

Dave P.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 1  
1 CONGRESS STREET, SUITE 1100  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02114-2023

January 8, 2007

Mr. Glenn Haas, Director  
Bureau of Resources Protection  
One Winter Street  
Boston, MA 02118

Ms. Alicia Good, Assistant Director  
Water Resources  
Department of Environmental Management  
235 Promenade Street  
Providence, RI 02908

Dear Mr. Haas and Ms. Good,

As you know, EPA has committed to address the serious eutrophication problems which currently exist in Narragansett Bay, and is working with each of your agencies to ensure that appropriate actions are taken.

A significant portion of the nutrient problem in the Bay stems from nitrogen discharges from wastewater treatment facilities. It is, therefore, a high priority to ensure that appropriate nitrogen limits are included in discharge permits for these treatment plants, and that any upgrades or expansions needed to meet these limits are constructed on a reasonable schedule.

As the NPDES permitting authority in Massachusetts, EPA included a nitrogen limit in the final permit recently issued to the North Attleborough treatment facility. A similar limit was included in the draft permit for the City of Attleboro, and a final permit is nearing completion. EPA is developing a draft permit for the Upper Blackstone treatment facility, and expects to propose a nitrogen limit in that permit as well. We will include nitrogen limits, where needed, in other permits as they come up for renewal, and we will be working with these communities to establish appropriate schedules for design and construction of any necessary treatment facilities.

In Rhode Island, the state is the NPDES permitting authority. We are aware that many Rhode Island permits already include nitrogen limits. We understand that some facilities are already meeting these limits, while other some facilities are now assessing whether

construction of additional treatment will be needed to meet these limits. We are monitoring this situation closely. We will work with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management to ensure that, where additional treatment facilities are needed, appropriate design and construction schedules are put in place.

We look forward to continuing to work with each of you to make progress in addressing this important environmental issue. I am sure that we will be talking further as events progress. Please feel free to call me at any time at 617-918-1502.

Sincerely,



Ken Moraff  
Deputy Director  
Office of Ecosystem Protection

cc: Arleen O'Donnell  
Michael Sullivan  
Robert W. Varney