BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENTAL APPEALS BOARD

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY WASHINGTON, D.C.

> ENVIR. APPEALS BOARD 2015 JAN -2 AM 11:21

ORAL ARGUMENT

IN THE MATTER OF:

CHARLES RIVER POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

: NPDES

: Appeal No.

: 14-01

NPDES Permit No. MA 0102598 :

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Administrative Courtroom Room 1152 EPA East Building 1201 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC

The above-entitled matter came for hearing, pursuant to notice, at 10:00 a.m.

BEFORE:

(202) 234-4433

THE HONORABLE RANDOLPH L. HILL Environmental Appeals Judge

THE HONORABLE LESLYE M. FRASER Environmental Appeals Judge

THE HONORABLE KATHIE A. STEIN Environmental Appeals Judge

> **NEAL R. GROSS** COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS 1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

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CONTENTS

Arguments by Robe	ert Cox	. 5
Arguments by Sam	ir Bukhari	51
Rebuttal by Rober	ct Cox	103

P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S 1 10:01 a.m. 2 good Well 3 JUDGE HILL: morning My name is Randy Hill. To my left, evervone. 4 your right, is Judge Kathie Stein and to my right 5 is Judge Leslye Fraser. 6 I think most of you have come down 7 from the Boston area. And we do appreciate you 8 being here in person today. And good morning to 9 whoever is watching us on video. 10 explain how we'll proceed 11 Let me We have allocated 45 minutes for each 12 today. side. We'll hear first from the Petitioners and 13 then from EPA Region 1. 14 Mr. Cox, you may reserve up to ten 15 minutes of your time for rebuttal if you wish. 16 Do you wish? 17 I'd like to do so, Your MR. COX: 18 19 Honor. JUDGE HILL: Okay. Good. Before we 20 begin, let me ask each of you at counsel table to 21 introduce yourself and for whom you're appearing. 22

1	Starting with Petitioner.
2	MR. COX: I am Robert Cox for the
3	Petitioner, the towns, as well as the Upper
4	Blackstone Water Pollution Abatement District.
5	MR. BUKHARI: And my name is Samir
6	Bukhari, I'm representing the Region in this
7	matter.
8	MR. WITT: And I'm Richard Witt. I'm
9	with the Office of General Counsel.
10	JUDGE HILL: Thank you. Thank you
11	all. Mr. Cox?
12	MR. COX: Thank you very much and good
13	morning. We're here because the Region has made
14	a radical change to the NPDES Permit program.
15	Contrary to the plain words at Section 301(a) of
16	the Act which prohibits, absent a permit, a
17	discharge of any pollutant by any person from a
18	point source, and without any regulatory
19	authority.
20	The Region here seeks to make the
21	town's co-permittees to the Charles River
22	Pollution Control District's permit. EPA

acknowledges the absence of regulatory authority, 1 2 but it says it can do so. It can do so because 3 it has crafted an approach to fill in the gap in 4 the regulations. 5 There is no gap in the regulations. Their regulations simply don't apply to it. 6 7 Act doesn't apply to co-permittees. The Region 8 has knowingly purported to make the towns co-9 permittees. 10 This is not the first time that this 11 Board has addressed EPA's authority to seek to 12 make municipal sewer collection systems 13 permittees. And the EPA in Region 1 tried to do 14 this before in the Upper Blackstone matter in 2010. 15 16 It says that -- this Board said to the Region, wait, hold on, you need to show that you 17 18 have legal authority to do so. You need to show 19 a legal basis for expanding beyond the treatment 20 plant to towns that did not discharge directly to 21 U.S. waters.

The Region would not be stayed. It

comes back with a different basis. And in Upper Blackstone, the Region said it was the treatment plant that was discharging. Now -- now the Region comes back and says it's the whole POTW that includes the municipal satellite collection systems. All that is a discharge.

That's why we're here. EPA tried to take one approach years ago. It did not work.

Now it's coming back with a different theory.

What are the problems with the EPA's approach? Well first, as I said, there's no legal authority to regulate the towns as copermittees. Second, the application process itself as laid out in the regulations at Section 122, the Region either seeks to ignore or in part to rewrite them. These regulations show the absence of authority.

Third, if there should be some type of determination that there is indeed statutory authority, it's necessary for the Region to do what it wants to do through a rule. It's not made a rule. It has issued an analysis of 16

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pages that it says its interpretation.

And then finally, the underlying policy concerns that the EPA Region raised with respect to the I/I that sets forth in the response -- the comments it sets forth in its very reply, is displaced by the Massachusetts' DEP's amended to its regulations that directly regulate the source of these modifications that were made to Massachusetts regulations while this permit was pending. While the appeal was pending they made it into the notice here.

So first, what the Region says with respect to its claim to authority over municipal satellite collection systems, it's counting on two bases. One is that the municipal satellite collection system is discharging pollutants from a point source.

And then second, that appeals a POTW including the municipal satellite collection systems and the entire community system. It's all one point source.

Here's the problem. Here's the

problem. The municipal satellite collection systems do not discharge pollutants from the point source. They convey sewage flow to the treatment plant for discharge after it's treated from a point source.

The Clean Water Act regulates persons.

Persons who discharge to navigable waters.

That's not my clients. That's not the towns.

They have no authority, no control over the point source here. They just act as a conduit to get flow to the treatment plant.

JUDGE HILL: So Mr. Cox, so let's go with this notion of they're just a conduit. And let's take this out of the POTW context for a moment.

Let's say one of the towns had a vehicle maintenance yard. And they hooked up a pipe to drain the fluids out of that vehicle maintenance yard. And it went into a storm sewer. And let's assume the storm sewer was owned by a different town and it discharged from there into the Charles.

1	Would the town that owns the vehicle
2	
	maintenance yard be discharging a pollutant or
3	not?
4	MR. COX: Is it a person discharging
5	pollutants from a point source?
6	JUDGE HILL: They are diff well,
7	okay, I'm sorry, yes.
8	MR. COX: No.
9	JUDGE HILL: Okay, EPA has said
10	otherwise.
11	MR. COX: I know it has.
12	JUDGE HILL: No, but I mean EPA has
13	said otherwise in a regulatory context. In it's
14	storm water regulations EPA has said, if you're
15	owner A and you're hooked up to sewer system B,
16	that you can also be required to get a permit for
17	the stuff that comes out of sewer system B.
18	Why is that not this situation?
19	MR. COX: Well it is different, so
20	because you've set it out to be a storm water
21	discharge. And under the storm water under
22	the regulations, storm water does allow co-

permittees.

So there is the ability to have copermittees there. And that's under the storm water regulations, not the regulations here.

Here we're talking about persons that discharge from a point source. That is not the municipality here. They are a conduit, they're sending flow to be treated and then discharged.

DUDGE HILL: Let me ask you another example. If you're a person who is discharging not to a publically owned treatment works, but to a privately owned treatment works, EPA has said for a long time that it can permit either the operator of the privately owned treatment works, or the contributors to that privately owned treatment works, or both.

And I think both of the examples that I'm giving you are basically what the agency has said that the person A, the upstreamer, we'll call them, is discharging a pollutant because it's passing through a series of conveyances and into the water of the U.S.

1	And so I'm trying to figure out and
2	that's essentially what the Region is arguing.
3	And are you saying that both of those regulations
4	are also invalid as they apply to upstreamers?
5	MR. COX: No. No. Not at all.
6	Because there is a specific regulation that
7	governs private treatment and does allow co-
8	permittees there. There's a regulation for that.
9	There is not any regulation for any co-permittee.
10	JUDGE HILL: Then let me be precise.
11	Are you saying there is no statutory authority to
12	permit these satellite systems, or no regulatory
13	authority?
14	MR. COX: Both. There's no statutory
15	authority for doing so and there's no regulatory
16	for doing so.
17	JUDGE HILL: Then where I'm stuck is
18	why is there statutory authority to regulate
19	contributors to privately owned treatment works,
20	but not contributors to publically owned
21	treatment works?
22	MR. COX: If you go back to the

statute, the statute itself makes it unlawful to discharge for any person, unlawful to discharge, absent having a permit. The statute is set up to require the permitting requirements.

There's no regulatory provision in here to govern co-permittees that are discharging to the pump, sending wastewater through their pipes for discharge in a public treatment facility to U.S. waters.

JUDGE STEIN: But why does the statute and the regulations need to expressly provide that you are allowed to have permittees -- copermittees if the language of the statute for regulations is broad enough to encompass them with that explicit reference?

MR. COX: Well they do --

JUDGE STEIN: I mean, there are numerous permit programs throughout the agency where there is more than one permittee. You know, whether it's an owner or an operator, whether they're denominated a co-permittee or not.

Why must there be explicit statutory 1 authority that uses the magic word that you're 2 usinq? 3 Well it needs to be because MR. COX: 4 the way the Region has done this is through a 5 legislative rule. Or it has taken its analysis 6 and said no, we're just doing an interpretation 7 here. 8 Well, let's JUDGE STEIN: Okay. 9 with you 10 that don't agree assume legislative rule. 11 Okay, fine. MR. COX: 12 So let's Okay. 13 JUDGE STEIN: before we get to that issue, why does, I don't 14 understand why we have to expressly specify co-15 permittees in the statute or the regulations 16 The regulatory language is broad enough. 17 I'm not answering that second 18 a regulatory or statutory 19 But if question. 20 language is broad enough to sweep them in, why must you specify co-permittees expressly? 21 MR. COX: Well, regulatory language is 22

(202) 234-4433

not broad enough to be bring co-permittees. 1 That's where you need to have it. The other 2 examples is vague however the regulations do 3 provide for co-permittees. And in connection 4 with 5 But before -- I don't 6 JUDGE HILL: 7 want to keep -- before we go on, I want to be very precise as to your position. Because when I 8 asked you the question is there no statutory 9 10 authority to permit these upstreamer or upstream 11 towns, you said no, there is no statutory 12 authority. MR. COX: Correct. 13 JUDGE HILL: If that is true, and I 14 15 understand from your brief, and I assume you're continuing that argument, the reason is because 16 they essentially don't operate the pipe where the 17 discharge is actually coming out of. 18 19 correct? 20 MR. COX: They are not persons who are 21 discharging. Okay. They are not 22 JUDGE HILL:

1	
1	persons who are
2	MR. COX: They are not the persons who
3	are discharging.
4	JUDGE HILL: They are not persons who
5	are discharging.
6	MR. COX: Correct.
7	JUDGE HILL: Wouldn't the logic of
8	that position mean that any upstreamer is not a
9	person who is discharging? That is to say unless
10	you are the one operating the actual location
11	where it's falling into the river, you are not a
12	person who is discharging?
13	MR. COX: Not a person well,
14	according to the Region, they would be persons
15	because they
16	JUDGE HILL: No, I understand. But
17	I'm saying your position is that they're not
18	persons.
19	MR. COX: Correct. That's correct.
20	JUDGE HILL: And where I'm still stuck
21	is if that the logic of that position is that
22	EPA is also wrong to say that contributors to

privately owned treatment works need permits. 1 And how do you reconcile those? 2 I don't think I -- all I'm MR. COX: 3 saying is that the discharger -- the discharger 4 that is subject, needs to be subject to the 5 regulation. That what the statute raises, that 6 7 the discharger from the point source needs to have them. Otherwise it's a long -- otherwise 8 they're in violation. 9 I don't see a disconnect there between 10 the statutory language in the regulations. 11 JUDGE HILL: But this is my -- but let 12 me try it one more time. My point is that if I'm 13 contributing into a system of interconnected 14 15 pipes and some pollutants and that -- and I do 16 not own or operate all of that system of interconnected pipes, there's only a person at 17 the operates that system of 18 end who 19 interconnected pipes. If I understand your argument, you're 20 saying it's only the person who operates at the 21 end is the one who is discharging. Am I correct 22

1	that that's your position?
2	MR. COX: That is correct.
3	JUDGE HILL: Okay. All right.
4	MR. COX: And as you know, the term is
5	defined
6	JUDGE HILL: If we disagreed with
7	that, what would I mean, if we said well,
8	they're basically causing this stuff to go in at
9	point A and it's coming out at point B. If we
10	said that they were discharging on that basis
11	under the statute, where would your argument take
12	you?
13	MR. COX: So if the municipal
14	satellite companies are deemed to be dischargers,
15	that's your question?
16	JUDGE HILL: That's correct.
17	MR. COX: Well, one thing that that
18	would happen is a result in the would generate
19	illogical results. Such as requiring the
20	receiving municipal satellite collection system
21	as immaterial to government, okay.
22	JUDGE HILL: Okay.

And they're dischargers. MR. COX: 1 And if it is applied to government as the Region 2 says, none would be necessary to be secondary 3 That's set forth in the treatment standards. 4 The POTWs are required to do so. 5 statute. JUDGE HILL: Okay. 6 If the municipal satellite 7 MR. COX: collection systems are deemed to be point sources 8 because they are discharging, they're point 9 sources, then they need to meet technology based 10 because that's what the statute 11 standards 12 requires. The premises must be involved. But the Region's not requiring that. 13 That's why it just doesn't make sense to have 14 these uptight if you will, persons that will be 15 subject to the permit, what you call the 16 17 dischargers. And further, there are other problems 18 that arise. Other questions that arise if the 19 20 municipal satellite collection systems are deemed 21 to be dischargers.

Does the permit, or should I ask where

in the permit does it authorize the municipal --1 2 the towns, my clients to discharge to 3 facility? Nowhere. It doesn't say it. The permit says at part 1(a), the 4 5 permittee, which is attributed to that, is authorized to discharge as a part of 101. 6 7 JUDGE HILL: Okay. What i f all this 8 MR. COX: has happens, if they're discharged does the permit 10 address that? No. The permit only addresses 11 part 101 as a point source to District. 12 JUDGE FRASER: So would it -- would 13 not your position mean that if one town owned the 14 whole thing, let's say there aren't any other 15 towns. So one town owns the whole 238 miles in 16 the outfall, they would be subject. 17 If that town sold off or gave away the 18 last five miles that is the treatment facility, 19 the town now has under your theory, gotten out of 20 its obligations to have an NPDES Permit when it's 21 still discharging the same material? 22 MR. COX: That's not -- the town is no

longer a person discharging fluids from a point 1 2 source. It is discharging the same material that it collects in its town. 3 But the discharge itself is being 5 treated before it's discharged in the U.S. By someone, a different person. 6 waters. I'm not even dealing JUDGE FRASER: 7 with a treatment facility. I'm just dealing with 8 they sold off or gave away the last five miles of 9 So they own 238 miles and now they gave 10 11 away five miles where they gave away the five miles between their town and the outfall. 12 they've, under 13 And SO now 14 argument, the town would no longer be subject to Permitting just by giving away the 15 NPDES ownership rights of the last five miles. 16 17 That's right. That's right. MR. COX: 18 Because they're not discharging. If I understood 19 your example correctly, at some point, there was 20 treatment and discharge into U.S. water over that last five miles. 21

Someone is doing it, or if it's not,

then that end of the pipe person needs to have a permit owned for that discharge.

JUDGE HILL: Mr. Cox, in their permitting approach document, the Region cites to

which I believe is a First Circuit case. And in

a case called Dague versus City of Burlington,

that case, you have a town that basically owned a

piece of land that was draining.

And it was draining -- it was a landfill. And it was draining through a railroad culvert into a water of the U.S. Or at least at that time it was conceded to be a water of the U.S.

And there, it's not 100 percent clear from the opinion. But it's fairly clear from the opinion, that the railroad put up the railroad culvert and probably still ostensibly owned it.

And yet in that case, the Court said well, you know, the town is responsible for the landfill. The landfill's pollutants are going through the culvert into the water of the U.S. and the town needs a permit.

1 Isn't that case kind of squarely disagreeing with the theory you're now espousing? 2 3 MR. COX: The distinction there is that the railroad was not operating a treatment 4 5 facility that was discharging into U.S. water 6 zone. The issue there --7 JUDGE HILL: They were operating a 8 culvert that was discharging to U.S. waters. 9 MR. COX: It's understood. Yes. 1.0 it's not analogous in that we're not dealing with 11 sewer flow. Now if those contributed plant is 12 discharged into the U.S. water source. 13 JUDGE HILL: So is your argument that 14 there's a lack of statutory authority to permit 15 the upstream -- the operators of the upstream 16 pipes limited to publically owned treatment 17 works? 18 MR. COX: Correct. That's ours. It's 19 limited -- it's limited to the person that is discharging into U.S. 20 waters, which is the 21 treatment plant. The treatment per the treatment plant is our --22

1	JUDGE HILL: I'm sorry, I'm still
2	confused. Because you keep saying it's limited
3	to the person who is discharging.
4	MR. COX: Yes.
5	JUDGE HILL: In the Dague case, the
6	person who was discharging was arguably the
7	railroad because they were operating the point
8	source under your analysis.
9 ·	MR. COX: Correct.
10	JUDGE HILL: And yet, the Court there
11	said that the city, who was operating the
12	landfill, which was sending their water, the
13	contaminated water, through the culvert into the
14	water of the U.S., needed a permit.
15	How does that isn't that squarely
16	in opposition to what you're now arguing to us
17	here?
18	MR. COX: Again, to distinguish it,
19	because what we're talking about is POTWs here.
20	And the discharge here is subject to treatment
21	and then discharge.
22	So I think there is a distinction

1	here.
2	JUDGE HILL: Okay. All right.
3	JUDGE STEIN: Why are the POTWs so
4	different from the rest of the world under the
5	Clean Water Act?
6	MR. COX: Well, I don't know.
7	JUDGE STEIN: In your case I mean,
8	your
9	MR. COX: I don't know how to answer
10	that, so other then to say that in a connection
11	with the analysis here, it really is not material
12	to what the definition of what a POTW is. What
13	is the focus and should be the focus is the
14	statutory language of who is the person that is
15	discharging at the point source.
16	The Region has gone to great lengths
17	to reach out to the another section in the
18	statute that does not have to do with permitting
19	to use a different definition of POTW that
20	includes the words
21	JUDGE STEIN: But don't the
22	regulations cross-refeference that definition?

MR. COX: The regulations cross-1 reference that regulation, but as I point out in 2 our reply Brief, that change that came about in 3 2002 I think it was, and that change that was 4 5 made -- the change was made to assist readers in NPDES finding specific provisions the in 6 Regulations. 7 It's intended to expand the 8 not definition if 9 application of the they are restricted to a particular section. 10 So 11 change that was made that the Region cites to in 12 Section 122.2 of the req, it says, look, we did 13 what we were supposed to do. 14 We're directed to use the POTW 15 definition in section 403.3(a). And that in turn 16 sends it out to section 122.2. That change in 17 the regulation was not to make any different, not 18 to make anything change in how those different 19 sections remained isolated in their respective 20 parts.

that the towns are not operating a portion of the

JUDGE HILL:

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So is it your position

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1	POTW?
2	MR. COX: That's correct. That is
3	correct.
4	JUDGE HILL: Okay.
5	MR. COX: But more importantly, the
6	definition of the POTW was immaterial for you
7	decision making. And as I say
8	JUDGE HILL: Okay. So I want to
9	and before you go on, I want to be I thought
10	that was your position. But I want to be clear
11	about it.
12	MR. COX: Yes.
13	JUDGE HILL: Your argument about the
14	upstream contribution really doesn't turn on
15	whether they're part of the POTW or not because
16	they're not operating the discharge point?
17	MR. COX: That is correct. That is
18	
	correct they are not the source.
19	correct they are not the source. JUDGE HILL: Okay. So the POTW
19	JUDGE HILL: Okay. So the POTW

more then that, it just doesn't make any sense to use or have the definition of POTW be used as a point of source.

Because the definition that is used is very broad. It includes -- it's purposely broad because it's used for construction grants and to build source.

And it includes not just -- not just sewer collection systems, but also it includes the words, including site acquisition on land that would be and integral part of the treating process, including land and storage for treating wastewater and treatment -- and land treatment systems.

That doesn't make sense that you could call an entity that has these features a discharger to having any --

JUDGE FRASER: Can I turn to just some factual understanding in the basis. So if I turn to the District treatment plant itself, there is an opinion letter from 1993 in the record that says the towns of Franklin and Medway are member

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1	towns of the District. And then the towns of
2	Millis and Bellingham are customer towns.
3	Is that still the same construct?
4	MR. COX: I understand that's still
5	the same.
6	JUDGE FRASER: And what is the
7	distinction between being a member town and a
8	customer town?
9	MR. COX: Well a customer town means
10	that there's a contract relationship in order to
11	accept the flow for treatment and discharge. A
12	member town means that they are part of the
13	organization that's established by statute and
14	have voting rights with respect to how that
15	how the District operates.
16	JUDGE FRASER: So how many
17	commissioners do Franklin and Medway have on the
18	District's board commission?
19	MR. COX: You're challenging me on
20	this. I do not have an answer to that. I would
21	be happy to provide that for you sometime
22	JUDGE FRASER: Well originally I think

it was three and two commissioners that were appointed and voted on by the town. Do you know whether the other two customer towns have any representation?

