Second
Annual Report

New England
Interstate Water Pollution
Control Commission

June 30, 1949
Second Annual Report

NEW ENGLAND
INTERSTATE WATER POLLUTION
CONTROL COMMISSION

For the Year Ending

June 30, 1949

335 State Office Building
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND
LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

The Honorable Paul A. Dever, Governor of Massachusetts;
The Honorable Chester Bowles, Governor of Connecticut;
The Honorable John O. Pastore, Governor of Rhode Island;
and Members of the Respective State Legislatures.

Sirs:

I have the honor to transmit herewith the Second Annual Report of the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission for the year ending June 30, 1949. Meetings of the Commission during the year were held in Boston and in Providence. Business pertaining to the establishment of permanent headquarters and the acquisition of staff personnel was transacted.

At this year’s end, definite information is at hand that the State of New York and the State of Vermont will shortly become signatories to the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Compact.

Respectfully submitted,

ALBERT E. MARSHALL
Chairman

September 1, 1949.
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New England Interstate Water Pollution
Control Commission

MEMBERSHIP

CONNECTICUT

Stanley H. Osborn, M.D.
Commissioner of Health

Mr. Richard Martin
Director, State Water Commission

Russell P. Hunter, Ph.D.
Superintendent, State Board of Fisheries
and Game

Mr. Dexter D. Coffin
President, C. H. Dexter & Sons, Inc.,
Windsor Locks, Connecticut

Mr. Benjamin L. Barringer
Attorney
Brookfield, Connecticut

MASSACHUSETTS

Vlado A. Getting, M.D.
Commissioner, Department of Public
Health

Mr. Robert H. Russell
Treasurer, J. Russell & Company, Inc.,
Holyoke, Massachusetts

Mr. Lawrence K. Miller
Editor, Berkshire Eagle, Pittsfield,
Massachusetts

Mr. Leo Marceau
Outdoor Editor for Springfield Newspapers and Radio Commentator

RHODE ISLAND

Mr. Walter J. Shea
Chief Sanitary Engineer, State Department of Health

Mr. Thomas E. Harding
City Engineer, City of Pawtucket

Mr. Albert E. Marshall
President, Rumford Chemical Works,
Rumford, Rhode Island

Mr. Alvah J. Webster
Director of State Planning, State Planning Board

Mr. Harold N. Gibbs
Fish and Wildlife Expert,
Barrington, Rhode Island

OFFICERS

Vlado A. Getting, M.D.
Chairman

Mr. Benjamin L. Barringer
Vice-Chairman

Mr. Leo Marceau
Treasurer

Mr. Walter J. Shea
Secretary

TECHNICAL ADVISORY BOARD

Mr. Walter J. Shea, Chm.
Chief, Division of Sanitary Engineering, Rhode Island State Department of Health

Mr. Warren J. Scott
Director, Bureau of Sanitary Engineering, Connecticut State Department of Health

Mr. Arthur D. Weston
Chief Engineer, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Mr. William S. Wise
Chief Engineer, Connecticut State Water Commission
ANNUAL ELECTION

Upon the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission at its Annual Meeting held on June 14, 1949, elected the following Commissioners to serve as the officers of the Commission for the ensuing year:

Chairman: Mr. Albert E. Marshall
Vice-Chairman: Dr. Russell P. Hunter
Treasurer: Mr. Leo Marceau
Secretary, pro tem: Mr. Walter J. Shea

The Commissioners publicly express their sincere appreciation and thanks to the retiring officers for services generously given and meticulously performed during the formative period of the organization.
FINANCIAL REPORT

Year Ending June 30, 1949

Balance on hand, July 1, 1948 ........................................ $ 2,500.00

Appropriations Received:

Connecticut ........................................... $ 1,363.64
Massachusetts ........................................ 2,954.54
Rhode Island ........................................ 681.82  5,000.00

............................................................... $ 7,500.00

Expenditures:

Personal Services ........................................ $ 154.39
Meetings ................................................. 62.25
Postage .................................................. 35.00
Printing and Binding .................................... 249.00
Stationery and Office Supplies ....................... 299.63
Telephone and Telegraph ................................ 1.13
Travel .................................................. 67.79
Misc. Office Expenses .................................. 43.60  905.28

............................................................... $ 6,594.72

Balance, Year ending June 30, 1949: .......................... $ 6,594.72

Represented by
Cash in the Springfield Safe Deposit and Trust Co. .... $ 6,494.72
Petty Cash .............................................. 100.00

............................................................... $ 6,594.72
BY-LAWS
(As amended in June 1949)

ARTICLE I

SEAL

Section 1. The seal of the commission shall be a design bearing the coats of arms of the signatory states and bearing the words "New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission—Est. 1917."

