

# HALL & ASSOCIATES

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January 31, 2020

## VIA FOIA ONLINE

Regional Freedom of Information Officer  
U.S. EPA, Region 1 (OARM01-6)  
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**RE: FOIA Request Regarding Effect of Existing TN Loadings on Plant Growth in the Great Bay Estuary**

To Whom This May Concern:

This is a request for public records pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552, as implemented by the Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) at 40 C.F.R. Part 2.

### Background

EPA has indicated in various meetings and correspondence that the Great Bay Estuary is impaired by nitrogen and those nitrogen levels are precluding the restoration of eelgrass beds to historical levels. EPA has also stated that the maximum TN load to the system cannot exceed 100 kg-TN/ha-year as such loading precludes eelgrass presence in estuarine embayment. *See*, draft General Permit issued January 2020.

### Request

This request seeks:

- Any existing EPA analysis on the degree of phytoplankton, macroalgae or epiphyte growth that is caused by the existing system TN concentrations or loadings in Great Bay Estuary.
- Any existing EPA analysis on the degree to which existing phytoplankton, macroalgae or epiphyte growth will be reduced at 100 kg/ha-yr loading to the system.

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This request only seeks existing agency records and does not ask for the agency to conduct any new analysis or develop new records.

Please contact the undersigned if the associated search and duplication costs are anticipated to exceed \$100.00. If the requested documents are withheld based upon any asserted privilege, please identify the basis for the non-disclosure.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact this office so as to ensure that only the necessary documents are duplicated.

Respectfully,

//s// Erin Thomas  
Erin Thomas