



ENVIRONMENTAL APPEALS BOARD
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

In re South Essex Sewerage District) NPDES Appeal No. 26-03
NPDES Permit No. MA0100501)

ORDER GRANTING STAY OF PROCEEDINGS AND DIRECTING STATUS REPORT

January 29, 2026

Order of the Board by Judge Avila:

EPA Region 1 filed a motion seeking a stay of the proceedings in the above-captioned matter for sixty days. Region 1 Motion for Stay of the Proceedings 3 (Jan. 28, 2026). The Region represents that the parties in this matter “have agreed to initiate a discussion to ascertain whether a negotiated resolution of the issues raised in the Petition is possible.” *Id.* at 2. The Region also states that due to the “technical nature” of some of the issues raised in the petition it is appropriate to convene “legal and technical personnel” in any settlement discussion, but it will be challenging to do so considering the number of individuals required. *Id.* The Region asks for an order directing the parties to file status reports at “30-day intervals, with the first report due upon the end of the initial 60-day stay.” *Id.* at 3. The Region represents that counsel for petitioner “assented” to the motion. *Id.*

Based on the representations in the motion, the Board **GRANTS** the requested stay.

See 40 C.F.R. § 124.19(f)(6), (n). This case is stayed until **Monday, March 30, 2026**. In the interest of efficiency, and in place of the status report schedule requested by the parties, the Board directs the parties to submit a status report on or before **Friday, March 20, 2026**. In that report, the parties shall set forth their view on further proceedings, including whether the parties anticipate being able to continue progress towards a settlement and the basis for any further stay should one be requested. The Board will issue a further order based on the parties' status report.

So ordered.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that copies of the foregoing Order Granting Stay of Proceedings and Directing Status Report in the matter of South Essex Sewerage District, NPDES Appeal No. 26-03, were sent to the following persons on January 29, 2026, in the manner indicated:

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