

# Current Water Quality Challenges and Opportunities in Massachusetts

NEWEA Regulator Roundtable

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# Topics

- \* Water Quality Standards Changes
- \* CSOs
- \* MS4 Permit
- \* PFAS

# Water Quality Standards Changes (314 CMR 4.00)

- \* Bacteria criteria for recreational waters
- \* Toxic criteria for aquatic life and human health
  - \* Includes aluminum and copper
- \* Cold water fisheries
- \* Stakeholder workshops
  - \* 2/25 in Boston
  - \* 2/27 in Worcester
- \* Draft regulations for public comment expected May or June 2019

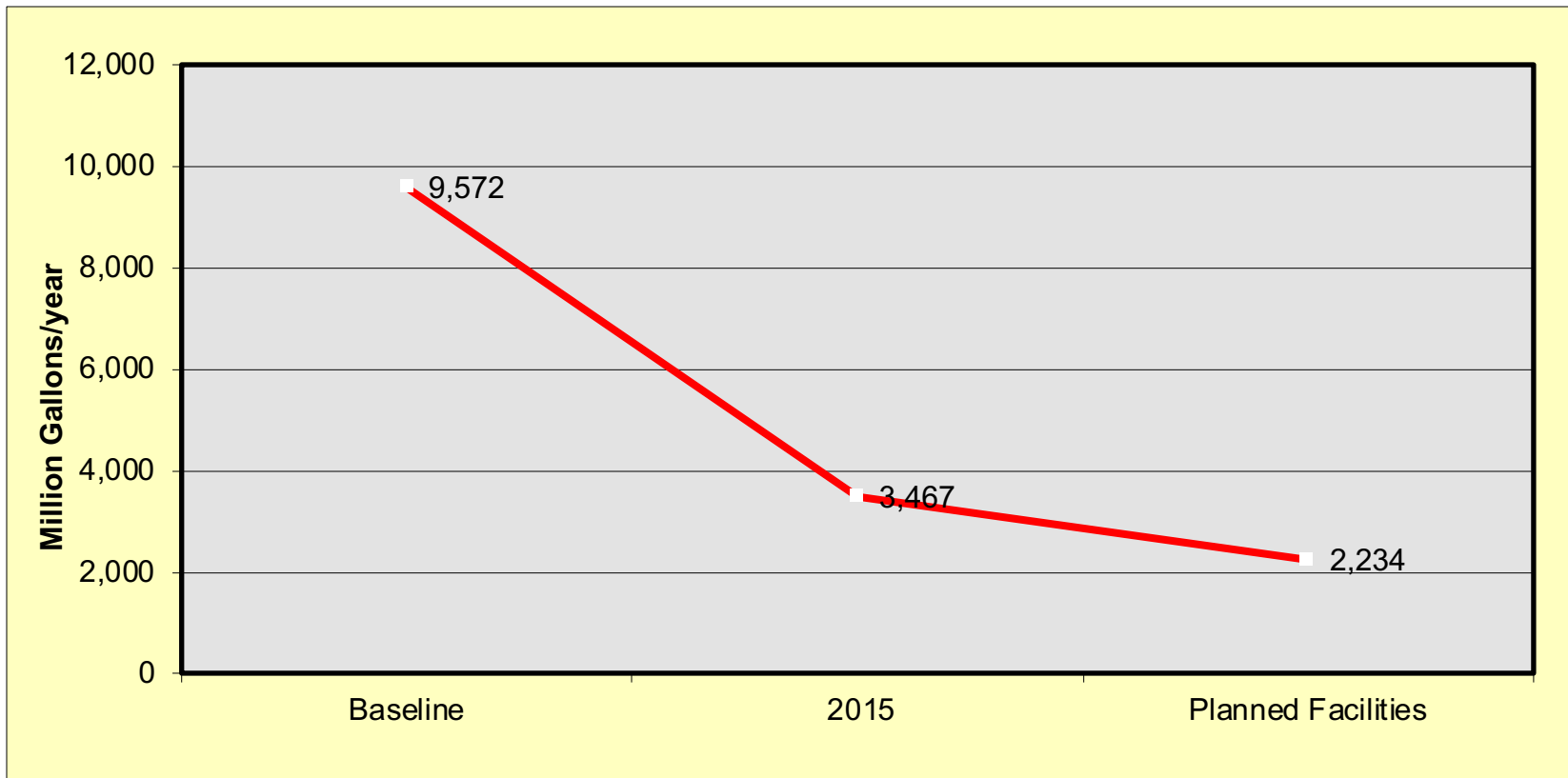
# Changes to Aluminum WQS

- \* EPA published new final aluminum criteria guidelines December 2018
- \* MA expects to be first state to adopt these criteria
- \* Equation-based criteria using DOC, pH, hardness
- \* MassDEP developing default criteria by watershed
- \* Option for discharge-specific criteria
- \* Implications for permitting

# CSOs in Massachusetts

- \* 19 CSO permittees in MA (previously 24)
- \* All permittees under state/federal enforcement action and implementing LTCPs
- \* Over \$2 billion spent in past several decades
- \* Bills proposed in legislature regarding CSO notification to the public
- \* Most recent draft NPDES permit for CSO community (Springfield) included 2 hour notification

# CSO Abatement Progress in Massachusetts



# MS4 Permit

- \* New MS4 permit issued 2016, became effective 7/1/2018
- \* NOIs due 10/1/2018, some authorizations issued
- \* Permit requires more aggressive actions and reporting requirements than previous permit

# MS4 Permit Assistance

- \* Cities and towns working collaboratively through regional stormwater coalitions
- \* MassDEP providing outreach and technical assistance
  - \* Hands on assistance available to any community requesting it
- \* \$300k in grants awarded in 2018 for municipal assistance
  - \* Think Blue Massachusetts
- \* At least \$200k expected to be awarded in 2019



# PFAS

- \* Established MA drinking water guideline in June 2018
  - \* 70 ppt for 5 PFAS compounds
  - \* 5 public water suppliers above guideline
- \* CLF and Toxics Action Center petition for rulemaking
- \* Requiring PFAS testing in approvals for land application of wastewater residuals
- \* Proposing waste site cleanup standards for soil and groundwater – draft regulations winter 2019
- \* More information: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>

# Questions?

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