

The Reservoir Review

A Newsletter About Life on Neponset Reservoir

DEP EXTENDS DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS ONCE MORE

We are dedicating this issue of The Reservoir Review to one topic: Schneider Electric's Permanent Solution Statement (PSS) to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to release them from any cleanup efforts of Neponset Reservoir. The NRRC believes this should be of paramount concern to the residents of Foxborough and, in fact, any and all people who enjoy and respect this wonderful resource, its wildlife, nature and the environment in general.



November 2 was to mark the deadline for comments back to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in answering Schneider Electric's Permanent Solution Statement (PSS). In that PSS, Schneider makes the case that cadmium in Neponset Reservoir poses no significant risks and they are asking the DEP to relinquish them from any further monitoring or cleanup efforts of Neponset Reservoir.

The Town of Foxborough and the NRRC, along with their environmental consultant, met the November 2 deadline for comments and filed paperwork with the DEP to dispute Schneider's claim and provide data showing how cadmium levels pose a risk to both people, aquatic life and the environment. Additionally, the Foxborough Board of Selectmen wrote a comment letter to the DEP outlining their concerns. That letter appears at the end of this article in its entirety.

However, as was expected, Schneider then requested and received yet another extension to respond to those claims. The new deadline for Schneider to issue their rebuttal is January 31, 2019.

At that time, the DEP can take one of three actions: 1) they can accept the claim by Schneider Electric; 2) deny the claim by Schneider Electric; or 3) opt to study it further.

We will update residents on any further developments and outcomes on our **Neponset Reservoir, Foxboro** facebook page as well as our website at www.neponsetreservoir.com once we hear the results of the DEP review. Additionally, we will spotlight the results in our next issue of The Reservoir Review.

The NRRC remains steadfast in their belief that the cadmium levels present in the sediment of the Neponset Reservoir are an ongoing concern and it's imperative that Schneider continue to be responsible for monitoring the situation and cleanup efforts.

A copy of Schneider Electric's Final Draft Permanent Solution Statement can be found at Boyden Public Library / 10 Bird St / Foxboro, MA 02035

The Foxborough Board of Selectman Comment Letter to DEP



BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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FOXBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS 02035

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November 1, 2018

Ms. Millie Garcia-Serrano, Regional Director
Southeast Regional Office
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
20 Riverside Drive
Lakeville, MA 02347

Re: MCP Process for Neponset Reservoir
Town of Foxborough Comments

Dear Director Garcia-Serrano:

On behalf of the Town of Foxborough, the Board of Selectmen and its various Town agencies we would like to offer the following comments with respect to the Final Draft Permanent Solution Statement ("PSS") for the Neponset Reservoir prepared by Woodard & Curran, Inc. who represents Schneider Electric, USA.

The Town acknowledges that many years of study and fact finding have occurred regarding the impact of Cadmium levels that exist in the Reservoir. This study has occurred primarily through the efforts of Schneider Electric USA along with the oversight of the Neponset River Restoration Committee ("NRRC"), the Mass DEP Lakeville Office and various Town agencies that have included, but have not been limited to, the Conservation Commission, the Board of Health and the Water and Sewer Commission. The Town is grateful for the collective efforts of all these parties who have collaborated toward reaching some final conclusions and remedies that will allow the Neponset Reservoir to remain a viable Town asset for its residents for generations to come.

Based upon the findings contained in the Ecotec Report dated October 10, 2018, along with all of the input that the Town has sought from all its partners and agencies; including the NRRC, the Conservation Commission, the Water and Sewer Commission and the Board of Health, the Town of Foxborough respectfully requests that Schneider complete the Massachusetts Contingency Plan ("MCP") MCP process by answering two questions that we believe have not been adequately addressed in the Draft PSS. They are:

