BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENTAL APPEALS BOARD

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

ORAL ARGUMENT

IN THE MATTER OF:

CHARLES RIVER POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT : NPDES : Appeal No. : 14-01 1

ENVIR. APPEALS BOARD

2015 JAN -2 AM 11:21

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 on for hearing, pursuant to notice, at 10:00 a.m.

BEFORE:

ORIGINAL

THE HONORABLE RANDOLPH L. HILL Environmental Appeals Judge

THE HONORABLE LESLYE M. FRASER Environmental Appeals Judge

THE HONORABLE KATHIE A. STEIN Environmental Appeals Judge

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<u>APPEARANCES</u>:

<u>On Behalf of the Charles River Pollution</u> <u>Control District</u>:

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

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

Control District's

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acknowledges the absence of regulatory authority, but it says it can do so. It can do so because it has crafted an approach to fill in the gap in the regulations.

There is no gap in the regulations. Their regulations simply don't apply to it. The Act doesn't apply to co-permittees. The Region has knowingly purported to make the towns copermittees.

This is not the first time that this Board has addressed EPA's authority to seek to make municipal sewer collection systems COpermittees. And the EPA in Region 1 tried to do this before in the Upper Blackstone matter in 2010.

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 a legal basis for expanding beyond the treatment plant to towns that did not discharge directly to U.S. waters.

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The Region would not be stayed. It

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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.

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Here's the problem. Here's the

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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.

say one of the towns had a 16 Let's 17 vehicle maintenanœ yard. And they hooked up a 18 pipe to drain the fluids out of that vehicle 19 maintenance yard. And it went into a storm 20 sewer. And let's assume the storm sewer was 21 owned by a different town and it discharged from 22 there into the Charles.

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1 Would the town that owns the vehicle maintenance yard be discharging a pollutant or 2 3 not? 4 MR. COX: Is it a person discharging pollutants from a point source? 5 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 I know it has. MR. COX: 12 No, but I mean EPA has JUDGE HILL: said otherwise in a regulatory context. 13 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 the regulations, storm water does allow co-22

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permittees.

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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.

JUDGE 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.

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

If you go back to the MR. COX:

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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 --

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17 JUDGE STEIN: Ι mean, there are 18 numerous permit programs throughout the agency 19 where there is more than one permittee. You 20 whether it's an owner or an operator, know, whether they're denominated a co-permittee or 21 not. 22

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

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not broad enough to be bring co-permittees. That's where you need to have it. The other examples is vague however the regulations do provide for co-permittees. And in connection with --

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.

JUDGE HILL: If that is true, and I understand from your brief, and I assume you're continuing that argument, the reason is because they essentially don't operate the pipe where the discharge is actually coming out of. Is that correct?

20 MR. COX: They are not persons who are 21 discharging.

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JUDGE HILL: Okay. They are not

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

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And how do you reconcile those?

MR. COX: I don't think I -- all I'm saying is that the discharger -- the discharger that is subject, needs to be subject to the regulation. That what the statute raises, that the discharger from the point source needs to have them. Otherwise it's a long -- otherwise they're in violation.

I don't see a disconnect there between the statutory language in the regulations.

JUDGE HILL: But this is my -- but let me try it one more time. My point is that if I'm contributing into a system of interconnected pipes and some pollutants and that -- and I do not own or operate all of that system of interconnected pipes, there's only a person at the end who operates that system of interconnected pipes.

If I understand your argument, you're saying it's only the person who operates at the end is the one who is discharging. Am I correct

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

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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 22

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1	in the permit does it authorize the municipal
2	the towns, my clients to discharge to the
3	facility? Nowhere. It doesn't say it.
4	The permit says at part 1(a), the
5	permittee, which is attributed to that, is
6	authorized to discharge as a part of 101.
7	JUDGE HILL: Okay.
8	MR. COX: What if all this has
9	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

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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 4 5 treated before it's discharged in the U.S. By someone, a different person. б 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 pipe. 11 away five miles where they gave away the five miles between their town and the outfall. 12 they've, under your 13 And SO now 14 argument, the town would no longer be subject to Permitting just by qivinq 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, 22

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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 a case called Dague versus City of Burlington, which I believe is a First Circuit case. And in 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.

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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. But 10 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

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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 In the Dague case, the JUDGE HILL: 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 water of the U.S., needed a permit. 14 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

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1 here. 2 JUDGE HILL: Okay. All right. 3 JUDGE STEIN: Why are the POTWs so different from the rest of the world under the 4 5 Clean Water Act? 6 MR. COX: Well, I don't know. 7 JUDGE STEIN: In your case -- I mean, 8 your --9 I don't know how to answer MR. COX: that, so other then to say that in a connection 10 with the analysis here, it really is not material 11 12 to what the definition of what a POTW is. What is the focus and should be the focus is the 13 statutory language of who is the person that is 14 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?

