



The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

Date: May 17, 2013

Subject: PUBLIC NOTICE – Great Bay Nitrogen Non-Point Source Study Available for Public Comment

Dear Interested Party or Stakeholder:

The Great Bay Estuary is 21 square miles of tidal waters located in southeastern New Hampshire. It is one of 28 “estuaries of national significance” established under the Environmental Protection Agency’s National Estuary Program. The estuary exhibits many of the classic symptoms of too much nitrogen pollution: low dissolved oxygen, algae growth, and declining underwater eelgrass habitat.

The majority of nitrogen in Great Bay Estuary originates from sources spread across the watershed rather than point sources, such as municipal wastewater treatment facilities. These sources of nitrogen are called non-point sources and consist of atmospheric deposition, fertilizer, human waste disposed to septic systems and animal waste. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) has been researching how much nitrogen each of these non-point sources contributes to the estuary. The results of this work are summarized in a new draft report called the Great Bay Nitrogen Non-Point Source Study.

The Draft Great Bay Nitrogen Non-Point Source Study is now available for public review and comment. The report is available from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) website at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/coastal/great-bay-estuary.htm> (scroll down this page to the section for “Great Bay Nitrogen Non-Point Source Study”).

Additional resources, including GIS files and an excel file with all the data used for the study are available for download from the Department’s FTP site at <ftp://199.192.6.23/DES/wmb/GBNNPSS/>

Comments will be accepted until 4 pm on June 17, 2013. Only written comments will be accepted. All comments must include contact information (your name, address, phone, e-mail, and organization).

Comments can be mailed to: Philip Trowbridge
NHDES Watershed Management Bureau
29 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095

or emailed to: Philip.Trowbridge@des.nh.gov

If you require additional time, information about the project or background data/materials to facilitate your review and prepare and submit your comments please contact Philip Trowbridge, NHDES Water Quality Standards Program Manager at (603) 271-8872 or via email at Philip.Trowbridge@des.nh.gov