MR. COX: I do not. But if you give me the opportunity, I will get the information from the District and provide that information to you.

JUDGE FRASER: Okay. If we presume at least as to Franklin and Medway, and putting aside the other two towns for a minute. we presume that the construct is still the same, that the District itself is managed commissioners appointed by Franklin and Medway, do you not -- what is your position with respect to -- part of your argument is that the Region have adequate information to did not impose on the permittees controls on the - permittees in this regard.

But if the governing body of the District is appointed by the towns, do they not in fact have the information they need?

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MR. COX: Well no, because the governing body is just like in a corporation where you have directors on it. The operating people are the facility operators and they're the ones that gets the information.

So just because someone serves on the board of the District doesn't necessarily mean that that information is passed along. There's an administrator that is engaged to gather information that is separate.

JUDGE FRASER: So the Board would not make that the administrator who sure was submitting application to the Federal the government for discharging, and it's the Board's obligation to make sure that entity is operating in compliance with laws, they would have no relationship to make sure the information is adequate going forward?

MR. COX: I would not say that. But the practicality of who was completing the application and providing that detailed information. And the detailed information that's

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called for in the permit application would be 1 done by an administrator and not the board. 2 Knowing that their duties are administrative. 3 JUDGE FRASER: Right. Would that not 4 be the Boards' obligation to make sure that 5 6 whatever mechanism happens administratively, that that administrator has the information needed to 7 submit to that permit application? 8 MR. COX: There is a duty to make sure 9 that an application submitted by the treatment 10 There is a duty to make sure that all 11 information is provided accurately there. 12 To the extent that that information is 13 passed to the Board and is available to it, the 14 15 is yes. But again, this answer an 16 administrative function. And the information that is provided 17 -- that is provided in Form 2A I think it is, 18 19 with respect to the towns, it is limited. asked only for information with respect 20 population of the communities that are served. 21 22 The type of system, whether it's a combined

system or not. And who the owner is. 1 That's the information that goes into 2 3 the form. That's what is completed. That's what the Region is relying upon in order to make 4 determinations. 5 lines 6 It's three in а 21 page 7 application that the Region plucks up and says oh, I have enough information here. Given it's 8 9 totalities, and the population served, the type of system that's provided, and that's all we need 10 11 in order to make permits. 12 JUDGE FRASER: But if these District 13 representatives are appointed by their, and voted upon by their city commissioners or city counsels 14 15 back in the town or the town's operating body, 16 why is there not a relationship between people 17 being appointed to represent the town and the 18 ability to represent the town at the District and 19 say, we had 250 thousand people. 2.0 MR. COX: Well I'm not saying that. 21 I'm not saying there's not a relationship, I'm

saying it's an administrative function. And yes,

1	they should be sure, but the information going in
2	is very limited. That's the point we raise in
3	our Petition, in our Brief.
4	The information is limited.
5	JUDGE FRASER: But the
6	responsibilities imposed on the co-permittees is
7	very limited too. It's limited to what is within
8	their control.
9	MR. COX: That is true. But the
10	question is that is there afforded to even make
11	them co-permittee in the first place?
12	JUDGE FRASER: Well, assuming we get
13	past the authority question
14	MR. COX: Right.
15	JUDGE FRASER: And dealing with the
16	practicality questions. And so when part of the
17	argument as I understood in your brief, was that
18	the Region also erred by not having enough
19	information and waiving the requirement to
20	involve the co-permittees in the application
21	process.
22	The Region is responding, we didn't

need to because we had sufficient information I'm District's application. And the whether isn't there sufficient auervina District the between relationship there management and the towns that the Region is in fact conceivably correct on that regard? And I understand you don't have an

And I understand you don't have an answer to that. But us assuming again that that is correct, what is limited in the permit is just operation and maintenance and maintaining the sewer system within that town's jurisdiction.

What more would the town think had to be provided?

MR. COX: Right. Well, the issue we've raised there as to the permit itself and where the parties line up. But the real issue that we raised in connection with the application and why the Region was acting outside its authority is that it received the application from the treatment plant and says we can waive everything else.

But it also says, the Region also says

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that municipal satellite communities are 1 dischargers. And if you are a discharger, there 2 is a duty to apply. 3 The Region -- there is a duty to apply underlying statutory 5 that stems from the framework that says look, unless you have a 6 permit, you're acting unlawfully. And what the 7 Region has done here is it seeks to have the 8 towns people as dischargers, but says nothing 9 about the duty to apply. 10 It says it's waived other aspects of 11 the application. But how can it waive the duty 12 to apply? It doesn't address it. The Region 13 The Region says that there's 14 says you can ask. nothing to indicate that they can't. 15 The Region says that the permittee --16 Why can't these towns 17 JUDGE FRASER: 18 with commissioners who are serving on the District Board be viewed as applying for 19 20 permit on these towns' behalf? MR. COX: Well, because the regulation 21 forth a whole standard for making 22 set

application to different people. It's not to say 1 2 I'm okay with that. There is а 21 page application. The regulation says --3 Why cannot the 21 page 4 JUDGE FRASER: application, submitted by the District on behalf 5 of a Board of Directors that are representing the 6 various towns, be constituted in the Region's 7 view, a permit application on behalf of the 8 District and the towns as well? 9 signed by the 10 MR. COX: Ιt was treatment plant facility operator. There's a 11 certification requirement that goes with that. 12 13 There is nothing that came to the --JUDGE FRASER: Well the certification 14 is just that the information submitted is true 15 16 and accurate to the best of my ability. It's not certifying anything beyond their independent 17 knowledge of what's provided. 18 19 MR. COX: Right, look, but the town's They did consent to made no application here. 20 sending the application. They were sent --21 22 JUDGE HILL: So let me ask you this --

1	let me ask you this. If we were to find that the
2	towns were dischargers, I understand you're
3	contesting that. But if we were to find the
4	towns were dischargers, and if we were to accept
5	your argument that therefore they had a duty to
6	apply, what should the Region do?
7	What the Region apparently did here
8	was to say, "We think you have a duty to apply,
9	but we've already got an application. And so you
10	don't need to do anything else."
11	Would you have preferred the Region to
12	issue a 308 Order ordering you to comply or to
13	apply for the permit? I mean, what would be the
14	Region's remedy if we agreed with your argument
15	about the application, but not your argument
16	about they're a discharger?
17	MR. COX: Well, it could not issue a
18	308 Information Request because that applies
19	JUDGE HILL: Why not?
20	MR. COX: Because that applies only to
21	dischargers.
22	JUDGE HILL: Okay, but I'm wait a

second, I already said they're dischargers. 1 MR. COX: Okay, you got to -- so wait, 2 I'm sorry. Well, it gets to the underlying 3 And that is, where is the authority to 4 permit the co-permittees to begin with? Where is 5 the authority to regulate municipal satellite 6 collection systems? 7 It's not in the regulations. They've 8 come up with an analysis that I know has raised a 9 report that they're trying to impose it as such. 10 JUDGE HILL: Well, let's go to the 11 legislative -- let's --12 MR. COX: But there are all these --13 all these questions that we're raising -- how 14 does the it work -- that should be brought up by 15 regulatory process so that parties could have an 16 opportunity to notice and comment. 17 They knew what the Region did isn't 18 okay. "We didn't do the proper thing last time. 19 You the Board sent us back to do it and we've 20 come up with something else. We've come up with 21 this 16 page analysis. Here's our authority." 22

It's not here. The authority is not in the directive.

JUDGE HILL: Okay, so let me ask you about the legislative rule issue. My question is a practical one. I mean the notion of a legislative rule is that the agency -- an agency can't bind someone to an interpretation of its regs unless they go through notice and comment rulemaking.

So let's assume that -- let's assume the counter to what Judge Stein said earlier. Let's assume we agreed with you that the permitting approach was the legislative rule.

How would that help you? And here's what I mean by that question. Given that this is a permit proceeding, I mean we can either find that the underlying statute and regulations allows for co-permittees or it doesn't. And you've got a chance to challenge that here in this proceedings.

So even if we declared the permitting approach document to be a legislative rule and

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not binding, don't you still have to show that 1 there's a lack of statutory authority? In other words, how does -- what additional does that 3 argument give you? 4 MR. COX: If you find it's a statutory 5 rule, did they do what was appropriate here? 6 Don't they need to have full -- don't they need 7 to have a regulation to do what they've done 8 here? Don't they need to find a resolution here? 9 10 That's our position. And our view is that they would need 11 to do some, if you were to find that at all, to 12 send it up --13 JUDGE HILL: But you do have the 14 chance to contest all of these issues in this 15 16 very proceeding, correct? MR. COX: Correct. 17 JUDGE HILL: Okay. 18 That's why we raised the 19 MR. COX: legislative rule issue here. So if you find that 20 there's authority, well they need to invite --21 22 they need to send out appropriate notice and get

comment.

JUDGE STEIN: What is the town's principal concern, leaving aside what the authority discussed. Is it having to comply with the I/I requirements? Is it risk of liability?

And as I understand the record, the Region has applied this approach elsewhere in the state of Massachusetts, based on what I've seen in the record. So what is the real issue for the towns?

MR. COX: The real issue is that the Region is exceeding its authority under the statute and the regulations to a great deal of towns. This is not something that's permitted under the statute and regulations. This is left to the States.

There is a State regulation as I mentioned that was recently adopted. That the towns understand that what was defined. There are very specific requirements that are set forth in that regulation.

JUDGE STEIN: So what does this permit

. 1	require them to do that they're not otherwise
2	already required to do?
. 3	MR. COX: Well, it requires them to
4	buy a plant to employ and amass other things, but
5	the key thing is that it sets off an enforcement
6	reference that the Region would have that it
7	would not otherwise have.
8	JUDGE HILL: Explain that further if
9	you would please.
10	MR. COX: Well, that the Region
11	analysis isn't correct. So that it could take a
12	cause of action through the EPA as opposed to the
13	State for violations of its regulations.
14	For third-parties likewise, it could
15	mean that the claims are true to determine which
16	is opposed to the State obligation.
17	JUDGE HILL: So it's the enforcement
18	of essentially the O&M requirements, that is the
19	Federal enforceability of those O&M requirements
20	that's your primary concern?
21	MR. COX: That's correct. But it's
22	more than that too. That this whole scheme is

1 setting up for municipal satellite communities to be violators right now. They don't have permits. 2 From what the Region's say well, you 3 need to have a permit. And the law says if you 4 don't have a permit you're in violation. So what 5 the Region is saying is that the towns and the б 7 other communities are violators. I don't think that's appropriate; I don't think that's what the 8 statute was designed to do. 9 10 JUDGE STEIN: So what if the Region were to conclude that without having the towns as 11 co-permittees that based on what they know about 12 this particular system, I understand about Upper 13 14 Blackstone. MR. COX: Okay. 15 That without adding the JUDGE STEIN: 16 towns, they really can't ensure compliance with 17 the terms of the permit. Would the Region's 18 remedy be to deny the permit to the District so 19 20 no one could discharge? MR. COX: Well, I haven't thought of 21 That certainly is the discharger and the 22

point source to ensure compliance. And you know 1 from the record that the Region has made efforts 2 But it's a shared concern. to do so. 3 A shared concern with the communities, 4 with the public, and the State to address I/I. 5 The question is how to address I/I. The Region 6 says that the only and best alternative to do it 7 this through a permit. 8 Well, it's not. Other approaches such as the State regulation that I mentioned, the 10 town certainly addressing I/I to the best that 11 they can with their financial resources. 12 not going to go away, not in our lifetimes. 13 It's a matter of the fact that a sewer 14 15 system is --JUDGE STEIN: Well I'm really -- I'm 16 really grappling with what the Region's remedy is 17 in this kind of circumstance. Perhaps they could 1.8 have followed a different procedure then they 19 followed, yes. 20 One route perhaps would have been to 21 amend the regulations. But I don't hear the 22

Region saying that a one size fits all approach 1 2 is necessarily the approach that's appropriate. 3 I see them having made some effort in this permitting proceeding to show why as to this 4 particular treatment District, it believes that 5 6 the town should be co-permittees. So if you're 7 saying that they can't do it by -- without a 8 regulation, and they can't do it at all, isn't 9 their only remedy to say okay, then nobody can 10 discharge? 11 You still have -- you still MR. COX: 12 have a discharge. 13 Well, really not a JUDGE STEIN: discharge, 14 Ι mean, if the discharge isn't 15 permitted. 16 MR. COX: Correct. 17 JUDGE STEIN: And the towns, it seems 18 to me want to take their waste, and they want to 19 get it discharged through the District. So they 20 kind of need to discharge. 21 And if there's no permit at the end of 22 the pipe, then nobody is discharging,

doesn't really solve very much of anything. 1 at the same time, doesn't the Region have the 2 3 authority to conclude that without the towns as additional co-permittees that they can't share 4 compliance with the terms of the permit? 5 MR. COX: They -- no. No. Because 6 7 there's still the statutory burden obligation for the discharge plant to meet 8 treatment I mean secondary standards are --9 requirements. JUDGE STEIN: But EPA doesn't have an 10 obligation to issue this permit does it? I mean 11 the EPA concluded that it didn't have 12 necessary parties before it. Does it have the 13 authority to not permit it? 14 It should not and I don't 15 MR. COX: think it could deny a permit or not issue a 16 permit because it doesn't have the necessary 17 It has a party before it It's up to 18 parties. 19 the party to demonstrate that --JUDGE HILL: Well but let's -- I think 20 Judge Stein's question is less that it doesn't 21 have the necessary parties, but more that because 22

there is inadequate control of infiltration and 1 inflow upstream. I mean what the record shows is 2 Pollution Control Charles River that that 3 District has a lot of exceedances and they seem 4 to occur during the wet weather. 5 And so I think the question is could 6 7 EP -- if EPA cannot force through the permitting mechanism the up -- the satellite collection 8 systems to control their I/I. And so that I/I9 10 up at the treatment plant and causes exceedances. 11 Could the agency say well look, we 12 13 can't control I/I upstream because we can't permit those folks. And downstream it's causing 14 a bunch of exceedances and so we're going to deny 15 16 the permit to the POTW. MR. COX: But isn't it still up to the 17 18 discharger at the treatment plant to demonstrate 19 its application that it meets with the standards? Isn't it up to the treatment plant to 20

show that the I/I issues are being controlled?

I think that's the -- I think that's

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the approach that is contemplated by the statute. 1 It's contemplated by the --2 But what happens when 3 JUDGE FRASER: the record shows us here that that is not the 4 5 case? MR. COX: Well the --6 7 JUDGE FRASER: That's the question 8 Judge Stein is asking. 9 MR. COX: Right. JUDGE FRASER: If you're showing that 10 the I/I exceedances are not being controlled, and 11 you're saying you're argument is the upstream 12 towns aren't subject to the permit, then does not 13 the agency -- isn't the remedy to say your permit 14 application is incomplete and we're denying the 15 16 permit? No, because at least -- as 17 MR. COX: the Region knows, these are ongoing issues with 18 all facilities, collection systems to deal with 19 And it's going to take years to address and 20 it takes monies to address. And the reg is not 21 to say well, we just get a permit.

1 Ιt is the treatment plant's obligations to meet the discharge requirements. 2 3 JUDGE FRASER: So continuing to exceed for -- into the future until at some point if the 4 5 best remedy is to get the towns to maintain their sewer systems, but you're saying they're not 6 subject to the permit and the District has no 7 authority to make them do that, then what is the 8 9 remedy? 10 MR. COX: Some things there are not 11 remedies. The Clean Water Act doesn't cover all 12 the water related issues. It doesn't deal with the non-clean sources. 13 14 It simply doesn't apply to --15 JUDGE FRASER: So the agency required to issue the permit knowing that it 16 17 cannot meet the statutory obligation? 18 MR. COX: As I said, it is still the 19 ultimate permit applicant, the treatment plant, 20 to demonstrate that it would dispense. 21 JUDGE HILL: Okay, we will save the rest of this for rebuttal. Thank you Mr. Cox. 22

1	MR. COX: Thank you.
2	JUDGE HILL: Eurika, I will give the
3	Region five extra minutes. Mr. Bukhari?
4	MR. BUKHARI: Good morning, Your
5	Honor. My name is Samir Bukhari and I represent
6	representing the Region 1 in this matter. I
7	am joined by Richard Witt with the Office of
8	General Counsel.
9	I would like to discuss Petitioner's
10	interpretation of discharge and POTW before
11	moving to issues concerning permit application
12	procedures, interpretive versus legislative rules
13	and State regulations at NPDES permitting.
14	JUDGE HILL: But I'm going to hit you
15	with a question right off the bat and maybe we
16	can dispense with the first issue relatively
17	quickly. Does your argument depend on declaring
18	the satellite collection system a POTW or not?
19	MR. BUKHARI: It does not.
20	JUDGE HILL: Okay. Then why did you
21	go to so much trouble to argue they're a POTW?
22	MR. BUKHARI: Your Honor, we were in

the first place responding to Petitioner's claim. 1 JUDGE HILL: No, I'm talking about --2 I'm talking about in the approach document 3 4 really. Right. The basis for MR. BUKHARI: 5 issuing the permit is in 402 and technically what 6 you want is the discharge of the point source. 7 So that is the first operating principle that the 8 Region followed. With that said, we believe that it 10 makes sense when looking at these with respect to 11 POTWs to view that entity as a whole. And that 12 13 is consistent with EPA regulations which view the treatment works as that term's applied in Section 14 15 It's not only constituting a treatment 16 plant, but also the system of pipes 17 conveyances, collection systems that leads into 18 the treatment plant. from 19 And SO even our a piece of our -- I think 20 collective that is that's how the operation works. Even with the 21 22 department scheme. And I think it's very

important, it's a very important distinction to make.

And the argument that the POTW is only complies with the treatment plant introduces a great deal of incoherence into the NPDES Permitting program. Particularly as it relates to the pretreatment program.

Under Petitioner's proposal, POTW if you, lay it before you, expanding and contracting depending on the regulatory context. Meaning treatment plants alone for the purposes of the NPDES permitting and the treatment plant works as was discussed for pretreatment.

Not only is the Petitioner's view contrary to the plain definition of POTW in Section 212 of the Act and parts 122 and 403 and their preambles, it would also generate needless conflict between two programs that Congress intended to work harmoniously.

To speed work through the construction as you will hear, is that a handful of words used in different parts of the same act, are intended

to have the same meaning. The District said, the 1 Aloha Company, 515 U.S. 561, 565. 2 Under Petitioner's reading, the town's 3 collection systems are and are not a POTW. 4 are the POTW for the purposes of pretreatment, 5 but are not for the purposes of NPDES permitting. 6 7 Even within the NPDES context as Judge Fraser had raised earlier, they are a part of the 8 POTW if owned by a single entity, but are not 9 part of the POTW if the collection system and 10 11 plant operated by different treatment are 12 entities. Ι would just here that 13 note Petitioner's theory again, as referred to earlier 14 15 by Judge Fraser, Petitioner's theory sets up a perverse incentive whereby a discharger has every 16 incentive to convey away that last portion of 17 pipe in order to abate any obligation under the 18 Clean Water Act. 19 20 This danger under -- it was addressed 21 by as this Court in 1976 in the decision of General Counsel Number 43, Friendswood 22

Development Corporation. And there, when -- in the context of regulating discharges from privately owned treatment -- for discharges to privately owned treatment works, characterized those discharges as discharges within the meaning of Section 301 and 402.

The General Counsel soon after the actual inauguration of the Act held that the Petitioner's narrow point -- narrowed the scope of section 301, focuses solely on the point which pollutants are released into the water. So logically therefore, I think that's the only facility to insulate itself from conflict under the Act of MBCA by simply selling or getting its outflow pipe to someone else.

