



Save the Sound®

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Soundkeeper in Springfield April 24: Testimony will demand stronger protections to keep sewage out of CT River and LI Sound

New Haven, Conn. – Next Tuesday, April 24, the US Environmental Protection Agency will hold a public hearing on the draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission. Long Island Soundkeeper Bill Lucey will deliver Save the Sound's testimony.

Save the Sound has been protecting and restoring the waters and habitats of the entire Long Island Sound region for 40 years. Included in this duty is ensuring that excessive bacteria and nitrogen pollution from Massachusetts, Vermont, and New Hampshire do not travel from the Connecticut River's upper reaches to threaten public health and the Sound's water quality.

For nearly two decades, however, the EPA has allowed Springfield's wastewater treatment plant to do just that. The outdated permit has not required the plant to reduce its combined sewer overflows (CSOs), a situation Save the Sound staff attorney Jack Looney calls "beyond belief." In February 2018, Save the Sound [sent a letter to the EPA](#) demanding stronger protections in the Springfield Permit and requesting this public hearing.

At the hearing, Soundkeeper Bill Lucey will explain how upstream wastewater discharges and sewer overflows impact the affect downstream waters discharging into Long Island Sound—damage he has seen first-hand. He will push for reductions in the number of permitted CSO discharges and clear, enforceable permit limits on the nitrogen discharges that fuel low-oxygen dead zones and marsh deterioration in the Sound.

Area residents are strongly encouraged to attend and speak, as this is the first time in 18 years that the public has an opportunity to comment on the record regarding the Springfield plant's discharges.

What: Public Hearing on Springfield Water and Sewer Commission Draft NPDES Permit

When: Tuesday, April 24 at 5:00 pm

Where: Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (second floor large conference room)
60 Congress Street, Springfield, MA

Who: Soundkeeper Bill Lucey, Save the Sound
Concerned residents of Springfield and the Connecticut River Valley
US EPA

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