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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. the 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. So is it your position 21 JUDGE HILL: that the towns are not operating a portion of the 22

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POTW? 1 MR. COX: That's correct. That is 2 3 correct. JUDGE HILL: Okay. 4 But more importantly, the 5 MR. COX: definition of the POTW was immaterial for you б 7 decision making. And as I say --JUDGE HILL: Okay. So I want to --8 9 and before you go on, I want to be -- I thought that was your position. But I want to be clear 10 about it. 11 12 MR. COX: Yes. JUDGE HILL: Your argument about the 13 upstream contribution really doesn't turn on 14whether they're part of the POTW or not because 15 16 they're not operating the discharge point? That is correct. That is 17 MR. COX: correct they are not the source. 18 19 Okay. So the POTW JUDGE HILL: 20 definition issue is kind of a red herring in 21 terms of your argument. MR. COX: It is a red herring. 22 And

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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

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

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it was three and two commissioners that were 1 appointed and voted on by the town. Do you know 2 whether the other two customer towns have any 3 representation? 4 I do not. But if you give 5 MR. COX: me the opportunity, I will get the information 6 7 from the District and provide that information to 8 you. JUDGE FRASER: Okay. If we presume at 9 10 least as to Franklin and Medway, and putting aside the other two towns for a minute. But if 11 we presume that the construct is still the same, 12 13 that the District itself is manaqed by 14 commissioners appointed by Franklin and Medway, 15 do you not -- what is your position with respect 16 to -- part of your argument is that the Region have adequate information to 17 did not impose on the permittees 18 controls on the CO-- -19 permittees in this regard. if the governing body of 20 But the District is appointed by the towns, do they not 21

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 11 12 make that the administrator who sure was 13 submitting application to the Federal the government for discharging, and it's the Board's 14 15 obligation to make sure that entity is operating 16 in compliance with laws, they would have no 17 relationship to make sure the information is 18 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 plant. 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 is 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. Ιt asked only for information with respect 20 to population of the communities that are served. 21 22 The type of system, whether it's a combined

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1	system or not. And who the owner is.
2	That's the information that goes into
3	the form. That's what is completed. That's what
4	the Region is relying upon in order to make
5	determinations.
6	It's three lines in a 21 page
7	application that the Region plucks up and says
8	oh, I have enough information here. Given it's
9	totalities, and the population served, the type
10	of system that's provided, and that's all we need
. 11	in order to make permits.
12	JUDGE FRASER: But if these District
13	representatives are appointed by their, and voted
14	upon by their city commissioners or city counsels
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.
20	MR. COX: Well I'm not saying that.
21	I'm not saying there's not a relationship, I'm
22	saying it's an administrative function. And yes,

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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

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1	need to because we had sufficient information
2	from the District's application. And I'm
3	querying whether isn't there sufficient
4	relationship there between the District
5	management and the towns that the Region is in
6	fact conceivably correct on that regard?
7	And I understand you don't have an
8	answer to that. But us assuming again that that
9	is correct, what is limited in the permit is just
10	operation and maintenance and maintaining the
11	sewer system within that town's jurisdiction.
12	What more would the town think had to
13	be provided?
14	MR. COX: Right. Well, the issue
15 .	we've raised there as to the permit itself and
16	where the parties line up. But the real issue
17	that we raised in connection with the application
18	and why the Region was acting outside its
19	authority is that it received the application
20	from the treatment plant and says we can waive
21	everything else.

But it also says, the Region also says

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that municipal satellite communities are dischargers. And if you are a discharger, there is a duty to apply.

The Region -- there is a duty to apply that stems from the underlying statutory framework that says look, unless you have a permit, you're acting unlawfully. And what the Region has done here is it seeks to have the towns people as dischargers, but says nothing about the duty to apply.

It says it's waived other aspects of the application. But how can it waive the duty to apply? It doesn't address it. The Region says you can ask. The Region says that there's nothing to indicate that they can't.

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 the 20 permit on these towns' behalf?

21 MR. COX: Well, because the regulation 22 set forth a whole standard for making an

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application to different people. It's not to say I'm okay with that. There is a 21 page application. The regulation says --

JUDGE FRASER: Why cannot the 21 page application, submitted by the District on behalf of a Board of Directors that are representing the various towns, be constituted in the Region's view, a permit application on behalf of the District and the towns as well?

MR. COX: It was signed by the treatment plant facility operator. There's a certification requirement that goes with that. There is nothing that came to the --

JUDGE FRASER: Well the certification is just that the information submitted is true and accurate to the best of my ability. It's not certifying anything beyond their independent knowledge of what's provided.

