

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
OFFICE OF WATER RESOURCES
RIPDES PROGRAM
235 PROMENADE STREET
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02908-5767

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED PERMIT ACTIONS UNDER THE RHODE ISLAND POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (RIPDES) PROGRAM WHICH REGULATES DISCHARGES INTO THE WATERS OF THE STATE UNDER CHAPTER 46-12 OF THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL LAWS OF 1956, AS AMENDED.

DATE OF NOTICE: July 31, 2006

PUBLIC NOTICE NUMBER: PN-06-06

DRAFT RIPDES PERMITS

RIPDES PERMIT NUMBER: **RI0001589**

NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF APPLICANT:

The City of Pawtucket
85 Branch Street
Pawtucket, RI 02860

NAME AND ADDRESS OF FACILITY WHERE DISCHARGE OCCURS:

(Existing) Pawtucket Water Treatment Plant
120 Mill Street
Cumberland, RI 02864

&

(Proposed) Pawtucket Water Treatment Plant
85 Branch Street
Pawtucket, RI 02860

RECEIVING WATER: Abbott Run Brook Tributary to the Blackstone River
&
The Blackstone River

RECEIVING WATER CLASSIFICATION: A, B1, & B1{a}

The facility has applied to the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management for reissuance of a RIPDES Permit to discharge into the designated receiving waters. The facility is involved in the production of potable water for "domestic" and "industrial" uses. The discharge from outfall 001A is associated with the backwashing of filters and water quality analyzer drains originating from the existing Pawtucket Water Treatment Plant located at 120 Mill Street. In the future, the proposed Pawtucket Water Treatment Plant will be constructed and operated at 85 Branch Street. The proposed

treatment plant will have three separate outfalls. Outfall 002A will discharge at the same location as the existing plant's outfall 001A. Outfall 003A and 004A will discharge directly to the Blackstone River, each downstream of where Abbott Run Brook meets the Blackstone River. The existing plant currently discharges filter backwash and water quality analyzer drain discharges only. In the future, the 85 Branch Street facility will discharge filter backwash and settled solids to a pair of sedimentation lagoons. The supernatant from these lagoons will then be discharged to outfall 002A. The proposed water treatment plant will also consist of two emergency discharge locations, outfalls 003A and 004A. Outfall 003A is designed to discharge pretreated raw water under emergency situations only. Outfall 004A is designed to discharge water from the clearwell, or the 5MG potable water storage tank during the start up and testing period of construction only. The DEM anticipates entering into a consent agreement with the City of Pawtucket in order to establish an enforceable compliance schedule allowing additional time for the facility to come into compliance with certain conditions of the permit. This permit includes limits to ensure that the discharge will not cause a water quality violation.

RIPDES PERMIT NUMBER: **RI0001627**

NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF APPLICANT:

The City of Woonsocket
169 Main Street
Woonsocket, RI 02895

NAME AND ADDRESS OF FACILITY WHERE DISCHARGE OCCURS:

Woonsocket Water Treatment Plant
1500 Manville Road
Woonsocket, RI 02895

RECEIVING WATER: **Blackstone River**

RECEIVING WATER CLASSIFICATION: **B1**

The above named applicant has applied to the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) for reissuance of a RIPDES Permit to discharge into the designated receiving water. The facility is involved in the production of potable water for "domestic" and "industrial" uses. The discharge is from three outfalls associated with the backwashing of three water treatment units used for the production of potable water. The bulk of the total settled residuals produced as a result of the water treatment process are discharged to the Woonsocket Waste Water Treatment Facility. This permit only authorizes the discharge of treated filter backwash to the Blackstone River. The DEM anticipates entering into a consent agreement with the City of Woonsocket in order to establish an enforceable schedule for completing any water treatment plant process changes or treatment upgrades that are necessary in order to come into permit compliance. As a result, the anticipated consent agreement may provide additional time for the City to upgrade the existing plant or construct a new plant in order to comply with the new RIPDES permitting requirements. This permit includes limits to ensure that the discharge will not cause a water quality violation. The DEM has determined that the proposed activities comply with the Policy on the Implementation of the Antidegradation Provisions of the Rhode Island Water Quality Regulations and that existing uses will be maintained and protected. A detailed evaluation of the water quality impact from the proposed activities may be found in the statement of basis which is available upon request.

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE DRAFT PERMITS:

A fact sheet or a statement of basis (describing the type of facility and significant factual, legal and policy questions considered in these permit actions) may be obtained at no cost by writing or calling DEM as noted below:

Brian D. Lafaille, P.E.
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Water Resources
Permits Section
235 Promenade Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02908-5767
(401) 222-4700, extension 7731

The administrative record containing all documents relating to these permit actions is on file and may be inspected, by appointment, at the DEM's Providence office mentioned above between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING:

Pursuant to Chapter 42-17.4 of the Rhode Island General Laws a public hearing has been scheduled to consider these permits if requested. Requests for a Public Hearing must be submitted in writing to the attention of Brian D. Lafaille at the address indicated above. Notice should be taken that if DEM receives a request from twenty-five (25) people, a governmental agency or subdivision, or an association having no less than twenty-five (25) members on or before 4:00 PM, August 31, 2006, a public hearing will be held at the following time and place:

Wednesday, September 6, 2006, at 5:00 p.m.
Room 280
235 Promenade Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

Interested persons should contact DEM to confirm if a hearing will be held at the time and location noted above.

235 Promenade Street is accessible to the handicapped. A stenographic record of the hearing, if held, will be made. Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired must notify the DEM at 401-222-4462 (TDD) 48 hours in advance of the hearing date.

Interested parties may submit comments on the permit actions and the administrative record to the address above no later than 4:00 PM September 7, 2006.

If, during the public comment period, significant new questions are raised concerning the permit, DEM may require a new draft permit or statement of basis or may reopen the public comment period. A public notice will be issued for any of these actions.

Any person, including the permittee/applicant, who believes these permit actions are inappropriate, must raise all reasonably ascertainable issues and submit all reasonably available arguments and factual grounds supporting their position, including all supporting material, by the close of the public comment period

under Rule 41. The public comment period is from July 31, 2006 to September 7, 2006. Commenters may request a longer comment period if necessary to provide a reasonable opportunity to comply with these requirements. Comments should be directed to DEM as noted above.

Any person, prior to such date, may submit a request in writing to DEM for a public hearing to consider the above permit actions. Such requests shall state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised in the hearing. A public hearing may be held after at least thirty days public notice whenever the Director finds that response to this notice indicates significant public interest. In reaching a final decision on the permit actions the Director will respond to all significant comments and make these responses available to the public at DEM's Providence office.

FINAL DECISION AND APPEALS:

Following the close of the comment period and after the public hearing, if held, the Director will issue a final decision and forward a copy of the final decision to the permittee and each person who has submitted written comments or requested notice. Within 30 days following the notice of the final decision, any interested person may submit a request for a formal hearing in accordance with the requirements of Rule 49.

Date

Eric A. Beck, P.E.
Supervising Sanitary Engineer
Office of Water Resources
Department of Environmental Management