

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 8, 2010

CONTACT:

Ian Cooke: 978.467.5271 (mobile)
Becky Smith 617.314.2347 (mobile)
Nora Chorover: 617.834.8514 (mobile)

**Clean Water Action Settles Lawsuits
With Two Massachusetts Scrap Facilities
\$115,000 in Settlement Funds to Benefit Local Rivers**

MASSACHUSETTS - Clean Water Action, a non-profit citizens group, announced that it has reached settlements with two Massachusetts-based scrap metal facilities: Walpole's Allied Recycling Center and Attleboro's State Line Scrap Company. The group brought these civil suits against the two facilities in November 2009, alleging that the companies had failed to adequately control pollutants in their stormwater discharges.

In the Allied case, Clean Water Action alleged that untreated stormwater was being discharged to wetlands adjacent to the site that were connected to the Neponset River. Similarly, the complaint against State Line alleged that some of its stormwater was being discharged to Attleboro's public storm drain system which, in turn, flows into the Blackstone River.

Under their settlement agreements, Allied and State Line will both implement measures, including treatment systems, to reduce pollutants in their stormwater discharges and to come into compliance with all applicable stormwater standards and limitations.

Additionally, as mitigation of the alleged violations, Allied, the smaller of the two facilities, will pay \$25,000 to the Neponset River Watershed Association. State Line will pay \$90,000 to the Blackstone River Coalition. In both cases, the money will provide essential funding for projects aimed towards improving river water quality. "These settlements are a double win for the environment," says Becky Smith, Water Coordinator for Clean Water Action. "Allied and State Line are taking actions to prevent stormwater pollution from occurring in the first place, and are also providing the needed funding to help address the wider problem of stormwater pollution in Massachusetts' rivers."

"Stormwater pollution is a significant source of water quality problems in the Nation's waters, and many industrial facilities are out of compliance with stormwater laws" explains Nora Chorover, a Boston attorney at Stern, Shapiro, Weissberg & Garin, LLP, who represented Clean Water Action in these cases. Chorover says that the 'citizen suit' provision of the Clean Water Act is an "important tool in bringing about more widespread compliance."

The Neponset River Watershed Association, which was not involved in the lawsuit, plans to use the funds towards a new municipal stormwater outreach campaign, to investigate sites of stormwater pollution, and to monitor water quality in the Neponset River. Ian Cooke, Executive Director of the Association, says, "Polluted stormwater runoff is one of the biggest remaining sources of pollution to the Neponset River."

The cleanup work made possible by this case will help restore the health of the River and turn it into a resource that all Walpole residents can enjoy.”

The Blackstone River Coalition, which also was not involved in the lawsuit, expressed similar intentions in regards to their \$90,000 award. “We are thrilled to receive funding to strengthen our Campaign for a Fishable & Swimmable Blackstone River,” states Peter Coffin, a representative of the Coalition. “Our campaign works to teach everyone that what they do on land eventually does affect local water quality in streams, ponds, and groundwater. We are pleased both that State Line will be taking measures to treat their stormwater on site, and that BRC’s work in Blackstone River communities will be extended with these funds. Thanks to Clean Water Action for working to get the Blackstone River *Clean by 2015!*”

The United States Department of Justice has 45 days to review and comment on the State Line settlement. The 45-day government review period for the Allied settlement has passed.

#

The Neponset River Watershed Association is a grassroots 501c3 organization, founded in 1967, with a mission to protect and restore the Neponset River, its tributaries and surrounding watershed lands. We pursue our mission through education, advocacy, research and hands-on implementation projects. Learn more at <http://www.neponset.org> or 781-575-0354.

Clean Water Action is an organization of 1.2 million members working to empower people to take action to protect America’s waters, build healthy communities and to make democracy work. For 36 years Clean Water Action has succeeded in winning some of the nation’s most important environmental protections through grassroots organizing, expert policy research, political advocacy and citizen suit litigation.