

Notice of Treated CSO Discharge

MWRA Cottage Farm CSO Facility

In accordance with the conditions of the Lower Charles River Basin Variance for Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO) issued by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to the MWRA on October 1, 2007, you are hereby notified that a discharge of treated combined sewage occurred at MWRA's Cottage Farm CSO Treatment Facility (Outfall MWR 201) to the Charles River.

The Variance requires the MWRA to notify local health agents, DEP, EPA and Charles River Watershed Association by email within 24 hours of a discharge. **The Cottage Farm CSO Facility discharged on November 14, 2009, beginning at approximately 11:01 AM and ending at 4:30PM.**

The Cottage Farm CSO Treatment Facility is located adjacent to the Charles River at 660 Memorial Drive in Cambridge, MA between Magazine Park and the BU Bridge. The facility provides hydraulic relief for MWRA's North and South Charles Relief Sewers and is the primary upstream relief point when wet weather flows in large storms exceed the hydraulic capacity of MWRA's Ward St Headworks, which directs flows to the Deer Island Wastewater Treatment Plant. Hydraulic relief is necessary to control system surcharging and backups in large storms. The Cottage Farm CSO Facility provides screening, sedimentation and disinfection with dechlorination of flows prior to discharge to the Charles River.

Discharges at the Cottage Farm CSO Facility may indicate the occurrence of other, untreated CSO discharges to the Charles River at several active and permitted outfalls along the Charles River Basin. Public health officials recommend avoiding contact with the river during rainstorms and for 48 hours afterwards, as there may be increased health risks due to bacteria or other pollutants.

If you need additional information about the most recent discharge at the Cottage Farm CSO Facility, please contact the MWRA Wastewater Operations Control Center at 617-305-5940.

For additional information please visit the following links:

Description of CSO Discharges and MWRA's CSO Control Program
<http://www.mwra.state.ma.us/03sewer/html/sewco.htm>

Charles River Variance
http://www.mwra.state.ma.us/harbor/html/cso_variance.htm

Charles River Water Quality
http://www.mwra.state.ma.us/harbor/html/cr_wq.htm

CSO Discharge Monitoring Reports
<http://www.mwra.state.ma.us/harbor/pdf/currentdmrcso.pdf>