



CRITICAL WATER QUALITY PROBLEM
AREAS IN NEW ENGLAND

September, 1981

(Water quality problem areas not projected to meet fishable-swimmable goals of the Clean Water Act by 1983 even with the control of all point source discharges.)

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COMPILED BY: Water Quality Branch, EPA Region I
in cooperation with:

Maine Department of Environmental Protection

New Hampshire Water Supply & Pollution Control

Vermont Agency of Environmental Conservation

Massachusetts Division of Water Pollution Control

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Protection

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Background

The following tables list the "Critical Water Quality Problem areas in New England". Critical water quality areas are defined as those areas that are not likely to meet the fishable-swimmable goals of the Clean Water Act by 1983 even with the achievement of current permit limitations at all municipal and industrial point sources.

Critical areas are, therefore, those water areas with such severe pollution loading and/or minimal assimilative capacity that fishable-swimmable water quality standards violations will result even after all point sources are under control. The conditions that may cause a water area to be classified as a "critical water quality problem area", either singly, but usually in combination, are listed below:

1. Combined sewer overflows;
2. Low flow conditions either naturally occurring or caused by impoundments;
3. Bottom sediments and sludge deposits;
4. Exceedingly large municipal and/or industrial discharge loadings;
5. Toxic substances; and
6. Nonpoint source loadings (agricultural, urban runoff, etc.).

The listing of critical areas and the accompanying map are intended to help focus local, State, and Federal attention and efforts on these particular complex water quality problem areas. These listings will be useful in surfacing the tough policy decisions and initiating the negotiations required to solve these critical problems.

The critical areas listings were compiled using the 305(b) Water Quality Inventories and 303(e) Basin Plans prepared by the States as well as information available to EPA staff. This listing has been prepared using the best information available to date and will be revised as additional information is developed.

Although the eutrophication of lakes and impoundments is recognized as a critical water quality problem, specific bodies of water currently demonstrating intense eutrophication are not included in the listing. The reasoning behind their exclusion is that all lakes and impoundments represent fragile systems which should receive special attention and consideration in terms of water quality protection and management whether or not they are currently demonstrating eutrophic signs.

The amount of information currently available on toxic substances, their concentration and location, in New England's waters is extremely limited at this time. Therefore, the listing presents a limited insight into these waters impacted by toxic substances.

The listings have been reviewed by State water pollution control agency staffs. Nevertheless, the listings are intended as a guide subject to further refinement and discussion as additional information is made available.

CRITICAL WATER QUALITY PROBLEM AREAS IN NEW ENGLAND

State of MAINE

Name of Water Body	Location & Description	Miles Not Expected To Meet Fishable/Swimmable Goals By 1983	Water Quality Problems	Causes of Water Problems
Sebasticook River	Hartland Municipal Outfall to confluence with Kennebec River	40	Dissolved oxygen, solids, chromium	Joint Municipal and Industrial Discharge: Irving Tanning, Hartland Low Flow
East Branch Sebasticook	Dexter to confluence with Sebasticook River	14	Dissolved oxygen, color, solids, nutrients	Municipal Discharges: Dexter, Corrina, Newport Industrial Discharges: Eastland Woolen Combined Sewers: Dexter, Corrina, Newport
Presumpscot River	SD Warren Outfall in Westbrook to head of tide in Falmouth	7	Dissolved oxygen, fecal coliform, solids	Municipal Discharges: Westbrook Industrial Discharges: S.D. Warren Paper Mill Combined Sewers: Westbrook Low Flow (flow regulation) Benthic Demand
Presumpscot River	Gorham	1	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Gorham
Fore River - Portland Harbor	Portland	1	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Portland
Spurwink River	Cape Elizabeth	3.3	Coliform	Municipal Discharge
Saco River	Biddeford	3	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Biddeford
Penobscot River	From confluence of Millinocket Stream to Weldon Dam	17	Dissolved oxygen, solids	Municipal Discharges: Millinocket, East Millinocket, Medway Industrial Discharges: Great Northern Paper

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Penobscot River	Brewer, Bangor	2±	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Brewer, Bangor
Penobscot River	Old Town, Milford	1±	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Old Town, Milford
Penobscot River	Howland	1	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Howland
Penobscot River	Lincoln	1	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Lincoln
St. John River	From Fraser Paper outfall near Madawaska to U.S. Canadian Border	35	Dissolved oxygen, solids, coliform	Municipal Discharges: Van Buren, Madawaska Industrial Discharges: Fraser Paper (Canadian discharge) Combined Sewers: Madawaska, Van Buren, Fort Kent
Aroostook River	From Presque Isle Stream to U.S.-Canadian Border Fort Fairfield	28	Dissolved oxygen, coliform	Municipal Discharges: Presque Isle, Fort Fairfield Utility District, Caribou Combined Sewers: Fort Fairfield, Presque Isle Industrial Discharges: Potato Services Inc. Colby Co-op.

