

For Immediate Release

PEER REVIEW REPORT OF GREAT BAY SCIENCE RELEASED

Dated: February 24, 2014

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (“DES”) and the Cities of Dover, Portsmouth and Rochester (“Cities”) have released the Joint Report of Peer Review Panel for Numeric Nutrient Criteria for the Great Bay Estuary. The peer review was a collaborative effort among DES and the Cities.

The parties jointly advise: “We are individually and jointly evaluating the implications of, and recommendations in, the report. The parties are grateful for the efforts of the peer reviewers as they have produced a thorough and credible report.”

The Cities and DES are holding off on additional individual comments until the parties have had a further opportunity to review the report. In the meantime, the report and related documents and information are available for download at:

www.portsmouthwastewater.com

By way of background, DES, which is responsible for setting water quality standards, produced a document in June 2009 entitled “Numeric Nutrient Criteria for Great Bay Estuary.” This document interprets the nitrogen water quality criteria for the Estuary. It influenced the Environmental Protection Agency’s efforts to restrict the discharge of nitrogen from local wastewater treatment plants, including those located in Dover, Portsmouth and Rochester. In April of 2013, DES and the Cities reached an agreement to conduct an independent scientific peer review of the 2009 Criteria and engaged a diverse panel of experts to perform the work. Questions were developed for the reviewers, key documents provided and public comment solicited and forwarded to the panel. This Report, is the culmination of the panel’s work to provide guidance to state regulators as well as the Great Bay communities charged with making investments in further scientific efforts and wastewater and storm water improvements.

FOR MORE BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Department of Environmental Services:

Vicki Quiram, Asst. Commissioner (603) 271-8806

Harry Stewart, Director, Water Division (603) 271-3434

City of Dover: Dean Peschel (603) 781-5931

City of Portsmouth: Suzanne Woodland (603) 610-7240

City of Rochester: Peter Nourse (603) 332-4096