



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
Bureau of Environmental Health
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SECRETARY

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COMMISSIONER

October 11, 2011

Helen Whipple, Co-chair
Warwick Board of Health
12 Athol Road
Orange, MA 01378

Dear Ms. Whipple,

Enclosed, please find a copy of the Public Health Fish Consumption Advisory for Moores Pond based on elevated levels of mercury. We have also enclosed a brochure on eating fish safely, a copy of the current state-wide advisory for mercury, a list of the Public Health Fish Consumption Advisories that are being issued in October 2011, and a list of all the Public Health Fish Consumption Advisories that have been issued state-wide for Massachusetts freshwater bodies. The Department would like to work collaboratively with you to advise persons who may eat fish from Moores Pond of the health risks associated with consumption. The advisory for Moores Pond, like all other fish advisories being issued, goes into effect upon receipt of this letter and subsequent posting.

Generating an advisory involves the cooperative efforts of the Department of Public Health, the Department of Environmental Protection, and the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. These agencies' activities include designing fish surveys and analyzing contaminant concentrations in fish samples. Data generated from the monitoring activities are evaluated, and if significant levels of a contaminant are detected, a Public Health Fish Consumption Advisory is issued. The advisory may suggest either limiting or refraining from consumption of fish from the water body.

We would appreciate if you could arrange to post this important advisory information at your office and at Moores Pond itself as soon as possible. We have attached a representative poster and will be happy to provide you with any assistance you may need in accomplishing local notification. We would be happy to assist with translating the advisory into any languages you feel are relevant to this water body based on the types of populations that you may know of who

utilize this resource. For questions or concerns regarding posting or health education and outreach activities, we can be reached at (617) 624-5757 for follow-up assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Martha Steele".

Martha Steele, Acting Director
Environmental Toxicology Program (ETP)
Deputy Director, Bureau of Environmental Health (BEH)

cc: Suzanne K. Condon, Associate Commissioner / Director, BEH
Greg Tocco, Director, BEH-Health Education and Outreach Program
Michael Celona, Senior Environmental Analyst, BEH-ETP