ARTICLE II

OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the commission shall consist of a chairman, vice-chairman, and a treasurer. Terms of officers elected by the commission shall be for one year starting July 1 following the date of election. The treasurer shall be bonded in the amount of $1000. All officers shall serve for a term of one year unless re-elected.

Section 2. Duties of the officers:

a. The Chairman. The chairman shall preside at all meetings and have general supervision over the business and affairs of the commission.

b. The Vice-Chairman. The vice-chairman shall perform the duties of the chairman in the event the office of the chairman is vacant, or in the event that the chairman is unable to perform such duties by reason of illness, disability or absence.

c. The Treasurer. The treasurer shall have the custody of all funds of the commission, under the supervision of the commissioners. He shall prepare the financial reports necessary under the terms of the compact.

d. The Secretary. The secretary, as provided for in Article IV of the compact, shall keep the official records and the seal of the commission and shall certify, when required, to copies of records; and shall, from time to time, perform such other duties, as shall be assigned to him by the Commission. He shall be bonded in the amount of $1000. He shall prepare the annual report of the commission pursuant to the orders of the chairman, and such report shall be submitted to the commission for action.

ARTICLE III

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSION

Section 1. Pending the establishment of a permanent office, the office of the commission shall be the office of the secretary of the commission.

ARTICLE IV

FISCAL AND OPERATING YEAR

Section 1. The fiscal and operating year of the commission shall end June 30. The annual report shall be submitted to the governors and legislative bodies of the signatory states September 1.

ARTICLE V

MEETINGS

Section 1. The annual meeting of the commission for the purpose of electing officers shall be held between April 1 and June 30.

Section 2. Regular meetings of the commission shall be held at times and places to be determined by the commission.

Section 3. The chairman, or in his absence the vice-chairman, may call special meetings of the commission and must do so when requested in writing by any three commissioners.
ARTICLE VI
TECHNICAL ADVISORY BOARD

Section 1. There shall be a Technical Advisory Board consisting of the heads of the technical division of the water pollution control agencies of the signatory states, and such other persons as may be appointed by the commission to serve at its will and pleasure.

ARTICLE VII
COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES

Section 1. The compensation and expenses of the commission and of the technical advisory board in attending meetings of the commission shall be the responsibility of their respective signatory states, provided however, the commission may approve payment with commission funds of such expenses connected with meetings as it deems advisable.

ARTICLE VIII

Section 1. These by-laws may be amended at any meeting provided that written notice is given all members of the commission at least five days in advance of such meeting.

Permanent Headquarters and Staff

In accordance with Article IV of the Compact, the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission took under consideration the matter of establishing and staffing permanent headquarters.

At this year's end applications from qualified persons were being reviewed by the Technical Advisory Board with a view to recommending an appointment to the position of Secretary. The Technical Advisory Board likewise had in preparation a recommendation in regard to an appropriate location for the office of the Commission.

It is expected this order of business will be concluded at the next meeting of the Commission.

Progress on Stream Classification Standards

A revised draft of Tentative Stream Classification Standards was presented to and adopted by the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission at its meeting in February and is incorporated in this report.

The revisions recommended by the Technical Advisory Board reflect the continuing study being devoted to a basic requisite for crystallizing a policy for the New England region with respect to its principal natural resource and for establishing the basis for those essential conservation programs that are associated with the control of water pollution throughout this area.

The Technical Advisory Board was instructed to proceed with the preparation of classifications of interstate streams based on future use. The preparation of these classifications will involve consultation with a wide variety of interests and may require public hearings.