Recognizing the mischief such a situation could cause, Friendswood and its customers emphasized that the industrial pollution in the instant case are not directly discharging their waste through mere conduits, but instead have contracted to have their waste accepted by Frendswood, whose facility has been

specifically designed for that treatment. 1 So Mr. Bukhari, so we JUDGE HILL: 2 covered this in a lot of detail with Mr. Cox. 3 And I understand -- I understand your argument 4 privately 5 based Friendswood and treatment works. 6 One thing the Board was very concerned 7 Blackstone of the about Upper one 8 in was questions they asked was -- I mean the logic of 9 Mr. Cox's argument is that it's only the person 10 at the -- it's only the person at the end. The 11 12 logic of your argument is that it's everybody all the way upstream. 13 And so if I flush my toilet and that 14 15 toilet flows to the Blue Plains Treatment Plant 16 therefore discharged, Ι and amdischarger under your theory? 17 18 MR. BUKHARI: You are not a discharger under our theory because we -- as we -- we have 19 20 defined the discharge as emanating from the 21 publically owned treatment works. And that would

in

your hypothetical

exclude

the

primarily you now, release it the use form the 1 private home and it led through a private pipe. 2 JUDGE HILL: But again under the lobby 3 of Friendswood, the lobby of Friendswood is the 4 person upstream is responsible for what comes out 5 6 at the other end. So -- and you -- and I asked 7 you the question at the beginning, does it matter whether they are a POTW or not. And you said no. 8 9 So if there -- if it -- I mean, so why 10 is the collection system different then the home line? 11 The logic -- the logic 12 MR. BUKHARI: 13 of Friendswood, what would not capture the user. A homeowner, a domestic user of the treatment 14 15 works, Ι would not characterize that 16 discharge of a pollutant to U.S. water. think Friendswood established in 17 history, discussed the inclusion for 18 their 19 indirect pretreaters as pertaining to industrial user and go into some detail as to industrial 20 about why it would not pertain to the user, 21 22 introducing the pollutants into the publically

owned treatment works under your hypothetical by 1 2 flushing a toilet. So in other words JUDGE HILL: 3 admitted --4 MR. BUKHARI: It is therefore defined 5 in our analysis document of where the collection 6 system ends. And we defined it as the pipe that 7 read things like apply permits as a principal 8 purpose as and defined the collection system as 9 the point at which the pipes are used to convey -10 - to collect and convey wastewater from other --11 in others specifically. 12 JUDGE HILL: So your argument actually 13 really does depend on calling the satellites 14 off 15 POTWs, because that's what cuts the individual homeowners, that what 16 is saying? 17 MR. BUKHARI: As I said, it is our --18 I would say that is correct. I would say it's 19 20 subsidiary to the point of an addition of discharge the characterizing the from 21 municipality as a -- as indeed a discharger under 22

1 Section 301 and 402. And then as is define the 2 determined where to how to discharge collection system, and where that 3 begins and ends, we would put that into POTW. 4 5 Put it as a permit district. JUDGE HILL: 6 Okay. 7 I'm sorry, I'm still a JUDGE FRASER: little, along those same lines, it seems like 8 Friendswood, if industrial 9 I'm correct, was dischargers. And drawing a distinction between 10 11 municipal and industrial. And here you're dealing with municipal 12 13 entirely. Are you not subject -- excluding, at 14 least with respect to the four towns that are at 15 issue. And so it seems like you're arguing both. That you're saying well, we're relying 16 17 on the definition of what is a discharge. 18 discharger is anyone who puts something in that's coming out at the end of the pipe, even if 19 20 they're located 200 plus miles away. 21 And then at the same time you're

not

no, we're

saying,

but

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relying

definition of a discharger because we're going to rely on something else to give us a different reason not to include Randy's house, Judge Hill's house.

MR. BUKHARI: Your Honor, we relied on

-- we looked at Friendswood and the principle
actually that I'm relying on and characterized in
our analysis of for the proposition that
intervening point sources providing treatment to
a discharge prior to that discharge entering U.S.
water is not relevant under the Act.

And in terms of defining where the discharge begins and ends, the regulated discharge begins and ends, for the purposes of our permitting exercise, and remember if you -- the permitting exercise is for a discharge from the POTW. It's incumbent upon us to look at the definition of POTW to determine where that entity begins and ends.

And that's why I focus on you know, the context of that -- of that entity. And that goes to the focus of the board's concern. And

that the line's located, turned out to be drawn down to. That's basically that the problem is whether their discussion in our analysis and why it's important for us. But --

JUDGE FRASER: How do you respond to Mr. Cox's concern that if we were to find, if the Board were to agree with you in its entirety that the Region could include these towns as copermittees under the definition of a POTW as being part of it. And that they are a discharger coming out at the end of a pipe.

That immediately upon issuance of that decision, every other town, which is not listed as a co-permittee in some other district is now violating the Act, because they're not listed at -- they don't have a permit to cover their discharge?

MR. BUCKARI: Your Honor, it's important to understand how we're looking at POTWs. We are not regarding a regionally integrated treatment system and comprised of in this case five separate POTWs.

We are viewing the POTW as a single entity, multiple contributing dischargers. Those dischargers contributing to a single combined effort commingled and in the Act at Section 402 is the discharge for which we issued the permit.

So in response to attorney Cox's concern, a Regionally integrated treatment plant that has a permit for the discharge under Section 402 that determines a permit for the discharge, need not be concerned about discharging without a permit.

Our -- the impetus for the copermittee policy was to address situations like that where in issuing a permit to the District, we are unable as Judge Stein requested earlier, to ensure compliance with water quality standards or other compliance with the Act under Section 122.4(d).

We are prohibited from issuing permits that cannot ensure compliance with the Act. Part of the standard condition for issuing those permits are proper operation and maintenance.

Again --1 Did the Region make a JUDGE HILL: 2 finding in the record, and I couldn't find it if 3 they did, that explicitly said we must permit 4 these four towns, otherwise we cannot assure 5 compliance with water quality standards? 6 MR. BUKHARI: Your Honor, I --7 JUDGE HILL: In other words, did they 8 invoke 122.4(d)? 9 Your Honor, I don't 10 MR. BUKHARI: recall a specific page number, but that's where 11 the -- that would be that tenet of our proposal. 12 And we are ensuring compliance with water quality 13 standards. And we certainly -- we certainly cite 14 to Section 301(a) and I would be -- I think I --15 we did and your response is if I can find a page 16 number for you. 17 But another important aspect to our --18 to the approach case is not only to address 19 problems as they are occurring, but to be noted 20 in the analysis and as you know it ultimately 21

factor response finds, there is a method aspect

1 to this as well. And we don't want to be response only 2 in dealing with issues like I/I and unintended 3 violations of permits and such. 4 So let's get back to JUDGE HILL: 5 Judge Stein's question. If we accepted Mr. Cox's 6 7 arqument that at least under the regulations you cannot simply impose these co-8 9 permittee obligations. What options are available to the 10 Region to address the problems in this system? 11 Is it enforcement for issue a 308? 12 it improper discharge? Is it deny the permit to the 13 District? 14 15 I mean, are there others? 16 MR. BUKHARI: All of those are The Section 308 matter option does not options. 17 get to the heart of the problem, which would be 18 19 to impose enforceable -- Federally enforceable controls on the town. 20 JUDGE HILL: Let me precise, I'm 21 22 depositing that says you're а 308 letter

discharging. You have a duty to apply. We're basically informing you, you must apply for a permit.

MR. BUKHARI: Right. And so all the options that you've just mentioned would lead to some sort of action on the EPA's part for the permitting. And then intended for process and enforcement proceedings.

We don't believe that that is how the We intended you Act was intended to operate. know at the NPDES, we believe -- we think that the NPDES program, the definition of discharge and the definition of POTW are sufficient for us to proceed and interpret the regulations in an manner that allows us to effectuate the purposes wait the Act without a long and other complications that would be attended by initiating enforcement actions against the dozens populated districts of regionally in Massachusetts and the dozens more of individual towns or municipalities.

That doesn't make sense for that in

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our view because it affects as I said the you 1 know, the purpose and at this time we believe is 2 3 of the essence. Well, let me ask you JUDGE HILL: 4 Do these satellite collection specifically. 5 systems have a duty to apply for a permit or not? 6 They do have a duty to 7 MR. BUKHARI: We -- as we approach the duty to apply 8 issue in both the analysis and in the current 9 proceeding, we require a permit application for 10 the discharge for the POTWs. We think that that 11 12 makes a great deal of sense. The permit application requires the 13 way they refer to POTW in the -- under the --14 JUDGE HILL: But your theory is that 15 all of the satellite systems are part of the 16 So how is that really a permit application 17 unless they've all submitted it together? 18 Well in this case, I MR. BUKHARI: 19 will go back first of all to your asking in 20 21 regard to what is the goal of the current application requirements. And that is to provide 22

a current record with the information necessary to developing NPDES permit requirements consistent with the Clean Water Act.

Petitioner would be right that intention under their assessment, the goal of the application requirements is to convey its consent to the requirement of the Clean Water Act and the NPDES permitting program. To get to your specific question, Judqe Hill, а single application from a POTW to qualify here, in this case the District, satisfied the requirements of 122.21(a) and 122.22.

The EPA has not taken the position that the CRCPD is comprised of multiple POTWs. Rather the CRCPD is a single integrated POTW made up both of a treatment plant and the collection facilities.

JUDGE HILL: Well but let me say, I accept the argument that it's one POTW. But it's one POTW with several owners. Don't you essentially need a signature from all of the owners for it really to be an application?

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And this is where I'm going with this. 1 The effect of what you've done is essentially to 2 3 give a permit to somebody who didn't ask for it. And in fact very much does not want it. 4 And the regulations seem to imply that 5 the permit process is started by the entity who 6 7 is going to get the permit, to apply for it. where in the regulations does EPA qet 8 authority to issue a permit to that who does not 9 seek it and does not desire it? 10 Your Honor, there is 11 MR. BUKHARI: 12 nothing in the statute nor in the regulations. 13 There's nothing under 402 that requires though -entails a duty to apply permit. 14 Section 402 requires 15 All opportunity for a public hearing. Section 402 16 permitting does not turn on the dischargers' 17 18 consent. JUDGE FRASER: But the regulations do. 19 20 Section 122.21(a) says duty to apply. Any person 21 who discharges or proposes to discharge, who does not have an effective permit must submit a 22

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1	complete application.
2	MR. BUKHARI: And you
3	JUDGE FRASER: And then it goes on and
4	asks in a later subsection, the various
5	components of that application which the Region
6	has deemed it has the ability to waive. Which is
7	the subsection (j).
8	But is the Region also saying they
9	have the ability of the subsection that says you
10	have the ability to waive any of these detailed
11	listed requirements. That you also have the duty
12	to go up to the sub to the little to the
13	bigger A
14	MR. BUKHARI: Right, I understand.
15	JUDGE FRASER: And waive that as well.
16	Do you have the ability to waive the duty to
17	apply?
18	MR. BUKHARI: We have not waived the
19	duty to apply. And if you look at
20	122.21(a)(1)(ii), as Your Honor correctly notes,
21	122.21(a)(1) refers to the duty to apply.
22	Subsection (a)(1)(ii) makes reference

to the new and existing POTWs. Under Section 1 122.21(a) and in reference to existing POTW, we 2 have received an application that --3 But Mr. Bukhari, aqain, JUDGE HILL: 4 I understand your argument is that these four 5 towns are dischargers. And under the language of 6 the statute any person who discharges needs a 7 permit. look at 122.21(a)(1), any 9 Ιf you apply. And I'm 10 person who discharges must when assuming you're not arguing that the 11 District applies that the four persons that 12 constitute the towns as legal entities have 13 applied are you? 14 No, we're not. 15 MR. BUKHARI: So then they as persons 16 JUDGE HILL: who are discharging under your original theory 17 are people who have to apply. That would be the 18 19 most natural reading of that reg. But the person as we MR. BUKHARI: 20 read through the regulation, the person that who 21 22 applying is the POTW plant.

JUDGE HILL: I understand, but the 1 regs says any person who discharges. It doesn't 2 say any point source that discharges or any 3 discharge point that discharges. 4 And you are 5 It says any person. permitting these four persons here. And they 6 7 have not applied. Your Honor, we think 8 MR. BUKHARI: that is a rational approach under the regulation. 9 And reasonable interpretation of 10 regulation, which does not specifically affect, 11 which does not specifically outline detailed 12 permit application requirements in this context. 13 To view the permit application one way 14 from the District plant, from the operator of the 15 16 District plant, it's probably for discharge. And if it --17 JUDGE FRASER: What's your theory for 18 application submitted by 19 treating the District as an application on behalf of the four 20 towns as well? 21 BUKHARI: Your Honor, we think MR. 22

that that is а reasonable approach and Regionally configuration of considering the integrated treatment plants. There is a District created under State law that has member communities, those obviously in this case frankly met with our representative on the Board and then there are contractual relationships with the member communities. And we think that that central body will serve the coordinated function that is --JUDGE FRASER: But are they not their legal entity? Their own own separate corporation, however it's or not constructed under State law. Aren't they a separately -- a separate entity with its own rights and obligations? that So what is the theory particularly for the customer towns, let's take it, whatever theory we may have for the member District towns, how do you see the representing the two customer towns as submitting

the application on their behalf?

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MR. BUKHARI: Your Honor, the -- there are two -- there are different stages in terms of the permit application that the Region has constructed the process. Relying on the duty to comply with regulations.

We request a permit application from the District client from the operator of the treatment plant with preexisting, you know with membership of certain communities or preexisting relationship with other users or customer towns. permit We review the application to then determine determine whether there is we sufficient information for a permit writer.

And in the event that there is not, we would request separate applications from the towns. In this case Your Honor, we have the Exemption I, and certifying that the administrative records section is met.

We have more than sufficient information about the operation and the assistance in each of the respective towns, including SSOs, including I/I. The course from

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each of the towns to make it --

JUDGE FRASER: But that gets into what you waived and what you decided you did or did not need in addition from the towns. And I think my colleagues and I are asking the question of both as to is there not an affirmative duty placed on the person who will be permitted to seek the permit in the first place.

And what is the Region's theory for saying you don't have to seek the permit in the first place. We can decide if you need one and give it to you based on information we already have.

MR. BUKHARI: Your Honor, our theory is that the permit under section 402(a) is for the discharge of a pollutant. And in our view, the POTW writ large is discharging the pollutant.

We need not seek separate application or require separate applications from each constituent portion of the POTW in order to comply with the regulations. The same is true, Your Honor, of publically owned or privately

owned treatment works.

Privately owned treatment works, under the regulation 122.21(d), the agency specifically said that we may require separate applications for dischargers from -- discharge to privately owned treatment work. But that situation is analogous here.

JUDGE HILL: Doesn't that kind of cut the other way for you though? Because I mean, Mr. Cox is -- one of Mr. Cox's principal arguments is that the current regs don't really allow you to do what you've done.

And in fact where the agency has wanted to set up co-permitting relationships, they've done so very explicitly for privately owned treatment works and for industrial contributions to storm sewer systems.

And so doesn't that actually kind of almost prove the negative? If the agency thought that all you needed to do to be a co-permittee of a POTW was to exist, then maybe they could -- why did they have a separate regulation for these

other situations?

MR. BUKHARI: We disagree with that, Your Honor. We think that the -- there are number of -- there is a number of permitting configurations and permitting dynamics for challenges that face our permit letter.

But those are evolving and it wasn't until the early 2000s that the issue of I/I and SSO really came to the forefront under the agency's thinking which led to two opinions, but that's an issue of an I/I SSOAP for SSOs.

We think that the definition of discharge and definition of POTW are sufficient for us to be seeking our --

JUDGE HILL: I want to be sure that --

MR. BUKHARI: We do indeed have the expressly, every permit configuration need not be expressly written into the whole thing and the EPA was -- had two initiatives to do that very thing. Clarify the regulation and to explain the co-permittee -- the co-permittee requirements, which is just as are contemplated that the

regulations created. 1 Ιf I'm lacking JUDGE STEIN: 2 driver's license and I'm driving down the street 3 and a police officer sees me, the typical remedy 4 would be to issue me a fine for driving without a 5 It wouldn't be to give me the license. 6 license. Can you cite examples in which EPA or 7 a State has imposed a permitting requirement on 8 someone who did not seek or does not want one? 9 MR. BUKHARI: Your Honor, I can't --10 I can't cite that kind of example off the top of 11 my head, at EPA, a specific example off the top 12 of my head in terms of the principle you're 13 implying. 14 We think again, that the regulations 15 as written provide us with the authority to issue 16 a permit. And we have negotiated already through 17 the permit application requirements in a way that 18 allows the permittee provide all the information 19 that's needed to write the permit in the --20 JUDGE STEIN: Well that might be true 21 that you can write the permit. And it may be 22

that there are other systems for the permitting like this where the towns would not object to it.

But I do think that there is a significant procedural issue about how your permit application regulations marry up with you know, your theory of persons and discharging.

And it may be that your remedy is not the imposition of a permit on someone who doesn't want it.

But it may be that you have to pursue some of those other options that may be less desirable. But I you know, other then some kind of an implied consent theory, I'm trying to figure out how it is that we can force someone to have a permit who doesn't want it.

MR. BUKHARI: Your Honor, my only thing about that, and I think to clarify is that -- well, if it's not clear already is that we are viewing the discharge not only from the stand point of the POTW -- with the discharge from the POTW, but also from -- but also we recognize that there are multiple discharges that combine to

that one entity.

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Those theories -- those theories are not interdependent that in they will be sufficient for us to say that the POTW is the discharging entity. We pursued the notion of the town discharging specifically to address the issue of discharge that the issue of multiple dischargers and this issue of treatment that arqued that it did not matter whether discharge was removed from the point source. did it matter if it was treatment.

That was the applied for the portion of characterizing each of these towns as a discharger. With that said, it's not inconsistent you know, with this wider view that we have, this broader view that we have, that this is a POTW that's discharging. A POTW that's described in Section 301(b)(1)(B).

The POTW is what is referenced in permit application requirements. And the POTW has one commingled discharge that is being permitted pursuant to Section 402.

1	So we don't believe that it is
2	inconsistent with either the statute or the
3	regulations to impose our permitting requirement
4	on the POTW, all essential portions under
5 ,	statutory and regulatory statutes that I
6 .	addressed that I described.
7	JUDGE STEIN: But you're not imposing
8	them on all of them are you? Didn't you just
9	pick out four towns?
10	MR. BUKHARI: No Your Honor, there are
11	only four towns there to reference.
12	JUDGE STEIN: Okay. So it's
13	everybody.
14	MR. BUKHARI: It is all of them.
15	Absolutely, yes.
16	JUDGE STEIN: Okay.
17	JUDGE HILL: All right, so let me ask
18	that question. As I understand it from you
	chae quescion. As i underscand ie irom you
19	attachment in the record, there are currently 25
19	
	attachment in the record, there are currently 25

1	least since 2000 where the owners of satellite
2	collection systems are not listed as co-
3	permittees?
4	MR. BUKHARI: Your Honor, we have. We
5	issued a permit to the town of Marshfield
6	recently where we I can read my the
7	responsive comments document, where we determined
8	that it was not necessary under Section 122.21
9	for a deep
10	JUDGE STEIN: I'm sorry, what page are
11	you on in response to the question?
12	MR. BUKHARI: This isn't on a page,
13	it's my responsive commentary.
14	JUDGE STEIN: Oh, okay.
15	MR. BUKHARI: Unfortunately I don't
16	have the page I think you should hear about,
17	which is still on the Regional website.
18	JUDGE HILL: Could you
19	MR. BUKHARI: But we did convince
20	JUDGE HILL: Mr. Bukhari, could you
21	submit that to us after argument and provide a
22	copy to Mr. Cox?

