Energy Facilities Siting Board

~~APPENDIX 1 TO~~ 980 CMR 13.00: EFSB CONSOLIDATED PERMIT APPLICATION GUIDANCE

Draft Guidance

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TABLE OF CONTENTS ~~APPENDIX 1 TO~~ 980 CMR 13.00: EFSB CONSOLIDATED PERMIT APPLICATION GUIDANCE

I. Overview and General Instructions 1
A. Purpose and Scope 1
B. Application Filing Process 3
1. Filing Instructions 3
2. Electronic and Hard Copy Filing ..... 5~~4~~
II. Required Components of EFSB Consolidated Permit Application 5
A. Application Completeness Determination Checklist 5
B. Draft Notice Templates ..... 6~~5~~
C. Other State, Regional, and Local Permits and Approvals ..... 6~~5~~
D. Proposal and Analysis Sections ("P&A") ..... 7~~6~~
E. Zoning Exemptions ..... 7~~6~~
F. Fee Worksheet ..... 8~~7~~
G. CEIF Project Overview Presentation ..... 8~~7~~
III. Permits Required for an EFSB Consolidated Permit ..... 8~~7~~
A. PEA Permits ..... 8~~7~~
B. Federal Permits ..... 11~~9~~
C. Federally Delegated Permits ..... 11~~9~~
IV. Proposal & Analysis: Project Overview ..... 12~~9~~
A. Application Summary ..... 12~~9~~
B. Description of the CEIF Project, Site, and Surrounding Area ..... 12~~10~~
1. Applicant Information ..... 12~~10~~
2. Application Information ..... 13~~10~~
3. Project Description ..... 13~~11~~
4. Project Site ..... 15~~12~~
5. Surrounding Area ..... 16~~13~~
C. Accessibility ..... 16~~13~~
V. Proposal & Analysis: Consultation and Community Engagement ..... 16~~13~~
A. Community Demographic Information ..... 16~~13~~
B. Pre-Filing Consultation and Community Engagement ..... 17~~14~~
C. Community Outreach Plan ..... 17~~14~~
1. Coordination Component ..... 18~~14~~
2. Notification Component ..... 18~~15~~

3. Communication Component. ..... 18~~15~~
VI. Proposal & Analysis: Project Need (for LCTDIF and SCTDIF) ..... 18~~15~~
A. Basis of Need ..... 18~~15~~
B. System Background Conditions ..... 19~~16~~
C. Load Forecast Studies ..... 19~~16~~
D. State Policies ..... 20~~17~~
E. Consequences of "No Build" ..... 20~~17~~
VII. Proposal & Analysis: Description of Benefits ..... 21~~17~~
A. LCTDIF and SCTDIF Applications: ..... 21~~17~~
B. All CEIF Applications: ..... 21~~18~~
VIII. Proposal & Analysis: Project Alternatives (for LCTDIF and SCTDIF) ..... 22~~18~~
A. Consideration of Project Alternatives ..... 22~~18~~
B. Costs, Benefits, Reliability, Feasibility and Policy Consideration ..... 22~~18~~
C. Final Determination on Project Alternatives ..... 23~~19~~
D. Supporting Documentation ..... 23~~19~~
IX. Proposal & Analysis: Route Selection and Site Selection (for LCTDIF and SCTDIF) ..... 23~~19~~
X. Proposal & Analysis: Site Selection and Site Alternatives (LCEGF, LCESF, SCEGF, and SCESF) ..... 26~~20~~
XI. Proposal & Analysis: Site Suitability and Cumulative Impact Analysis ..... 27~~21~~
A. Site Suitability ..... 27~~21~~
B. Cumulative Impact Analysis (CIA) ..... 28~~22~~
XII. Proposal & Analysis: Environmental Impacts ..... 29~~22~~
A. Land Use and Land-Based Resources ..... 29~~22~~
1. Land Uses ..... 29~~22~~
2. Adjacent Land Uses ..... 29~~22~~
3. Project Site Locus ..... 29~~23~~
4. Terrestrial Vegetation ..... 30~~23~~
5. Terrestrial Wildlife and Avian Species ..... 30~~24~~
6. Biodiversity ..... 32~~24~~
B. Rare Species ..... 32~~25~~
C. Historical/Archeological Resources ..... 33~~25~~
D. Water Resources and Aquatic Ecology ..... 33~~26~~
1. Water Use and Wastewater ..... 33~~26~~

