

Federal regulations: NPDES Must Be Complied within Cambridge Mystic River watershed at Alewife

New Phase II Regulations 2016 (soon to come) require careful implementation of MS4 municipal requirements as in many US states

RE; The **D- Report Card from US-EPA** for Cambridge, with one mile of polluted Little River and numerous contaminated tributaries and outfalls. Little River drains to Alewife Brook, Mystic River and Boston Harbor. The United States is embarking on full regulations of National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) for all states focusing on stormwater into our watersheds. Attached is aggressive participation by Sudbury Ma.

https://sudbury.ma.us/pcd/wp-content/uploads/sites/326/2015/04/2015-NPDES-MS4-Report_Sudbury.pdf

CMH are underground structures! This is the Flint Michigan tragedy issue and problem; and may be throughout the country. With 5000 Cambridge units being permitted (2500 quadrangle soon at Alewife) by publicly covering over, or implementing poor professional oversight, or 'no repair of old infrastructure' (CMH), our region could be in danger, especially to watershed residents' health in 4 municipalities. High bacteria counts have surfaced with the D- report card alerting Cambridge and residents to unsafe waters.

We maintain that EPA requirements must be met and require regular monitoring at Alewife Reservation area surrounded by nearly 2500 built units and another 2500 likely on the way from Alewife-Concord city plans. A Committee is sought to carry forward this scrutiny. Many lives are involved if we receive a Sandy surge, we conjecture based on the low sea level of this continuous construction and variance seeking by Cambridge.

<https://www3.epa.gov/region1/npdes/permits/2009/finalma0101974permit.pdf>

II Water Quality

The beginning scrutiny of this report began with older (2014) assessments of most dangerous type of bacteria to run through north Cambridge, East Arlington, Somerville, Medford to Mystic River:

Concern: Measurements are out of date and highly questioned when compared to MyRWA

Blanchard Road test = 1850 (e-coli).

oxbow in stormwater wetland = 6.91; fecal = 200--300; Enterococci = 10.

Cambridge Park Drive - stormwater wetland: low amonia. Private testing indicates high amonia content in stormwater wetland.

Wheeler Street = e-coli 5000.

(These do not seem correct to us.) And testing and public review is required now while building construction is under way by Cambridge and possibly by contracted professional agency

Cambridge "WasteWater Compliance Officer" researched. Does anyone know who that is?

III Public Education:

While many examples of public education, other than climate change library presentations in auditorium with little opportunity for discussion, environmental organizations, Green Cambridge, Friends of FResh Pond, Belmont Citizen Forum, Friends of Alewife Reservation, Sustainable Arlington, Sustainable Belmont have not received notices or results of testing and investigation or public educational opportunities.

stormwater Website not completed.

Cambridge's City Viewfinder not user friendly and have been unable to locate outfalls and results of tests. We do not get emails of Cambridge progress on National Pollution Discharge Elimination System or MS4 (Phase 2) updates.

DPW facebook and Twitter - no information, just a meeting announcement for 3/29/16.

No CSO announcements.

No DPW stormwater issues participation in Cambridge Science Festival or notice.

Appendix III

https://www3.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/idde_manualwithappendices.pdf

IDDES (Illicit Discharge Detection Elimination System) at Alewife.

The 2 Alewife outfalls for 2015 were not sampled for "lack of dry weather": Blanchard Road and Russell Field.
(Question this answer)

3.b

Says no illicit discharge connection from 2012-2015.

3.b With past high e-coli count at Normandy Ter. by Mystic River Association, no notification of testing.

Normandy Terrace - No testing done in 2014.

Plan as stated:

5 automatic sampling stations: 3 at Alewife, 1 Columbus Ave. at Alewife

Advanced illicit discharges - Not done.

DPW: hotline not added in varied languages.

1V Dumping Regulations:

Public involvement in all above and this required by EPA.

Public not asked on dumping regulations for large businesses such as MaBardy on Wellington Brook.

4.a

Cambridge is supposed to have Run-off (stormwater) control plan: Where is it?

We cannot find it. Says it was completed in 2008. IF so, needs updating immediately.

4.a

Number of stormwater Permits given in 2015 was 6:

One on Mooney Street.

One on Cambridge Park Drive.

No Guidance material given for outside violators or violations.

No violations resulted (none expected if there is no "guidance").

Guidance must teach residents and businesses about "runoff" controls.

Nothing at all in large residential building 130 CambridgePark Drive at T stop and in floodplain.

No evidence of required meetings or education surrounding these permits.

There is supposed to be list of mitigations on stormwater control permits.

They are stated as "not completed".

9 stormwater control permits issued.

5 for Alewife:

4 at Acorn Park Drive

1 at Cambridge Park Drive

FAR and other groups FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) require "cumulative measuring and testing" which should affect the 5 Alewife permits.

Stormwater runoff affects the building next to it, and must be tested for impact elsewhere and taken into account by each building.

This must be done especially on a floodplain and wetlands as protected by Wetlands Protection Act (WPA) as a 100 year floodplain includes most of Alewife Discovery Park and Cambridge Park Drive.

Wastewater compliance office has made 273 inspections: 9 sewer inspections; 6 violations have been given for erosion and sediment control.

We are looking for these records or reports.

5.

Post construction stormwater management practices

This information was completed in 2005, but many buildings have gone up since then.

No wonder. They have no rigorous regulations or guidance. States completed up to 2005.

5.vii

Records of meeting- No meetings planned.

18 inspections in 2012

2015 inspections not available.

Do not provide operations and maintenance guides for 2015.

6.a

Pollution prevention and good housekeeping section.

36 percent of catch basins cleaned. (Catch basins contain debris to prevent going into river and streams and clogging pipes.)

Herbicide and pesticide use - Not Available.

TO FIND APPENDICES ONE MUST LOOK IN HARDCOVER AT DPW HEADQUARTERS.
MUCH NPDES US-EPA INFORMATION IS SAID TO BE IN THIS STATE.