MR. COX: Right, look, but the town's made no application here. They did consent to sending the application. They were sent --

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JUDGE HILL: So let me ask you this --

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

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

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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 2 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

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2	JUDGE STEIN: What is the town's
3	principal concern, leaving aside what the
4	authority discussed. Is it having to comply with
5	the I/I requirements? Is it risk of liability?
6	And as I understand the record, the
7	Region has applied this approach elsewhere in the
8	state of Massachusetts, based on what I've seen
9	in the record. So what is the real issue for the
10	towns?
11	MR. COX: The real issue is that the
12	Region is exceeding its authority under the
13	statute and the regulations to a great deal of
14	towns. This is not something that's permitted
15	under the statute and regulations. This is left
16	to the States.
17	There is a State regulation as I
18	mentioned that was recently adopted. That the
19	towns understand that what was defined. There
20	are very specific requirements that are set forth
21	in that regulation.
22	JUDGE STEIN: So what does this permit

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require them to do that they're not otherwise 1 2 already required to do? · 3 MR. COX: Well, it requires them to buy a plant to employ and amass other things, but 4 5 the key thing is that it sets off an enforcement reference that the Region would have that it 6 7 would not otherwise have. JUDGE HILL: Explain that further if 8 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. JUDGE HILL: So it's the enforcement 17 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

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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. That certainly is the discharger and the 22

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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 9 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. I/I is 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 17

really grappling with what the Region's remedy is in this kind of circumstance. Perhaps they could have followed a different procedure then they followed, yes.

21 One route perhaps would have been to 22 amend the regulations. But I don't hear the

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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, which

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doesn't really solve very much of anything. But at the same time, doesn't the Region have the authority to conclude that without the towns as additional co-permittees that they can't share compliance with the terms of the permit?

MR. COX: They -- no. No. Because there's still the statutory burden obligation for the discharge plant to meet the treatment I mean secondary standards are -requirements. JUDGE STEIN: But EPA doesn't have an obligation to issue this permit does it? I mean the EPA concluded that it didn't have the necessary parties before it. Does it have the

MR. COX: It should not and I don't think it could deny a permit or not issue a permit because it doesn't have the necessary parties. It has a party before it It's up to the party to demonstrate that --

authority to not permit it?

JUDGE HILL: Well but let's -- I think Judge Stein's question is less that it doesn't have the necessary parties, but more that because

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there is inadequate control of infiltration and inflow upstream. I mean what the record shows is that that Charles River Pollution Control District has a lot of exceedances and they seem to occur during the wet weather.

And so I think the question is could EP -- if EPA cannot force through the permitting mechanism the up -- the satellite collection systems to control their I/I. And so that I/I ends up at the treatment plant and causes exceedances.

Could the agency say well look, we can't control I/I upstream because we can't permit those folks. And downstream it's causing a bunch of exceedances and so we're going to deny 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 in 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? 21 22 I think that's the -- I think that's

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

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1 It 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 is 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

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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

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the first place responding to Petitioner's claim. JUDGE HILL: No, I'm talking about --I'm talking about in the approach document really. Right. The basis for MR. BUKHARI: issuing the permit is in 402 and technically what

you want is the discharge of the point source. So that is the first operating principle that the 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 is consistent with EPA regulations which view the treatment works as that term's applied in Section 15 212. It's not only constituting a treatment plant, but also the system of pipes and 17 conveyances, collection systems that leads into 18 the treatment plant.

from 19 And that 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

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

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

Under Petitioner's proposal, POTW if 8 9 you, lay it before you, expanding and contracting 10 depending on the regulatory context. Meaning treatment plants alone for the purposes of the 11 NPDES permitting and the treatment plant works as 12 13 was discussed for pretreatment.

Not only is the Petitioner's view 14 15 contrary to the plain definition of POTW in 16 Section 212 of the Act and parts 122 and 403 and their preambles, it would also generate needless 17 conflict between two programs that Congress intended to work harmoniously.

20 To speed work through the construction 21 as you will hear, is that a handful of words used in different parts of the same act, are intended 22

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to have the same meaning. The District said, the Aloha Company, 515 U.S. 561, 565.

Under Petitioner's reading, the town's collection systems are and are not a POTW. They are the POTW for the purposes of pretreatment, but are not for the purposes of NPDES permitting.

Even within the NPDES context as Judge Fraser had raised earlier, they are a part of the POTW if owned by a single entity, but are not part of the POTW if the collection system and treatment plant are operated by different entities.

I would just note here that Petitioner's theory again, as referred to earlier by Judge Fraser, Petitioner's theory sets up a perverse incentive whereby a discharger has every incentive to convey away that last portion of pipe in order to abate any obligation under the Clean Water Act.

This danger under -- it was addressed by as this Court in 1976 in the decision of General Counsel Number 43, Friendswood

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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.

