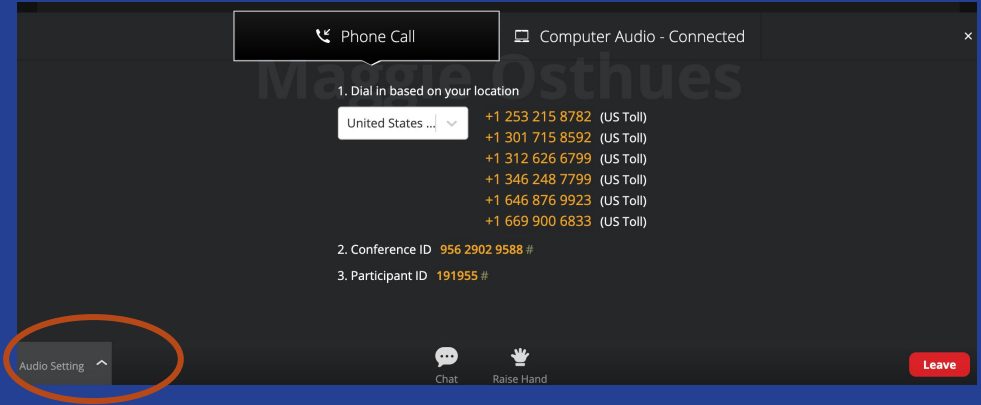


Welcome!

We are here tonight to discuss the Town's approach to removing the dam and restoring the Charles River in South Natick. We will begin shortly!



Checklist for Attendees



All attendees are automatically muted, with their video off.

- ✓ If you know you have less than optimal internet connection, please join the meeting via your computer for to view the screen and then opt to join via phone audio to listen.
- ✓ Bring a tech-adaptive mindset!



Community Update

Charles River
Dam Removal
& River Restoration

January 2024



Introductions



Ona Ferguson

Senior Mediator
Consensus Building
Institute



William Spratt

Executive Director of Public
Works & Facilities
Town of Natick



Derek Schipper

Senior Consultant
GZA Geoenvironmental



Adrienne Dunk

Project Manager and
Natural Resource Specialist
GZA Geoenvironmental



Goals for Tonight

- 1 Share the Town's approach to dam removal and river restoration
- 2 Get your feedback
- 3 Share how you can participate in the upcoming Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) process

Tonight's Agenda

6:30 - 7:15

Project Update

Overview on dam removal and river restoration process

7:15 - 7:45

Community Questions & Feedback

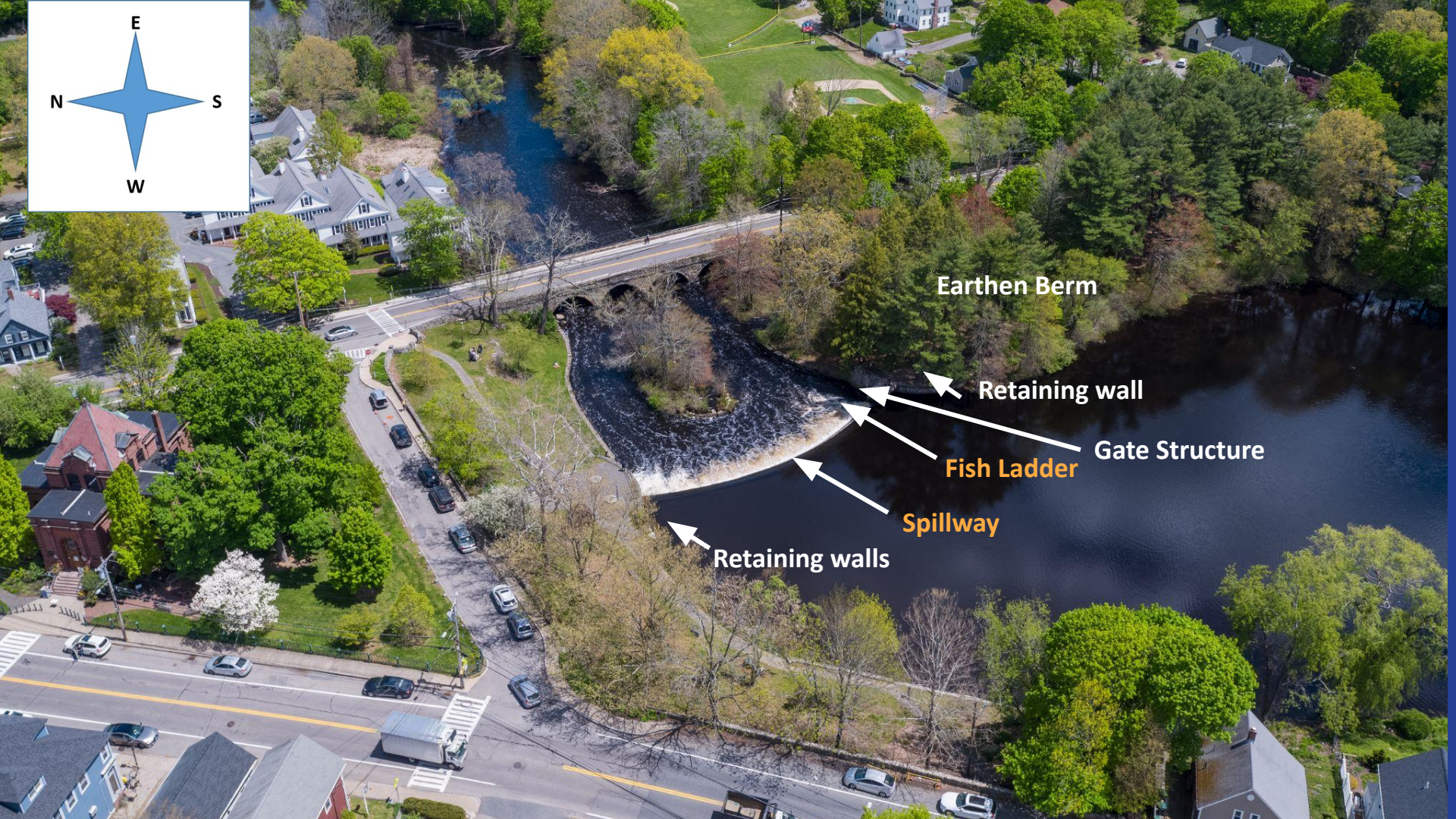
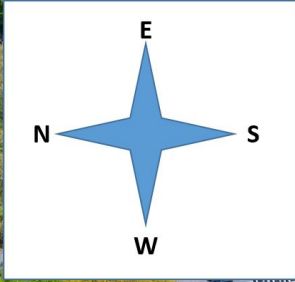
Clarifying questions on Natick's approach