1. Drought=Possible Human Health, and Environmental Risk: *This relates to a “reasonably foreseeable condition” that has not been evaluated in the risk assessment. As we understand it, it is a requirement of the MCP Process to evaluate all such risks. Therefore, the Town would like to see this assessment performed. Admittedly, a drought resulting in most of the Reservoir becoming dry has not occurred in over sixty (60) years. However, there have been multiple occasions over the past ten (10) years where the water level of the Reservoir has receded exposing the bottom sediments in excess of (7) seven feet; thus allowing the Cadmium contaminated sediment to probably become dry and then become airborne.*
2. Impacts to Dredging= Risk to Public Welfare issue: *While dredging the Reservoir is not an immediate action that is contemplated as a maintenance action; over time, if the water level of the Reservoir continues to diminish (recent studies have revealed that sediment levels continue to rise), it may become necessary to do limited dredging in the Reservoir to help establish channels. If this were to occur the resulting question that remains unanswered is- What financial ramifications might there be for proceeding with a limited maintenance activity (sediment removal and disposal) for any contaminated areas? For example, the cost for disposal of clean sediment would cost X but the cost of disposal of Cadmium contaminated sediment would cost Y. One could reasonably conclude that the disposal cost delta for the Cadmium contaminated sediment would be more expensive to remove and properly dispose. The Town would like to further understand an analysis of this cost impact/exposure as part of the MCP process. More simply stated, it costs more to dispose of, truck, dewater and process contaminated sediment rather than processing “clean sediment”. As part of the MCP process, there needs to be an analysis that identifies what this cost delta would be.*

It is the stated goal of the Town and all of its agencies that we look forward to finalizing the MCP process. We are enthusiastic that this process is nearing the end. However, the Town is not satisfied that the full set of results from the MCP process has been achieved.

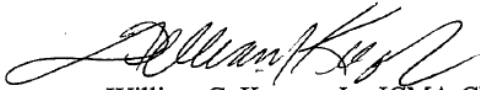
The Town views the Neponset Reservoir as a viable asset for the community with untapped potential as a recreational resource. These final comments/questions are aligned with the future plans for fully utilizing this resource. Therefore, assurances are necessary that once this final statement is completed the Town does not become liable for the costs of maintaining this asset; particularly as they relate to the contamination issue. Absent the analysis required by the

MCP process to address the questions contained in this letter, the Town would have no choice but to view this analysis as being incomplete.

We look forward to further dialogue and responses to these comments and hope that they will be properly addressed in the Final Permanent Solution Statement.

Thank you for affording us the opportunity to comment!

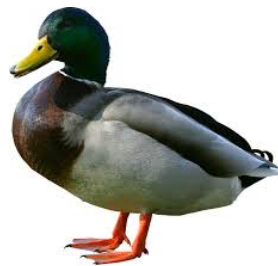
Very truly yours,

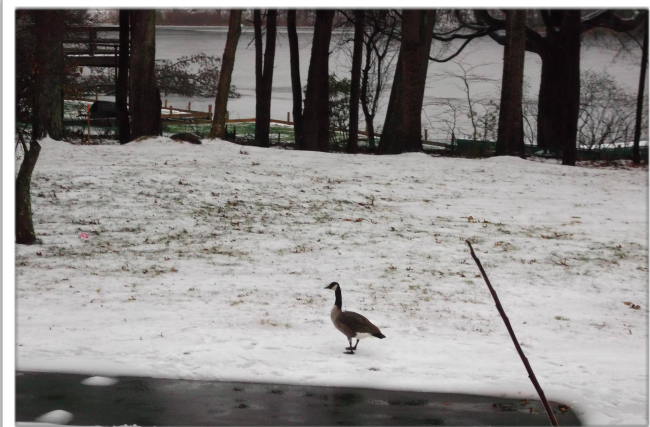


William G. Keegan, Jr., ICMA-CM
Town Manager

on behalf of the Foxborough Board of Selectmen and our Town Agencies

cc: Board of Selectmen, Board of Health, Conservation Commission, Water and Sewer Commission, NRRC, Senator Paul Feeney, Representative Jay Barrows, Paul Ahearn





NRRC, Inc
P. O. Box 430
Foxboro, MA 02035