

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 ACTION 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: February 10, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE NUMBER: PN 26-01

**DRAFT RIPDES PERMIT**

RIPDES PERMIT NUMBER: RI0100111

NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF APPLICANT:

**City of Woonsocket**  
City Hall  
169 Main Street  
Woonsocket, Rhode Island 02895

NAME AND ADDRESS OF FACILITY WHERE DISCHARGE OCCURS:

**Woonsocket Regional Wastewater Commission**  
11 Cumberland Hill Road  
Woonsocket, Rhode Island 02895

RECEIVING WATER: **Blackstone River (Waterbody ID# RI0001003R-01A)**

RECEIVING WATER CLASSIFICATION: **B1**

The facility, which is the source of the discharge, is located in Woonsocket and is engaged in the treatment of domestic and industrial wastewater contributed by the City of Woonsocket and the Towns of North Smithfield, RI and Blackstone and Bellingham, MA. The facility has applied to the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management for reissuance of an individual RIPDES permit to discharge water from the treatment plant, which includes the use of the following equipment and processes: coarse screening, communitation, aerated grit removal, primary settling, biological treatment with nutrient removal, secondary settling, effluent polishing filters, chlorination, and dechlorination. The discharge of treated effluent is made to the Blackstone River

through Outfall 001A. This permit includes limits to ensure that the discharge will not cause a water quality violation.

The draft permit contains new requirements for the following: monitoring of influent and effluent for perfluorinated compounds, species sensitivity screening as part of whole effluent toxicity testing, inspection of the facility's outfall, and submission of a cybersecurity plan.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

A fact sheet (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:

Aaron Mello, Environmental Engineer II  
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management  
Office of Water Resources  
Permits Section  
235 Promenade Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02908-5767  
Phone: (401) 537-4255 / Email: [aaron.mello@dem.ri.gov](mailto:aaron.mello@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 AM and 4:00 PM, 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 Aaron Mello 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 Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 4:00 PM, a public hearing will be held at the following time and place:

5:00 PM Thursday, March 19, 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 Aaron Mello or RI Relay 711 by 4:00 PM on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, so that 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 PM on Friday, March 20, 2026.

If, during the public comment period, significant new questions are raised concerning the permit, DEM may require a new draft permit or fact sheet 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-150-10-1.43 of the Regulations of the Rhode Island Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. The public comment period is from Tuesday, February 10, 2026 to Friday, March 20, 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 of the Rhode Island Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.

29 Jan 2026

Date

Heidi Travers

Heidi Travers, P.E.  
Environmental Engineer IV  
RIPDES Program, Office of Water Resources  
Department of Environmental Management