Jamboard exercise

7:45 - 8:00

Closing & Next Steps

How to participate in the MEPA process



Earthen Berm

Retaining wall

Gate Structure

Fish Ladder

Spillway

Retaining walls

Project Timeline



PHASE I:

TASKS

FALL
23

WIN
24

SPR
24

SUM
24

FALL
24

WIN
25

SPR
25

SUM
25

Design & Environmental Permitting for the Removal of the Charles River Dam

 **Field Data Collection**

1. Partner outreach
2. Wetland delineation



 **Engineering Analysis**

1. Hydraulic & hydrologic analysis
2. Fish passage evaluation



 **30% Design**



 **60% Design and Report**



 **MA Environmental Policy Act Review**



 **Final Design & Permit Applications**



1. Office of Dam Safety (Chapter 253)
2. Mass DEP / Natick Cons. Comm.
3. 401/ Chapter 91

FOLLOW THE PROJECT

IN PROGRESS

 On schedule

 <3 month delay

 >3 month delay

FUTURE WORK

Funded by the MA Dam & Seawall Program

Coordination with Parks Project

Dam Removal & River Restoration

PHASE 1

Engineering, Environmental Review & Permitting

2 - 3 Years

PHASE 2

Dam Removal & River Restoration

1 - 2 Years

PHASE 3

Monitoring & Maintenance

1 - 2 Years

Riverfront Park Improvements

PHASE 1

Design & Permitting

3 Years

PHASE 2

Park Construction

1 - 2 Years

PHASE 3

Monitoring & Maintenance

1 - 2 Years

Best Practices in Dam Removal & River Restoration

Wekepeke Brook Dam (2014)

Pre-Demolition

*Sediment
management*

Dewatering plan



Wekepeke Brook Dam (2014)

During
Construction

Site access

Water management



Wekepeke Brook Dam (2014)

Immediately after
dam removal

Site management



Wekepeke Brook Dam (2014)

3 months after
dam removal

*Invasives
management*



Bartlett Rod Shop Co. Dam Removal (2012)

Downstream before
removal

*Sediment
management*



Photo credit: Robin MacEwan,
Stantec Consulting Services

Bartlett Rod Shop Co. Dam Removal (2012)

Downstream during first two weeks of removal



Photo credit: Robin MacEwan,
Stantec Consulting Services

Bartlett Rod Shop Co. Dam Removal (2012)

Downstream, six weeks into dam removal



Photo credit: Robin MacEwan,
Stantec Consulting Services

Bartlett Rod Shop Co. Dam Removal (2012)