1 MR. BUKHARI: Yes, I will, Your Honor. 2 JUDGE HILL: Thank you. We -- and in keeping MR. BUKHARI: 3 with all that, I'll argue that we are permitting 4 and we are not blind or oppressively 5 POTW imposing permits, but we're going to keep the 6 7 filings on -- in every case that looked at the circumstances of the discharge. We found that 8 based on additional information gathered at the 9 10 Region and at the EPA, as a group the towns of Duxbury, Pembroke and Kingston, close in the town 11 of Duxbury began being treated at the Marshfield 12 13 POTW from 1980, indicated the system is yet Their collection systems serve 14 relatively young. 15 the minimal area, serving only 195 homes. 16 Some of these homes are seasonal residences and there are no reports of SSOs and 17 we know that there have been no problems with 18 19 SSOs either at the facility. So that is an example where --20 Is that the only one of JUDGE HILL: 21 which you're aware? 22

That is one, the other 1 MR. BUKHARI: 2 is East Hampton, which is a final one. And there are about 45 homes in that small satellite. 3 then South Ridge is back at the moment. 4 are probably around 250 people on one of the 5 satellite collection systems. So that's all 6 7 based on the theory of Mr. Cox might --JUDGE HILL: How many -- do you know 8 the answer, outside of Region 1, have any other 9 10 EPA Regional offices or States issued permits where satellite collection systems have been 11 included as co-permittees? 12 13 MR. BUKHARI: Well we have been in discussion, I believe that they have. We've been 14 15 in discussions with Region 9. That we had two 16 co-permittees that may not be correct. would say this co-permittee policy is 17 Regional policy. This represents the view of the 18 19 agency. signed off that have 20 has we extensive coordination with the OGC and the 21 22 government --

JUDGE HILL: That's fine. I'm more 1 2 interested in where this practice has been used. And in particular, are you aware of any permit 3 that was issued that had municipal co-permittees 4 5 prior to 2001? 6 MR. BUKHARI: Prior to 2001, I am not 7 aware of prior to 2001. 8 JUDGE HILL: It would be helpful to 9 get something supplemental on that as well. And 10 here's where I'm going with this question. 11 And the agency proposed in 2001 to 12 make this very explicit in the regulations and 13 deal with all of the issues that we're now --14 that we're now discussing. If the current regulations allow for 15 this interpretation, then why did the agency feel 16 17 the need to propose on it? And then also in 2010 18 seek comment on whether to revive that proposal? 19 If they had the authority all along? 20 MR. BUKHARI: Your Honor, the question of authority and question of making explicit 21 interpretation under the regulations are 22

1 separate things. I don't think that we should infer from the fact that the agency decided to 2 3 pursue a rulemaking or undergo co-permittee rule 4 making. 5 I indicate that this is a subject in 6 relation to that rule. I think that did not 7 follow from that fact. We can propose 8 interpretive rules for those comments. Well, if 9 you look at the language --10 JUDGE HILL: The 2001 rule was not an 11 interpretive rule. 12 MR. BUKHARI: I'm sorry? 13 JUDGE HILL: The 2001 proposal was not 14 interpretative as far as I know. 15 MR. BUKHARI: Your Honor, if you look 16 at the language of that rule and look at the rulemaking, as far as the authority to impose 17 18 requirements on -- the authority under Section 19 301 and 402, to impose and implement regulations 20 impose to programs and requirements 21 municipal satellite collection systems, that -that --22

We speak in terms of clarifying. 1 speak in terms of explaining and we rely on the 2 interpretations of existing regulatory 3 statutory response. 4 JUDGE HILL: Can you remind me, how 5 did that proposal, I know it was withdrawn before 6 it was published, but how did that proposal deal 7 with application requirements for satellite 8 collection systems? Did it make any changes to 9 10 122.21? MR. BUKHARI: Your Honor whether there 11 was specific language proposed with respect to 12 the application requirements, I don't know. 13 JUDGE HILL: Because to be honest with 14 you, that's where I'm really stuck. I mean I get 15 16 the argument about why there might be statutory authority to cover them. 17 where I'm stuck is that 18 regulations don't seem to contemplate a system 19 where you say okay, we don't have all of the 20 legal entities for contributing to this discharge 21 at this POTW. So we're going to declare these 22

four to be under the permit. 1 2 Essentially as I said before, without their consent. And I mean, I'm not saying that 3 that authority doesn't exist. But it certainly 4 5 isn't the most natural reading of 6 regulations. 7 And if the agency proposed to rewrite 8 that, that might well be relevant as to whether 9 the existing regs could be read that way. 10 MR. BUKHARI: Your Honor, the current application requirement in the 2001 rulemaking 11 are addressed at page 124 of the advanced notice, 12 the proposed rulemaking 123 and 124 -- I guess 13 14 just 124. 15 JUDGE HILL: Well, I can look it up 16 I just thought maybe you knew off the top 17 of your head. 18 MR. BUKHARI: Right. So that's where it is. 19 20 JUDGE FRASER: What notice have the towns in Region 1 had for part of these Regional 21 22 collection systems? What notice other than

seeing the draft permit have the towns had that they may or may not be considered co-permittees? You gave us an example of Marshfield where they were not considered a co-permittee, or you didn't see the need. So is this strictly a case-by-case basis that a town doesn't know until they see the draft permit, or is there any communication from the region, not just to the POTW, when they're submitting a renewal application, but to the towns that this is being contemplated? What's that process looking like?

MR. BUKHARI: Your Honor, our -- the reason we drafted or published a co-permittee analysis in the first place was, quote, "to advise the public of relevant considerations concerning our co-permittee practices." That's not a direct quote, but that=s the very purpose behind putting together this document and the attachment to all our permits that are issued to regionally. And then of course --

JUDGE FRASER: I'm sorry. That gets attached, and that it went out when it was issued

1	to all the
2	MR. BUKHARI: In a draft form.
3	JUDGE FRASER: In a draft
. 4	(Simultaneous speaking)
5	MR. BUKHARI: That attachment
6	is
7	JUDGE FRASER: So a town finds out at
8	the draft permit stage as opposed to when was
9	the authority document issued?
10	MR. BUKHARI: We completed this in
11	right about 2012.
12	JUDGE FRASER: '12?
13	MR. COX: We
14	(Simultaneous speaking)
15	JUDGE FRASER: So did it get sent out
16	to the towns at that point, or was there some
17	communication that said you'll find out before
18	the draft permit? How were towns if they're
19	not looking at the regulation and clearly seeing
20	language that says you have a duty to apply as a
21	co-permittee, how are towns finding out that they
22	may or may not be swept into the permit?

They're finding out in MR. BUKHARI: 1 -- through the draft permit and the attachments 2 there. We a have draft waiver letter which 3 describes the permit application procedure, and 4 we tried to handle that notice through that as 5 well in the document itself that if you are 6 7 expecting -- and we believe that a PODW, for the combined application for the 8 9 discharge pursuant Section 402(a) and to 301(b)(1)(B) is sufficient for us in the first 10 instance. And then we indicate we may provide, 11 12 we may request separate applications if we -from the regional satellites if we require more. 13 JUDGE FRASER: And this is the draft 14 permit that's being published? They're getting 15 it at that point, or is this a draft permit 16 that's going out before publication? 17 MR. BUKHARI: This is a draft. 18 would typically be a draft permit that goes out 19 20 for publication. JUDGE FRASER: So they have basically 21 a 90-day notice and they can comment and say what 22

do you mean we don't think we should be covered at this point?

MR. BUKHARI: Right, they have to be
-- right, to get to Judge Hill's earlier point
regarding adjudications as opposed to rulemaking
in the EPA, this proceeding provides permittees
with an opportunity for -- to comment and to
appeal these determinations. And there are legal
aspects of course and of course there are
technical aspects as well. So we perceive that
as --

(Simultaneous speaking)

JUDGE FRASER: Are there other instances beyond this scenario where you have the satellite collection systems? Are there other instances where you're relying on an exception to the reg or some other avenue of covering someone as a co-permittee that when they're looking at the face of the reg they may or may not know they were covered?

And where I'm going is that most people who are planning, I would think, to

discharge, look at the regulation and it says you must submit an application. And if you already have a permit, then you have to submit a renewal application that gives you a time period for doing that and what it has to include.

You now have a category of entities that you're saying are discharge orders under the plain reading of the regulation, but they haven't submitted an application. They weren't intending to be covered. It's not in their planning in terms of budget and finance. And you're telling me they're getting a notice with the draft permit that's notifying them for the first time. There's no other communication before that?

MR. BUKHARI: Well, Your Honor, the question of whether they're discharging without a permit or whether they're in peril of some sort of pending enforcement proceeding, the way we've instructed, or our hope here is that they're not, because we have issued a permit for the final legal discharge from the POTW. And so that is number one.

And then number two is that once they've received any permit condition, typically permittees are not under -- they don't have forewarning prior to the draft permit, or at least not very far before the draft permit is published, but what are the terms and conditions --

JUDGE FRASER: But they've submitted an application, your other permit -- the other people who are getting a draft permit have their raised their hand and said please give me a permit. I want to discharge. And these entities -- you're relying on a permit that is existing for a POTW. The Charles River Pollution Control District has a permit and you're saying that their permit application is sufficing to cover these other entities that did not co-sign the permit application and did not know from the application terms itself that they were going to be covered.

MR. BUKHARI: Your Honor, I don't think they -- I don't think it -- it should not

be a surprise for the town of Millis and the town 1 of Bellingham that they are part of the POTW. 2 There are municipal service agreements, there are 3 customer agreements with the POTW that define the 4 5 POTW as including their collection systems and speculation. These are part of the POTW. 6 Well, they might be a 7 JUDGE HILL: 8 part of the POTW, but up until the last time that the Pollution Control District got a permit they 9 didn't know that they were permittees. 10 that is a change in their -- a very significant 11 change from their point of view on their status. 12 13 14 MR. BUKHARI: True. So they may not 15 JUDGE HILL: surprised to find out they're part of the system, 16 17 but they may be incredibly surprised -- well, 18 probably not after this proceeding, but may be incredibly surprised to find out that they're now 19 20 subject to the terms of that permit. BUKHARI: They are subject to 21 MR. terms of them. 22

1	JUDGE HILL: Yes.
2	MR. BUKHARI: But to the extent that
3	they are surprised or dismayed by that turn of
4	events, they're free to pursue their claim with
5	regards to the permit.
6	JUDGE HILL: So what does the Region
7	think of that first document being I know you
8	don't think it's a legislative rule. What is it?
9	MR. BUKHARI: It is an interpretive
10	statement, first of all. It is tightly drawn
11	from the words in the statute, the words of the
12	regulation and the
13	(Simultaneous speaking)
14	JUDGE HILL: Can it litigated in any
15	permit proceeding?
16	MR. BUKHARI: I'm sorry?
17	JUDGE HILL: Can it be litigated
18	can the validity of its interpretations be
19	litigated in any permit proceeding?
20	MR. BUKHARI: Proceeding by yes
21	Yes, we will we articulate our which is why
22	we attached this interpretation of the regulation

sheets specific to the permit fact interpretive it's And so, an proceeding. It also has a -- it is also a policy statement. statement in some respects in that the -- not in identify SSO's any binding way, that we collection system operation and maintenance I/I as it concerns the agency and of course Region 1. And so, it has those two components.

JUDGE FRASER: Can I just

finish --

JUDGE HILL: Yes.

JUDGE FRASER: -- up on the permit applications? So the question I had coming out of this, if the Board were to find that this is a permissible reading, next year you're doing a permit for POTW X that has five towns that are satellite systems that feed it, how do those five towns know whether they're going to be copermittees, not co-permittees? Do they read the regulation and say when the POTW submits its renewal application, we need to co-sign, we don't need to co-sign? If we were to find for you,

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1	what's the notice or the reading that the towns
2	should take away from this? Because what you're
3	telling me is you're making that decision case by
4	case and then you're giving the towns some in
5	some cases people are finding out they're co-
6	permittees. In other cases they're finding out
7	they're not.
8	MR. BUKHARI: Your Honor, we can
9	publish the interpretive analysis for one. We
10	can post it on our Web site. We can identify the
11	regional treatment plants in Massachusetts and
12	send them a copy.
13	JUDGE FRASER: But this is the vary
14	argument. Mr. Cox says that if you had done
15	if the Agency had done rulemaking, all of this
16	would have been done. So how do
17	you
18	MR. BUKHARI: Well
19	JUDGE FRASER: respond to the very
20	thing that they're asking for in terms of notice
21	and being able to comment and being able to weigh
22	in is what a rulemaking is intended to cover.

Your

Were EPA

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which arguably is what the Agency was trying to do back in 2000 when they had the proposed rule? Rulemaking, MR. BUKHARI: Honor knows, is a resource-intensive exercise and not required for interpretive rules. obliged to go out and do rulemaking every time an issue of interpretation the Clean Water Act, that

would aspect of the frustrate the very interpretive rulemaking function under the EPA.

That was designed to -- it is another way to interpret inform the public of how we

statute.

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And if every time we have to make the pronouncement we're required to go through notice and comment rulemaking, that would be contrary to That would be contrary to the whole providing the public with notice. There are other means short of rulemaking for us to provide wider notice of our interpretation. But we think that the notice has been sufficient here.

> issue has been on the

screen of municipalities for many years now, ever since the Board issued its decision in Upper Blackstone. you know, the National And as Association of Clean Water Agencies, weighed in with the description of the interim policy and the cases on their website. Clearly the municipalities were on notice that this is an issue combined with EPA's rulemaking that there are particularly subject to incorporate review requirements as far as a regional review report. JUDGE STEIN: Am Ι correct in understanding that prior to the draft permit going out these four towns had no notice that they were going to be co-permittees? Is that a correct statement? MR. BUKHARI: No. Well, no, that's --I think that that is correct. I don't know that -- I think that their attorney also represented Upper Blackstone, so I think they probably had some inkling that this was EPA's practice --(Simultaneous speaking) Well, but I think what JUDGE STEIN:

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you've told us is that in some cases EPA does this, in some cases EPA doesn't. I mean, understanding of permitting is you submit an application to a state or the Federal Government. and forth and there's back And some questions and some information. So clearly one may not know the exact terms and conditions of a of. the process You're in draft permit. interacting. Region 1 never before that draft permit went out never formally notifies each town that this is the action that was being --

(Simultaneous speaking)

MR. BUKHARI: Your Honor, I don't think that that's quite correct though. I think that the co-permittee policy stems out of an existing permitting structure that we found to be insufficient. And in the prior permit we put the permittees on notice throughout Massachusetts that while the full group I/I controls on member communities were to be voluntary in the first instance and coordinated through the district. In the event that they did not succeed, we would

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change those requirements and approve the other 1 towns as co-permittees. 2 JUDGE STEIN: So when you issued the 3 prior permit, copies were sent to all of these 4 I mean, if the district is the one that 5 towns? б applied, then clearly the District would have know about the draft permit. But how were the 7 towns supposed to find out? Are they supposed to 8 I mean, what's the 9 read the local newspaper? mechanism for bringing in someone that didn't 10 file an application? 11 12 MR. BUKHARI: The towns are. When we issue draft permits regionally, we include the 13 members communities as a matter of practice. 14 Into the draft? 15 JUDGE STEIN: The draft, yes. MR. BUKHARI: 16 17 and they --JUDGE STEIN: And it's what, a 30-day 18 Thirty days for them to comment? 19 period? MR. BUKHARI: Under the regulations it 20 21 would be 30 days unless we received a request for an extension. And they do in fact file, as we 22

saw before.

JUDGE STEIN: But you never took this interpretative analysis and published it in local newspapers or the Federal Register, any of those kinds of things, this analysis that potentially has applications in many towns in Massachusetts. Up to this point in time it's simply a document attached to the fact sheet in the permit proceeding for this district, is that correct?

MR. BUKHARI: That's correct, Your Honor. Just to make one clarification --

like way over. We would like to get two pieces of information from you, the references to the permits that have been issued to POTWs that have not included co-permittees for their satellites, which you started to talk about. And then any other examples that you can find in the next week where -- that are outside of Region 1 where either EPA or an authorized state has issued permits with satellite collection systems as copermittees and whether any of those co-permittees

were asked to or filed a permit application or 1 were simply notified that they were going to be 2 covered. Thank you. 3 Thank you. MR. BUKHARI: 4 I'll give you 5 And, Mr. Cox, 6 minutes. Just a few MR. COX: Thank you. 7 points I'd like to make. 8 JUDGE HILL: It's up to you whether to 9 use the full fifteen minutes. 10 MR. COX: First, let me -- because you 11 raised some factual questions, let me affirm that 12 the towns had no notice that they be made co-13 permittees until they received the draft order. 14 That's the first time that they even saw the term 15 16 "co-permittee. As the region indicated, the analysis, 17 the 16-page analysis is provided with the draft 18 19 permit. It has not been widely distributed. has not been published. No one knows about it. 20 Counsel suggested that these towns may have known 21 because I represented Upper Blackstone. Well, I 22

1	assure you I didn't get involved until after that
2	draft permit was issued. So, there was no hint
3	of that there. They were
4	JUDGE HILL: If I may ask, do you
5	think that I mean, you submitted fairly
6	extensive comments on this.
7	MR. COX: Correct.
8	JUDGE HILL: So you did get that
9	opportunity in the time that you had.
10	MR. COX: Correct. And because we
11	were aware that we had the opportunity to make
12	comments, and we did make comments.
13	JUDGE HILL: And in fact, Upper
14	Blackstone also submitted comment as well.
15	MR. COX: Upper Blackstone provided
16	comments as well. That's why Upper Blackstone is
17	a party to this.
18	But I can assure you that the towns
19	were surprised, were surprised that they were
20	identified as co-permittees, as were the towns in
21	the Upper Blackstone several years ago. We
22	didn't submit any application. We didn't get

authorization for anyone to sign on our behalf 1 when the application was submitted. 2 The other point I also raise, and I 3 know you looked at this in the 2000 rulemaking, I 4 don't have a copy here, but my memory is that it 5 did include the application process under which 6 satellites either themselves would be directly 7 permitted or they would come under the permits. 8 JUDGE HILL: Do you think EPA has the 9 statutory authority to issue a permit? 10 there, 11 look, you know, you're out We know what you're doing. Here's 12 discharging. your permit. Have a nice day. 13 No, absolutely not. 14 MR. COX: Why not? JUDGE HILL: 15 MR. COX: Well, because these 16 licenses and in order to do something you need to 17 apply to get it. You can't just say, okay, here, 18 go forth and do it. There's a duty to apply 19 which the Region says kicks in here, but they're 20 They can't waive it. There's a not waiving it. 21 duty to apply that can't be undone here. The 22

1	statute is set up
2	JUDGE HILL: And to be precise, you're
3	making a statutory argument? Are you saying that
4	
5	MR. COX: Well, the regulation is
6	based upon the statute the way the statute is
7	constructed.
8	JUDGE HILL: Okay.
9	MR. COX: It says unless you have
10	these things are unlawful Aunless@. That's how
11	we view it.
12	Another point I wanted to raise
13	relates to the questions that you asked about
14	other co-permittees and other facilities that
15	received a permit without reason, without the co-
16	permittee.
17	And counsel referred to the Mansfield
18	matter. Excuse me. The Marshfield.
19	JUDGE HILL: Marshfield.
20	MR. COX: Marshfield. Duxbury.
21	That permit issued on the 12th of this month. It
22	was a permit that the Upper Blackstone commented

upon. So to the extent that the co-permittee claimed to remove, I'd like to think passed because of issues that were raised as to authority to do it. And as described, there are very limited issues that arose in connection with I/I that made the reason for removing those parties as co-permittees.

JUDGE HILL: Mr. Cox, you haven't talked about one issue in your brief, which is that the -- basically the sharing of liability. It's the Region's position that for the copermittees they have to do what happens in their system and they're responsible for SSOs within their part of the system and not others. Do you have a concern that the permit is broader than that?

MR. COX: Yes.

JUDGE HILL: And the Region has represented in their brief that it isn't broader than that. If we were to accept the Region's interpretation as binding on the permit, does that issue go away?

MR. COX: No, because it remains. And 1 it's the purpose. The Region's comments on it, I 2 3 don't think that stands up to the third party You are subject to this permit and 4 challenges. you abide by it even though somebody else did it. 5 I don't think it stands up to the third party 6 challenge, especially where the Region is seeking 7 to have it both ways be subject to the pertinent 8 clauses for the same time, it's not enough. 9 10 JUDGE HILL: So the satellite systems 11 would be responsible for violations of 12 effluent limits, you think? 13 MR. COX: Our concern is that a third 14 party could raise that issue. Right now from 15 what the Region is saying, because they 16 acknowledge that there's a duty to apply, and the towns have not applied, they are subject to be 17 18 violators. They're in violation. And that just 19 doesn't make sense. That is not --20 The Region is saying JUDGE FRASER: 21 the duty to apply was met when the District submitted the application. And if you take the 22

the

that

is

1 district is comprised of town representatives, 2 your position would be that that is not meeting 3 the duty to apply obligation for the towns? 4 Correct, it's not, because MR. COX: 5 if the towns are dischargers, it discharger that has the duty to apply. towns did not apply. That someone else submitted an application, you delegate can't authority, that duty to apply anything. delegate to my daughter to have a drivers license so that I could drive. It's just something that can't be delegated. So there are some -- the duty to apply, which the Region acknowledges, still applies here. That has not been waived. That can't be waived. It can't be delegated. So with towns that are set up to be potential violators because they have not signed and they do not have a permit. The Region indicated that it shouldn't be concerned about that, but frankly I concerned for the towns.

