Environmental Protection Agency

[FR-5924-4]

New York State Prohibition on Marine Discharges of Vessel Sewage; Final Affirmative Determination

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Regional Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region II has affirmatively determined, pursuant to section 312(f) of Pub. L. 92-500, as amended by Pub. L. 95-217 and Pub. L. 100-4, (the Clean Water Act), that adequate facilities for the safe and sanitary removal and treatment of sewage from all vessels are reasonably available for the coastal waters of Mamaroneck Harbor, Village of Mamaroneck, County of Westchester, State of New York.

A petition was made by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYDEC) in cooperation with the Village of Mamaroneck. Upon receipt of this affirmative determination in response to this petition, NYDEC will completely prohibit the discharge of sewage, whether treated or not, from any vessel in Mamaroneck Harbor in accordance with section 312(f)(3) of the Clean Water Act and 40 CFR 140.4(a). Notice of the Receipt of Petition and Tentative Determination was published in the Federal Register on July 16, 1997. Comments on the tentative determination were accepted during a 30-day period which closed on August 15, 1997. No comments were received.

The Village of Mamaroneck is located on Long Island Sound. Mamaroneck Harbor encompasses numerous wetlands, marshes and mud flats including Guion Creek, Otter Creek, Salt Creek, and Van Amringe Mill Pond. The No-Discharge Zone includes waters not indexed lying northerly of a line drawn in a northeasterly direction from the southern tip of the sea wall at Orienta Point near the Orienta Yacht Club at the foot of Rushmore Avenue in Mamaroneck, to a point on the mainland immediately north of Spike Island at the intersection of the shoreline and the extension of the line to the center gable of large stone and stucco residence at No. 6 Shore Road in the Greenhaven section within the City of Rye.

Information submitted by the State of New York and the Village of Mamaroneck states that there are three existing pump-out facilities available to service vessels which use Mamaroneck Harbor, and one additional facility proposed for construction. One facility is owned and operated by the Mamaroneck Municipal Marina. This facility is open continuously and charges no fee for pump-out services. It can service vessels up to 80 feet in length with up to a 8 foot draft based on the mean low water depth. A second unit is planned at this facility with the same operating schedule.

The other facilities are privately owned and charge no fee for pump-out services to patrons. They are located at Nichols Boat Yard and Boston Post Road Boat Yard. Operating hours for Nichols Boat Yard pump-out are 0900 to 1700 hours, Monday through Friday and by appointment on the weekend. It can service vessels up to 40 feet in length with up to a 6 foot draft based on the mean low water depth. The other facility is located at the Boston Post Road Boat Yard and operates from 0830 to 1630 Monday through Friday. Length and draft restrictions are 50 feet and 5.1 feet based on mean low water depth. Within seven nautical miles of Mamaroneck Harbor are five other locations that provide pump-out facilities.

Vessel waste generated from the pump-out facilities in Mamaroneck Harbor is disposed of in the Village of Mamaroneck Waste Water Treatment Plant. This plant operates under a State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit issued by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

According to the State’s petition, the maximum daily vessel population for the waters of Mamaroneck Harbor is approximately 1160 vessels. This estimate is based on summer weekend/holiday levels of usage and includes 1040 vessels berthed in marinas of Mamaroneck Harbor and less than 120 transient vessels in Mamaroneck Harbor.

The EPA hereby makes a final affirmative determination that adequate facilities for the safe and sanitary removal and treatment of sewage from all vessels are reasonably available for Mamaroneck Harbor in the Village of Mamaroneck, New York. A final determination on this matter has been made and will result in a New York State prohibition of any sewage discharges from vessels in Mamaroneck Harbor.


William J. Muszynski,
Acting Regional Administrator.

[FR Doc. 97-30379 Filed 11-18-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P