16 Recognizing the mischief such a situation could cause, Friendswood and its 17 industrial 18 emphasized that the customers 19 pollution in the instant case are not directly discharging their waste through mere conduits, 20 but instead have contracted to have their waste 21 accepted by Frendswood, whose facility has been 22

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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 owned on 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 is am not а discharger 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 your hypothetical 22 exclude the user, - in

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

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owned treatment works under your hypothetical by flushing a toilet.

JUDGE HILL: So in other words admitted --

MR. BUKHARI: It is therefore defined in our analysis document of where the collection system ends. And we defined it as the pipe that read things like apply permits as a principal purpose as and defined the collection system as the point at which the pipes are used to convey -- to collect and convey wastewater from other -in others specifically.

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 you're 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

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1 Section 301 and 402. And then as it 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. And a 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

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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

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that the line's located, turned out to be drawn 1 That's basically that the problem is 2 down to. whether their discussion in our analysis and why 3 it's important for us. But --4 How do you respond to 5 JUDGE FRASER: Mr. Cox's concern that if we were to find, if the 6 Board were to agree with you in its entirety that 7 the Region could include these towns as co-8 permittees under the definition of a POTW as 9 being part of it. And that they are a discharger 10 coming out at the end of a pipe. 11 That immediately upon issuance of that 12 decision, every other town, which is not listed 13 as a co-permittee in some other district is now 14 violating the Act, because they're not listed at 15 -- they don't have a permit to cover their 16 17 discharge? BUCKARI: Your Honor, it's 18 MR. important to understand how we're looking at 19 regionally 20 POTWs. We are not regarding a integrated treatment system and comprised of in 21 this case five separate POTWs. 22

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1 We are viewing the POTW as a single 2 entity, multiple contributing dischargers. Those 3 dischargers contributing to a single combined effort commingled and in the Act at Section 402 4 5 is the discharge for which we issued the permit. 6 So in response to attorney Cox's 7 concern, a Regionally integrated treatment plant 8 that has a permit for the discharge under Section 9 402 that determines a permit for the discharge, 10 need not be concerned about discharging without a 11 permit. 12 impetus for the Our the CO-13 permittee policy was to address situations like 14 that where in issuing a permit to the District, 15 we are unable as Judge Stein requested earlier, 16 to ensure compliance with water quality standards 17 or other compliance with the Act under Section 122.4(d). 18 19 We are prohibited from issuing permits 20 that cannot ensure compliance with the Act. Part

of the standard condition for issuing those permits are proper operation and maintenance.

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Again --

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

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to this as well.

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And we don't want to be response only in dealing with issues like I/I and unintended violations of permits and such.

So let's get back to JUDGE HILL: Judge Stein's question. If we accepted Mr. Cox's argument that at least under the current regulations you cannot simply impose these copermittee obligations.

What options are available to the Region to address the problems in this system? Is it enforcement for issue a 308? Is it improper discharge? Is it deny the permit to the District?

I mean, are there others?

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 to impose enforceable -- Federally enforceable controls on the town.

JUDGE HILL: Let me precise, I'm 21 22 depositing that says you're а 308 letter

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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 of 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 know, the purpose and at this time we believe is 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 apply. 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 POTW. unless they've all submitted it together? 18

MR. BUKHARI: Well in this case, I will go back first of all to your asking in regard to what is the goal of the current application requirements. And that is to provide

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

Petitioner would be right that an 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 sinqle 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.

18 JUDGE HILL: Well but let me say, I accept the argument that it's one POTW. But it's 19 owners. 20 one POTW with several Don't you essentially need a signature from all of 21 the owners for it really to be an application? 22

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And this is where I'm going with this. The effect of what you've done is essentially to give a permit to somebody who didn't ask for it. And in fact very much does not want it.

And the regulations seem to imply that the permit process is started by the entity who is going to get the permit, to apply for it. So where in the regulations does EPA get the authority to issue a permit to that who does not seek it and does not desire it?

MR. BUKHARI: Your Honor, there is nothing in the statute nor in the regulations. There's nothing under 402 that requires though -entails a duty to apply permit.

All Section 402 requires is an opportunity for a public hearing. Section 402 permitting does not turn on the dischargers' consent.

JUDGE FRASER: But the regulations do. Section 122.21(a) says duty to apply. Any person who discharges or proposes to discharge, who does not have an effective permit must submit a

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1 || complete application.

And you --2 MR. BUKHARI: JUDGE FRASER: And then it goes on and 3 subsection, the various in 4 asks а later components of that application which the Region 5 has deemed it has the ability to waive. Which is 6 the subsection (j). 7

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 --

MR. BUKHARI: Right, I understand. JUDGE FRASER: And waive that as well. Do you have the ability to waive the duty to apply?