JUDGE HILL:

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Let me ask you again; I

1	think we covered this before, but just to be
2	clear, is there any difference in your mind
3	between the member towns and the customer towns?
4	I mean, is there an argument the member towns
5	have applied because the district has applied?
6	MR. COX: No.
7	JUDGE HILL: I mean, I don't know
, 8	Massachusetts law, and I admit that.
9	MR. COX: Yes, there's no difference.
10	And I'd urge you to take a look at the
11	application form itself. It's 21 pages. Comb
12	it. I think it's paragraph (a)(4). (a)(4), page
13	2 of 21 is the sole place that information is
14	provided regarding the co-permittees. And as I
15	said before, it's just simple information.
16	Population, nature of the system and a couple
17	I forget, it's on my desk. But that's the sole
18	information that's provided by the permit.
19	JUDGE HILL: Well, but the Region's
20	position is that's enough.
21	MR. COX: Well
22	JUDGE HILL: And the regulation says
1	

1	if we've got an enough we can waive A, B and C?
2	MR. COX: Well, fine. We get back to
3	the duty to apply
4	JUDGE HILL: Okay. So
5	MR. COX: and can they really say
6	that?
7	JUDGE HILL: But I just want to
8	be
9	MR. COX: Okay. We have enough to
10	issue a driver's license to me, based my
11	daughter=s.
12	JUDGE HILL: I just want to understand
13	whether you're contesting their finding that they
14	have enough information or you merely
15	MR. COX: Yes.
16	JUDGE HILL: You are?
17	MR. COX: Yes. Yes.
18	JUDGE HILL: How come?
19	MR. COX: Well, the Region's saying
20	that they're doing this on a case-by-case basis,
21	right, but they really aren't. They're taking
22	information from the application that says, okay,

this town has sewer lines that we need here. Is 1 2 there any analysis as to each individual town as to whether it should --3 JUDGE FRASER: Aren't they basing it 4 5 on a number of overflows though and that there's need that they have? It's not just the 6 7 information in the application. They're seeing a need to minimize and get rid of the sanitary 8 9 sewer overflows. MR. COX: If they are, shouldn't they 10 be looking at some towns and saying, okay, town, 11 you have an overflow problem? You should be a 12 13 co-permittee. Looking at other towns that do not 14 have that problem or learn that they're --JUDGE FRASER: I thought that's what 15 that was the position that they drew the 16 distinction between Marshfield and the four towns 17 in this permit? 18 That came afterwards 19 MR. COX: Sure. 20 and not in this proceeding. So they're raising a simple case-by-case basis. They need to do that 21 They haven't done that with the other 22

draft co-permittees -- they're still drafts. 1 But they didn't do that here with respect to 2 these towns and say, wait a minute, you've got a 3 You need to be a co-permittee. Other 4 problem. town, no, you have a newer system. I/I is not 5 such a big issue. You're doing whatever in order 6 Perhaps it's not appropriate to deal with it. 7 for you to be named as a co-permittee. 8 The problem again is as we identify 9 these that it's left to the region to make these 10 determinations on a case-by-case basis and we 11 don't have notice beforehand of what they're 12 We don't know before the draft 13 going to do. permit issues. And what the Region says --14 is that 15 JUDGE FRASER: But, requirement of the statute or the regs to give 16 It's an adjudication. 17 advanced notice? That's a separate issue. 18 MR. COX: 19 But in terms of the correct process, they're doing it on the application, the application 20 regulations that are some 26 pages that are 21

it's not because there's no

existing.

No,

22

1 provision there. 2 Let JUDGE HILL: me ask you 3 different question. My understanding is that EPA 4 often issues general NPDES permits, which cover a 5 lot of dischargers at once, and sometimes they б ask dischargers to raise their hands and say, 7 yes, I want to take advantage of this general 8 permit, and sometimes they just say anybody who's 9 within this category of dischargers is covered. 10 You could view that as giving someone a permit 11 without an application. 12 MR. COX: You could. You could, but 13 in order to trigger --14 JUDGE HILL: How is it distinguished from this? 15 16 MR. COX: You could say that, but in order to trigger the application of the general 17 permit to an individual facility there needs to 18 be a notice of intent. 19 20 JUDGE HILL: No, but that's what I'm 21 saying. There are some categories of general 22 permits that don't require a notice of intent, as

I understand it.

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MR. COX: I don't know. I don't know the answer to that, but that's in a different category. General permits. We're dealing with individual permits here.

One final point I'dlike to make, and connection with something that we started off is the with, and that Blackstone case where the panel, the board there the limiting seemed very concerned about principle of how far up the system can you go. The Region still has not addressed that. reached over to use the definition of POTW and said, okay, here's the definition. We're going But that's just not to draw the lines here. satisfactory as a limiting principle. It was raised years ago in Upper Blackstone. The Region still has not provided a response. What is the limiting principle? How far up do we go? To say that it's a POTW just isn't a solution.

JUDGE FRASER: Mr. Cox, I would also like to get some supplemental information from

specifically if you can me and 1 information, or give the Board information on 2 representation from the towns to the districts. 3 What's the mechanism So the number of persons. 4 of them being appointed, their terms and the 5 scope of their authority? 6 MR. COX: I can do so, and I assume 7 promptly. 8 Yes. 9 JUDGE FRASER: JUDGE HILL: Yes, actually -- and do 10 11 you have anything further? MR. COX: No. 12 JUDGE HILL: Okay. Well, for both of 13 don't want to ruin your 14 requests; I holidays and I also want to give you enough time, 15 why don't we say -- if you could just submit the 16 additional information by, what would that be, 17 Monday the 22nd? And what I would ask is that 18 each of you just -- I mean, I'm not looking for 19 argument. I'm really looking for -- we're really 20 looking for information. So it can be in letter 21

form, but please serve the other party. And I'm

22

1	not looking for responses. If you think that any
2	of the information is incorrect, you can file a
3	response by the 29th. But only if you think the
4	information provided by the other side is
5	incorrect. Does that make reasonable sense?
6	MR. COX: Yes.
7	JUDGE HILL: Okay. All right. Well,
8	I know we've covered a lot of material and this
9	is a difficult case. Thank you all very much,
10	and we will adjourn for the day.
11	MR. COX: Thank you.
12	THE CLERK: All rise.
13	(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
14	went off the record at 11:58 a.m.)
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a.m 1:16 4:2 117:14 abate 54:18 Abatement 5:4 abide 108:5 ability 11:2 33:18 37:16 69:6,9,10,16 able 97:21,21 above-entitled 1:15 117:13 absence 6:1 7:17 absent 5:16 13:3 absolutely 80:15 105:14 accept 29:11 38:4 67:19 107:20 accepted 55:22 64:6 accurate 37:16 accurately 32:12 acknowledge 108:16 acknowledges 6:1 109:13 acquisition 28:10 act 5:16 6:7 9:6,10 25:5 50:11 53:16,22 54:19 55:8,14 60:11 61:15 62:4,17,20 65:10,16 67:3,7 98:7 acting 35:18 36:7 action 43:12 65:6 100:11 actions 65:18 actual 16:10 55:8 adding 44:16 addition 58:20 74:4 additional 41:3 47:4 82:9 116:17 address 20:10 36:13 45:5,6 49:20.21 62:13 63:19 64:11 79:6 addressed 6:11 54:20 80:6 87:12 115:12 addresses 20:10 addressing 45:11 adequate 30:17 31:18 adjourn 117:10 adjudication 113:17 adjudications 91:5 administrative 1:12 32:3,16 33:22 73:18 administratively 32:6 administrator 31:9,12 32:2,7 admit 110:8 admitted 58:4 adopted 42:18 advanced 87:12 113:17 advantage 114:7

advise 88:15 affect 71:11 affirm 103:12 affirmative 74:6 afforded 34:10 Agencies 99:4 agency 1:2 2:8,10 11:18 13:18 40:6.6 48:12 49:14 50:15 75:3.13 75:19 83:19 84:11.16 85:2 87:7 96:7 97:15 agency's 76:10 ago 7:8 104:21 115:17 agree 14:10 61:7 agreed 38:14 40:12 agreements 94:3.4 allocated 4:12 **allow** 10:22 12:7 75:12 84:15 allowed 13:12 allows 40:18 65:15 77:19 Aloha 54:2 alternative 45:7 amass 43:4 amend 45:22 amended 8:7 analogous 23:10 75:7 analysis 7:22 14:6 24:8 25:11 39:9,22 43:11 58:6 60:8 61:3 63:21 66:9 88:14 97:9 102:3 102:5 103:17,18 112.2 answer 25:9 29:20 32:15 35:8 83:9 115:3 answering 14:18 anybody 114:8 apparently 38:7 appeal 1:8 8:10 91:8 appeals 1:1,19,20,22 8:18 APPEARANCES 2:1 appearing 4:22 applicant 50:19 application 7:13 26:9 31:13,21 32:1,8,10 33:7 34:20 35:2,17,19 36:12 37:1,3,5,8,20 37:21 38:9,15 48:19 49:15 51:11 66:10,13 66:17,22 67:6,10,22 69:1,5 70:3 71:13,14 71:19,20 72:22 73:3,6 73:11 74:18 77:18 78:5 79:20 86:8,13

93:19 96:21 100:4 101:11 103:1 104:22 105:2,6 108:22 109:8 110:11 111:22 112:7 113:20,20 114:11,17 applications 73:15 74:19 75:4 90:12 96:13 102:6 applied 19:2 42:7 52:14 70:14 71:7 79:12 101:6 108:17 110:5,5 applies 38:18,20 70:12 109:14 apply 6:6,7 12:4 36:3,4 36:10,13 38:6,8,13 50:14 58:8 65:1.2 66:6.8.8 68:7.14.20 69:17.19.21 70:10.18 89:20 105:18.19.22 108:16,21 109:3,6,7,9 109:13 111:3 applying 36:19 70:22 appointed 30:2,14,21 33:13,17 116:5 appreciate 4:8 approach 6:3 7:8,11 22:4 40:13,22 42:7 46:1,2 49:1 52:3 63:19 66:8 71:9 72:1 approaches 45:9 appropriate 41:6,22 44:8 46:2 113:7 approve 101:1 area 4:8 82:15 arguably 24:6 98:1 argue 51:21 82:4 argued 79:9 arguing 12:2 24:16 59:15 70:11 argument 1:4 15:16 17:20 18:11 21:14 23:13 27:13,21 30:16 34:17 38:5,14,15 41:4 49:12 51:17 53:3 56:4 56:10,12 58:13 64:7 67:19 70:5 81:21 86:16 97:14 106:3 110:4 116:20 arguments 3:12,14 75:11 arose 107:5 articulate 95:21 aside 30:11 42:3 asked 15:9 32:20 56:9 57:6 103:1 106:13 asking 49:8 66:20 74:5

aspects 36:11 91:9.10 assessment 67:5 assist 26:5 assistance 73:21 Association 99:4 assume 9:20 14:10 15:15 40:10,10,12 116:7 assuming 34:12 35:8 70:11 assure 63:5 104:1,18 attached 88:22 95:22 102:8 attachment 80:19 88:19 89:5 attachments 90:2 attended 65:17 attorney 62:6 99:18 attributed 20:5 **Aunless** 106:10 authority 5:19 6:1,11 6:18 7:12,17,20 8:13 9:9 12:11,13,15,18 14:2 15:10,12 23:14 34:13 35:19 39:4,6,22 40:1 41:2,21 42:4,12 47:3,14 50:8 68:9 77:16 84:19,21 85:17 85:18 86:17 87:4 89:9 105:10 107:4 109:9 116:6 authorization 105:1 authorize 20:1 authorized 20:6 102:20 available 32:14 64:10 avenue 1:14 91:17 aware 82:22 84:3,7 104:11

В

B 10:15,17 18:9 111:1 back 7:1,4,9 12:22 33:15 39:20 64:5 66:20 83:4 98:2 100:5 111:2 based 19:10 42:8 44:12 56:5 74:12 82:9 83:7 106:6 111:10 bases 8:15 basically 11:18 18:8 22:7 61:2 65:2 90:21 107:10 **basing** 112:4 basis 6:19 7:1 18:10 28:19 52:5 88:6 111:20 112:21 113:11 bat 51:15 began 82:12

87:11 88:9 90:4,8

92:2,4,9 93:9,16,18

97:20

asks 69:4

aspect 63:18,22 98:8

beginning 57:7 begins 59:4 60:13,14 60:19 behalf 2:2.7 36:20 37:5 37:8 71:20 72:22 105:1 believe 22:6 52:10 65:9 65:11 66:2 80:1 83:14 90:7 believes 46:5 Bellingham 29:2 94:2 best 37:16 45:7,11 50:5 beyond 6:19 37:17 91:14 big 113:6 **bigger** 69:13 bind 40:7 binding 41:1 96:5 107:21 Blackstone 5:4 6:14 7:2 44:14 56:8 99:3,19 103:22 104:14,15,16 104:21 106:22 115:9 115:17 blind 82:5 Blue 56:15 board 1:1 6:11.16 29:18 31:7,11 32:2,14 36:19 37:6 39:20 56:7 61:7 72:6 96:14 99:2 115:9 116:2 board's 31:14 60:22 Boards 32:5 body 30:20 31:2 33:15 72:9 Boston 2:15 4:8 Bowditch 2:4 brief 15:15 26:3 34:3,17 107:9,19 bring 15:1 bringing 101:10 broad 13:14 14:17,20 15:1 28:5,5 broader 79:16 107:15 107:19 brought 39:15 **BUCKARI** 61:18 **budget** 92:11 **build** 28:7 Building 1:13 Bukhari 2:9 3:14 5:5,6 51:3,4,5,19,22 52:5 56:2,18 57:12 58:5,18 60:5 63:7,10 64:16 65:4 66:7,19 68:11 69:2,14,18 70:4,15,20 71:8,22 73:1 74:14 76:2,16 77:10 78:16 80:10,14 81:4,12,15

81:19,20 82:1,3 83:1 83:13 84:6,20 85:12 85:15 86:11 87:10,18 88:12 89:2,5,10 90:1 90:18 91:3 92:15 93:21 94:14,21 95:2,9 95:16,20 97:8,18 98:3 99:16 100:13 101:12 101:16,20 102:10,12 103:4

bunch 48:15 burden 47:7 Burlington 22:5 buy 43:4

C 111:1 call 11:20 19:16 28:16 called 22:5 32:1 calling 58:14 can=t 109:9 capture 57:13 case 22:5,6,7,18 23:1 24:5 25:7 49:5 55:19 61:22 63:19 66:19 67:11 72:5 73:16 82:7 97:3,4 115:9 117:9 case-by-case 88:5 111:20 112:21 113:11 cases 97:5,6 99:6 100:1 100:2 categories 114:21 category 92:6 114:9 115:4 cause 43:12 55:17 causes 48:10 causing 18:8 48:14 central 72:9 certain 73:9 certainly 44:22 45:11 63:14.14 87:4 certification 37:12,14 certifying 37:17 73:17 challenge 40:19 108:7 **challenges** 76:6 108:4 challenging 29:19 **chance** 40:19 41:15 change 5:14 26:3,4,5 26:11,16,18 94:11,12 101:1 changes 86:9 characterize 57:15 characterized 55:4 60:7 characterizing 58:21 79:13 Charles 1:7 2:2 5:21 9:22 48:3 93:14 Circuit 22:6

circumstance 45:18 circumstances 82:8 cite 63:14 77:7.11 cites 22:4 26:11 city 22:5 24:11 33:14.14 claim 8:13 52:1 95:4 claimed 107:2 claims 43:15 clarification 102:11 clarify 76:20 78:17 clarifying 86:1 **clauses** 108:9 Clean 9:6 25:5 50:11 54:19 67:3,7 98:7 99:4 clear 22:14,15 27:10 78:18 110:2 clearly 89:19 99:6 100:6 101:6 **CLERK 117:12** client 73:7 clients 9:8 20:2 close 82:11 co-permittee 12:9 13:21 34:11 61:14 75:20 76:21,21 80:21 83:17 85:3 88:4,13,16 89:21 91:18 100:15 103:16 107:1 112:13 113:4.8 co-permittees 5:21 6:7 13:6 14:21 15:1,4 34:6,20 39:5 40:18 44:12 46:6 47:4 83:12 83:16 84:4 88:2 96:19 99:14 101:2 102:16 102:22 104:20 106:14 107:7 110:14 113:1 co-permitting 75:14 co-sign 93:17 96:21,22 colleagues 74:5 collect 58:11 collection 6:12 7:5 8:14 8:16.19 9:1 18:20 19:8,20 28:9 39:7 48:8 49:19 51:18 52:17 54:4,10 57:10 58:6,9 59:3 66:5 67:16 81:2 82:14 83:6 83:11 85:21 86:9 87:22 91:15 94:5 96:6 102:21 collective 52:20 collects 21:3 Comb 110:11 combine 78:22 combined 32:22 62:3

105:8 111:18 comes 7:1,4 10:17 57:5 coming 7:9 15:18 18:9 59:19 61:11 96:13 comment 39:17 40:8 42:1 84:18 90:22 91:7 97:21 98:15 101:19 104:14 commentary 81:13 commented 106:22 comments 8:5 81:7 85:8 104:6,12,12,16 108:2 commingled 62:4 79:21 commission 29:18 commissioners 29:17 30:1,14 33:14 36:18 communication 88:7 89:17 92:14 communities 32:21 36:1 44:1,7 45:4 72:5 72:8 73:9 100:20 101:14 community 8:20 companies 18:14 Company 54:2 complete 69:1 completed 33:3 89:10 completing 31:20 compliance 31:16 44:17 45:1 47:5 62:16 62:17,20 63:6,13 complications 65:17 complies 53:4 comply 38:12 42:4 73:5 74:21 components 69:5 96:8 comprised 61:21 67:14 109:1 conceded 22:12 conceivably 35:6 concern 42:3 43:20 45:3,4 60:22 61:6 62:7 107:15 108:13 concerned 56:7 62:10 109:20,21 115:10 concerning 51:11 88:16 concerns 8:3 96:7 conclude 44:11 47:3 concluded 47:12 condition 62:21 93:2 conditions 93:6 100:7 conduit 9:10,13 11:7 conduits 55:20 configuration 72:2 76:17 configurations 76:5 conflict 53:18 55:13

90:8 99:8

come 4:7 39:9,21,21

confused 24:2 Congress 53:18 connection 15:4 25:10 35:17 107:5 115:7 consent 37:20 67:6 68:18 78:13 87:3 considerations 88:15 considered 88:2,4 considering 72:2 consistent 52:13 67:3 constituent 74:20 constitute 70:13 constituted 37:7 constituting 52:15 Constitution 1:14 construct 29:3 30:12 constructed 72:14 73:4 106:7 construction 28:6 53:20 contaminated 24:13 contemplate 86:19 contemplated 49:1,2 76:22 88:10 CONTENTS 3:9 contest 41:15 contesting 38:3 111:13 context 9:14 10:13 53:10 54:7 55:2 60:21 71:13 continuing 15:16 50:3 contract 29:10 contracted 55:21 contracting 53:9 contractual 72:7 contrary 5:15 53:15 98:15,16 contributed 23:11 contributing 17:14 62:2 62:3 86:21 contribution 27:14 contributions 75:17 contributors 11:15 12:19,20 16:22 control 1:8 2:2 5:22 9:9 34:8 48:1,3,9,13 93:14 94:9 controlled 48:21 49:11 controls 30:18 64:20 100:19 convey 9:3 54:17 58:10 58:11 67:6 conveyances 11:21 52:17 convince 81:19 coordinated 72:10 100:21 coordination 83:21 copies 101:4

copy 81:22 97:12 105:5 corporation 31:2 55:1 72:13 correct 15:13,19 16:6 16:19.19 17:22 18:2 18:16 23:18 24:9 27:2 27:3,17,18 35:6,9 41:16,17 43:11,21 46:16 58:19 59:9 83:16 99:11,15,17 100:14 102:9,10 104:7,10 109:4 113:19 correctly 21:19 69:20 counsel 2:11 4:21 5:9 51:8 54:22 55:7 103:21 106:17 counsels 33:14 counter 40:11 counting 8:14 couple 110:16 course 73:22 88:20 91:9,9 96:7 Court 22:18 24:10 54:21 Courtroom 1:12 cover 50:11 61:16 86:17 93:16 97:22 114.4 covered 56:3 91:1,20 92:10 93:20 103:3 110:1 114:9 117:8 covering 91:17 Cox 2:3 3:12,16 4:15,18 5:2,2,11,12 9:12 10:4 10:8,11,19 12:5,14,22 13:16 14:4,12,22 15:13,20 16:2,6,13,19 17:3 18:2,4,13,17 19:1,7 20:8,22 21:17 22:3 23:3,9,18 24:4,9 24:18 25:6,9 26:1 27:2,5,12,17,22 29:4 29:9,19 30:5 31:1,19 32:9 33:20 34:9,14 35:14 36:21 37:10,19 38:17,20 39:2,13 41:5 41:17,19 42:11 43:3 43:10,21 44:15,21 46:11,16 47:6,15 48:17 49:6,9,17 50:10 50:18,22 51:1 56:3 75:10 81:22 83:7 89:13 97:14 103:5,7 103:11 104:7,10,15 105:14,16 106:5,9,20 107:8,17 108:1,13 109:4 110:6,9,21