Studies are being made to develop specific and detailed interpretations of the water quality standards already adopted by the Commission. These interpretations will include the permissible concentrations of a wide variety of toxic substances that may reach the interstate waters of New England through sewage and industrial waste discharges.
## NEW ENGLAND INTERSTATE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL COMMISSION

Tentative Standards for Water Classification  
(As revised and accepted February 11, 1949)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>CLASS A</th>
<th></th>
<th>CLASS B</th>
<th></th>
<th>CLASS C</th>
<th></th>
<th>CLASS D</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dissolved oxygen</strong></td>
<td>Not less than 75% sat.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Not less than 75% sat.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Not less than 5 p.p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Present at all times</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Oil and grease</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td>None</td>
<td>No appreciable amount</td>
<td>Not objectionable</td>
<td></td>
<td>Not objectionable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Color, scum, floating solids, or debris</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td>Not objectionable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sludge deposits</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td>Not objectionable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Color and turbidity</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td>Not objectionable</td>
<td></td>
<td>Not objectionable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phenols or other taste producing substances</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td>Not objectionable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Substances potentially toxic</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td>Not in toxic concentrations or combinations</td>
<td>Not objectionable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Free acids or alkalies</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td>Not in objectionable amounts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coliform bacteria</strong></td>
<td><em>Within limits approved by State Department of Health for uses involved.</em></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Bacterial content of bathing waters shall meet limits approved by State Department of Health and acceptability will depend on sanitary survey.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td>Not in objectionable amounts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*See waters used for the taking of market shellfish shall not have a median coliform content in excess of 70 per 100 ml.

**NOTE:** Waters falling below these descriptions are considered as unsatisfactory and as Class E.

These standards do not apply to conditions brought about by natural causes.
Special Studies

At the specific request of local government, the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission authorized a preliminary, cooperative survey of pollution in the Pawcatuck River and Little Narragansett Bay for the purpose of securing joint abatement action on the part of the State of Connecticut and the State of Rhode Island.

The Technical Advisory Board of the Commission is collaborating with the respective state authorities in developing a future use classification and in formulating a program of abatement on a joint basis.

At the specific request of the Connecticut State Board of Fisheries and Game, the Commission authorized an investigation of conditions bringing about the presence of phenolic wastes in the Housatonic River, an important recreational stream flowing through Massachusetts and Connecticut.

A preliminary report was rendered by the Technical Advisory Board which indicated that certain phenol tests of the river have been made by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and that the manufacturing company involved cooperated in the research which led to the development of a suitable method of treating the wastes. The new method of disposal is expected to be in full operation shortly.

Federal Aid for Water Pollution Abatement

A formal request for an allocation of Federal funds for industrial waste investigations provided for in Public Law 845, was authorized by the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission.

As was expected, this law served to stimulate a systematic cooperative program throughout the country for eliminating or reducing water pollution. The appropriation of Congress to start the water pollution control program under this law totals $8,725,000 of which the Division of Water Pollution Control of the Public Health Service receives $2,205,000 and the Federal Works Agency $525,000. The appropriation available to the Public Health Service consists of $550,000 for grants to states to study water pollution resulting from industrial wastes, $150,000 for allotments to interstate agencies, and to state and interstate agencies for special studies which are of national or sectional importance, and $1,200,000 for operation, research, administration and planning. The appropriation to the Federal Works Agency consists of $200,000 for planning sewage system works projects, $125,000 for administration and $900,000 to be used in preparing plans for a laboratory building for the Public Health Service at Cincinnati, Ohio.

The President has appointed the members of the Water Pollution Control Advisory Board created in accordance with the provision of this law, and this Board has recommended that the Public Health Service continue to concentrate on the preparation of comprehensive pollution abatement programs.
To carry out the programs under Public Law 845 the country has been divided into fourteen major river basins, in each of which watershed areas the Public Health Service is in the process of establishing an office to serve as an operating base.

The New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission has recommended that, for administrative purposes, the New England drainage basin district conform to the boundaries provided for in the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Compact. Approval of this recommendation is expected, and it is anticipated that headquarters for this area will be established in Boston.

Federal action on the Commission's application for a grant for industrial waste research is awaited.

**Additions to Membership**

During the year the State of New York and the State of Vermont enacted legislation enabling these states to become signatories to the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Compact.

This Commission, therefore, looks forward with keen interest and genuine pleasure in welcoming the new commissioners from the State of New York and the State of Vermont when appointed by the Governors of New York and Vermont.