

Lake Hopatcong Outflow: Effect of Low Flow on the Musconetcong Sewerage Authority

- The Musconetcong Sewerage Authority (MSA) is the first regulated discharge downstream of the Lake Hopatcong Dam (NJPDES Permit # NJ0027821). It is located approximately 1.45 river miles downstream of the Lake Musconetcong Dam.
- The drainage area to the MSA discharge is 30.9 square miles of which 25.3 square miles is contributed by Lake Hopatcong. **Consequently, the operation of the Lake Hopatcong Dam may have a significant effect on the dilution available at MSA's discharge.**
- At present MSA discharges about 4.31 million gallons per day (MGD) of treated wastewater, but its permit allows that discharge to increase to 5.79 MGD.

Water Quality in the Musconetcong River was compromised when -

- The MSA was not asked to participate in the Citizen's Advisory Committee. MSA did ask to participate and told the Committee was getting "too big".
- The MSA was not asked to comment or informed during the September 1, 2010 – September 28th, 2010 period when NJDEP was considering altering the outflow in violation of the minimum required by the Plan.
- The NJDEP did not measure the flow in the Musconetcong River at the discharge point during this period of evaluation
- No downstream users, including the Musconetcong Sewerage Authority were notified when the flow was altered on September 28th, 2010.
- MSA was not contacted nor was the flow at the discharge point monitored during the two week period of reduced outflow.