112:10,19 113:18 114:12,16 115:2,21 116:7,12 117:6,11 Cox's 56:10 61:6 62:6 64:6 75:10 crafted 6:3 **CRCPD** 67:14,15 created 72:4 77:1 cross 26:1 cross-refeference 25:22 culvert 22:11,17,21 23:8 24:13 current 64:7 66:9,21 67:1 75:11 84:15 87:10 currently 80:19 customer 29:2,8,9 30:3 72:18,21 73:10 94:4 110:3 customers 55:18 cut 75:8 cuts 58:15

D D 2:3 D.C 1:2 Dague 22:5 24:5 danger 54:20 daughter 109:10 daughter=s 111:11 day 105:13 117:10 days 101:19,21 DC 1:14 deal 42:13 49:19 50:12 53:5 66:12 84:13 86:7 113:7 dealing 21:7,8 23:10 34:15 59:12 64:3 115:4 December 1:11 decide 74:11 decided 74:3 85:2 decision 27:7 54:21 61:13 97:3 99:2 declare 86:22 declared 40:21 declaring 51:17 deemed 18:14 19:8,20 69:6 deep 81:9 define 59:2 94:4 defined 18:5 42:19 56:20 58:5,7,9 defining 60:12 definition 25:12,19,22 26:9,15 27:6,20 28:2 28:4 53:15 59:17 60:1 60:18 61:9 65:12,13

76:12,13 115:13,14 delegate 109:8,10 delegated 109:12,15 demonstrate 47:19 48:18 50:20 denominated 13:21 deny 44:19 47:16 48:15 64:13 denying 49:15 **DEP's** 8:7 department 52:22 depend 51:17 58:14 depending 53:10 depositing 64:22 described 79:18 80:6 107:4 describes 90:4 description 99:5 designed 44:9 56:1 98:10 desirable 78:12 desire 68:10 desk 110:17 detail 56:3 57:20 detailed 31:21,22 69:10 71:12 determination 7:19 determinations 33:5 91:8 113:11 determine 43:15 60:18 73:12.12 determined 59:2 81:7 determines 62:9 developing 67:2 Development 55:1 Dewey 2:4 diff 10:6 difference 110:2,9 different 7:1,9 9:21 10:19 21:6 25:4,19 26:17,18 37:1 45:19 53:22 54:11 57:10 60:2 73:2 114:3 115:3 difficult 117:9 direct 88:17 directed 26:14 directive 40:2 directly 6:20 8:7 55:19 105:7 **directors** 31:3 37:6 disagree 76:2 disagreed 18:6 disagreeing 23:2 discharge 5:17 6:20 7:6 9:2,4,7 10:21 11:6 13:2,2,8 15:18 20:2,6 21:4,20 22:2 24:20,21 27:16 29:11 44:20

111:2,5,9,15,17,19

46:10,12,14,14,20

47:8 50:2 51:10 52:7 56:20 57:16 58:21 59:3,17 60:10,10,13 60:14,16 61:17 62:5,8 62:9 64:13 65:12 66:11 68:21 71:4,16 74:16 75:5 76:13 78:19,20 79:7,10,21 82:8 86:21 90:9 92:1 92:7,21 93:12 discharged 9:21 11:8 20:9 21:5 23:12 46:19 discharger 17:4,4,7 28:17 36:2 38:16 44:22 48:18 54:16 56:17,18 58:22 59:18 60:1 61:10 79:14 109:6 dischargers 18:14 19:1 19:17,21 36:2,9 38:2 38:4,21 39:1 59:10 62:2,3 68:17 70:6 75:5 79:8 109:5 114:5 114:6,9 discharges 55:2,3,5,5 68:21 70:7,10 71:2,3 71:4 78:22 discharging 7:3 8:16 10:2,4 11:10,20 13:6 15:21 16:3,5,9,12 17:22 18:10 19:9 20:21 21:1,2,18 23:5 23:8,20 24:3,6 25:15 31:14 46:22 55:20 62:10 65:1 70:17 74:17 78:6 79:5,6,17 92:16 105:12 disconnect 17:10 discuss 51:9 discussed 42:4 53:13 57:18 discussing 84:14 discussion 61:3 83:14 discussions 83:15 dismayed 95:3 dispense 50:20 51:16 displaced 8:6 distinction 23:3 24:22 29:7 53:1 59:10 112:17 distinguish 24:18 distinguished 114:14 distributed 103:19 district 1:8 2:2 5:4 20:11 28:20 29:1,15 30:7,13,21 31:7 33:12 33:18 35:4 36:19 37:5 37:9 44:19 46:5,19

48:4 50:7 54:1 59:5 61:14 62:14 64:14 67:11 70:12 71:15,16 71:20 72:3,20 73:7 93:15 94:9 100:21 101:5.6 102:9 108:21 109:1 110:5 District's 5:22 29:18 35:2 districts 65:19 116:3 document 22:4 40:22 52:3 58:6 81:7 88:18 89:9 90:6 95:7 102:7 doing 12:15,16 14:7 21:22 92:5 96:15 105:12 111:20 113:6 113:20 domestic 57:14 downstream 48:14 dozens 65:18,20 draft 88:1,7 89:2,3,8,18 90:2,3,14,16,18,19 92:12 93:4,5,10 99:12 100:8,9 101:7,13,15 101:16 103:14,18 104:2 113:1,13 drafted 88:13 drafts 113:1 drain 9:18 draining 22:8,9,10 draw 115:15 drawing 59:10 drawn 61:1 95:10 drew 112:16 drive 109:11 driver's 77:3 111:10 drivers 109:10 driving 77:3,5 duties 32:3 duty 32:9,11 36:3,4,10 36:12 38:5,8 65:1 66:6.7.8 68:14.20 69:11.16.19.21 73:4 74:6 89:20 105:19.22 108:16,21 109:3,6,9 109:13 111:3 **Duxbury** 82:11,12 106:20

E
earlier 40:11 54:8,14
62:15 91:4
early 76:8
East 1:13 83:2
effect 68:2
effective 68:22
effectuate 65:15

dynamics 76:5

effluent 108:12 effort 46:3 62:4 efforts 45:2 either 7:15 11:13 40:16 80:2 82:19 102:20 105:7 emanating 56:20 emphasized 55:18 employ 43:4 encompass 13:14 ends 48:10 58:7 59:4 60:13,14,19 enforceability 43:19 enforceable 64:19,19 enforcement 43:5,17 64:12 65:8,18 92:18 engaged 31:9 ensure 44:17 45:1 62:16,20 ensuring 63:13 entails 68:14 entering 60:10 entire 8:20 entirely 59:13 entirety 61:7 entities 54:12 70:13 86:21 92:6 93:12,17 entity 28:16 31:15 52:12 54:9 60:18,21 62:2 68:6 72:12,15 79:1.5 Environmental 1:1,2,19 1:20,22 2:7,10 **EP** 48:7 EPA 1:13 4:14 5:22 6:13 7:7 8:3 10:9,12,14 11:12 16:22 43:12 47:10,12 48:7 52:13 67:13 68:8 76:19 77:7 77:12 82:10 83:10 91:6 98:5.9.16 100:1 100:2 102:20 105:9 114:3 EPA's 6:11 7:10 65:6 99:8,20 erred 34:18 especially 108:7 espousing 23:2 essence 66:3 essential 80:4 essentially 12:2 15:17 43:18 67:21 68:2 87:2 established 29:13 57:17 Eurika 51:2 event 73:14 100:22 events 95:4 everybody 56:12 80:13 evolving 76:7

exact 100:7 example 11:10 21:19 77:11,12 82:20 88:3 **examples** 11:17 15:3 77:7 102:18 exceed 50:3 exceedances 48:4,11 48:15 49:11 exceeding 42:12 exception 91:16 exclude 56:22 excluding 59:13 Excuse 106:18 Exemption 73:17 exercise 60:15,16 98:4 exist 75:21 87:4 existing 70:1,2 86:3 87:9 93:13 100:16 113:22 expand 26:8 expanding 6:19 53:9 expecting 90:7 explain 4:11 43:8 76:20 explaining 86:2 explicit 13:15 14:1 84:12,21 **explicitly** 63:4 75:15 expressly 13:11 14:15 14:21 76:17,18 extension 101:22 extensive 83:21 104:6 extent 32:13 95:2 107:1 extra 51:3

F face 76:6 91:19 facilities 49:19 67:17 106:14 facility 13:9 20:3,18 21:8 23:5 31:4 37:11 55:13.22 82:19 114:18 fact 30:22 35:6 45:14 68:4 75:13 85:2,7 96:1 101:22 102:8 104:13 factor 63:22 factual 28:19 103:12 fairly 22:15 104:5 falling 16:11 far 85:14,17 93:5 99:10 115:11,19 fax 2:6 features 28:16 Federal 31:13 43:19 100:4 102:4 Federally 64:19 feed 96:17

feel 84:16 fifteen 103:10 figure 12:1 78:14 file 101:11.22 117:2 filed 103:1 filings 82:7 fill 6:3 final 83:2 92:20 115:6 finally 8:2 finance 92:11 financial 45:12 find 38:1,3 40:16 41:5,9 41:12,20 61:6 63:3,16 89:17 94:16,19 96:14 96:22 101:8 102:18 finding 26:6 63:3 89:21 90:1 97:5,6 111:13 finds 63:22 89:7 fine 14:12 77:5 84:1 111:2 finish 96:10 first 4:13 6:10 7:11 8:12 22:6 34:11 51:16 52:1 52:8 66:20 74:8.11 88:14 90:10 92:13 95:7,10 100:20 103:11,15 fits 46:1 five 20:18 21:9,11,11,16 21:21 51:3 61:22 96:16.17 flow 9:3,11 11:8 23:11 29:11 flows 56:15 fluids 9:18 21:1 flush 56:14 flushing 58:2 focus 25:13,13 60:20 60:22 focuses 55:10 folks 48:14 **follow** 85:7 followed 45:19,20 52:9 force 48:7 78:14 forefront 76:9 forewarning 93:4 forget 110:17 form 32:18 33:3 57:1 89:2 110:11 116:22 formally 100:10 forth 8:4.5 19:4 36:22 42:20 100:5 105:19 forward 31:18 found 82:8 100:16 four 59:14 63:5 70:5,12 71:6,20 80:9,11 87:1 99:13 112:17 framework 36:6 Franklin 28:22 29:17

30:10.14 frankly 72:5 109:20 Fraser 1:20 4:6 20:12 21:7 28:18 29:6,16,22 30:9 31:11 32:4 33:12 34:5,12,15 36:17 37:4 37:14 49:3,7,10 50:3 50:15 54:8,15 59:7 61:5 68:19 69:3,15 71:18 72:11 74:2 87:20 88:21 89:3,7,12 89:15 90:14,21 91:13 93:8 96:9,12 97:13,19 108:20 112:4,15 113:15 115:21 116:9 free 95:4 Frendswood 55:22 Friendswood 54:22 55:17 56:5 57:4,4,13 57:17 59:9 60:6 frustrate 98:8 full 41:7 100:19 103:10 function 32:16 33:22 72:10 98:9

further 19:18 43:8

116:11

future 50:4

G gap 6:3,5 gather 31:9 gathered 82:9 general 5:9 51:8 54:22 55:7 114:4,7,17,21 115:4 generate 18:18 53:17 getting 55:14 90:15 92:12 93:10 give 30:5 41:4 51:2 60:2 68:3 74:12 77:6 93:11 103:5 113:16 116:2 116:15 Given 33:8 40:15 gives 92:4 giving 11:18 21:15 97:4 114:10 go 9:12 12:22 15:7 18:8 27:9 39:11 40:8 45:13 51:21 57:20 66:20 69:12 98:6,14 105:19 107:22 115:11,19 goal 66:21 67:5 goes 33:2 37:12 60:22 69:3 90:19 going 22:20 31:18 34:1 45:13 48:15 49:20 51:14 60:1 68:1,7 82:6 84:10 86:22

90:17 91:21 93:19

96:18 99:13,14 103:2 113:13 115:14 good 4:3,9,20 5:12 51:4 gotten 20:19 govern 13:6 governing 30:20 31:2 government 18:21 19:2 31:14 83:22 100:4 governs 12:7 grants 28:6 grappling 45:17 great 25:16 42:13 53:5 66:12 group 82:10 100:19 guess 87:13

Hampton 83:2

hand 93:11 handful 53:21 handle 90:5 hands 114:6 **happen** 18:18 happens 20:9 32:6 49:3 107:12 happy 29:21 harmoniously 53:19 head 77:12,13 87:17 hear 4:13 45:22 53:21 81:16 hearing 1:16 68:16 heart 64:18 held 55:8 help 40:14 helpful 84:8 herring 27:20,22 Hill 1:18 4:3,4,20 5:10 9:12 10:6,9,12 11:9 12:10,17 15:6,14,22 16:4,7,16,20 17:12 18:3,6,16,22 19:6 20:7 22:3 23:7,13 24:1,5,10 25:2 26:21 27:4,8,13,19 37:22 38:19,22 39:11 40:3 41:14,18 43:8,17 47:20 50:21 51:2,14 51:20 52:2 56:2 57:3 58:3,13 59:6 63:2,8 64:5,21 66:4,15 67:9 67:18 70:4.16 71:1 75:8 76:15 80:17 81:18,20 82:2,21 83:8 84:1,8 85:10,13 86:5 86:14 87:15 94:7,15 95:1,6,14,17 96:11 102:12 103:9 104:4,8

104:13 105:9,15

106:2,8,19 107:8,18

108:10 109:22 110:7 110:19,22 111:4,7,12 111:16,18 114:2,14 114:20 116:10,13 117:7 Hill's 60:3 91:4 hint 104:2 history 57:18 hit 51:14 hold 6:17 **holidays** 116:15 home 57:2.10 homeowner 57:14 homeowners 58:16 homes 82:15,16 83:3 honest 86:14 Honor 4:19 51:5,22 60:5 61:18 63:7,10 68:11 69:20 71:8,22 73:1,16 74:14,22 76:3 77:10 78:16 80:10 81:4 82:1 84:20 85:15 86:11 87:10 88:12 92:15 93:21 97:8 98:4 100:13 102:11 **HONORABLE** 1:18,20 1:21 hooked 9:17 10:15 hope 92:19 house 60:3,4 hypothetical 56:22 58:1

1/1 8:4 42:5 45:5,6,11,12 48:9,9,13,21 49:11,20 64:3 73:22 76:8,11 96:6 100:19 107:6 113:5 identified 104:20 identify 96:5 97:10 113:9 ignore 7:15 ii 69:22 illogical 18:19 immaterial 18:21 27:6 immediately 61:12 impetus 62:12 implement 85:19 implied 78:13 **imply** 68:5 implying 77:14 important 53:1,1 61:4 61:19 63:18 importantly 27:5 impose 30:17 39:10 64:8.19 80:3 85:17,19 85.20 imposed 34:6 77:8

imposing 80:7 82:6 imposition 78:8 improper 64:13 inadequate 48:1 inauguration 55:8 incentive 54:16,17 include 60:3 61:8 92:5 101:13 105:6 included 83:12 102:16 includes 7:5 25:20 28:5 including 8:19 28:10,12 73:22,22 94:5 inclusion 57:18 incoherence 53:5 incomplete 49:15 inconsistent 79:15 80:2 incorporate 99:9 incorrect 117:2,5 incredibly 94:17,19 incumbent 60:17 independent 37:17 indicate 36:15 85:5 90:11 indicated 82:13 103:17 109:19 indirect 57:19 individual 58:16 65:20 112:2 114:18 115:5 industrial 55:18 57:19 57:20 59:9,11 75:16 infer 85:2 infiltration 48:1 inflow 48:2 inform 98:11 information 30:6.7.17 30:22 31:5,8,10,17,22 31:22 32:7,12,13,17 32:20 33:2,8 34:1,4 34:19 35:1 37:15 38:18 67:1 73:13,20 74:12 77:19 82:9 100:6 102:14 110:13 110:15,18 111:14,22 112:7 115:22 116:2,2 116:17,21 117:2,4 informing 65:2 initiating 65:18 initiatives 76:19 inkling 99:20 instance 90:11 100:21 instances 91:14.16 instant 55:19 instructed 92:19 insufficient 100:17 insulate 55:13 integral 28:11 integrated 61:21 62:7 67:15 72:3

intended 26:8 53:19,22 65:7,10,10 97:22 intending 92:9 intent 114:19,22 intention 67:5 interacting 100:9 interconnected 17:14 17:17,19 interdependent 79:3 interested 84:2 interim 99:5 interpret 65:14 98:11 interpretation 8:1 14:7 40:7 51:10 71:10 84:16,22 95:22 98:7 98:19 107:21 interpretations 86:3 95:18 interpretative 85:14 102:3 interpretive 51:12 85:8 85:11 95:9 96:2 97:9 98:5.9 intervening 60:9 introduce 4:22 introduces 53:4 introducing 57:22 invalid 12:4 invite 41:21 invoke 63:9 involve 34:20 involved 19:12 104:1 isolated 26:19 issuance 61:12 issue 14:14 23:6 27:20 35:14,16 38:12,17 39:4 40:4 41:20 42:9 42:11 47:11,16 50:16 51:16 59:15 64:12 66:9 68:9 76:8.11 77:5.16 78:4 79:7.7.8 98:7,22 99:8 101:13 105:10 107:9,22 108:14 111:10 113:6 113:18 issued 7:22 62:5 80:22 81:5 83:10 84:4 88:19 88:22 89:9 92:20 99:2 101:3 102:15,20 104:2 106:21 issues 41:15 48:21 49:18 50:12 51:11 64:3 84:13 107:3,5 113:14 114:4

issuing 52:6 62:14,19

62:21

i 69:7 joined 51:7 JR 2:3 Judge 1:19,20,22 4:3,5 4:6,20 5:10 9:12 10:6 10:9.12 11:9 12:10.17 13:10,17 14:9,13 15:6 15:14,22 16:4,7,16,20 17:12 18:3,6,16,22 19:6 20:7,12 21:7 22:3 23:7,13 24:1,5 24:10 25:2,3,7,21 26:21 27:4,8,13,19 28:18 29:6,16,22 30:9 31:11 32:4 33:12 34:5 34:12,15 36:17 37:4 37:14,22 38:19,22 39:11 40:3,11 41:14 41:18 42:2,22 43:8,17 44:10,16 45:16 46:13 46:17 47:10,20,21 49:3,7,8,10 50:3,15 50:21 51:2,14,20 52:2 54:7,15 56:2 57:3 58:3,13 59:6,7 60:3 61:5 62:15 63:2.8 64:5,6,21 66:4,15 67:9,18 68:19 69:3,15 70:4,16 71:1,18 72:11 74:2 75:8 76:15 77:2 77:21 80:7,12,16,17 81:10,14,18,20 82:2 82:21 83:8 84:1.8 85:10,13 86:5,14 87:15,20 88:21 89:3,7 89:12,15 90:14,21 91:4,13 93:8 94:7,15 95:1,6,14,17 96:9,11 96:12 97:13.19 99:11 99:22 101:3,15,18 102:2,12 103:9 104:4 104:8,13 105:9,15 106:2,8,19 107:8,18 108:10,20 109:22 110:7,19,22 111:4,7 111:12,16,18 112:4 112:15 113:15 114:2 114:14,20 115:21 116:9,10,13 117:7 jurisdiction 35:11

K
Kathie 1:21 4:5
keep 15:7 24:2 82:6
keeping 82:3
key 43:5
kicks 105:20
kind 23:1 27:20 45:18
46:20 75:8,18 77:11

78:12 kinds 102:5 Kingston 82:11 knew 39:18 87:16 know 10:11 13:20 18:4 22:19 25:6,9 30:2 39:9 44:12 45:1 60:20 63:21 65:11 66:2 73:8 78:6,12 79:15 82:18 83:8 85:14 86:6,13 88:6 91:19 93:18 94:10 95:7 96:18 99:3 99:17 100:7 101:7 105:4,11,12 110:7 113:13 115:2,2 117:8 knowing 32:3 50:16 knowingly 6:8 knowledge 37:18 known 103:21 knows 49:18 98:4 103:20

