



# MassDEP NEWS

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Round 2 Draft Restoration Plan for Housatonic River Watershed to be Presented for Public Comment August 3 in Lenox**

### *State and Federal Environmental Officials Also Open 30-day Comment Period*

BOSTON – State and federal environmental authorities have scheduled an informational meeting and set up a comment period concerning the Draft Restoration Plan and Supplemental Environmental Assessment (RP/SEA) for the Massachusetts portion of the Housatonic River watershed as part of the General Electric/Housatonic River Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR) case settled in 2000.

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), comprising the Massachusetts SubCouncil of the Housatonic River Natural Resource Trustees, have scheduled the public meeting for Tuesday, August 3, 2010, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., at Lenox Town Hall, 6 Walker Street.

“This is an important milestone in this process, which will help to restore the watershed’s precious resources,” said EEA Secretary Ian Bowles, who serves as the Commonwealth’s Trustee for natural resources.

From January through May 2009, the Massachusetts SubCouncil solicited proposals and ideas from the public for various types of projects that would restore or enhance the Housatonic River watershed in Massachusetts. The Draft RP/SEA presents the Massachusetts SubCouncil’s proposed restoration projects for Round 2 of a compensatory restoration program to restore, rehabilitate, replace, or acquire the equivalent of injured natural resources or the services provided by those resources.

The purpose of the public meeting is to present the results of the Round 2 Evaluation.

The Round 2 solicitation provides a means to disburse \$1.3 million for the implementation of restoration projects from approximately \$7.75 million received as part of the NRDAR case. In the first round, Trustees awarded \$4 million in 2008 for restoration projects ranging from invasive species control and restoring river flow to implementing an environmental literacy program.

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Current Trustee Representatives responsible for administering the General Electric/Housatonic River Natural Resource Damage funds to restore the Massachusetts portion of the Housatonic watershed are Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection NRD Coordinator Karen Pelto and USFWS Contaminants Specialist Kenneth Munney.

The Draft RP/SEA is now subject to a 30-day public comment period following its release to the public through [www.ma-housatonicrestoration.org](http://www.ma-housatonicrestoration.org); hard copies will also be available at local libraries. The Massachusetts SubCouncil will receive public comment on the project Draft RP/SEA during the informational meeting.

Additional public comment will be accepted from Wednesday, July 21 until Monday, August 23 at 5 p.m. Written public comments can be sent to:

Housatonic Draft RP/SEA, Stantec Consulting Inc., 30 Park Drive, Topsham, ME 04086.

Information about the Housatonic River Watershed Restoration Project in Massachusetts is available online at [www.ma-housatonicrestoration.org](http://www.ma-housatonicrestoration.org). Additional information can be obtained by contacting Todd Chadwell of Stantec Consulting Inc., at [todd.chadwell@stantec.com](mailto:todd.chadwell@stantec.com) or by calling 207-729-1199.

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