

EXHIBIT I



TOWN OF UXBRIDGE  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

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UXBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 01569-1326  
508-278-8616 ♦ Fax 508-278-3179

Benn S. Sherman, P.E.  
Director

November 16, 2012

By electronic mail: [Murphy.Susan@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Murphy.Susan@epamail.epa.gov)  
By Overnight mail

Susan Murphy  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region 1  
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100 (OEP06-1)  
Boston, MA 02109-3912

**RE: Town of Uxbridge Massachusetts  
Comments on Permit No. MA0102440**

Dear Ms. Murphy:

The Town of Uxbridge Department of Public Works (DPW) has reviewed the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) draft NPDES permit number MA0102440, which was published on September 21, 2012. At the time of the issuance of the draft permit, the Town was in the middle of conducting a wastewater facilities planning project. As the agency responsible for the implementation of the regulations, the DPW respectfully submits the following comments on this draft permit:

1. There are several new parameters in the permit that the existing wastewater treatment facility either cannot meet at current flows, cannot meet at the design flow, was not designed to meet and/or has no long term data to show it can meet. These are as follows:
  - a. The existing facility was not designed to treat to the bacteria levels contained in the new permit (E. coli and Enterococci) nor is there any data to demonstrate the facility is capable of achieving these new limits.
  - b. The existing facility was not designed to treat to the total phosphorus levels contained in the new permit nor is there any data to demonstrate the facility is capable of achieving these new limits.
  - c. The existing facility was not designed to treat to the total nitrogen levels contained in the new permit nor is there any data to demonstrate the facility is capable of achieving these new limits.
  - d. At the very least, the Town will need time to complete the planning process, design, bid and construct necessary improvements to meet these new limits.
2. With regard to pH, the former permit contained a clause after the permit range as follows "unless these values are exceeded due to natural causes." Can this be added into the new permit?
3. With regard to residual chlorine, the former permit contained different sampling requirements. Can the permit be worded as follows: "two samples per day Monday to Friday, one sample per day Saturday and Sunday and holidays"?
4. With regard to aluminum, this limit is unreasonable given the phosphorus limit and the prevalence of aluminum in phosphorus removal chemicals. It is unclear from the information provided in the Fact Sheet if a determination has been made as to what levels of aluminum may be naturally occurring in the receiving waters. It should be noted that bioassays conducted by the Town are always successful indicating the aluminum that is being discharged is non-toxic. Thus, the Town requests to have



wastewater treatment facilities like Uxbridge will pay much more per pound removed than larger facilities which are able to remove nitrogen far more cost effectively. It would seem that this was recognized when the Burrillville permit was issued. But then, why would Burrillville have no limit while our facility has a limit? Since the Town has demonstrated a capability to voluntarily maximize nitrogen removal at the facility, the Town requests terminology in their permit that is similar to that which is in the Burrillville permit: "The permittee shall operate the treatment facility to reduce the discharge of Total Nitrogen to the maximum extent possible using all available treatment equipment in place at the facility."

13. The Town has very limited property for additional facilities and if required to meet these new permit conditions will need to wisely chose how best to use remaining property. And, given the limited funds available to address this permit, it is imperative that any work that is put into the existing facility would not be undone by a short-term change in the permit. What permit limits are expected to be in the next two permit cycles? Can EPA make a commitment with regard to how long these proposed limits will be in effect?

The Town of Uxbridge thanks the EPA for the opportunity to provide public comments on the draft NPDES permit. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me at 508-278-8616.

Sincerely,

Benn S. Sherman, P.E.  
Director of Public Works

CC: Kathleen Keohane, MassDEP (Kathleen.Keohane@state.ma.us)  
Uxbridge Board of Selectmen  
Sean Hendricks, Town Manager  
William Buma, Operations Manager  
Marc Drainville, GHD