L 1:18 lack 23:14 41:2 lacking 77:2 laid 7:14 land 22:8 28:10,12,13 landfill 22:10,20 24:12 landfill's 22:20 language 13:13 14:17 14:20,22 17:11 25:14 70:6 85:9,16 86:12 89.20 large 74:17 law 44:4 72:4,14 110:8 laws 31:16 lav 53:9 lead 65:5 leads 52:17 learn 112:14 leaving 42:3 led 57:2 76:10 left 4:4 42:15 113:10 legal 6:18,19 7:12 70:13 72:12 86:21 91:8 92:21 legislative 14:6,11 39:12 40:4,6,13,22 41:20 51:12 95:8 lengths 25:16 Leslye 1:20 4:6 let's 9:12,14,16,20 14:9 14:13 20:14 39:11,12 40:10,10,12 47:20 64:5 72:18 letter 28:21 64:22 76:6 90:3 116:21

liability 42:5 107:10 license 77:3,6,6 109:10 111:10 **licenses** 105:17 lifetimes 45:13 likewise 43:14 limited 23:16.19.19 24:2 32:19 34:2.4.7.7 35:9 107:5 limiting 115:10,16,19 limits 108:12 line 35:16 57:11 line's 61:1 lines 33:6 59:8 112:1 115:15 listed 61:13,15 69:11 81:2 litigated 95:14,17,19 little 59:8 69:12 LLP 2:4 lobby 57:3,4 local 101:9 102:3 located 59:20 61:1 location 16:10 logic 16:7,21 56:9,12 57:12.12 logically 55:12 long 11:13 17:8 65:16 longer 21:1,14 look 26:12 36:6 37:19 48:12 60:17 69:19 70:9 85:9,15,16 87:15 92:1 105:11 110:10 looked 60:6 82:7 105:4 looking 52:11 61:19 88:11 89:19 91:18 112:11,13 116:19,20 116:21 117:1 lot 48:4 56:3 114:5 117:8

M

M 1:20 MA 1:9 2:5.15 magic 14:2 Main 2:4 maintain 50:5 maintaining 35:10 maintenance 9:17,19 10:2 35:10 62:22 96:6 making 27:7 36:22 84:21 85:4 97:3 106:3 managed 30:13 management 35:5 manner 65:15 Mansfield 106:17 marry 78:5 Marshfield 81:5 82:12 88:3 106:18,19,20

112:17 Massachusetts 8:6,9 42:8 65:20 97:11 100:18 102:6 110:8 material 20:21 21:2 25:11 117:8 matter 1:6.15 5:7 6:14 45:14 51:6 57:7 64:17 79:9,11 101:14 106:18 117:13 **MBCA** 55:14 mean 10:12 13:17 16:8 18:7 20:13 25:7 31:7 38:13 40:5,15,16 43:15 46:14 47:9,11 48:2 56:9 57:9 64:15 75:9 86:15 87:3 91:1 94:10 100:2 101:5,9 104:5 110:4,7 116:19 meaning 53:10 54:1 55:5 means 29:9,12 98:18 mechanism 32:6 48:8 101:10 116:4 Medway 28:22 29:17 30:10.14 meet 19:10 47:8 50:2 50:17 meeting 109:2 meets 48:19 member 28:22 29:7,12 72:4,8,19 100:19 110:3.4 members 101:14 membership 73:9 memory 105:5 mentioned 42:18 45:10 65:5 mere 55:20 merely 111:14 met 72:6 73:18 108:21 method 63:22 miles 20:15,18 21:9,10 21:11,12,16,21 59:20 Millis 29:2 94:1 mind 110:2 minimal 82:15 minimize 112:8 minute 30:11 113:3 minutes 4:12,16 51:3 103:6,10 mischief 55:16 modifications 8:8 moment 9:15 83:4 Monday 116:18 monies 49:21 month 106:21

morning 4:3,9 5:13

51:4

moving 51:11
multiple 62:2 67:14
78:22 79:7
municipal 6:12 7:5 8:13
8:15,19 9:1 18:13,20
19:7,20 20:1 36:1
39:6 44:1 59:11,12
84:4 85:21 94:3
municipalities 65:21
80:21 99:1,7
municipality 11:7 58:22
80:20

ł

NACWA 99:4 name 4:4 5:5 51:5 named 113:8 narrow 55:9 narrowed 55:9 National 99:3 natural 70:19 87:5 nature 110:16 navigable 9:7 necessarily 31:7 46:2 necessary 7:20 19:3 47:13,17,22 67:1 81:8 need 6:17,18 13:11 15:2 17:1 19:10 30:22 33:10 35:1 38:10 41:7 41:7,9,11,21,22 44:4 46:20 62:10 67:21 74:4,11,18 76:17 84:17 88:5 96:21,22 105:17 112:1,6,8,21 113:4 needed 24:14 32:7 75:20 77:20 needless 53:17 needs 14:4 17:5,7 22:1 22:22 70:7 114:18 negative 75:19 negotiated 77:17 never 100:9,10 102:2 new 70:1 newer 113:5 newspaper 101:9 newspapers 102:4 nice 105:13 non-clean 50:13 note 54:13 noted 63:20 notes 69:20 notice 1:16 8:11 39:17 40:8 41:22 87:12,20 87:22 90:5,22 92:12 97:1,20 98:14,17,19 98:20 99:7,13 100:18 103:13 113:12,17 114:19,22

notified 103:2 notifies 100:10 notifying 92:13 notion 9:13 40:5 79:5 98:17 NPDES 1:7,9 5:14 20:20 21:15 26:6 51:13 53:5 53:12 54:6,7 65:11,12 67:2,8 114:4 number 54:22 63:11,17 76:4,4 92:22 93:1 112:5 116:4 numerous 13:18

0

O&M 43:18.19 object 78:2 **obligation** 31:15 32:5 43:16 47:7,11 50:17 54:18 109:3 obligations 20:20 50:2 64:9 72:16 obliged 98:6 obviously 72:5 occur 48:5 occurring 63:20 Office 2:11,13 5:9 51:7 officer 77:4 offices 83:10 OGC 83:20.21 oh 33:8 81:14 okay 4:20 10:7,9 14:9 14:12,13 15:22 18:3 18:21,22 19:6 20:7 25:2 27:4,8,19 30:9 37:2 38:22 39:2,19 40:3 41:18 44:15 46:9 50:21 51:20 59:6 80:12,16 81:14 86:20 102:12 105:18 106:8 111:4,9,22 112:11 115:14 116:13 117:7 once 93:1 114:5 ones 31:5 ongoing 49:18 operate 15:17 17:16 65:10 operated 54:11 operates 17:18,21 29:15 operating 16:10 23:4,7 24:7,11 26:22 27:16 31:3,15 33:15 52:8 operation 35:10 52:21 62:22 73:20 96:6 operator 11:14 13:20 37:11 71:15 73:7

operators 23:15 31:4 opinion 22:15,16 28:21 opinions 76:10 opportunity 30:6 39:17 68:16 91:7 104:9,11 opposed 43:12,16 89:8 91:5 opposition 24:16 oppressively 82:5 option 64:17 options 64:10,17 65:5 78:11 **ORAL** 1:4 order 29:10 33:4,11 38:12 54:18 74:20 103:14 105:17 113:6 114:13,17 ordering 38:12 orders 92:7 organization 29:13 original 70:17 originally 29:22 ostensibly 22:17 outfall 20:16 21:12 outflow 55:15 outline 71:12 outside 35:18 83:9 102:19 overflow 112:12 overflows 112:5,9 owned 9:21 11:11,12 11:14,15 12:19,20 17:1 20:13 22:2,7,17 23:16 54:9 55:3,4 56:5.21 58:1 74:22 75:1,2,6,16 owner 10:15 13:20 33:1 owners 67:20,22 81:1 ownership 21:16 owns 10:1 20:15

Р

P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S page 33:6 37:2,4 39:22 63:11,16 81:10,12,16 87:12 110:12 pages 8:1 110:11 113:21 panel 115:9 paragraph 110:12 part 7:15 20:4,6,11 27:15 28:11 29:12 30:16 34:16 54:8,10 61:10 62:20 65:6 66:16 87:21 94:2,6,8 94:16 107:14 particular 26:10 44:13 46:5 84:3

particularly 53:6 72:18 99:9 parties 35:16 39:16 47:13,18,22 107:7 parts 26:20 53:16,22 party 47:18,19 104:17 108:3.6.14 116:22 passed 31:8 32:14 107:2 passing 11:21 Pembroke 82:11 pending 8:10,10 92:18 people 31:4 33:16,19 36:9 37:1 70:18 83:5 91:22 93:10 97:5 perceive 91:10 percent 22:14 peril 92:17 period 92:4 101:19 permissible 96:15 permit 1:9 5:14,16,22 8:10 10:16 11:13 12:12 13:3,18 15:10 19:16.22 20:1.4.9.10 20:20 22:2,22 23:14 24:14 32:1,8 35:9,15 36:7,20 37:8 38:13 39:5 40:16 42:22 44:4 44:5,18,19 45:8 46:21 47:5,11,14,16,17 48:14,16 49:13,14,16 49:22 50:7,16,19 51:11 52:6 59:5 61:16 62:5,8,9,11,14 63:4 64:13 65:3 66:6,10,13 66:17 67:2 68:3,6,7,9 68:14,22 70:8 71:13 71:14 73:3,6,11,13 74:8,10,15 76:6,17 77:17,18,20,22 78:5,8 78:15 79:20 80:22 81:5 84:3 87:1 88:1,7 89:8,18,22 90:2,4,15 90:16,19 92:3,12,17 92:20 93:2,4,5,9,10 93:12,13,15,16,18 94:9,20 95:5,15,19 96:1,12,16 99:12 100:8,10,17 101:4,7 102:8 103:1,19 104:2 105:10,13 106:15,21 106:22 107:15,21 108:4 109:18 110:18 112:18 113:14 114:8 114:10,18 permits 17:1 33:11 44:2 58:8 62:19,22 64:4 80:20 82:6 83:10

102:21 105:8 114:4 114:22 115:4.5 permitted 42:14 46:15 74:7 79:22 105:8 permittee 13:19 20:5 36:16 62:13 64:9 77:19 106:16 permittees 6:9,13 7:13 11:1,3 12:8 13:12,13 14:16 30:18,19 61:9 81:3 91:6 93:3 94:10 96:19 97:6 100:18 102:22 103:14 107:12 permitting 13:4 21:15 22:4 25:18 40:13,21 46:4 48:7 51:13 53:6 53:12 54:6 60:15,16 65:7 67:8 68:17 71:6 76:4,5 77:8 78:1 80:3 82:4 100:3,16 person 4:9 5:17 10:4 11:10.19 13:2 16:9.12 16:13 17:17,21 21:1,6 22:1 23:19 24:3,6 25:14 56:10,11 57:5 68:20 70:7,10,20,21 71:2,5 74:7 persons 9:6,7 11:5 15:20 16:1,2,4,14,18 19:15 70:12,16 71:6 78:6 116:4 pertain 57:21 pertaining 57:19 pertinent 108:8 perverse 54:16 Petition 34:3 Petitioner 5:1,3 67:4 Petitioner's 51:9 52:1 53:8,14 54:3,14,15 55:9 Petitioners 4:13 **pick** 80:9 piece 22:8 52:20 pieces 102:13 pipe 9:18 15:17 21:10 22:1 46:22 54:18 55:15 57:2 58:7 59:19 61:11 pipes 13:8 17:15,17,19 23:16 52:16 58:10 place 34:11 52:1 74:8 74:11 88:14 110:13 placed 74:7 plain 5:15 53:15 92:8 **Plains** 56:15 planning 91:22 92:10 plant 6:20 7:3 9:4,11

43:4 47:8 48:10,18,20 50:19 52:16.18 53:4 53:12 54:11 56:15 62:7 67:16 70:22 71:15,16 73:8 plant's 50:1 plants 53:11 72:3 97:11 please 43:9 93:11 116:22 plucks 33:7 plus 59:20 **PODW** 90:8 point 5:18 8:17,21 9:3,5 9:9 10:5 11:6 17:7,13 18:9.9 19:8.9 20:11 21:1,19 24:7 25:15 26:2 27:16 28:3 34:2 45:1 50:4 52:7 55:9 55:10 58:10,20 60:9 71:3,4 78:20 79:10 89:16 90:16 91:2,4 94:12 102:7 105:3 106:12 115:6 **points** 103:8 police 77:4 policy 8:3 62:13 83:17 83:18 96:3 99:6 100:15 pollutant 5:17 10:2 11:20 57:16 74:16.17 pollutants 8:16 9:2 10:5 17:15 22:20 55:11 57:22 pollution 1:7 2:2 5:4.22 48:3 55:19 93:14 94:9 populated 65:19 population 32:21 33:9 110:16 portion 26:22 54:17 74:20 79:12 portions 80:4 position 15:8 16:8,17 16:21 18:1 20:13 26:21 27:10 30:15 41:10 67:13 107:11 109:2 110:20 112:16 post 2:13 97:10 potential 109:16 potentially 102:5 **POTW** 7:4 8:18 9:14 25:12,19 26:14 27:1,6 27:15,19 28:2 48:16 51:10,18,21 53:3,8,15 54:4,5,9,10 57:8 59:4 60:17,18 61:9 62:1 65:13 66:14,17 67:10 67:15,19,20 70:2.22 74:17,20 75:21 76:13 78:20,21 79:4,17,17

88:19 101:13 102:15

23:11,21,22 28:20

32:11 35:20 37:11

record 28:21 42:6,9

79:19,20 80:4 82:5,13 86:22 88:8 92:21 93:14 94:2,4,5,6,8 96:16,20 115:13,20 POTWs 19:5 24:19 25:3 52:12 58:15 61:20,22 66:11 67:14 70:1 102:15 practical 40:5 practicality 31:20 34:16 practice 84:2 99:20 101:14 practices 88:16 preambles 53:17 precise 12:10 15:8 64:21 106:2 preexisting 73:8,9 preferred 38:11 premises 19:12 presume 30:9,12 pretreaters 57:19 pretreatment 53:7,13 54:5 primarily 57:1 primary 43:20 principal 42:3 58:8 75:10 principle 52:8 60:6 77:13 115:11,16,19 prior 60:10 84:5,6,7 93:4 99:12 100:17 101:4 private 12:7 57:2,2 privately 11:12,14,15 12:19 17:1 55:3,4 56:5 74:22 75:2,5,15 probably 22:17 71:16 83:5 94:18 99:19 problem 8:22 9:1 61:2 64:18 112:12,14 113:4.9 **problems** 7:10 19:18 63:20 64:11 82:18 procedural 78:4 procedure 45:19 90:4 procedures 51:12 proceed 4:11 65:14 proceeding 40:16 41:16 46:4 66:10 91:6 92:18 94:18 95:15.19 95:20 96:2 102:9 112:20 proceedings 40:20 process 7:13 28:12 34:21 39:16 65:7 68:6 73:4 88:11 100:8 105:6 113:19

65:12 67:8 programs 13:18 53:18 85:20 prohibited 62:19 prohibits 5:16 promptly 116:8 pronouncement 98:14 proper 39:19 62:22 proposal 53:8 63:12 84:18 85:13 86:6,7 propose 84:17 85:7 proposed 84:11 86:12 87:7,13 98:2 proposes 68:21 proposition 60:8 **Protection** 1:2 2:7,10 **prove** 75:19 provide 13:11 15:4 29:21 30:7 66:22 77:16,19 81:21 90:11 98:19 provided 32:12,17,18 33:10 35:13 37:18 103:18 104:15 110:14 110:18 115:18 117:4 provides 91:6 providing 31:21 60:9 98:17 provision 13:5 114:1 provisions 26:6 public 13:8 45:5 68:16 88:15 98:11,17 publically 11:11 12:20 23:16 56:21 57:22 74:22 publication 90:17,20 publish 97:9 published 86:7 88:13 90:15 93:6 102:3 103:20 pump 13:7 purported 6:8 purpose 58:9 66:2 88:17 108:2 purposely 28:5 purposes 53:11 54:5,6 60:14 65:15 pursuant 1:16 79:22 90:9 pursue 78:10 85:3 95:4 pursued 79:5 put 22:16 59:4,5 100:17 puts 59:18 putting 30:10 88:18

reason 15:16 60:3 88:13 106:15 107:6 reasonable 71:10 72:1 117:5 rebuttal 3:16 4:16 50:22 recall 63:11 received 35:19 70:3 93:2 101:21 103:14 106:15 receiving 18:20 Q recognize 78:21 qualify 67:10 Recognizing 55:16 quality 62:16 63:6,13 reconcile 17:2

querying 35:3

question 14:19 15:9

18:15 34:10.13 40:4

49:7 51:15 57:7 64:6

84:10,20,21 92:16

questions 19:19 34:16

R

railroad 22:10,16,16

108:14 114:6

raised 8:3 35:15,17

39:9 41:19 54:8 93:11

103:12 107:3 115:17

raising 39:14 112:20

RANDOLPH 1:18

39:14 56:9 100:6

103:12 106:13

quickly 51:17

quite 100:14

radar 98:22

radical 5:14

23:4 24:7

raises 17:6

Randy 4:4

Randy's 60:3

rational 71:9 reach 25:17

readers 26:5

reached 115:13

read 58:8 70:21 81:6

87:9 96:19 101:9

92:8 96:15 97:1

45:16,17 46:13 47:1

52:4 58:14 66:17

67:22 75:11 76:9

86:15 111:5,21

116:20,20

real 35:16 42:9,11

quote 88:14,17

96:13 114:3

45:2 48:2 49:4 63:3 67:1 80:19 117:14 40:15 45:6 47:21 48:6 records 73:18 red 27:20.22 67:9 74:5 80:18 81:11 refer 66:14 reference 13:15 26:2 43:6 69:22 70:2 80:11 referenced 79:19 references 102:14 referred 54:14 106:17 refers 69:21 reg 26:12 49:21 70:19 91:17,19 regard 30:19 35:6 66:21 regarding 61:20 91:5 110:14 regards 95:5 region 2:8,12 4:14 5:6 5:13,20 6:7,13,17,22 raise 34:2 105:3 106:12 7:2,4,15,20 8:3,12 12:2 14:5 16:14 19:2 22:4 25:16 26:11 30:16 33:4,7 34:18,22 35:5,18,22 36:4,8,13 36:14,16 38:6,7,11 39:18 42:7,12 43:6,10 44:6,10 45:2,6 46:1 47:2 49:18 51:3,6 52:9 61:8 63:2 64:11 69:5.8 73:3 80:20 82:10 83:9.15 87:21 88:8 95:6 96:7 100:9 102:19 103:17 105:20 107:18 108:7,15,20 109:13,19 113:10,14 115:12,17 reading 54:3 70:19 87:5 Region's 19:13 37:7 38:14 44:3,18 45:17 really 25:11 27:14 44:17 74:9 107:11,20 108:2 110:19 111:19 regional 2:11 81:17 83:10,18 87:21 90:13 97:11 99:10 regionally 61:20 62:7 65:19 72:2 88:20 101:13 Register 102:4 reas 40:8 71:2 75:11 87:9 113:16 regulate 7:12 8:8 12:18 39:6 regulated 60:13 regulates 9:6 regulating 55:2 regulation 12:6,8,9 17:6 26:2,17 36:21 37:3 41:8 42:17.21

program 5:14 53:6,7

45:10 46:8 70:21 71:9

71:11 75:3,22 76:20 89:19 92:1,8 95:12,22 96:20 106:5 110:22 regulations 6:4,5,6 7:14,16 8:7,9 10:14 10:22 11:4,4 12:3 13:11,14 14:16 15:3 17:11 25:22 26:1,7 39:8 40:17 42:13,15 43:13 45:22 51:13 52:13 64:8 65:14 68:5 68:8,12,19 73:5 74:21 77:1,15 78:5 80:3 84:12.15.22 85:19 86:19 87:6 101:20 113:21 regulatory 5:18 6:1 10:13 12:12,15 13:5 14:17,19,22 39:16 53:10 80:5 86:3 related 50:12 relates 53:6 106:13 relation 85:6 relationship 29:10 31:17 33:16,21 35:4 73:10 relationships 72:7 75:14 relatively 51:16 82:14 release 57:1 released 55:11 relevant 60:11 87:8 88:15 relied 60:5 rely 60:2 86:2 relying 33:4 59:16,22 60:7 73:4 91:16 93:13 remained 26:19 remains 108:1 remedies 50:11 remedy 38:14 44:19 45:17 46:9 49:14 50:5 50:9 77:4 78:7 remember 60:15 remind 86:5 **remove** 107:2 removed 79:10 removing 107:6 renewal 88:9 92:3 96:21 reply 8:6 26:3 report 39:10 99:10 reports 82:17 represent 33:17,18 51.5 representation 30:4 116:3 representative 72:6