Downstream,
six months after
dam removal



Photo credit: Robin MacEwan,
Stantec Consulting Services

Our Plan for Natick



Sediment



Dewatering



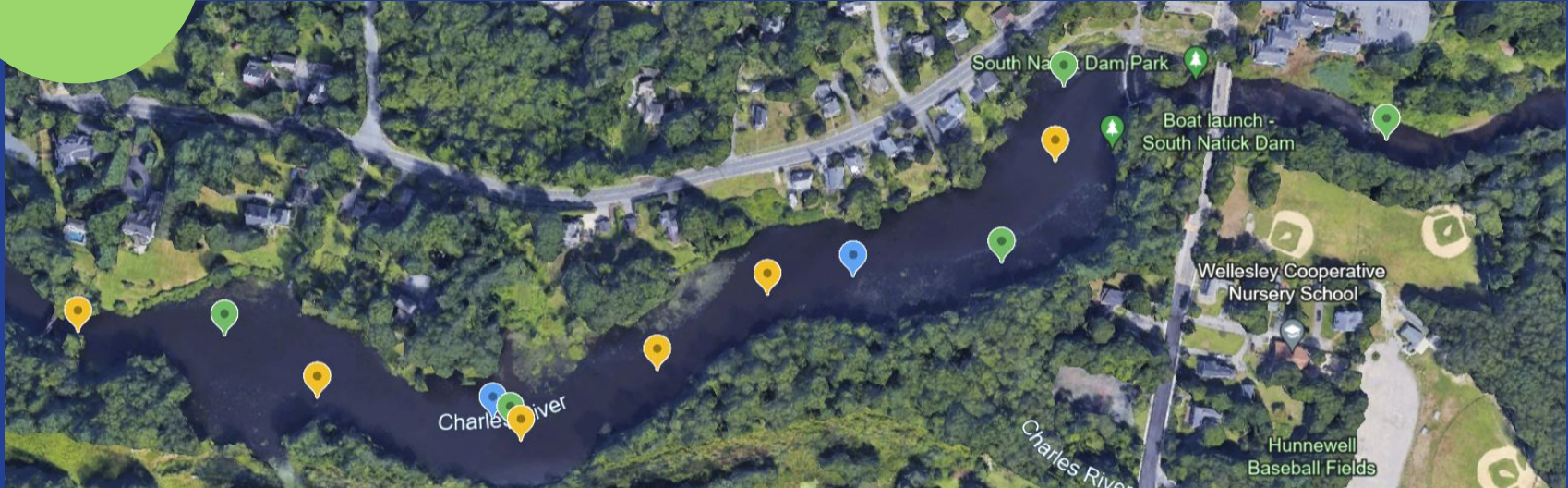
Construction



Invasives

Sediment

13 Soil Samples Taken Between 2019-2022



No contaminant levels of concern and the volume of soil is manageable through either release downstream or reuse as part of the construction process.

