



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
New England District

696 Virginia Road  
Concord, MA 01742-2751

# Public Notice

In Reply Refer to: Dr. Kristine Reed  
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Planning Division

Date: February 21, 2019

Comment Period Closes: March 22, 2019

## 30 DAY PUBLIC NOTICE

**THE DRAFT WOLASTOQ (SAINT JOHN RIVER)  
WATERSHED ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE  
MEDUXNEKEAG RIVER SUBBASIN  
STATE OF MAINE AND CANADIAN PROVINCES  
OF NEW BRUNSWICK AND QUEBEC  
IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT**

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New England District (NAE), in consultation with our partner, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians (HBMI), have released the draft Wolastoq (Saint John River) Watershed Assessment and Management Plan for the Meduxnekeag River Subbasin for public review and comment. The study encompassed Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians (HBMI) tribal lands, and subbasin areas in the state of Maine, and the Canadian Provinces of New Brunswick and Quebec. The study was conducted under the Section 203 Tribal Partnership authority using EC 1105-2-411 Section 729 Watershed Assessment implementation guidance. It will not result in a decision document recommending a Corps implemented project. No National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation was produced with this watershed assessment. Congressional authorization will not be needed. Headquarters of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington, D.C. (HQUASCE) will conduct policy review of the report and afterwards will coordinate the report (plan) with the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works to transmit to Congress for information.

**Study Description:** Section 203 of the Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) 2000, as amended, authorizes the USACE to carry out water-related planning activities and studies and determine the feasibility of carrying out water resources development projects that will substantially benefit Indian Tribes and are located primarily within Indian country. A study may include watershed assessments and planning activities. The HBMI requested USACE assistance with preparing an international watershed assessment and management plan for the Meduxnekeag Subbasin focusing on the protection and restoration of native fish habitat. The Meduxnekeag River, a tributary of the Wolastoq (Saint John River), flows through Maliseet Tribal Lands in Littleton and Houlton, Maine. This tributary begins at Meduxnekeag Lake, Maine and joins the Wolastoq (Saint John River) at Woodstock, New Brunswick, Canada. The purpose of the plan is to apply a systems approach to document existing and historical conditions, identify problems and opportunities and develop action oriented recommendations for the protection or restoration of native fish habitat. The plan is, by design, dynamic and adaptive. As new information is gained,

the plan will require modification. The Meduxnekeag Subbasin plan will recommend actions that may or may not lead to additional investigations for USACE projects, actions for consideration by the HBMI, other studies, or additional Saint John River subbasin assessments.

**Character and Purpose of Work:** The study objectives are to develop potential strategies to address the various native fishery concerns expressed by the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians (HBMI), federal, state and local agencies as well as the general public. Actions to protect and restore the Meduxnekeag River watershed for native fish habitat are recommended based on the problems, opportunities, scientific data and expert consultation. The recommended actions are detailed to a conceptual level (not to the degree necessary for detailed evaluation, regulatory review, or recommendation for construction). The study engaged stakeholders from both the United States and Canada to work together to apply a systems approach to solve fisheries issues within the Meduxnekeag River watershed and downstream inter-related resources, and potentially has application in the entire Wolastoq (Saint John) basin.


**Electronic Access:** This notice and the Draft Watershed Assessment and Management Plan can be found on the New England District web page at the following link:  
<https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects-Topics/Wolastoq-Watershed-Assessment/>

**Additional Information:** Additional information may be obtained from Dr. Kristine Reed, Planning Division, at the address shown above, telephone number (978) 318-8963.

Please bring this notice to the attention of anyone you know to be interested in this project. Comments are invited from all interested parties and should be directed to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751, ATTN: Dr. Kristine Reed, or to email address [nae-pd-pn@usace.army.mil](mailto:nae-pd-pn@usace.army.mil) within 30 days of this notice.

21 FEB 2019

Date



**William M. Conde**  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Engineer