109:1 represented 99:18 103:22 107:19 representing 5:6 37:6 51:6 72:21 represents 83:18 request 38:18 73:6,15 90:12 101:21 requested 62:15 requests 116:14 require 13:4 43:1 66:10 74:19 75:4 90:13 114:22 required 10:16 19:5 43:2 50:16 98:5,14 requirement 34:19 37:12 67:7 77:8 80:3 87:11 113:16 requirements 13:4 42:5 42:20 43:18,19 47:9 50:2 66:22 67:2,6,11 69:11 71:13 76:21 77:18 79:20 85:18,20 86:8,13 99:10 101:1 requires 19:12 43:3 66:13 68:13,15 requiring 18:19 19:13 reserve 4:15 residences 82:17 resolution 41:9 resource-intensive 98:4 resources 45:12 respect 8:4,13 29:14 30:15 32:19,20 52:11 59:14 86:12 113:2 respective 26:19 73:21 respects 96:4 respond 61:5 97:19 responding 34:22 52:1 response 8:5 62:6 63:16,22 64:2 81:11 86:4 115:18 117:3 responses 117:1 responsibilities 34:6 responsible 22:19 57:5 107:13 108:11 responsive 81:7,13 rest 25:4 50:22 restricted 26:10 result 18:18 **results** 18:19 review 73:11 99:9,10 revive 84:18 rewrite 7:16 87:7 Richard 5:8 51:7 rid 112:8 Ridge 83:4

right 4:5,5 18:3 21:17

21:17 25:2 32:4 34:14 35:14 37:19 44:2 49:9 51:15 52:5 65:4 67:4 69:14 80:17 87:18 89:11 91:3,4 108:14 111:21 117:7 rights 21:16 29:14 72:16 rise 117:12 risk 42:5 river 1:7 2:2 5:21 16:11 48:3 93:14 Robert 2:3 3:12,16 5:2 Room 1:13 route 45:21 ruin 116:14 rule 7:21,22 14:6,11 40:4,6,13,22 41:6,20 85:3,6,10,11,16 95:8 98:2 rulemaking 40:9 85:3 85:17 87:11,13 91:5 97:15,22 98:3,6,9,15 98:18 99:8 105:4 rules 51:12 85:8 98:5

S

Samir 2:9 3:14 5:5 51:5 sanitary 112:8 satellite 7:5 8:14,15,19 9:1 12:12 18:14.20 19:7.20 36:1 39:6 44:1 48:8 51:18 66:5 66:16 81:1 83:3,6,11 85:21 86:8 91:15 96:17 102:21 108:10 satellites 58:14 90:13 102:16 105:7 satisfactory 115:16 satisfied 67:11 save 50:21 saw 102:1 103:15 saying 12:3,11 16:17 17:4,21 24:2 33:20,21 33:22 44:6 46:1,7 49:12 50:6 58:17 59:16,22 69:8 74:10 87:3 92:7 93:15 106:3 108:15,20 111:19 112:11 114:21 says 6:2,16 7:4 8:1,12 19:3 20:4 26:12 28:22 33:7 35:20,22,22 36:6 36:9,11,14,14,16 37:3 44:4 45:7 64:22 68:20 69:9 71:2,5 89:20 92:1 97:14 105:20 106:9 110:22 111:22 113:14

scenario 91:14 scheme 43:22 52:22 scope 55:9 116:6 screen 99:1 seasonal 82:16 second 7:13 8:18 14:18 39:1 secondary 19:3 47:9 section 5:15 7:14 25:17 26:10,12,15,16 52:14 53:16 55:6,10 59:1 62:4,8,17 63:15 64:17 68:15,16,20 70:1 73:18 74:15 79:18,22 81:8 85:18 90:9 sections 26:19 see 17:10 46:3 72:20 88:5,6 seeing 88:1 89:19 112:7 seek 6:11 68:10 74:8,10 74:18 77:9 84:18 seeking 76:14 108:7 seeks 5:20 7:15 36:8 seen 42:8 sees 77:4 selling 55:14 send 41:13,22 97:12 sending 11:8 13:7 24:12 37:21 sends 26:16 sense 19:14 28:1,15 52:11 65:22 66:12 108:19 117:5 sent 37:21 39:20 89:15 101:4 separate 31:10 61:22 72:12,15 73:15 74:18 74:19 75:4.22 85:1 90:12 113:18 separately 72:15 series 11:21 serve 72:10 82:14 116:22 served 32:21 33:9 serves 31:6 service 94:3 serving 36:18 82:15 set 10:20 13:3 19:4 36:22 42:20 75:14 106:1 109:16 sets 8:4,5 43:5 54:15 setting 44:1 sewage 9:3 sewer 6:12 9:20,20 10:15,17 23:11 28:9 35:11 45:14 50:6 75:17 112:1,9

representatives 33:13

share 47:4

shared 45:3,4 sharing 107:10 sheet 102:8 sheets 96:1 short 98:18 show 6:17.18 7:16 41:1 46:4 48:21 showing 49:10 shows 48:2 49:4 side 4:13 117:4 sign 105:1 signature 67:21 signed 37:10 83:20 109:17 significant 78:4 94:11 simple 110:15 112:21 simply 6:6 50:14 55:14 64:8 102:7 103:2 Simultaneous 89:4,14 91:12 95:13 99:21 100:12 single 54:9 62:1,3 67:9 67:15 90:7 site 28:10 97:10 situation 10:18 55:17 75.6 situations 62:13 76:1 size 46:1 small 83:3 sold 20:17 21:9 sole 110:13,17 solely 55:10 solution 115:20 **solve** 47:1 somebody 68:3 108:5 soon 55:7 sorry 10:7 24:1 39:3 59:7 81:10 85:12 88:21 95:16 sort 65:6 92:17 source 5:18 8:8.17.21 9:3,5,10 10:5 11:6 17:7 20:11 21:2 23:12 24:8 25:15 27:18 28:3 28:7 45:1 52:7 71:3 79:10 sources 19:8,10 50:13 60:9 South 83:4 speak 86:1,2 speaking 89:4,14 91:12 95:13 99:21 100:12 specific 12:6 26:6 42:20 63:11 67:9 77:12 86:12 96:1 specifically 56:1 58:12 66:5 71:11,12 75:3 79:6 116:1 specify 14:15,21

speculation 94:6 **speed** 53:20 Square 2:13 squarely 23:1 24:15 **SSO** 76:9 SSO's 96:5 **SSOAP** 76:11 **SSOs** 73:22 76:11 82:17,19 107:13 **stage** 89:8 stages 73:2 stand 78:19 standard 36:22 62:21 standards 19:4,11 47:9 48:20 62:16 63:6,14 stands 108:3.6 started 68:6 102:17 115:8 Starting 5:1 state 42:8,17 43:13,16 45:5,10 51:13 72:4,14 77:8 100:4 102:20 statement 95:10 96:3.4 99:15 States 42:16 83:10 status 94:12 statute 13:1,1,3,10,13 14:16 17:6 18:11 19:5 19:11 25:18 29:13 40:17 42:13,15 44:9 49:1 68:12 70:7 80:2 95:11 98:12 106:1,6,6 113:16 statutes 80:5 statutory 7:19 12:11,14 12:18 14:1,19 15:9,11 17:11 23:14 25:14 36:5 41:2,5 47:7 50:17 80:5 86:4,16 105:10 106:3 staved 6:22 Stein 1:21 4:5 13:10.17 14:9,13 25:3,7,21 40:11 42:2,22 44:10 44:16 45:16 46:13,17 47:10 49:8 62:15 77:2 77:21 80:7,12,16 81:10,14 99:11,22 101:3,15,18 102:2 Stein's 47:21 64:6 stems 36:5 100:15 storage 28:12 storm 9:19,20 10:14,20 10:21,22 11:3 75:17 street 2:4 77:3 strictly 88:5 structure 100:16

stuck 12:17 16:20

86:15,18

stuff 10:17 18:8 sub 69:12 subject 17:5,5 19:16 20:16 21:14 24:20 49:13 50:7 59:13 85:5 94:20,21 99:9 108:4,8 108:17 submit 32:8 68:22 81:21 92:2,3 100:3 104:22 116:16 submits 96:20 submitted 32:10 37:5 37:15 66:18 71:19 92:9 93:8 104:5,14 105:2 108:22 109:7 submitting 31:13 72:21 88:9 subsection 69:4,7,9,22 subsidiary 58:20 succeed 100:22 sufficient 35:1,3 65:13 73:13,19 76:13 79:4 90:10 98:20 sufficing 93:16 suggested 103:21 Suite 2:14 supplemental 84:9 115:22 supposed 26:13 101:8 101:8 sure 31:12,15,17 32:5,9 32:11 34:1 76:15 112:19 surprise 94:1 surprised 94:16,17,19 95:3 104:19,19 sweep 14:20 swept 89:22 system 8:16,20 10:15 10:17 17:14,16,18 18:20 32:22 33:1,10 35:11 44:13 45:15 51:18 52:16 54:10 57:10 58:7.9 59:3 61:21 64:11 82:13 86:19 94:16 96:6 107:13,14 110:16 113:5 115:11 systems 6:12 7:6 8:14 8:20 9:2 12:12 19:8 19:20 28:9,14 39:7 48:9 49:19 50:6 52:17 54:4 66:6,16 75:17 78:1 81:2 82:14 83:6 83:11 85:21 86:9 87:22 91:15 94:5 96:17 102:21 108:10

table 4:21 take 7:8 9:14 18:11 43:11 46:18 49:20 72:18 97:2 108:22 110:10 114:7 taken 14:6 67:13 takes 49:21 talk 102:17 talked 107:9 talking 11:5 24:19 52:2 52:3 technical 91:10 technically 52:6 technology 19:10 telling 92:11 97:3 ten 4:15 tenet 63:12 term 18:4 103:15 term's 52:14 terms 27:21 44:18 47:5 60:12 73:2 77:13 86:1 86:2 92:11 93:6,19 94:20,22 97:20 100:7 113:19 116:5 Thank 5:10,10,12 50:22 51:1 82:2 103:3,4,7 117:9,11 that=s 88:17 theories 79:2,2 theory 7:9 20:19 23:2 54:14,15 56:17,19 66:15 70:17 71:18 72:17.19 74:9.14 78:6 78:13 83:7 thing 18:17 20:14 39:19 43:5 56:7 76:18,20 78:17 97:20 things 43:4 50:10 58:8 85:1 102:5 106:10 think 4:7 11:17 17:3 24:22 26:4 29:22 32:18 35:12 38:8 44:7 44:8 47:16,20 48:6,22 48:22 52:20,22 55:12 57:17 63:15 65:11 66:11 71:8,22 72:9 74:4 76:3,12 77:15 78:3,17 81:16 85:1,6 91:1,22 93:22,22 95:7 95:8 98:20 99:17,18 99:19,22 100:14,14 104:5 105:9 107:2 108:3,6,12 110:1,12 117:1,3 thinking 76:10 third 7:18 108:3,6,13 third-parties 43:14 Thirty 101:19

thought 27:9 44:21

75:19 87:16 112:15 thousand 33:19 three 30:1 33:6 Thursday 1:11 tightly 95:10 time 4:16 6:10 11:13 17:13 22:12 39:19 47:2 59:21 66:2 92:4 92:13 94:8 98:6,13 102:7 103:15 104:9 108:9 116:15 today 4:9,12 toilet 56:14,15 58:2 told 100:1 top 77:11,12 87:16 totalities 33:9 town 9:21 10:1 20:13 20:15,17,19,22 21:3 21:12,14 22:7,19,22 29:7,8,9,12 30:2 33:15,17,18 35:12 45:11 46:6 61:13 64:20 79:6 81:5 82:11 88:6 89:7 94:1,1 100:10 109:1 112:1.2 112:11 113:5 town's 5:21 33:15 35:11 37:19 42:2 54:3 towns 5:3 6:8,20 7:12 9:8,16 15:11 20:2,15 26:22 28:22 29:1,1,2 U.S 1:2 6:21 11:22 13:9 30:3,11,21 32:19 35:5 36:9,17,20 37:7,9 38:2,4 42:10,14,19 44:6,11,17 46:17 47:3 49:13 50:5 59:14 61:8 63:5 65:21 70:6.13 71:21 72:18,20,21 73:10,16,21 74:1,4 78:2 79:13 80:9,11 82:10 87:21 88:1,10 89:16,18,21 96:16,18 97:1,4 99:13 101:2,5 101:8,12 102:6 103:13,21 104:18,20 108:17 109:3,5,7,16 109:21 110:3,3,4 112:11,13,17 113:3 116:3 treated 9:4 11:8 21:5 82:12 treating 28:11.12 71:19 treatment 6:19 7:2 9:4 9:11 11:11,12,14,16 12:7,19,21 13:8 17:1 19:4 20:18 21:8,20 23:4,16,21,21,22

37:11 46:5 47:8 48:10 48:18.20 50:1.19 52:14,15,18 53:4,11 53:12 54:11 55:3.4 56:1.6.15.21 57:14 58:1 60:9 61:21 62:7 67:16 72:3 73:8 75:1 75:2,6,16 79:8,11 97:11 tried 6:13 7:7 90:5 trigger 114:13,17 trouble 51:21 true 15:14 34:9 37:15 43:15 74:21 77:21 94:14 try 17:13 trying 12:1 39:10 78:13 98:1 turn 26:15 27:14 28:18 28:19 68:17 95:3 turned 61:1 two 8:15 30:1,3,11 53:18 72:21 73:2 76:10,19 83:15 84:22 93:1 96:8 102:13 type 7:18 32:22 33:9 typical 77:4 typically 90:19 93:2

21:5,20 22:11,13,21 23:5,8,12,20 24:14 54:2 57:16 60:10 ultimate 50:19 ultimately 63:21 **unable** 62:15 undergo 85:3 underlying 8:2 36:5 39:3 40:17 understand 14:15 15:15 16:16 17:20 29:4 35:7 38:2 42:6 42:19 44:13 56:4.4 61:19 69:14 70:5 71:1 80:18 111:12 115:1 understanding 28:19 99:12 100:3 114:3 understood 21:18 23:9 34:17 undone 105:22 Unfortunately 81:15 unintended 64:3 unlawful 13:1,2 106:10 unlawfully 36:7 Upper 5:3 6:14 7:1 44:13 56:8 99:2,19 103:22 104:13,15,16 104:21 106:22 115:8

115:17 upstream 15:10 23:15 23:15 27:14 48:2,13 49:12 56:13 57:5 upstreamer 11:19 15:10 16:8 upstreamers 12:4 uptight 19:15 urge 110:10 use 25:19 26:14 28:2 57:1 103:10 115:13 user 56:22 57:13,14,20 57:21 users 73:10 uses 14:2

vague 15:3 validity 95:18 various 37:7 69:4 vary 97:13 vehicle 9:17,18 10:1 versus 22:5 51:12 video 4:10 view 37:8 41:11 52:12 52:13 53:14 66:1 71:14 74:16 79:15,16 83:18 94:12 106:11 114:10 viewed 36:19

viewing 62:1 78:19 violating 61:15 violation 17:9 44:5 108:18 violations 43:13 64:4 108.11 violators 44:2,7 108:18 109:17 voluntary 100:20 voted 30:2 33:13 **voting** 29:14

wait 6:17 38:22 39:2

65:16 113:3 waive 35:20 36:12 69:6 69:10,15,16 105:21 111:1 waived 36:11 69:18 74:3 109:14,15 waiver 90:3 waiving 34:19 105:21 want 15:7,7 27:8,9,10 46:18.18 52:7 64:2 68:4 76:15 77:9 78:9 78:15 93:12 111:7,12 114:7 116:14,15 wanted 75:14 106:12

wants 7:21 Washington 1:2,14 wasn't 76:7 waste 46:18 55:20.21 wastewater 13:7 28:13 58:11 watching 4:10 water 5:4 9:6 10:14,20 10:21,22 11:4,22 21:20 22:11,12,21 23:5,12 24:12,13,14 25:5 50:11,12 54:19 55:11 57:16 60:11 62:16 63:6.13 67:3.7 98:7 99:4 waters 6:21 9:7 13:9 21:6 23:8,20 way 14:5 56:13 66:14 71:14 75:9 77:18 87:9 92:18 96:5 98:10 102:13 106:6 ways 108:8 we'll 4:11,13 11:19 we're 5:13 7:7 11:5 14:7 23:10 24:19 26:14 39:14 48:15 49:15 59:16,22 60:1 61:19 65:1.70:15 82:6 84:13 84:14 86:22 98:14 102:12 115:4.14 116:20 we've 35:15 38:9 39:20 39:21 83:14 92:18 111:1 117:8 weather 48:5 Web 97:10 website 81:17 99:6 week 102:18 weigh 97:21 weighed 99:5 went 9:19 88:22 100:10 117:14 weren't 92:9 wet 48:5 widely 103:19 wider 79:15 98:19 wish 4:16,17 withdrawn 86:6 Witt 5:8,8 51:7 Worcester 2:5 word 14:2 words 5:15 25:20 28:10 41:3 53:21 58:3 63:8 95:11.11 work 7:8 39:15 53:19 53:20 75:6

24:20 28:13,13,20

29:11 32:10 35:20

works 11:11,12,14,16

12:19.21 17:1 23:17

52:14,21 53:12 55:4

	1	1	
56:6,21 57:15 58:1	15 103:5	565 54:2	
75:1,2,16	16 7:22 39:22		
world 25:4	16-page 103:18	6	
wouldn't 16:7 77:6	195 82:15	617 2:16	
writ 74:17	1976 54:21		
write 77:20,22	1980 82:13	7	
writer 73:13	1993 28:21		
written 76:18 77:16	1333 20.21	8	
wrong 16:22	2		
Widing 10.22	2 110:13	9	
x	1		
	200 59:20	9 83:15	
X 96:16	2000 81:1 98:2 105:4	90-day 90:22	
	2000s 76:8	918-1095 2:16	
<u>Y</u>	2001 84:5,6,7,11 85:10	926-3409 2:5	
yard 9:17,19 10:2	85:13 87:11	929-3012 2:6	
year 96:15	2002 26:4		
years 7:8 49:20 99:1	2010 6:15 84:17		
104:21 115:17	2012 89:11		
young 82:14	2014 1:11		
	21 33:6 37:2,4 110:11		
z	110:13		
zone 23:6	212 52:15 53:16		
	22nd 116:18		
0	238 20:15 21:10		
0102598 1:9	25 80:19		
01615 2:5	250 33:19 83:5		
02109 2:15	26 113:21	1	
021002:10	29th 117:3		
1	2A 32:18	·	
1 2:12 4:14 6:13 51:6			
69:22 80:20 83:9	3		
87:21 96:7 100:9	30 101:21	-	
102:19	30-day 101:18		
1(a) 20:4	301 55:6,10 59:1 85:19		
	301(a) 5:15 63:15		
10:00 1:16	301(b)(1)(B) 79:18		
10:01 4:2	90:10		
100 2:14 22:14	308 38:12,18 64:12,17		
101 20:6,11	1		
103 3:16	64:22 311 2:4		
11 1:11	311,2.4		
11:58 117:14	4		
1152 1:13			
12 89:12	4 110:12,12		
1201 1:14	402 52:6 55:6 59:1 62:4		
122 7:15 53:16	62:9 68:13,15,16		
122.2 26:12,16	79:22 85:19		
122.21 81:8 86:10	402(a) 74:15 90:9		
122.21(a) 67:12 68:20	403 53:16		
70:2	403.3(a) 26:15		
122.21(a)(1) 69:21 70:9	43 54:22	·	
122.21(a)(1)(ii) 69:20	45 4:12 83:3		
122.21(d) 75:3			
122.22 67:12	5		
122.4(d) 62:18 63:9	5 2:13 3:12		
123 87:13	508 2:5,6	·	
124 87:12,13,14	51 3:14		
12th 106:21	515 54:2		
14-01 1:8	561 54:2		
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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Charles River Pollution Control

District

Before: EPA

Date: 12-11-2014

Place: Washington, D.C.

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under my direction; further, that said transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Meae N Gus S

Court Reporter