We have not waived the MR. BUKHARI: 18 look 19 duty to apply. And if you at 122.21(a)(1)(ii), as Your Honor correctly notes, 20 122.21(a)(1) refers to the duty to apply. 21

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Subsection (a) (1) (ii) makes reference

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to the new and existing POTWs. Under Section 122.21(a) and in reference to existing POTW, we have received an application that --JUDGE HILL: But Mr. Bukhari, again, I understand your argument is that these four towns are dischargers. And under the language of the statute any person who discharges needs a

look at 122.21(a)(1), any Ιf you apply. And I'm person who discharges must when assuming you're not arguing that the District applies that the four persons that constitute the towns as legal entities have applied are you?

MR. BUKHARI: No, we're not.

JUDGE HILL: So then they as persons who are discharging under your original theory are people who have to apply. That would be the most natural reading of that reg.

20 MR. BUKHARI: But the person as we 21 read through the regulation, the person that who 22 applying is the POTW plant.

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

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

22 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.

than sufficient 19 We have more information about operation the 20 the and assistance in each of the respective towns, 21 including SSOs, including I/I. The course from 22

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each of the towns to make it --1 JUDGE FRASER: But that gets into what 2 you waived and what you decided you did or did 3 not need in addition from the towns. And I think 4 my colleagues and I are asking the question of 5 both as to is there not an affirmative duty 6 placed on the person who will be permitted to 7 seek the permit in the first place. 8 And what is the Region's theory for 9 saying you don't have to seek the permit in the 10 first place. We can decide if you need one and 11 give it to you based on information we already 12 13 have. MR. BUKHARI: Your Honor, our theory 14 is that the permit under section 402(a) is for 15 the discharge of a pollutant. And in our view, 16 the POTW writ large is discharging the pollutant. 17 We need not seek separate application 18 require separate applications from each 19 or constituent portion of the POTW in order to 20 comply with the regulations. The same is true, 21 22 Your Honor, of publically owned or privately

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owned treatment works.

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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

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1 || other situations?

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2	MR. BUKHARI: We disagree with that,
3	Your Honor. We think that the there are
4	number of there is a number of permitting
5	configurations and permitting dynamics for
6	challenges that face our permit letter.
7	But those are evolving and it wasn't
8	until the early 2000s that the issue of I/I and
9	SSO really came to the forefront under the
10	agency's thinking which led to two opinions, but
11	that's an issue of an I/I SSOAP for SSOs.
12	We think that the definition of
13	discharge and definition of POTW are sufficient
14	for us to be seeking our
15	JUDGE HILL: I want to be sure that
16	MR. BUKHARI: We do indeed have the
17	expressly, every permit configuration need not be
18	expressly written into the whole thing and the
19	EPA was had two initiatives to do that very
20	thing. Clarify the regulation and to explain the
21	co-permittee the co-permittee requirements,
22	which is just as are contemplated that the

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1 regulations created.

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

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that there are other systems for the permitting 1 like this where the towns would not object to it. 2 do think that there is a Ι But 3 significant procedural issue about how your 4 permit application regulations marry up with you 5 know, your theory of persons and discharging. 6 7 And it may be that your remedy is not the imposition of a permit on someone who doesn't 8 want it. 9 10 But it may be that you have to pursue some of those other options that may be less 11 But I you know, other then some kind desirable. 12 an implied consent theory, I'm trying to 13 of figure out how it is that we can force someone to 14have a permit who doesn't want it. 15 16 BUKHARI: Your Honor, my only MR. thing about that, and I think to clarify is that 17 -- well, if it's not clear already is that we are 18 viewing the discharge not only from the stand 19 point of the POTW -- with the discharge from the 20 POTW, but also from -- but also we recognize that 21 there are multiple discharges that combine to 22

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that one entity.

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2	Those theories those theories are
3	not interdependent in that they will be
4	sufficient for us to say that the POTW is the
5	discharging entity. We pursued the notion of the
6	town discharging specifically to address the
7	issue of discharge that the issue of multiple
8	dischargers and this issue of treatment that
9	argued that it did not matter whether the
10	discharge was removed from the point source. Nor
11	did it matter if it was treatment.
12	That was the applied for the portion
13	of characterizing each of these towns as a
14	discharger. With that said, it's not
15	inconsistent you know, with this wider view that
16	we have, this broader view that we have, that
17	this is a POTW that's discharging. A POTW that's
18	described in Section 301(b)(1)(B).
19	The POTW is what is referenced in
20	permit application requirements. And the POTW
21	has one commingled discharge that is being
22	permitted pursuant to Section 402.