2. Water Resources Areas ..... 34~~26~~
3. Aquatic Ecology ..... 36~~28~~
4. Water Withdrawal and Extraction ..... 37~~28~~
5. Water Discharges and Impacts on Water Quality ..... 37~~29~~
E. Transportation ..... 40~~29~~
1. Disruption and Congestion of Roads ..... 40~~29~~
2. Public Transportation ..... 40~~30~~
3. Cyclists and Pedestrians ..... 41~~30~~
4. Parking ..... 41~~30~~
5. Marine Traffic and Navigation ..... 41~~30~~
6. Air Traffic ..... 41~~31~~
F. Air Quality ..... 42~~31~~
G. Climate Mitigation and Resiliency ..... 44~~32~~
1. Climate Change Impacts ..... 44~~32~~
2. Climate Resiliency ..... 44~~33~~
H. Public Health, Safety and Security ..... 45~~33~~
1. Design and Construction Safety ..... 45~~33~~
2. Public Health ..... 46~~33~~
3. Site Safety and Security ..... 46~~34~~
4. Occupational Safety ..... 47~~34~~
5. Fire Safety ..... 47~~35~~
6. Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Preparedness ..... 48~~35~~
I. Solid and Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Materials ..... 48~~36~~
1. Solid Waste ..... 48~~36~~
2. Hazardous Waste and Materials ..... 49~~36~~
J. Magnetic Fields ..... 50~~37~~
1. Baseline and Modeled Magnetic Fields Levels ..... 50~~37~~
2. Impacts ..... 51~~37~~
K. Noise and Vibrations ..... 52~~38~~
1. Description of Noise ..... 52~~38~~
2. Noise Impacts on Humans ..... 53~~39~~
3. Vibration ..... 53~~39~~
4. Noise and Vibrations Impacts on Wildlife ..... 54~~40~~
L. Visual ..... 54~~40~~

1. Visual Assessment ..... 54~~40~~
2. Light Pollution ..... 55~~41~~
M. Other Environmental Impacts ..... 55~~41~~
XIII. Proposal & Analysis: Decommissioning and Site Restoration ..... 55~~41~~
A. Useful Life ..... 55~~41~~
B. Plan for Decommissioning and Site Restoration ..... 55~~41~~
C. Cost and Financial Surety ..... 56~~42~~
XIV. Proposal & Analysis: Project Cost (for LCTDIF and SCTDIF) ..... 56~~42~~
XV. Proposal & Analyss: Reliability ..... 57~~43~~
A. Grid Reliability ..... 57~~43~~
B. Project System Reliability ..... 57~~43~~
C. Project Component Reliability ..... 57~~43~~
XVI. Proposal & Analysis: Policies of the Commonwealth ..... 57~~43~~
XVII. Adjudicatory Proceeding Timeline ..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**~~43~~
XVIII. Statement of Recommended Permit Conditions Guidance ..... 58~~45~~
XIX. ATTACHMENT 1: COMMON CONDITIONS FOR EFSB CONSOLIDATED PERMITS ..... 59~~46~~
XX. ATTACHMENT 2: UNIFORM SET OF BASELINE HEALTH, SAFETY, ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER STANDARDS ..... 59~~46~~
XXI. ATTACHMENT 3: APPLICATION COMPLETENESS DETERMINATION CHECKLIST ..... 59~~46~~

I. OVERVIEW AND GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

A. Purpose and Scope

The purpose of 980 CMR 13.00 EFSB Consolidated Permit Application Guidance ("~~this~~ Guidance") is to inform Applicants seeking Consolidated Permit approvals from the Energy Facilities Siting Board ("Board" or "EFSB") for Clean Energy Infrastructure Facilities ("CEIF") as to what should be included in an Application. See 980 CMR 13.00. The Guidance is intended to help Applicants prepare a well-organized, informative, clear, and consistent Application submission to assist the Board, other state, regional, and local permitting agencies ("Permit Enforcement Agencies" or "PEAs"), permit advisory agencies ("PAAs"), and community stakeholders in their review of the Applicant's proposed Project. Importantly, this Guidance will ~~also~~ help an Applicant obtain a "Notice of Completeness" from the EFSB, commencing a mandatory timeline for EFSB adjudication and issuance of a final decision and, if approved, an EFSB Consolidated Permit. See 980 CMR 13.06(2). This Guidance will apply to EFSB Consolidated Permit Applications filed on or after July 1, 2026.[1] This Guidance is intended to supplement~~explain~~ the Board's regulations at 980 CMR 13.00.[2] This includes further information on adjudicatory timelines pursuant to 980 CMR 13.07(3) and guidance for Parties for submitting a Statement Recommended Permit Conditions pursuant to 980 CMR 13.07(5). This Guidance will be updated from time to time following notice, an opportunity for comment, and Board approval.

