

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
OFFICE OF WATER RESOURCES
RIPDES PROGRAM
235 PROMENADE STREET
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02908-5767

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED PERMIT ACTIONS UNDER THE RHODE ISLAND POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (RIPDES) PROGRAM WHICH REGULATES DISCHARGES INTO THE WATERS OF THE STATE UNDER CHAPTER 46-12 OF THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL LAWS OF 1956, AS AMENDED.

DATE OF NOTICE: July 31, 2019

PUBLIC NOTICE NUMBER: PN 19-08

DRAFT RIPDES PERMIT

RIPDES PERMIT NUMBER: **RI0023981**

NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF APPLICANT:

Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division Newport
1176 Howell Street
Code 1023 B-679/2
Newport, Rhode Island 02841

NAME AND ADDRESS OF FACILITY WHERE DISCHARGE OCCURS:

Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division Newport
1176 Howell Street
Newport, Rhode Island 02841

RECEIVING WATER:

Narragansett Bay – East Passage (Waterbody ID # RI0007029E-01A)
Narragansett Bay – East Passage (Waterbody ID # RI0007029E-01B)
Narragansett Bay – East Passage (Waterbody ID # RI0007029E-01M)

RECEIVING WATER CLASSIFICATION:

SA

The above-named applicant has applied to the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) for issuance of a RIPDES Permit to discharge into the above listed and designated receiving waters. The Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division Newport's mission is to operate the United States Navy's full-spectrum research and development center which conducts research, development, testing and evaluation, engineering and fleet support for submarines, autonomous underwater systems, and offensive and defensive weapons systems associated with undersea warfare, homeland security, and national defense. The discharge consists of seawater that is circulated through seawater reduction batteries by a passive "bubble pump". As hydrogen gas is formed as a byproduct of the reduction of seawater, used to

generate electrical current, a small flow of seawater is pushed out through vent ports in the batteries. The seawater will contain concentrations of magnesium hydroxide as a byproduct of the battery operation. The discharge is to three locations in the East Passage of Narragansett Bay. The facility is also covered under a separate RIPDES permit, number RI0023931 for the same type of testing in different locations in Narragansett Bay. However, the proposed discharge is to waterbodies classified as SA in the Rhode Island Water Quality Regulations (250-RICR-150-05 §1.25(K)(11)).

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE DRAFT PERMITS:

A statement of basis (describing the type of facility and significant factual, legal and policy questions considered in these permit actions) may be downloaded at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/water/permits/ripdes/> or a hard copy may be obtained at no cost by writing or calling DEM as noted below:

Travis Babikoff
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
RIPDES Program
235 Promenade Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02908-5767
(401) 222-4700, extension 7274
travis.babikoff@dem.ri.gov

The administrative record containing all documents relating to these permit actions is on file and may be inspected, by appointment, at the DEM's Providence office mentioned above between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING:

Pursuant to Chapter 42-12 and 42-35 of the Rhode Island General Laws a public hearing has been scheduled to consider this draft RIPDES permit, if requested. Requests for a Public Hearing must be submitted in writing to the attention of Travis Babikoff at the address indicated above. Notice should be taken that if DEM receives a request from twenty-five (25) people, a governmental agency or subdivision, or an association having no less than twenty-five (25) members on or before 4:00 PM on Friday, August 30, 2019, a public hearing will be held at the following time and place:

Thursday, September 5, 2019 at 5:00 PM
Room 280
235 Promenade Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

Interested persons should contact DEM to confirm if a hearing will be held at the time and location noted above.

235 Promenade Street is accessible to the handicapped. Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired must notify the DEM at 831-5508 (T.D.D.) 72 hours in advance of the hearing date.

Interested parties may submit comments on the permit actions and the administrative record to the address above no later than 4:00 PM on Friday, September 6, 2019.

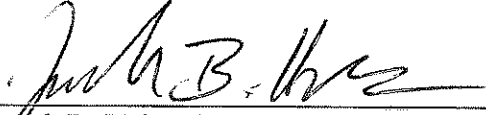
All persons who believe any condition of the draft permit is inappropriate, must raise all reasonable ascertainable issues and submit all reasonably available arguments and factual grounds supporting their position, including all supporting material, by the close of the public comment period on September 6, 2019. Commenters may request a longer comment period if necessary to provide a reasonable opportunity to comply with these requirements. Comments should be directed to Travis Babikoff as directed above.

If, during the public comment period, significant new questions are raised concerning the permit, DEM may require a new draft permit or statement of basis or may reopen the public comment period. A public notice will be issued for any of these actions.

FINAL DECISION AND APPEALS:

Following the close of the comment period, and after a public hearing, if such hearing is held, the Director will issue a final decision and forward a copy of the final decision to the permittee and each person who has submitted written comments or requested notice. Within 30 days following the notice of the final decision, any interested person may submit a request for a formal hearing in accordance with the requirements of 250-RICR-150-10-1.50 of the RIPDES Regulations.

7/29/19
Date



Joseph B. Haberek, P.E.
Supervising Sanitary Engineer
Office of Water Resources
Department of Environmental Management