

## **NOTICE OF REPORT AVAILABILITY**

### **Planning Assistance to States, Assabet River, Massachusetts, Sediment and Dam Removal Feasibility Study**

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District announce the availability of the Planning Assistance to States Report, “Assabet River, Massachusetts - Sediment and Dam Removal Feasibility Study”, dated September 2010. This report was prepared for MassDEP by the New England District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the Corps Planning Assistance to States program.

The report is currently available in PDF at the following web site:

<http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/projects/ma/AssabetRiver/assabetriver.htm> 

MassDEP prepared a “Total Maximum Daily Load for Phosphorus” (TMDL) for the river to address the problem of eutrophication throughout the Assabet River system in response to high levels of phosphorus. The TMDL, which was approved by EPA in 2005, required implementation of measures to decrease phosphorus loading to the river and adopted an adaptive management approach in accordance with EPA approved procedures. The TMDL for the river can be viewed at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/resources/tmdls.htm>.

The Corps “Planning Assistance to States Study” study is a follow-on effort to the MassDEP TMDL. The purpose of this study is to provide planning assistance (planning level engineering and scientific information) to MassDEP on the potential feasibility of sediment and dam removal to reduce internal recycling of phosphorus (sediment phosphorus flux) in the Assabet River. The first part of the study focused on reductions in internal phosphorus recycling from sediment for sediment and dam removal measures. The second part of the study focused on engineering and environmental considerations for hypothetical dam removal.

The Corps and MassDEP held two public meetings in November of 2009 to inform local stakeholders of the study findings. Comment letters received on the draft demonstrated that many in the local communities and stakeholders value the existing impoundments and dams for many reasons including: recreation, aesthetics, wetlands, fish and wildlife communities, historic and cultural significance, and as a water source for fire protection and irrigation. Comment letters and responses are presented in Appendix K of the report.

If in the future a proponent steps forward who wishes to pursue potential dam removal, then there would be a detailed environmental assessment and permitting process involved at all levels of government – local, state, and Federal.

The report will also be available at the reference desk of the following libraries in mid to late October:

Maynard Public Library  
77 Nason Street  
Maynard, MA 01754

Town of Stow Library  
380 Great Road  
Stow, MA 01775-2127

Hudson Public Library  
3 Washington Street  
Hudson, MA 01749-2485

Marlborough Library  
35 West Main Street  
Marlborough, MA 01752

Northborough Free Library  
34 Main Street  
Northborough, MA 01532

Westborough Public Library  
55 West Main St.  
Westborough, MA 01581

Further information can be obtained from:

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