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Aroostook River	Washburn	1	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Washburn
Meduxnekeag River	Houlton	1	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Houlton
Piscataquis River	Dover-Foxcroft	1	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Dover-Foxcroft
St. Croix River	Danforth	1	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Danforth
St. Croix River	From Georgia Pacific outfall in Woodland to tidewater in Calais	10	Dissolved oxygen, coliform, solids	Municipal Discharges: Baileyville, Calais Industrial Discharges: Georgia Pacific Combined Sewers: Calais, Baileyville
Togus Stream	Augusta	6	Coliform, solids	Veteran's Hospital
Kennebec River	Bath	1 [±]	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Bath
Kennebec River	From Augusta to Richmond	15	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Augusta, Hallowell, Farmingdale, Gardiner, S. Gardiner, Randolph, Richmond
Kennebec River	Waterville to Winslow	2	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Winslow, Waterville
Kennebec River	Skowhegan	1	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Skowhegan
Kennebec River	Winthrop, tributary lakes	1	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Winthrop

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Little Androscoggin	From South Paris to Oxford	6	Dissolved oxygen, heavy metals, fecal coliform	Industrial Discharges: A.C. Lawrence, A.L. Stewart Municipal Discharges: Paris, S. Paris, Norway Combined Sewers: Paris, Norway Low Flow
Little Androscoggin River	Mechanic Falls	1	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Mechanic Falls
Androscoggin River	Rumford to head of tide (Brunswick)	90	Coliform, solids	Industrial Discharges: Rumford, Mexico, Dixfield, Livermore Falls Municipal Discharges: Rumford, Mexico, Dixfield, Livermore Falls Combined Sewers: Rumford, Mexico, Dixfield, Livermore Falls Lewiston, Auburn
St. George River	Thomaston	1	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Thomaston

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Machias River	Machias	1	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Machias
Carabassett River	Kingfield	1	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Kingfield
Fish Stream	Patten	1	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Patten
Mousam River	From outfall of the Sanford Sewage District to the tidewater	12	Dissolved oxygen, nutrients, coliform	Municipal Discharges: Sanford Combined Sewers: Sanford Impoundments Low Flow
Goosefare Brook	From the outfall at Maremont Corp. in Saco to the tidewater	2.5	Metals	Industrial Discharges: Maremont Corp. Low Flow Sediments
West Stream	North Berwick	2	Metals	Pratt and Whitney - low flows, metals
Messalonskee River	Oakland	1	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Oakland
Mattawamkeag River	Island Falls	1	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Island Falls
Pleasant River	Brownville	1	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Brownville
Castine Harbor	Castine	1	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Castine
Camden Tidewater	Camden	1	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Camden
Rockland Harbor	Rockland	1	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Rockland

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Boothbay Harbor	Boothbay	1	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Boothbay
Bar Harbor - Coastal Waters	Bar Harbor	1	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Bar Harbor
Narraguagus River	Milbridge	1	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Milbridge
Piscataqua River	Kittery	1	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Kittery

CRITICAL WATER QUALITY PROBLEM AREAS IN NEW ENGLAND

State of CONNECTICUT

Name of Water Body	Location & Description	Miles Not Expected To Meet Fishable/Swimmable Goals By 1983	Water Quality Problems	Causes of Water Problems
Connecticut River	From CT-MA line to East Haddam (Hartford & Middletown)	54	High coliform bacteria, solids	Combined Sewers: CT: Hartford, Enfield, Middletown MA: Springfield, Chicopee, Hadley, Holyoke, Northampton, West Springfield Urban Runoff
Quinnipiac River	From Mouth of Quinnipiac to shellfish line New Haven Harbor	6.0	Dissolved oxygen, high coliform, solids, metals, organic chemicals	Combined Sewers: New Haven Municipal Discharges: New Haven and upstream STP's Urban Runoff Industrial Discharges
Park River	From West Hartford to Connecticut River	5	Dissolved oxygen, oil, grease, solids, metals	Combined Sewers: West Hartford, Hartford Bottom Sediments Nonpoint Sources: Urban Runoff Low Flow Industrial Discharges
Thames River	From Yantic and Shetucket River in Norwich to Montville	2	Dissolved oxygen, coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Norwich, Griswold (Jewett City) Urban Runoff
Bridgeport Harbor	From point of entry of tributary stream to shellfish closure lines	N/A	Coliform, solids, sediments, nutrients	Combined Sewers: Bridgeport Urban Runoff