Sediment

Sediment Monitoring Locations



Estimated passive release of sediment
downstream 10,000 to 15,000 cubic yards

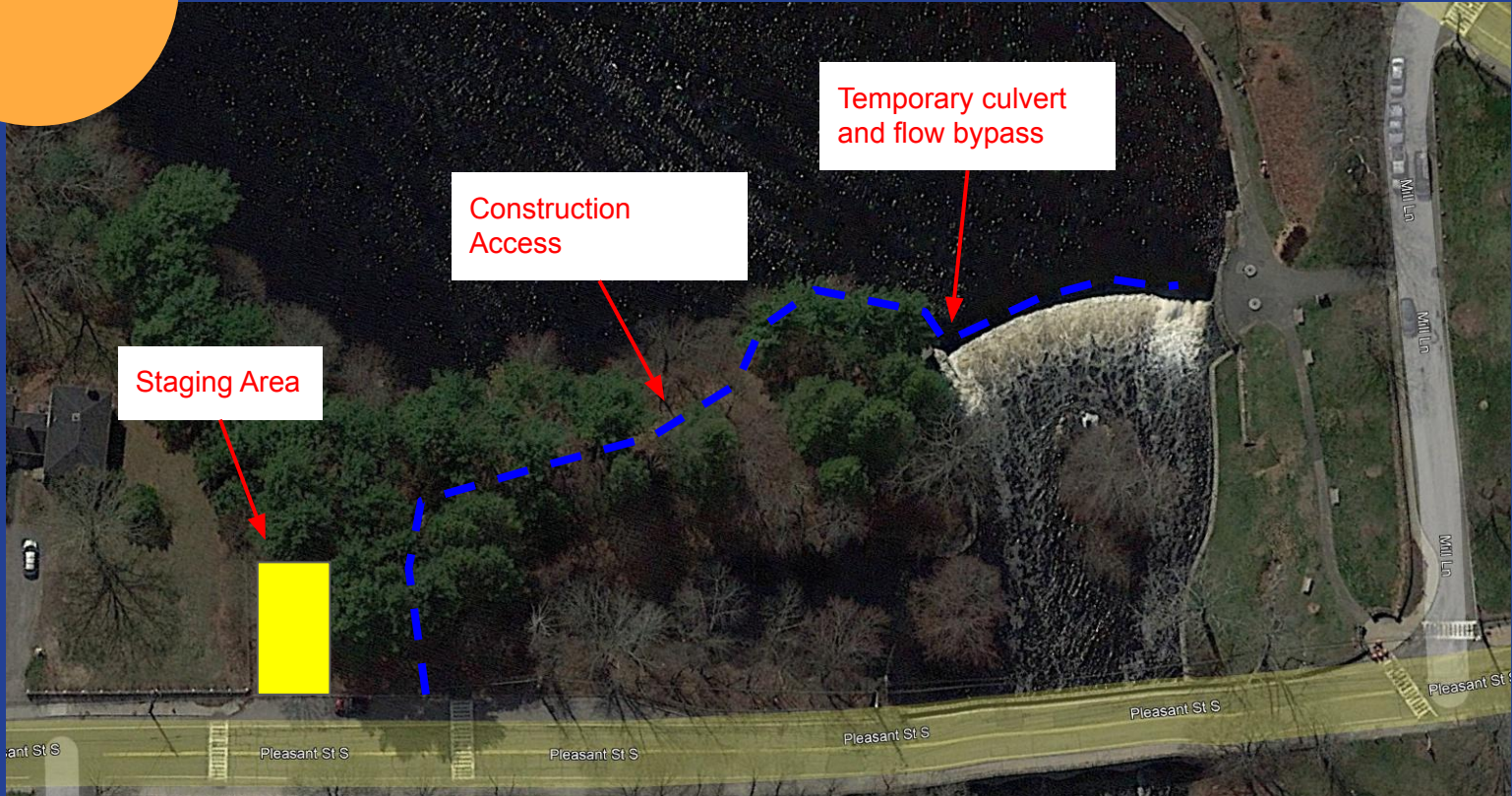
Dewatering

Open existing gates to lower
impoundment



Site Access

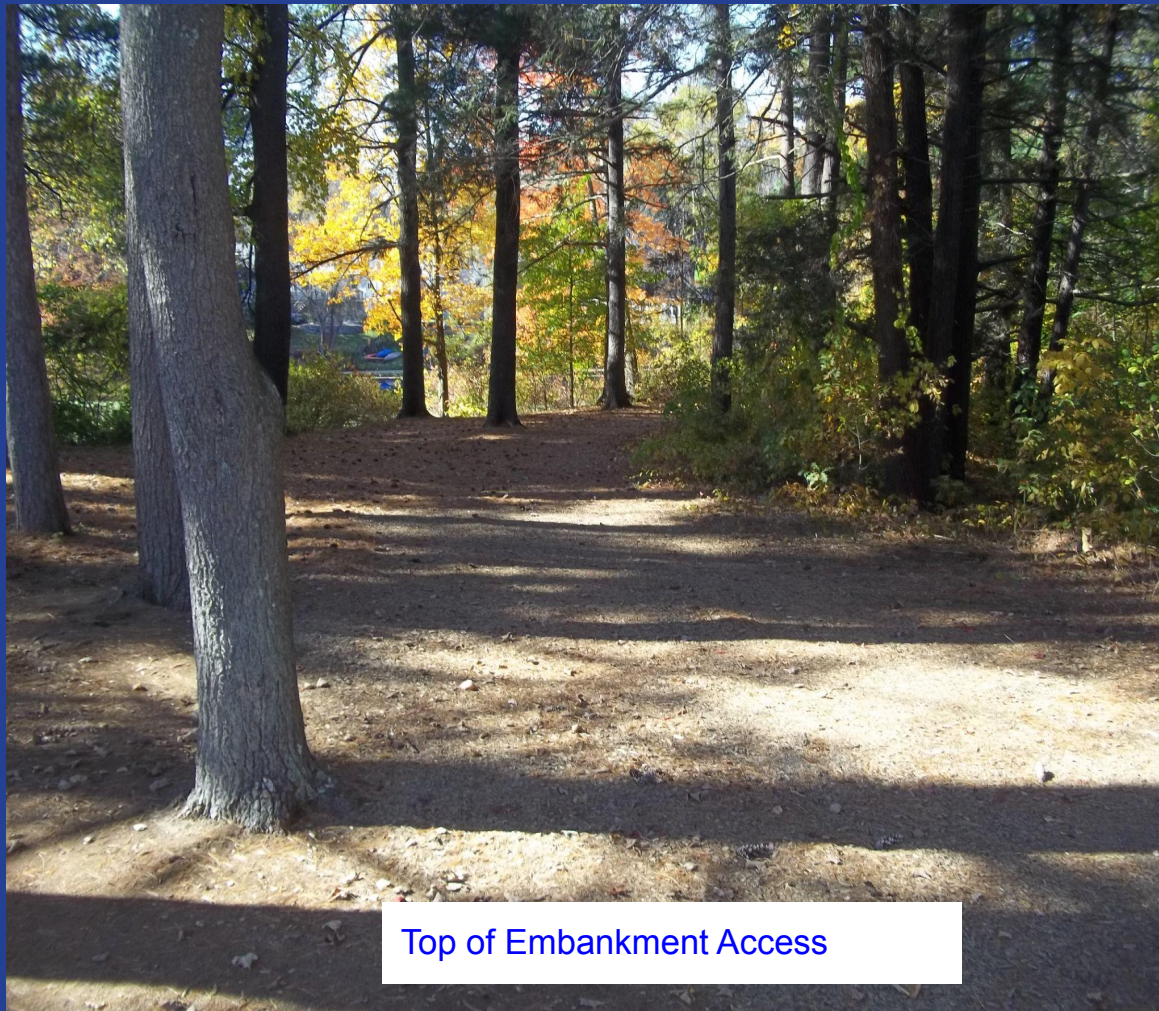
Construction



Construction



Construction



Top of Embankment Access

Invasives

Dam removal in other communities tell us to expect a mix of native and invasive species to grow on newly exposed land

Common invasives we may see include:



- Budget will be built into the construction phase of the project to manage the invasive species on Town owned property
- The Town is considering all options to assist private residents with invasive species removal including:
 - Creating a “grant” so residents can apply for funding
 - Temporary easements on private property to allow the Town to do initial removal (may or may not include follow up treatments)

Plan subject to approval by:



Massachusetts
Environmental
Policy Act (MEPA)



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers,
Section 404
Permit



Massachusetts
Office of
Dam Safety



MassDEP,
Chapter 91 and
Section 40I



Natick
Conservation
Commission,
Wetlands
Protection Act and
Local Bylaw

Q&A

What clarifying questions do you have about Natick's approach to dam removal and river restoration?

Jamboard Exercise

What should Natick consider during the dam removal and river restoration process?

Additional thoughts?

*If you have more you'd like to share
with the project team,
please share them by Feb 9 at:*

<https://forms.gle/YZTfhFW9zqf1acr27>

What's Next?

MEPA Process 101:

What is it?

- Environmental review process coordinated by the MEPA Office of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Who reviews projects?

