



# Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

Bureau of Waste Prevention – Air Quality

## BWP AQ Sound

Transmittal Number \_\_\_\_\_

Facility ID (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Submit alone and/or with Form CPA-FUEL and/or CPA-PPROCESS whenever the construction or alteration of stationary equipment (e.g. electrical generating equipment, motors, fans, process handling equipment or similar sources of sound) has the potential to cause noise, or in response to a MassDEP enforcement action citing noise as a condition of air pollution.

**Important:** When filling out forms on the computer, use only the tab key to move your cursor - do not use the return key.



### Introduction

When proposing sound suppression/mitigation measures, similar to the traditional "top-down" BACT process, the "top case" sound suppression/mitigation measures which deliver the lowest sound level increase above background are required to be implemented, unless these measures can be eliminated based upon technological or economic infeasibility. An applicant cannot "model out" of the use of the "top case" sound suppression/mitigation measures by simply demonstrating that predicted sound levels at the property line when employing a less stringent sound suppression/mitigation strategy will result in a sound level increase of less than or equal to the 10 dBA (decibel, A –Weighted) above background sound level increase criteria contained in the MassDEP Noise Policy. A 10 dBA increase is the maximum increase allowed by MassDEP; it is not the sound level increase upon which the design of sound suppression/mitigation strategies and techniques should be based. Also, take into consideration that the city or town that the project is located in may have a noise ordinance (or similar) that may be more stringent than the criteria in the MassDEP Noise Policy

### A. Sound Emission Sources & Abatement Equipment/Mitigation Measures

1. Provide a description of the source(s) of sound emissions and associated sound abatement equipment and/or mitigation measures. Also include details of sound emission mitigation measures to be taken during construction activities.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### B. Manufacturer's Sound Emission Profiles & Sound Abatement Equipment

Please attach to this form the manufacturer's sound generation data for the equipment being proposed for installation, or the existing equipment as applicable. This data must specify the sound pressure levels for a complete 360° circumference of the equipment and at given distance from the equipment. Also attach information provided by the sound abatement manufacturer detailing the expected sound suppression to be provided by the proposed sound suppression equipment.

### C. Plot Plan

Provide a plot plan and aerial photo(s) (e.g. GIS) that defines: the specific location of the proposed or existing source(s) of sound emissions; the distances from the source(s) to the property lines; the location, distances and use of all inhabited buildings (residences, commercial, industrial, etc) beyond the property lines; identify any areas of possible future construction beyond the property line; and sound monitoring locations used to assess noise impact on the surrounding community. All information provided in the sound survey shall contain sufficient data and detail to adequately assess any sound impacts to the surrounding community, including elevated receptors as applicable, not necessarily receptors immediately outside the facility's property line.

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### D. Community Sound Level Criteria

Approval of the proposed new equipment or proposed corrective measures will **not** be granted if the installation:

1. Increases off-site broadband sound levels by more than 10 dBA above “ambient” sound levels. Ambient is defined as the lowest one-hour background A-weighted sound pressure level that is exceeded 90 percent of the time measured during equipment operating hours. Ambient may also be established by other means with the consent of MassDEP.
2. Produces off-site a "pure tone" condition. “Pure tone” is defined as when any octave band center frequency sound pressure level exceeds the two adjacent frequency sound pressure levels by 3 decibels or more.
3. Creates a potential condition of air pollution as defined in 310 CMR 7.01 and the MassDEP Noise Policy.

Note: These criteria are measured both at the property line and at the nearest inhabited building.

For equipment that operates, or will be operated intermittently, the ambient or background noise measurements shall be performed during the hours that the equipment will operate and at the quietest times of the day. The quietest time of the day is usually between 1:00 a.m. and 4:00 a.m. on weekend nights. The nighttime sound measurements must be conducted at a time that represents the lowest ambient sound level expected during all seasons of the year.

For equipment that operates, or will operate, continuously and is a significant source of sound, such as a proposed power plant, background shall be established via a minimum of seven consecutive days of continuous monitoring at multiple locations with the dBA L 90 data and pure tone data reduced to one-hour averages.

**In any case, consult with the appropriate MassDEP Regional Office before commencing noise monitoring in order to establish a sound monitoring protocol that will be acceptable to MassDEP.**

### E. Full Octave Band Analysis

The following community sound profiles will require the use of sound pressure level measuring equipment in the neighborhood of the installation. An ANSI S1.4 Type 1 sound monitor or equivalent shall be used for all sound measurements. A detailed description of sound monitor calibration methodology shall be included with any sound survey.

1. Lowest **ambient** sound pressure levels during operating hours of the equipment.
  - a. At property line:

A-Weighted	31.5	63.0	125	250	500	1K	2K	4K	8K	16K



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**E. Full Octave Band Analysis** (continued)

b. At the nearest inhabited building and if applicable at buildings at higher elevation:

A- Weighted	31.5	63.0	125	250	500	1K	2K	4K	8K	16K

2. Neighborhood sound pressure levels with source operating without sound abatement equipment.

a. At property line:

A- Weighted	31.5	63.0	125	250	500	1K	2K	4K	8K	16K

b. At the nearest inhabited building and if applicable at buildings at higher elevation:

A- Weighted	31.5	63.0	125	250	500	1K	2K	4K	8K	16K

**Note:** You are required to complete sound profiles 2a and 2b only if you are submitting this form in response to a MassDEP enforcement action citing a noise nuisance condition. If this is an application for new equipment, Skip to 3.

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**E. Full Octave Band Analysis** (continued)

3. **Expected** neighborhood sound pressure levels after installation of sound abatement equipment.

a. At property line:

A- Weighted	31.5	63.0	125	250	500	1K	2K	4K	8K	16K

b. At nearest inhabited building and if applicable at buildings at higher elevations:

A- Weighted	31.5	63.0	125	250	500	1K	2K	4K	8K	16K

Note: MassDEP may request that actual measurements be taken after the installation of the noise abatement equipment to verify compliance at all off-site locations.

**F. Professional Engineers Stamp**

The seal or stamp and signature of a Massachusetts Registered Professional Engineer (P.E.) must be entered below. Both the seal or stamp impression and the P.E. signature must be original. This is to certify that the information contained in this Form has been checked for accuracy, and that the design represents good air pollution control engineering practice.

\_\_\_\_\_  
P.E. Name (Type or Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
P.E. Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Position/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Company

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

\_\_\_\_\_  
P.E. Number





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**G. Certification by Responsible Official**

The signature below provides the affirmative demonstration pursuant to 310 CMR 7.02(5)(c)8 that any facility(ies) in Massachusetts, owned or operated by the proponent for this project (or by an entity controlling, controlled by or under common control with such proponent) that is subject to 310 CMR 7.00, et seq., is in compliance with, or on a MassDEP approved compliance schedule to meet, all provisions of 310 CMR 7.00, et seq., and any plan approval, order, notice of noncompliance or permit issued thereunder. This Form must be signed by a Responsible Official working at the location of the proposed new or modified facility. Even if an agent has been designated to fill out this Form, the Responsible Official must sign it. (Refer to the definition given in 310 CMR 7.00.)

**I certify that I have personally examined the foregoing and am familiar with the information contained in this document and all attachments and that, based on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe that the information is true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including possible fines and imprisonment.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Responsible Official Name (Type or Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Responsible Official Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Responsible Official Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Responsible Official Company/Organization Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

