



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

Address: 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900, Boston MA 02114 | Phone: 617-292-5500

Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kim Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor

Rebecca Tepper
Secretary

Bonnie Heiple
Commissioner

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

This Public Hearing Notice is available in alternative languages (Español -- Tiếng Việt -- Chinese -
- Kreyòl Ayisyen -- Português -- Khmer) on MassDEP's website at: [https://www.mass.gov/service-
details/massdep-public-hearings-comment-opportunities](https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massdep-public-hearings-comment-opportunities)

Notice is hereby given that the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), pursuant to M.G.L. c. 91, § 18 and M.G.L. Chapter 30A, is proposing regulatory amendments to 310 CMR 9.00, *The Massachusetts Waterways Regulation*. The amendments are intended to streamline the permitting and licensing processes to allow for concurrent review of applications under review with the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Office and allow the Department to begin review of a Waterways license or permit application before the filing of a Wetlands Notice of Intent.

The proposed regulatory text and a background document are available with a copy of this Public Hearing Notice on MassDEP's website at: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massdep-public-hearings-comment-opportunities>

MassDEP will hold two virtual public hearings via Zoom at the following dates and times to receive comments on the proposed changes. **Advance registration is required.**

Wednesday, September 9, 2026 at 1:00 PM

Please use this link to register in advance for this hearing:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/_1PyDk1AQ6erQ_nsGTrbQQ

Wednesday, September 9, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Please use this link to register in advance for this hearing:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/3QPAeH5gQ_Old-ksWgDuWw

Testimony may be presented orally at the public hearing. Written comments will be accepted through 5:00pm on **September 23, 2026**. The Department encourages electronic submission by email to dep.waterways@mass.gov and must include *Waterways Streamline Comments* in the subject line. Written comments may also be mailed to Daniel Padien, Attn: *Waterways Streamline Comments*, MassDEP-BWR, 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900, Boston, MA 02114.

For special accommodations, please call the MassDEP Diversity Office at 617-292-1282.

TTY# MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370. This information is available in alternate format upon request. MassDEP provides language access interpreter/translation services to limited English proficient individuals free of charge. If you need an interpreter to participate in this meeting, translation services can be found at the following link: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massdep-language-translation-assistance>. By Order of the Department of Environmental Protection, Bonnie Heiple, Commissioner

Small Business Impact Statement

(As required by M.G.L. c. 30A §§ 2, 3 & 5)

CMR No: 310 CMR 9.00: Waterways

Estimate of the Number of Small Businesses Impacted by the Regulation: 1,800 to 3,500

- Will small businesses have to create, file, or issue additional reports?
No, the proposed regulations will not require additional reporting.
- Will small businesses have to implement additional recordkeeping procedures?
No, the proposed regulations will not require additional recordkeeping.
- Will small businesses have to provide additional administrative oversight?
No, the proposed regulations will not require additional administrative oversight.
- Will small businesses have to hire additional employees in order to comply with the proposed regulation?
No, the proposed regulations will not require hiring additional employees.
- Does compliance with the regulation require small businesses to hire other professionals (e.g. a lawyer, accountant, engineer, etc.)?
No, the proposed regulations will not require hiring other professionals.
- Does the regulation require small businesses to purchase a product or make any other capital investments in order to comply with the regulation?
No, the proposed regulations will not require the purchase of products or capital investments.
- Are performance standards more appropriate than design/operational standards to accomplish the regulatory objective? (Performance standards express requirements in terms of outcomes, giving the regulated party flexibility to achieve regulatory objectives and design/operational standards specify exactly what actions regulated parties must take.)
No, the proposed regulations do not have design/operational standards.
- Do any other regulations duplicate or conflict with the proposed regulation?
No other regulations duplicate or conflict with the proposed regulations.
- Does the regulation require small businesses to cooperate with audits, inspections or other regulatory enforcement activities?
No, the proposed regulations do not require audits, inspections or other regulatory enforcement activities.
- Does the regulation require small businesses to provide educational services to keep up to date with regulatory requirements?
No, the proposed regulations do not require the provision of educational services.
- Is the regulation likely to *deter* the formation of small businesses in Massachusetts?
No. The proposed regulation is not likely to deter the formation of small businesses.
- Is the regulation likely to *encourage* the formation of small businesses in Massachusetts?
No. The proposed regulation is not likely to encourage the formation of small businesses.
- Does the regulation provide for less stringent compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses?
No, the proposed regulation does not provide less stringent compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses.
- Does the regulation establish less stringent schedules or deadlines for compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses?
No, the proposed regulations does not establish less stringent schedules or deadlines for small businesses.
- Did the agency consolidate or simplify compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses?
Yes. The proposed changes will simplify compliance for all regulated entities, not just small business.

- Can performance standards for small businesses replace design or operational standards without hindering delivery of the regulatory objective?
No, the proposed regulations do not involve design or operational standards.
- Are there alternative regulatory methods that would minimize the adverse impact on small businesses?
No, there is no adverse impact on small businesses.