

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
OFFICE OF WATER RESOURCES
PERMITS SECTION
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: Monday, December 15, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE NUMBER: PN-25-08

DRAFT RIPDES PERMITS

RIPDES PERMIT NUMBER: **RI0023485**

NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF APPLICANT:

Metals Recycling, LLC
69 Rover Street
Everett, MA 02149.

NAME AND ADDRESS OF FACILITY WHERE DISCHARGE OCCURS:

Metals Recycling, LLC
89 Celia Street
Johnston, RI 02919

RECEIVING WATER: **Woonasquatucket River and Tributaries (Waterbody ID#: RI0002007R-10C)**

RECEIVING WATER CLASSIFICATION: **B1**

The facility is located in Johnston and is engaged in scrap recycling and storage. The discharge consists of stormwater from the facility and its associated parking and storage areas. Stormwater enters the stormwater treatment system and is ultimately discharged to the Woonasquatucket River. When the facility is operating, activities include processing, separating, sorting, and stockpiling scrap metal and associated by-products. As part of these operations, automobiles are transported to the facility, any hazardous materials and automotive fluids are removed from the vehicles, the vehicles are shredded, and the shredded materials are sorted prior to being transported off-site for further processing. In accordance with Rule 32(b)(3)(I)(A) of the RIPDES Regulations, it has been determined that the facility is a significant contributor of pollutants and has, therefore, been

required to obtain an individual RIPDES permit. The facility has reapplied to the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management for reissuance of an individual RIPDES permit to authorize discharge from the facility through Outfall 001A. This permit includes benchmarks and an effluent limit to ensure that the discharge will not cause a water quality violation. It requires that the facility maintain a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to manage stormwater treatment system and other pollution controls. Benchmark exceedances shall trigger a review of the facility's SWPPP and the implementation of the appropriate corrective actions. Effluent limit exceedances shall trigger a review of the facility's SWPPP, the implementation of appropriate corrective actions, and possible compliance actions. The draft permit contains new requirements for corrective actions, updated benchmark values, and new monitoring periods.

The DEM has determined that the proposed activities comply with the Policy on the Implementation of the Antidegradation Provisions of the Rhode Island Water Quality Regulations (250-RICR-150-1) and that existing uses will be maintained and protected. A detailed evaluation of the water quality impact from the proposed activities and any important benefits demonstrations, if required, may be found in the statement of which is available as noted below.

RIPDES PERMIT NUMBER: **RI0023736**

NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF APPLICANT:

Fox Island LLC
50 Park Row West, Suite 113
Providence, RI 02903

NAME AND ADDRESS OF FACILITY WHERE DISCHARGE OCCURS:

Fox Island
North Kingstown, RI 02852

RECEIVING WATER: **West Passage of Narragansett Bay (Waterbody ID#RI0007027E-03A)**

RECEIVING WATER CLASSIFICATION: **SA**

The facility, which is the source of the discharge, is an individual residence and catering building located on Fox Island. The applicant has installed a package desalination system at a residential home located on Fox Island with the sole purpose of providing potable water for the main residence and catering building to supplement water from the existing shallow fresh water well. The proposed desalination unit is owned and operated by the applicant, who is also the homeowner, and is located at Fox Island off the coast of North Kingstown, Rhode Island. The discharge to the West Passage of Narragansett Bay consists of brine that has been concentrated by the reverse osmosis desalination system. The permit preserves conditions that require the permittee to maintain a logbook to document reverse osmosis system operation and maintenance activities, and

to implement standard operating procedures for the reverse osmosis system's annual winterization process and other maintenance activities.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

A statement of basis (describing the type of facility and significant factual, legal and policy questions considered in these permit actions) may be obtained at no cost by writing or calling DEM as noted below:

Ekaterini Papazekos, EIT, Environmental Engineer I
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Water Resources
235 Promenade Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02908-5767
(401) 537-4036
Email: ekaterini.papazekos@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 42-17.4 of the Rhode Island General Laws a public hearing has been scheduled to consider these permits if requested. Requests for a Public Hearing must be submitted in writing to the attention of Ekaterini Papazekos as 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 p.m., Thursday, January 15, 2026, a public hearing will be held at the following time and place:

6:00 PM Thursday, January 22, 2026
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 individuals who are handicapped. If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captioners) is needed, or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please call Ekaterini Papazekos or RI Relay 711 at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting so arrangements can be made to provide such assistance at no cost to the person requesting.

Interested parties may submit comments on the permit actions and the administrative record to the address above no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 23, 2026.

If, during the public comment period, significant new questions are raised concerning any of the permits, 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.

Any person, including the permittee/applicant, who believes these permit actions are inappropriate, must raise all reasonably 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 under 250-RICR-150-10-1.42 of the Regulations for the Rhode Island Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. The public comment period is from Monday, December 15, 2025 to Friday, January 23, 2026. Commenters may request a longer comment period if necessary to provide a reasonable opportunity to comply with these requirements. Comments should be directed to DEM as noted above.

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 Regulations for the Rhode Island Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.

11 December 2025

Date

Heidi Travers

Heidi Travers, P.E.

Environmental Engineer IV

RIPDES, Office of Water Resources

Department of Environmental Management