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Name of Water Body	Location & Description	Miles Not Expected To Meet Fishable/Swimmable Goals By 1983	Water Quality Problems	Causes of Water Problems
Norwalk Harbor	From point of entry of tributary streams to shellfish closure lines	N/A	Coliform, solids, sediments, dissolved oxygen, metals	Combined Sewers: Norwalk Urban Runoff
Housatonic River	From confluence with Naugatuck River to Parkway Bridge	5	Coliform	Combined Sewers: Derby, Shelton Municipal and Industrial Discharges: Ansonia, Derby, Shelton, Milford, Stratford Urban Runoff
Housatonic River	From MA state line to dam forming Lake Zoar	51	Toxics (PCBs), nutrients, algal blooms	Bottom Sediments (PCBs) Municipal Discharges: Pittsfield, Danbury, Bethel Nonpoint Sources Hydropower Influences
French River	From MA state line to confluence with Quinebaug River	6	Dissolved oxygen, solids, coliform, nutrients, metals	Discharges in MA Low Stream Flow Bottom Sediments Impoundments
Quinebaug River	From MA state line to confluence with Five Mile River	16	Dissolved oxygen, solids, coliform	Discharges in MA Nonpoint Source (land fill) Bottom Sediments
Mill River	From Lake Whitney Dam to mouth at Fairfield	4	Metals, dissolved oxygen, solids, nutrients	Contaminated Sediments Combined Sewers Urban Runoff

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Name of Water Body	Location & Description	Miles Not Expected To Meet Fishable/Swimmable Goals By 1983	Water Quality Problems	Causes of Water Problems
Naugatuck River	From Steele Brook in Waterbury to the mouth at Ansonia	20	Dissolved oxygen, coliform, toxics, metals	Municipal and Industrial Discharges: Thomaston, Watertown, Waterbury, Naugatuck, Ansonia, Derby Bottom Sediments Combined Sewers: Waterbury, Derby, Ansonia
Pequonnock River	From Pond outlet to mouth	3	Dissolved oxygen, solids, metals	Combined Sewers Urban Runoff

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State of NEW HAMPSHIRE

Name of Water Body	Location & Description	Miles Not Expected To Meet Fishable/Swimmable Goals By 1983	Water Quality Problems	Causes of Water Problems
Merrimack River	Amoskeag Dam to Cohas Brook in Manchester	5.5	Suspended solids, coliform	Combined Sewers: Manchester Impoundments
Nashua River	Nashua, NH to confluence with Merrimack	5	Suspended solids, dissolved oxygen	Massachusetts Bottom Sediments Impoundments
Merrimack River	Nashua River to state line	6	Suspended solids, dissolved oxygen, coliform	Impact of Nashua River
Ashuelot River	Winchester, NH to Connecticut River	10	Suspended solids, dissolved oxygen, coliform	Municipal and Industrial Discharges: Winchester, Hinsdale (NPDES Permits written for Class C) Low Flow
Androscoggin River*	Berlin, NH to Maine border	16	Suspended solids, dissolved oxygen, coliform	Industrial Discharges: Berlin (NPDES Permits written for Class C)

*May be removed from list subject to future studies.

CRITICAL WATER QUALITY PROBLEM AREAS IN NEW ENGLAND

State of RHODE ISLAND

Name of Water Body	Location & Description	Miles Not Expected To Meet Fishable/ Swimmable Goals By 1983	Water Quality Problems	Causes of Water Problems
Blackstone River	From confluence with Branch River to Main Street Dam, Pawtucket	17	Dissolved oxygen, coliform	Municipal Discharges: Woonsocket STP Industrial Discharges: Woonsocket, Central Falls, Cumberland Combined Sewer Overflows
Clear River and Branch River	From the Burrillville discharge to Slaterville Reservoir	2.6	Coliform	Burrillville Municipal Discharge Low flow
Moshassuck River	From Saylesville to confluence with Woonasquatucket River	4.9	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewer Overflows: Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence
West River (Geneva Brook)	Providence City line to confluence with Moshassuck River	2.0	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewer Overflows: Providence
North Branch Pawtuxet River	From Rt. 116 bridge to confluence with South Branch	3.9	Coliform	Industrial Discharge: Falvey Linen Urban Runoff Low Flow
South Branch Pawtuxet River	From South Main Street bridge in Coventry to confluence with North Branch	7.0	Dissolved oxygen, coliform	Industrial Discharges: Coventry, West Warwick, American Hoechst Raw sewage discharge in Washington and Anthony Low Flow

