewater treatment system and a financing mechanism for assessing its capital, operating and maintenance costs.

We oppose the satellite plan because it creates unacceptable health hazards, degrades the environment in which it is located, is more expensive, does not conform to the recommendations of the Technical Advisory Committee, did not consider adequately technical alternatives, and there was inadequate involvement of the municipalities within the study area.

**UNACCEPTABLE HEALTH HAZARDS:** There is a certainty that viruses will pass through the primary, secondary and tertiary treatment and into the discharge effluent. At this time, there are no federal or state regulations concerning limits for viruses in water or wastewater. However, because very low numbers ( $<10$ ) of viruses are sufficient to cause disease in man, viruses in water supplies or surface waters

represent a significant health hazard. A major source of virus in surface waters is effluent from municipal waste treatment plants. It is estimated that advanced waste treatment plants discharge 150 infectious units of virus per liter (EMMA wastewater management study: Hygienic Impacts). The capacity of the proposed treatment facility on the middle Charles River is 30 million gallons per day, thus the plant would be discharging approximately 18 billion viruses per day. In the event of plant malfunction, the number could be several times higher. Viruses have been recovered in water up to 10 miles from the point of effluent discharge; it can be assumed that the Charles would be virus-contaminated for several miles from the proposed plant site. This contamination could endanger those populations exposed. These viruses, which include poliomyelitis and infectious hepatitis strains, would endanger the people of Wellesley, Needham, Dover, Westwood, the West Roxbury Section of Boston, Dedham, Newton, Waltham, Watertown, the Brighton section of Boston, Cambridge, Brookline, and the Back Bay/Beacon Hill sections of Boston. A total of 500,000 people live within the above-mentioned localities.

The above described hazard exists under the best conditions. We are not talking about a situation where something goes wrong at the treatment plant -- a malfunction -- a strike -- equipment failure -- human error -- or some other failing of man or nature.

Viruses are the most important items that would escape the treatment that is proposed at such a plant, but not the only items, however. Organic chemicals, salts (which are extremely critical for people suffering from hypertension or cardiac conditions), urine compounds,

pesticides, heavy metals and dissolved metallic chromium would be included. Furthermore, the plant proposes phosphate elimination but actually adds nitrates in the treatment process. These nitrogen compounds can be extremely harmful to drinking water. Finally, there is a substantial algae growth problem in the lower Charles River, and this problem may be exacerbated by the effluent discharge of the Middle Charles Treatment Plant.

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION: The proposed satellite plant will dump sewage effluent into the Charles River at a location where no sewage - treated or untreated - is being dumped presently. This plant would have severe noise problems associated with its operation. A sludge incinerator on the same site may create additional air pollution problems.

The satellite plant would be incompatible with the designation of this stretch of the Charles River for improvement to Class "B" water quality by the State's Division of Water Pollution Control.

The location of a satellite plant in an area that is otherwise devoted to residential, recreational, educational, conservation, office or research, and park land uses is not acceptable. The size and bulk of such a plant is out of scale; the noise and odor is objectionable; and it is impossible to screen such a plant from its surroundings, particularly the 250' high smoke stack that would be needed for the sludge incinerator.

MORE EXPENSIVE: Operating and maintenance costs of sewage treatment under the satellite plant alternative could be at least \$4.7 million per year more than the same items for the expansion of central



plants alternative. Main components of the operation and maintenance costs are labor, chemicals and power, thus these costs may be greatly underestimated, particularly when considered over the 40-year lifetime of the plant.

NON-CONFORMING TO THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

The committee evaluated 23 different items, both engineering and environmental considerations. This review favored the expansion of central plants alternative, not the development of satellites.

INADEQUATE INVOLVEMENT OF THE MUNICIPALITIES: Until the elected officials of the Town of Wellesley began to question directly members of the E.M.M.A. Technical Advisory Committee, very little detail and substantive information had been provided. The information tended to be very general and innocuous in nature and did not do justice to a study which may lead to the expenditure of over \$800,000,000 in public funds. Actually, this problem of the municipalities getting adequate information still remains unresolved. On July 29th representatives from the Towns of Wellesley, Dover and Sherborn held a joint study meeting. This July 29th meeting reviewed the technical work done by the E.M.M.A. study and the way in which potential health and environmental hazards would be handled by the sewage treatment plants. Several questions remained unanswered after this July 29th meeting. A formal letter was transmitted to M.D.C. Director of Environmental Planning, Martin Weiss on August 8, 1975, with the expectation that answers would be received before Labor Day. Mr. Weiss personally assured both Mr. Colby and Mr. Murphy in separate telephone conversations that answers would be dispatched no later than the end of the week of

September 1st. This promised response has not been received to date.

