

11.123 BIG PLANS

Spring 2003

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Department of Urban Studies and Planning

READING QUESTION FOR: April 14 & 16 Environment and Planning: Boston Harbor Cleanup

USA vs. Metropolitan District Commission / Conservation Law Foundation vs. Metropolitan District Commission, U.S. District Court, District of Massachusetts:

- Memorandum And Order, Sept. 5, 1985.
- Order, Dec. 23, 1985.
- Schedule One Compliance Order Number 6, June 27, 1986.

Eric Jay Dolin, "Boston Harbor's Murky Political Waters", in *Environment*, 34(6), pp. 7-11, 27-33.

1. In your judgment, what circumstances justified the court order and its force?
2. Given the force of the order, it was nonetheless up to the judge to allow flexibility in compliance, for example on dates and the scope of work. Cite an example of a requirement in which little discretion was given, and one where there was much discretion. Explain the differences.

DUE APRIL 14