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Pawtuxet River	From confluence of North and South Branches to Providence River	11.7	Dissolved oxygen, coliform	Municipal Discharges: Warwick, STP, Cranston STP, W. Warwick STP Industrial Discharges: Ciba-Geigy Low Flow
Pocasset River	From Prints Works Pond to Pawtuxet mainstem	3.1	Coliform	Urban Runoff
Mashapaug Brook	From Mashapaug Pond to Roger William Park	3.0	Dissolved oxygen, coliform	Urban Runoff; drainage from zoo, Falstaff Brewing Co. Industrial Discharge: Providence Low Flow
Woonasquatucket River	From Smithfield STP outfall to Providence River	8.0	Coliform	Municipal Discharge: Smithfield Combined Sewer Overflows: Providence
Pawcatuck River	From Kenyon Piece Dye Works to Carolina Mill Pond	1.9	Coliform	Kenyon Piece Dye Works Discharge
Pawcatuck River	From Bradford Dyeing Association discharge to Route 3 Bridge	4.4	Coliform	Bradford Dyeing Association & Imperial Wallpaper Co. Discharges

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Name of Water Body	Location & Description	Miles Not Expected To Meet Fishable/ Swimmable Goals By 1983	Water Quality Problems	Causes of Water Problems
Pawcatuck River Estuary & Pawcatuck River	From White Rock Section in Westerly to Mouth at Rhodes Point	4.0	Coliform, solids	Municipal Discharges: Westerly STP Individual Discharges in Rhode Island
Seekonk River	From Main Street Dam in Pawtucket to Providence River	4.8	Dissolved oxygen, coliform, solids	Combined Sewer Overflows: Blackstone Valley District Com. STP
Providence River	From confluence of Woonasquatucket and Moshassuck River to Upper Narragansett Bay	8	Dissolved oxygen, coliform, solids	Combined Sewer Overflows: Providence Municipal Discharges: Providence STP, East Providence STP
Ten Mile River	From Mass. state line to mouth	6	Heavy metals, dissolved oxygen	Wastewater discharges in Massachusetts
Mount Hope Bay	East portion of Mt. Hope Bay bordering Mass. state line	1740A	Dissolved oxygen, coliform, oil, and grease	Municipal and Industrial Discharges in Massachusetts Combined Sewers: Fall River
Narragansett Bay	Localized pollution in harbors and vicinity of point sources of pollution	1922A	Coliform, solids	Municipal and Industrial Discharges, marinas, stormwater runoff Combined Sewers: Newport, Providence
Queen River	From Ladd School STP discharge to confluence with Queen's Brook	0.6	Coliform	Institutional Discharge at Ladd School

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Name of Water Body	Location & Description	Miles Not Expected To Meet Fishable/ Swimmable Goals By 1983	Water Quality Problems	Causes of Water Problems
Wood River	From Wyoming Pond Dam to U.S.G.S. gaging station south of Hope Valley	1.8	Coliform	Individual Sewage Discharges in Hope Valley
Ashaway River	From Ashaway Road Bridge to the confluence with the Pawcatuck River	0.9	Coliform	Individual Sewage Discharges in Ashaway

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State of MASSACHUSETTS

Name of Water Body	Location & Description	Miles Not Expected To Meet Fishable/Swimmable Goals By 1983	Water Quality Problems	Causes of Water Problems
Blackstone River	Worcester to Rice City Pond	16	Dissolved oxygen, coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Worcester Sediments in impoundments Low Flow
Boston Harbor	Inner Harbor	N/A	Dissolved oxygen, nutrients,	Combined Sewers
Mystic River	Lower Mystic	2.0	solids, oil and grease, coliform	Urban runoff from Boston and Metropolitan area
Charles River	Charles Basin	9.8		
Charles River	Milford to Medfield	29	Dissolved oxygen, nutrients	Natural conditions, WWTP effluent, (low flow, low gradient)
Chicopee River	Route 33 Chicopee Falls to Connecticut River	3.0	Dissolved oxygen, coliform, toxic substances	Sediments in impoundments Combined Sewers: Chicopee, Springfield
Connecticut River	Holyoke to Connecticut state line	16	Coliform, solids, oil and grease	Combined Sewers: Holyoke, Chicopee, Springfield
Hop Brook (Tributary to Sudbury River)	Marlborough East WWTP to Sudbury River	9.7	Dissolved oxygen, nutrients, coliform	Municipal Discharge: Marlborough East WWTP Extreme Low Flow Impoundments
Assabet River	Headwaters to Sudbury River	32	Dissolved oxygen, nutrients	Municipal Discharges: Westborough, Shrewsbury, Hudson, Maynard, Marlborough Extreme Low Flow Impoundments