The only advantage cited for the implementation of a supplementary satellite treatment plant alternative is the augmentation of low water level in the Charles and Neponset Rivers during times of drought or other low river flow instances. We feel that there are better ways of handling this problem. Impoundment of water upstream for release during these low flow periods and diversion of water from another source are two such alternatives.

There is one point that is important to make in conclusion. Since the Town of Wellesley is greatly affected by the proposed location of the satellite plant, it might be thought that our opposition would be automatic. On the contrary, we are well aware that wastewater problems must and will be solved. Consequently, we have made a great effort to be objective and factual in our evaluation.

The Town of Wellesley has been assisted in this study of the wastewater management proposals by a special committee appointed by the Board of Selectmen. This committee has included planners, biochemists, virologists, microbiologists, air pollution and water pollution control experts, environmental attorneys, financial and management consultants, and interested citizens. We are proud of the work this committee has done, the long hours of careful study and review of material made available to them, and the openness of the process developed to undertake this study. There has been wide publicity in the newspapers and on radio stations of the activities of this committee and good attendance by the general public at its various meetings. We are very much indebted to their efforts and assistance.

The results of the evaluation which my statement tonight has summarized leads inescapably to the conclusion that the proposed satellite treatment plant would be a multi-million dollar mistake which would endanger the health, quality of life and welfare of the citizens of the Commonwealth. It would achieve a result exactly opposite from its initial objective.

(RETYPE FOR PURPOSES OF PUBLICATION)

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APPROVED  
*[Faint signature]*

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CITY OF QUINCY  
IN COUNCIL

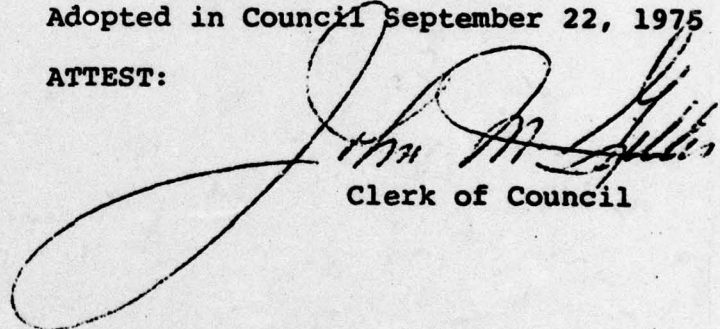
RESOLVE NO. 469  
~~XXXXXX~~

September 22, 1975

BE IT RESOLVED that the Quincy City Council record itself in opposition to the filling in of any portion of Quincy Bay and adjacent to Nut Island. Copy referred to Army Corps of Engineers and Metropolitan District Commission and EMMA.

Adopted in Council September 22, 1975

ATTEST:

  
Clerk of Council

A True Copy - Attest

  
Assistant City Clerk

APPROVED

SEP 29 1975

  
MAYOR

**YEAS**     Harrington, Kelly LaRaia, Lydon, Marshall, Powers, Quinn Sheets, Tobin

**NAYS**     Harrington, Kelly, LaRaia Lydon, Marshall, Powers, Quinn, Sheets, Tobin

TO: MDC and Army Corps of Engineers  
FROM: Paul D. Harold  
RE: Nut Island Sewage Treatment Plant

City Council Candidate Paul D. Harold has voiced his opposition to an MDC plan that calls for filling 26 acres of Quincy Bay to upgrade the Nut Island Sewage Treatment Plant.

"Such a filling would have a disastrous effect on the ecology of Quincy Bay and would turn much of the shore area into swampy mudflats because of the change in tidal currents," Mr. Harold told a gathering at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kamb, 80 Bay View Ave., Houghes Neck.

Mr. Harold said it seems that the MDC "is saying that in order to save Quincy Bay, we must destroy it. An upgrading of the treatment plant is certainly overdue, but this plan is completely unacceptable."

Mr. Harold said the MDC should involve community residents in working up an acceptable plan, and urged Quincy residents to attend Thursday's Wastewater Management Study meeting at 7 p.m. at the Kennedy Health Center to hear what alternative plans are being considered.

Paul D. Harold  
31 Riverside Avenue  
Quincy, PA 02169