



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION I
5 POST OFFICE SQUARE SUITE 100
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109-3912

February 3, 2017

Michael J. Hornbrook, Chief Operating Officer
Massachusetts Water Resources Authority
Charlestown Navy Yard
100 First Avenue, Building 39
Boston, MA 02129

Re: Interim Contingency Plan Threshold modifications

Dear Mr. Hornbrook:

With this letter, EPA Region 1 acknowledges that we do not object to the two interim Contingency Plan Threshold modifications proposed in your January 3 2017 letter. Specifically, the proposed changes are to:

- Delete the Contingency Plan Caution Level threshold for *Phaeocystis*; and
- Delete the upper range only thresholds currently tested for infaunal diversity.

These threshold modifications were discussed at the Outfall Monitoring Science Advisory Panel (OMSAP) meeting on October 27, 2016. Both the OMSAP and the Public Interest Advisory Committee to OMSAP support these modifications. The proposal was distributed via the EPA Region 1 electronic notification listserver for the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) Contingency Plan and no comments were received.

As you know, pursuant to the MWRA National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Program Permit Number MA0103284, Part I, section 8.c. these interim modifications must be included in an annual submission of proposed modifications by November 15, 2017. MWRA will continue to monitor *Phaeocystis* and infaunal diversity as per the monitoring plan.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me via email at liebman.matt@epa.gov or by phone at 617-918-1626.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Matthew Liebman", is positioned above the typed name.

Matthew Liebman
Ocean and Coastal Protection Unit

cc:

Susan Studlien, EPA Region 1
Susannah King, MA DEP
Cathy Vakalopoulos, MA DEP
Judy Pederson, OMSAP