- MEPA Office, Applicable Regulatory Offices, Public

What is the outcome?

- Secretary's Certificate that provides guidance on where additional study or review may benefit the project

What isn't it?

- A permit or authorization to do work. The MEPA Process precedes environmental permitting

MEPA Process 101:

What is the timeline?

Spring 2024

37 days

Spring 2024

Summer 2024

Submit Expanded Environmental Notification Form (EENF) to MEPA Office

Submission will be advertised in newspaper, Environmental Monitor, on the Town website, and the document will be sent directly to Regulatory Agencies

Public Comment Period

The Public and Agencies can review and provide public comment on the project. A public consultation session will be organized by the MEPA Office.

Secretary's Certificate Issued

The EEA Secretary will issue her Certificate with a Scope of information to include in Environmental Impact Report. All public comments are included with the Certificate.

Prepare and Submit Environmental Impact Report

The Environmental Impact Report is prepared in accordance with the Secretary's Certificate. It is available for review and public comment.

MEPA Process 101:

How can you be involved?

- Public input from previous public engagement will be incorporated into the EENF
- Feedback from tonight's session will be included in the EENF
- Provide comments on the EENF directly to the MEPA Office through their online portal or via email
- Attend and participate in MEPA Public Consultation Meeting
- Provide comments on the Environmental Impact Report

Thank you!

Share feedback
and receive updates @
NatickMA.gov/CRprojects

Sediment

EXAMPLE: Lead

Measured in parts per million

Cleanup Standard: 200ppm

Natural Soil Level: 100ppm

Urban Soil Level: 600ppm

Max. levels found upstream: 89ppm