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don't believe that it is So 1 we inconsistent with either the statute or the 2 regulations to impose our permitting requirement 3 all essential portions under the POTW, 4 on regulatory Ι statutes that and 5 statutory addressed -- that I described. 6 JUDGE STEIN: But you're not imposing 7 them on all of them are you? Didn't you just 8 pick out four towns? 9 MR. BUKHARI: No Your Honor, there are 10 only four towns there to reference. 11 it's 12 JUDGE STEIN: Okay. So everybody. 13 It is all of them. MR. BUKHARI: 14 15 Absolutely, yes. JUDGE STEIN: Okay. 16 All right, so let me ask JUDGE HILL: 17 that guestion. As I understand it from you 18 attachment in the record, there are currently 25 19 permits in Region 1 municipality where there are 20 21 co-permittee municipalities.

Has Re -- have you issued a permit at

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least since 2000 where the owners of satellite collection systems are not listed as copermittees?

4 MR. BUKHARI: Your Honor, we have. We 5 issued a permit to the town of Marshfield recently where we --6 Ι 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 --

10JUDGE STEIN: I'm sorry, what page are11you on in response to the question?

MR. BUKHARI: This isn't on a page,
 it's my responsive commentary.

JUDGE STEIN: Oh, okay.

MR. BUKHARI: Unfortunately I don't MR. BUKHARI: Unfortunately I don't have the page I think you should hear about, which is still on the Regional website.

18JUDGE HILL: Could you --19MR. BUKHARI: But we did convince --20JUDGE HILL: Mr. Bukhari, could you21submit that to us after argument and provide a22copy to Mr. Cox?

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MR. BUKHARI: Yes, I will, Your Honor. JUDGE HILL: Thank you.

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We -- and in keeping MR. BUKHARI: with all that, I'll argue that we are permitting and we are not blind or oppressively POTW imposing permits, but we're going to keep the filings on -- in every case that looked at the circumstances of the discharge. We found that based on additional information gathered at the Region and at the EPA, as a group the towns of Duxbury, Pembroke and Kingston, close in the town of Duxbury began being treated at the Marshfield POTW from 1980, indicated the system is yet Their collection systems serve relatively young. the minimal area, serving only 195 homes.

Some of these homes are seasonal residences and there are no reports of SSOs and we know that there have been no problems with SSOs either at the facility.

20 So that is an example where --21 JUDGE HILL: Is that the only one of 22 which you're aware?

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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. And 3 then South Ridge is back at the moment. There 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. But I would say this co-permittee policy is 17 not а Regional policy. This represents the view of the 18 19 agency. OGC signed off that have 20 has we extensive coordination with the OGC and the 21 22 government --

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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 two

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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 on 21 municipal satellite collection systems, that --

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We speak in terms of clarifying. We speak in terms of explaining and we rely on the interpretations of existing regulatory and statutory response.

JUDGE HILL: Can you remind me, how did that proposal, I know it was withdrawn before it was published, but how did that proposal deal with application requirements for satellite collection systems? Did it make any changes to 122.21?

MR. BUKHARI: Your Honor whether there was specific language proposed with respect to the application requirements, I don't know.

JUDGE HILL: Because to be honest with you, that's where I'm really stuck. I mean I get the argument about why there might be statutory authority to cover them.

But where I'm stuck is that the regulations don't seem to contemplate a system where you say okay, we don't have all of the legal entities for contributing to this discharge at this POTW. So we're going to declare these

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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 readinq of those 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 later. 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

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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

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

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

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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)

13 JUDGE FRASER: Are there other 14 instances beyond this scenario where you have the 15 satellite collection systems? Are there other 16 instances where you're relying on an exception to 17 the req or some other avenue of covering someone as a co-permittee that when they're looking at 18 19 the face of the req they may or may not know they 20 were covered?

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

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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?

15 MR. BUKHARI: Well, Your Honor, the 16 question of whether they're discharging without a 17 permit or whether they're in peril of some sort 18 of pending enforcement proceeding, the way we've 19 instructed, or our hope here is that they're not, 20 because we have issued a permit for the final 21 legal discharge from the POTW. And so that is 22 number one.

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And then number two is that once 1 they've received any permit condition, typically 2 permittees are not under -- they don't have 3 forewarning prior to the draft permit, or at 4 least not very far before the draft permit is 5 published, but what are the terms and conditions 6 7 JUDGE FRASER: But they've submitted 8 an application, your other permit -- the other 9 people who are getting a draft permit have their 10 raised their hand and said please give me a 11 permit. I want to discharge. And these entities 12 13 -- you're relying on a permit that is existing The Charles River Pollution Control 14 for a POTW. District has a permit and you're saying that 15 16 their permit application is sufficing to cover these other entities that did not co-sign the 17 permit application and did not know from the 18 19 application terms itself that they were going to be covered. 20

21 MR. BUKHARI: Your Honor, I don't 22 think they -- I don't think it -- it should not

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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. I mean, 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 be 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

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JUDGE HILL: Yes.

