

Massachusetts Housatonic River Watershed Restoration Program



Proposed Amendment

to the

Final Round 3 Restoration Plan and Supplemental Environmental Assessment for Land Protection and Habitat Conservation

Housatonic River Natural Resource Damages Fund

October 27, 2016, Lenox Library, Lenox, Massachusetts

Massachusetts SubCouncil, Housatonic River Natural Resource Trustees
One Winter Street, 6th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02108



Agenda

1. INTRODUCTIONS

2. PRESENTATION

- **Housatonic River Watershed Restoration Program**
- **Round 3 Restoration Plan**
- **Proposed Amendment to the Round 3 Restoration Plan**
- **NRD Restoration Funding Summary**
- **Next Steps & Additional Information**

3. OPEN FORUM / Q&A



HOUSATONIC RIVER WATERSHED RESTORATION PROGRAM



Housatonic River Watershed Restoration Program

GE/Housatonic River Natural Resource Damages (NRD) Settlement

- Consent Decree in 2000
- \$15 million in damages as compensation for resource damages
 - Approx. \$7.75 million targeted for projects in Massachusetts

Massachusetts SubCouncil of the Housatonic River Natural Resource Trustees

- Commonwealth of Massachusetts: Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), represented by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)
- Department of the Interior (DOI): U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)



Housatonic River Watershed Restoration Program

Massachusetts SubCouncil Voting Members

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Housatonic River Watershed Restoration Program

The MA SubCouncil is responsible for disbursing funds from the Massachusetts portion of the NRD settlement.

Funds are used for compensatory restoration projects that will restore, rehabilitate, replace, or acquire the equivalent of natural resources and/or their services that were injured or lost as a result of the release of hazardous materials, including PCBs, into the Massachusetts portion of the Housatonic River watershed.

Two previous rounds of restoration projects (Rounds 1 and 2) have been funded as a part of this Restoration Program.



ROUND 3 RESTORATION PLAN



Round 3 Restoration Plan: *Overview*

Round 3 Restoration Plan and Supplemental Environmental Assessment (RP/SEA)

- Completed May 2013
- Documents the plan for identifying and funding Round 3 projects for compensatory restoration of the Massachusetts portion of the Housatonic River
- Developed with public input and subject to public comment
- Focuses on land protection to conserve habitat
- Targeted a total of \$2 million for disbursement



Round 3 Restoration Plan:

First Subround

3 Projects Funded in Subround 1:

- **Hinsdale:** 90 acres of wetland and upland habitat, including extensive scrub-shrub wetlands abutting MassWildlife lands and within the Hinsdale Flats ACEC, NHESP Priority Habitat, BioMap 2 Core Habitat and BioMap 2 Critical Natural Landscape. (*NRD funding: \$90,000*)
- **Egremont:** 23 acres of riverine, riparian, floodplain, and upland habitat along the Green river, including 2,500 feet of river frontage, NHESP Priority Habitat, BioMap 2 Core Habitat and BioMap 2 Critical Natural Landscape. (*NRD funding: \$187,500*)
- **Great Barrington:** 218 acres of wetland, stream, riparian, early successional, and upland habitat along Thomas and Palmer Brook, including more than 1,400 feet of river frontage and BioMap 2 Core Habitat. (*NRD funding: \$869,500*)



Round 3 Restoration Plan:

Second Subround

Available Funding:

- **\$853,000** remains available for Subround 2 after funding Subround 1.

Subround 2 Proposal Review Status:

- The “Phase 1” review of Subround 2 project proposals is complete.
- Projects recommended to proceed to “Phase 2” would preserve **hundreds of acres of critical wetland and upland habitat.**
- The total cost of recommended Subround 2 projects is **\$1,287,000**. This is **\$434,000** greater than the funding targeted for Round 3.
- The recommended projects will not all be able to advance without allocating additional funding for Round 3.



**PROPOSED AMENDMENT
TO THE ROUND 3
RESTORATION PLAN**



Proposed Amendment: *Overview*

Proposed Amendment:

- The MA SubCouncil proposes to amend the Round 3 RP/SEA to provide **\$500,000** in additional funds for Subround 2 of Round 3.

Public Involvement:

- The Proposed Amendment was announced on **October 13, 2016**.
- **Copies of the Proposed Amendment** are available at public libraries in the watershed and on the Massachusetts Housatonic River Watershed Restoration Program Website: www.ma-housatonicrestoration.org.
- **Public Comments** will be accepted through **November 11, 2016 at 4:30 PM**.
Written comments should be submitted to:

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Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup
One Winter Street, 6th Floor
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NRD RESTORATION FUNDING SUMMARY



NRD Restoration Funding Summary: *Restoration Program Funding Overview*

Table 1. NRD Restoration Funds

Restoration Settlement for MA	\$7,750,000
½ of Joint MA/CT Resolution Settlement	\$117,500
Total MA Housatonic NRD Funds	\$7,867,500

Table 2. NRD Funds Expended To Date

Rounds 1-3	\$5,249,062
Restoration Planning & Oversight	\$1,221,444
Total Expended To Date	\$6,470,505

Table 3. Potential Allocation of Remaining NRD Funds

Total Funds Remaining in DOI Account	\$3,862,390
Funds Contracted But Not Yet Expended (R1-3)	\$876,171
Subround 2 of Round 3	\$853,000
Amendment to Round 3	\$500,000
Projected Restoration Planning & Oversight	\$200,000
Wetland Impact Mitigation	\$600,000
Rounds 1 & 2: Projected to Complete	\$100,000
Projected Remaining for Round 4	\$733,219



NEXT STEPS & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



Next Steps:

Anticipated Round 3 Timeline

2016

- Public comment on Proposed Amendment
(Comments due by November 11)
- Finalize Round 3 Amendment based on public comment
(Date: TBD based on comments received)
- Select Round 3 Subround 2 proposals to advance to Phase 2
(Date: TBD based on finalization of amendment)

2017

- Phase 2 due diligence deadline for selected Subround 2 proposals
(Date: 6 months following selection of proposals to advance to Phase 2)
- Final selection of proposals for Round 3 Subround 2 funding
(Date: approximately 3 months following Phase 2 due diligence deadline)



Additional Information: ***Restoration Program Planning Documents***

Resources specific to the Massachusetts Housatonic River Watershed Restoration Program include:

- Restoration Planning Strategy (RPS)
- Restoration Project Selection Procedure (RPSP)
- Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA)
- Round 3 RP/SEA

References are available at the Restoration Program Website:

www.ma-housatonicrestoration.org



Additional Information: ***Additional Resources***

Proposed Amendment available at:

Massachusetts Housatonic River Watershed Restoration Program

Website: www.ma-housatonicrestoration.org

Point of Contact:

Karen Pelto, MassDEP NRD Program Coordinator

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617-292-5785



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