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State of MASSACHUSETTS

Name of Water Body	Location & Description	Miles Not Expected To Meet Fishable/Swimmable Goals By 1983	Water Quality Problems	Causes of Water Problems
French River	Webster-Dudley to Connecticut state line	4	Dissolved oxygen, nutrients	Combined Municipal and Industrial Wastewater: Webster & Dudley Bottom Sediments Low Flow Impoundments
Housatonic River	Pittsfield to Connecticut state line	62	Dissolved oxygen, nutrients, PCB's	Municipal Discharge: Pittsfield Industrial Discharge: General Electric Nonpoint Sources Impoundments
Merrimack River	Lowell to Merrimac	29	Coliform, oil and grease, solids	Combined Sewers: Lowell, Lawrence, and Haverhill
Nashua River	North Branch, Fitchburg to mainstem confluence	19.6	Dissolved oxygen, coliforms, plant nutrients	Industrial Discharge: Fitchburg Combined Sewers: Fitchburg Low Flow
New Bedford Harbor	Inner Harbor, lower portion of Acushnet River	4	Nutrients, solids, oil and grease, heavy metals, coliform, PCB's	New Bedford Hurricane Barrier New Bedford Combined Sewers Harbor Sediments Industrial Discharge: New Bedford
Ten Mile River	Headwaters in Plainville to Seekonk River	20.0	Dissolved oxygen, nutrients, sediment toxicity	Low Flow Impoundments Heavy metals in sediment

CRITICAL WATER QUALITY PROBLEM AREAS IN NEW ENGLAND

State of VERMONT

Name of Water Body	Location & Description	Miles Not Expected To Meet Fishable/ Swimmable Goals By 1983	Water Quality Problems	Causes of Water Problems
Barton River	Barton	1±	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Barton
Barton River	Orleans	1±	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Orleans
Battenkill River	Manchester	1±	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Manchester
Black River	Springfield	1±	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Springfield
Connecticut River	Windsor	1±	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Windsor
Lake Champlain	Burlington Harbor	NA	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Burlington
Dog River	Northfield	1±	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Northfield
Lamoille River	Hardwick	1±	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Hardwick
Lamoille River	Morrisville	1±	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Morrisville
McCabes Brook	Shelburne	1±	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Shelburne
Lake Memphremagog	Newport Bay	NA	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Newport
Missisquoi River	Enosburg	1±	Coliform, solids,	Combined Sewers: Enosburg
Missisquoi River	Swanton	1±	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Swanton
North Branch and Deerfield River	Wilmington	1±	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Wilmington

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State of VERMONT

Name of Water Body	Location & Description	Miles Not Expected To Meet Fishable/ Swimmable Goals By 1983	Water Quality Problems	Causes of Water Problems
Otter Creek	Rutland to Pittsford	11.5	Coliform, solids, dissolved oxygen	Combined Sewers: Rutland Municipal Wastes: Rutland
Otter Creek	Middlebury	1±	Coliform, solids, dissolved oxygen	Combined Sewers: Middlebury
Otter Creek	Vergennes	1±	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Vergennes
Passumpsic River	Lyndon	1±	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Lyndon
Passumpsic River	St. Johnsbury	1±	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: St. Johnsbury
Stevens Brook	St. Albans	1±	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: St. Albans
Stevens Branch	Barre, City of	1±	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Barre
Third Branch (White River)	Randolph	1±	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Randolph
Walloomsac River	Bennington	1±	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Bennington
White River and Connecticut River	White River Junction	2±	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: White River Junction
Winooski River	Montpelier, City of	4±	Coliform, solids, dissolved oxygen	Combined Sewers: Montpelier Municipal and industrial wastes
Winooski River	Waterbury	1±	Coliform, solids	Combined Sewers: Waterbury

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State of VERMONT

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Winooski River	Below Essex Junction to Lake Champlain	15 [±]	Coliform, solids, dissolved oxygen	Combined Sewers: Winooski, Burlington Point Sources: Essex Junction, Burlington, Winooski Low Flow Impoundments

PAGE NOT

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DIGITALLY