



Saugus River Watershed Council

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Wheelabrator Saugus Violations Threaten Ongoing Efforts to Protect and Restore Natural Resources in the Region

SAUGUS, MA -- "Wheelabrator's blatant violations of the Clean Water Act and the Wetlands Protection Act at the Saugus waste incineration plant are appalling, and fly in the face of ongoing efforts to protect and restore natural resources in the region," said Joan LeBlanc, Executive Director of the Saugus River Watershed Council.

"Because the Wheelabrator waste incineration facility in Saugus is located adjacent to the Rumney Marshes Area of Critical Environmental Concern and the Saugus River / Lynn Harbor estuary, any pollution at the site has a direct impact on the Saugus River watershed," said LeBlanc.

"When you consider that the three surrounding communities of Saugus, Lynn, and Revere are all spending millions of dollars to upgrade their sewer and storm drainage infrastructure to improve water quality, the violations at Wheelabrator Saugus are even more upsetting," said LeBlanc.

"The Saugus River Watershed Council applauds the investigative work of Attorney General Martha Coakley, Environmental Affairs Secretary Richard Sullivan, and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Kenneth Kimmel. Thanks to their diligence, violations that threaten public health and our precious environmental resources have been identified and called to a halt. We sincerely appreciate their dedication to bringing this complex, large-scale, environmental investigation to a close," said LeBlanc.

"We certainly hope that the historic \$7.5 million enforcement action and heightened oversight will ensure that Wheelabrator complies with environmental protection laws going forward", said LeBlanc.

The Rumney Marshes ACEC is a 2,634 acre urban salt marsh system extending into Saugus, Lynn, Revere, Boston and Winthrop. This region was designated as an ACEC in 1988 to preserve its critical environmental value as one of the most biologically significant salt marshes north of Boston. The marsh contains flounder, alewife, rainbow smelt, American eel, soft shelled and razor clams, mussels, and a variety of native and migratory birds.

*The Saugus River Watershed Council is a non-profit organization founded in 1991
to protect and restore the natural resources of the Saugus River watershed.*

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