PUBLIC NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING NOTICES OF INTENT SUBMITTED BY OPERATORS SEEKING AUTHORIZATION TO DISCHARGE STORMWATER UNDER THE U.S. EPA NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) SMALL MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM (MS4) GENERAL PERMIT

PUBLIC NOTICE PERIOD: January 18, 2006 - February 17, 2006

PUBLIC NOTICE NUMBER: MA-014-06

OPERATORS:

Massachusetts Highway Department
Massachusetts Turnpike Authority

PUBLIC HEARING:

EPA conducted a public notice period from November 2, 2005 – December 1, 2005 concerning NOIs submitted by these and other MS4 Operators. EPA received comments and requests for public hearings from several persons. Based on the significance of public interest, EPA has determined that a public hearing shall be conducted to receive additional comment concerning NOIs submitted by the Massachusetts Highway Department and the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority. Accordingly, a public hearing will be held as follows:

DATE: February 17, 2006
TIME: 9:15 – 11:15 AM
LOCATION: Worcester Public Library
3 Salem Square
Worcester, MA 01608

The following is a summary of procedures that shall be followed at the public hearing:

a. the Presiding Officer shall have the authority to open and conclude the hearing and to maintain order;

b. any person appearing at the hearing may submit oral or written statements and data concerning the Notices of Intent; and

c. the Presiding Officer may close the hearing prior to 11:15 AM if all those persons wishing to provide statements and data have previously done so.

Any person wishing to provide comments concerning these NOIs may do so in oral or written form at the public hearing. Comments will also be accepted by mail or email,

postmarked or submitted electronically by midnight on Friday, February 17, 2006, and directed to:

Mr. David J. Gray, P.E.
Office of Ecosystem Protection
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1
1 Congress Street, Suite 1100 (CIP)
Boston, MA 02114-2023
gray.davidj@epa.gov

After the public hearing and following the close of the public comment period, EPA will further review the NOIs, taking into consideration the comments received from the public, and render a decision regarding authorizing discharges of stormwater from the Operator's MS4. EPA will publish information regarding this public hearing on its web page as cited below.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Copies of NOIs and additional information regarding the NPDES Small MS4 Permit Program can be found at url: http://www.epa.gov/NE/npdes/stormwater/index.html or by contacting Ms. Ann Herrick at 617-918-1560.