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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

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sheets specific to the permit fact 1 to our interpretive it's And so, an 2 proceeding. It also has a -- it is also a policy 3 statement. statement in some respects in that the -- not in 4 identify SSO's any binding way, that we 5 collection system operation and maintenance I/I 6 as it concerns the agency and of course Region 1. 7 And so, it has those two components. 8 JUDGE FRASER: Can I just 9 finish --10 JUDGE HILL: Yes. 11 -- up on the permit 12 JUDGE FRASER: applications? So the question I had coming out 13 of this, if the Board were to find that this is a 14 permissible reading, next year you're doing a 15 permit for POTW X that has five towns that are 16 satellite systems that feed it, how do those five 17 towns know whether they're going to be co-18 permittees, not co-permittees? Do they read the 19 regulation and say when the POTW submits its 20 renewal application, we need to co-sign, we don't 21 need to co-sign? If we were to find for you, 22

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what's the notice or the reading that the towns should take away from this? Because what you're telling me is you're making that decision case by case and then you're giving the towns some -- in some cases people are finding out they're co-In other cases they're finding out permittees. they're not.

Your Honor, can BUKHARI: we MR. 8 publish the interpretive analysis for one. We can post it on our Web site. We can identify the 10 regional treatment plants in Massachusetts and 11 12 send them a copy.

JUDGE FRASER: But this is the vary Mr. Cox says that if you had done -arqument. if the Agency had done rulemaking, all of this would have been done. So how do

you --

Well --MR. BUKHARI:

JUDGE FRASER: -- respond to the very 19 thing that they're asking for in terms of notice 20 and being able to comment and being able to weigh 21 in is what a rulemaking is intended to cover, 22

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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: as Your Honor knows, is a resource-intensive exercise and Were EPA 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 inform the public of how interpret the we statute.

And if every time we have to make the 13 pronouncement we're required to go through notice 14 and comment rulemaking, that would be contrary to 15 That would be contrary to the whole 16 the EPA. providing the public with notice. notion of 17 There are other means short of rulemaking for us 18 to provide wider notice of our interpretation. 19 But we think that the notice has been sufficient 20 here. 21

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This issue has been on the radar

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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 Aqencies, NACWA, 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 I 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)

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JUDGE STEIN: Well, but I think what

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1	you've told us is that in some cases EPA does
2	this, in some cases EPA doesn't. I mean, my
3	understanding of permitting is you submit an
4	application to a state or the Federal Government.
5	And there's some back and forth and some
6	questions and some information. So clearly one
7	may not know the exact terms and conditions of a
8	draft permit. You're in the process of
9	interacting. Region 1 never before that draft
10	permit went out never formally notifies each town
11 .	that this is the action that was being
12	(Simultaneous speaking)
13	MR. BUKHARI: Your Honor, I don't
14	think that that's quite correct though. I think
15	that the co-permittee policy stems out of an
16	existing permitting structure that we found to be
17	insufficient. And in the prior permit we put the
18	permittees on notice throughout Massachusetts
19	that while the full group I/I controls on member
20	communities were to be voluntary in the first
21	instance and coordinated through the district.
22	In the event that they did not succeed, we would

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change those requirements and approve the other towns as co-permittees.

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 townsare. When we

MR. BOKHARI: The towns are. When we issue draft permits regionally, we include the members communities as a matter of practice.

JUDGE STEIN: Into the draft? MR. BUKHARI: The draft, yes. Yes, and they --

JUDGE STEIN: And it's what, a 30-day period? Thirty days for them to comment? MR. BUKHARI: Under the regulations it would be 30 days unless we received a request for an extension. And they do in fact file, as we

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1 saw before.

2	JUDGE STEIN: But you never took this
3	interpretative analysis and published it in local
4	newspapers or the Federal Register, any of those
5	kinds of things, this analysis that potentially
6	has applications in many towns in Massachusetts.
7	Up to this point in time it's simply a document
8	attached to the fact sheet in the permit
9	proceeding for this district, is that correct?
10	MR. BUKHARI: That's correct, Your
11	Honor. Just to make one clarification
12	JUDGE HILL: Okay. Mr. Bukhari, we're
13	like way over. We would like to get two pieces
14	of information from you, the references to the
15	permits that have been issued to POTWs that have
16	not included co-permittees for their satellites,
17	which you started to talk about. And then any
18	other examples that you can find in the next week
19	where that are outside of Region 1 where
20	either EPA or an authorized state has issued
21	permits with satellite collection systems as co-
22	permittees and whether any of those co-permittees
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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 qive you 15 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. Ιt 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

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

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authorization for anyone to sign on our behalf when the application was submitted.

The other point I also raise, and I know you looked at this in the 2000 rulemaking, I don't have a copy here, but my memory is that it did include the application process under which satellites either themselves would be directly permitted or they would come under the permits. JUDGE HILL: Do you think EPA has the statutory authority to issue a permit? Say, there, you're look, you know, you're out We know what you're doing. Here's discharging. your permit. Have a nice day.

MR. COX: No, absolutely not.

JUDGE HILL: Why not?

MR. COX: Well, because these are licenses and in order to do something you need to apply to get it. You can't just say, okay, here, go forth and do it. There's a duty to apply which the Region says kicks in here, but they're not waiving it. They can't waive it. There's a duty to apply that can't be undone here. The

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

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upon. So to the extent that the co-permittee claimed to remove, I'd like to think passed raised to because of issues that were as 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. Mr. Cox, you haven't JUDGE HILL: 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 co-

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?

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 it's the purpose. The Region's comments on it, I don't think that stands up to the third party challenges. You are subject to this permit and you abide by it even though somebody else did it. I don't think it stands up to the third party challenge, especially where the Region is seeking to have it both ways be subject to the pertinent 	
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5 you abide by it even though somebody else did it. 6 I don't think it stands up to the third party 7 challenge, especially where the Region is seeking	
I don't think it stands up to the third party challenge, especially where the Region is seeking	
7 challenge, especially where the Region is seeking	
8 to have it both ways be subject to the pertinen	
	t
9 clauses for the same time, it's not enough.	
10 JUDGE HILL: So the satellite systems	
11 would be responsible for violations of the	
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	
acknowledge that there's a duty to apply, and the	
17 towns have not applied, they are subject to be	
18 violators. They're in violation. And that jus	t
19 doesn't make sense. That is not	
20 JUDGE FRASER: The Region is saying	
21 the duty to apply was met when the District	
22 submitted the application. And if you take the	

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district is comprised of town representatives, your position would be that that is not meeting the duty to apply obligation for the towns?

Correct, it's not, because MR. COX: if the towns are dischargers, it is the discharger that has the duty to apply. These towns did not apply. That someone else submitted an application, you delegate can't that authority, that duty to apply anything. I can=t 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.

19 The Region indicated that it shouldn't 20 be concerned about that, but frankly I am concerned for the towns.

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JUDGE HILL: Let me ask you again; I

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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 have applied because the district has applied? 5 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

position is that's enough.

MR. COX: Well --

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JUDGE HILL: And the regulation says

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

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this town has sewer lines that we need here. Is there any analysis as to each individual town as to whether it should --

JUDGE FRASER: Aren't they basing it on a number of overflows though and that there's a need that they have? It's not just the information in the application. They're seeing a need to minimize and get rid of the sanitary sewer overflows.

MR. COX: If they are, shouldn't they be looking at some towns and saying, okay, town, you have an overflow problem? You should be a co-permittee. Looking at other towns that do not have that problem or learn that they're --

JUDGE FRASER: I thought that's what -- that was the position that they drew the distinction between Marshfield and the four towns in this permit?

MR. COX: Sure. That came afterwards and not in this proceeding. So they're raising a simple case-by-case basis. They need to do that here. They haven't done that with the other

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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

JUDGE FRASER: But, is that requirement of the statute or the regs to give advanced notice? It's an adjudication.

MR. COX: That's a separate issue. But in terms of the correct process, they're doing it on the application, the application regulations that are some 26 pages that are existing. No, it's not because there's no

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1 provision there.

2	JUDGE HILL: Let me ask you a
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
6	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
15	from this?
16	MR. COX: You could say that, but in
17	order to trigger the application of the general
18	permit to an individual facility there needs to
19	be a notice of intent.
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
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1 || 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 б connection with something that we 7 that's a started off is the with, and that Upper 8 Blackstone case where the panel, the board there 9 the limiting 10 seemed very concerned about principle of how far up the system can you go. 11 The Region still has not addressed that. It's 12 reached over to use the definition of POTW and 13 said, okay, here's the definition. We're going 14 But that's just not to draw the lines here. 15 satisfactory as a limiting principle. It was 16 raised years ago in Upper Blackstone. The Region 17 still has not provided a response. What is the 18 limiting principle? How far up do we go? To say 19 that it's a POTW just isn't a solution. 20 JUDGE FRASER: Mr. Cox, I would also 21

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|| like to get some supplemental information from

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specifically if you can get me and 1 you, 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 these 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

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not looking for responses. If you think that any 1 of the information is incorrect, you can file a 2 response by the 29th. But only if you think the 3 information provided by the other side is 4 incorrect. Does that make reasonable sense? 5 6 MR. COX: Yes. JUDGE HILL: Okay. All right. Well, 7 I know we've covered a lot of material and this 8 Thank you all very much, is a difficult case. 9 and we will adjourn for the day. 10 Thank you. 11 MR. COX: All rise. THE CLERK: 12 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter 13 went off the record at 11:58 a.m.) 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22

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Before: EPA

Date: 12-11-2014

Place: Washington, D.C.

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