A Consolidated Permit includes the longstanding EFSB Approval to Construct ("EFSB Construction Permit") and all other state, regional, and local permits and approvals necessary for construction and operation of a CEIF. A Consolidated State Permit would include all necessary state permits.[3] The Guidance focuses on informational requirements that are central to the EFSB Construction Permit, while relying substantially on the content of other application forms for the other permits included in an EFSB Consolidated Permit. EFSB Consolidated Permit Application content for the local permit components relies on either existing Local Government permit application forms, or, at the Applicant's choice, the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources' ("DOER")~~forthcoming~~ small CEIF ("SCEIF") Application Form(s) for Consolidated Local Permits.[4] See 225 CMR 29.00. Applicants would use other state agency permit application forms for the corresponding state permits to be included in the Consolidated Permit~~being sought~~.[5] ~~–~~To the extent that zoning exemptions are requested ~~sought~~, an Applicant

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[1] Revised versions will apply to Applications submitted on or after the revision date.

[2] The definitions in 980 CMR apply to this Guidance.

[3] A Consolidated Permit pertains to CEIF Applications filed with the Board under ~~M.~~G.L. c. 164, §§ 69T and 69U; a Consolidated State Permit ~~would~~ pertains to ~~M.~~G.L. c. 164, § 69V Applications. We refer to them jointly as "**EFSB Consolidated Permit**."

[4] DOER has provided the application form at https://www.mass.gov/info-details/clean-energy-siting-permitting-regulations#forms

[5] ~~DOER is developing its Application Form to support Consolidated Local Permits.~~

must prepare its EFSB Consolidated Permit Application consistent with the zoning relief requested~~being sought~~.[6] See 980 CMR 13.04.

Consistent with 980 CMR 13.11, the Board will identify the applicable PEA for each condition, and that PEA will be responsible for enforcing such conditions approved by the Board. The designation of a PEA does not confer any additional authority to alter conditions approved by the Board or discretion to waive such conditions or add additional conditions.

The Board's scope of review for ~~an~~ Applications is broad and includes topics unique to the EFSB review, and other topics largely addressed in ~~the~~ other agencies' permit programs for permits ~~which~~ that would be incorporated in an EFSB Consolidated Permit. The EFSB Construction Permit would address compliance with the wide-ranging statutory requirements applicable to EFSB. See ~~M.~~G.L. c. 164, §§ 69G – 69W. To the extent that Applicants identify duplicative information requirements across different state and local permit programs and applications, the Applicant may cross-reference information in its Application submission to avoid ~~such~~ duplication.

The Board has endeavored to make the Guidance as useful as possible for Applicants. However, the Board is aware that it may not have anticipated and addressed all the informational needs that could be relevant to a particular Application. Therefore, prospective Applicants are strongly encouraged to consult with staff of the Board prior to submission of an Application to address any unique or Project-specific informational considerations. In the event of a conflict between this Guidance and applicable statutes, regulations, or decisions of the Board, said statutes, regulations, and decisions shall govern.[7]

With respect to data centers, by executive order,[8] the Board shall not issue any EFSB Consolidated Permits for a generation or storage facility co-located with any data center project with peak electricity demand exceeding twenty-five megawatts unless that Applicant has: (1) demonstrated conformance with the Statement of Expectations for Responsible Data Center Development and Operations in Massachusetts,[9] ("Framework") including those related to air

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6 A zoning exemption petition would be submitted to the Board, if requested by an Applicant. See 980 CMR 13.04(2).

7 To the extent that any requirements in this Guidance request information that is confidential, the Applicant may provide that information consistent with the procedures in 980 CMR 1.06(5)(f).

8 Executive Order No. 658: Establishing Requirements for Responsible Data Center Development and Operations in Massachusetts to Protect and Support Ratepayers, Communities, and the Environment, Mass. Register No. 1583.

9 Healey-Driscoll Administration Statement of Expectations for Responsible Data Center Development and Operations in Massachusetts, Guidance for Data Centers Seeking Sales and Use Tax Exemptions and Expectations for Broader Data Center Development, published June 25, 2026.

quality and public health, water use, and community engagement; and (2) submitted a community benefits agreement with key stakeholders as identified in and aligned with the Standards and Guidelines for Community Benefits Plans and Agreements established by the Office of Environmental Justice and Equity ("OEJE") within the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs ("EEA").

~~Current Status: The 2024 Climate Act directs the Board to establish criteria governing the siting and permitting of LCEIF and SCEIF that include "a uniform set of baseline health safety, environmental and other standards that apply to the issue of a consolidated permit" ("Baseline Standards"). M.G.L. c. 164, §§ 69T(b), 69U(b), 69V(b). This language mirrors the requirements in the 2024 Climate Act for DOER's development of a program for siting and permitting of SCEIF by Local Governments. Given the similarities between the EFSB's and DOER's responsibilities in establishing baseline standards, EFSB and DOER are collaborating on developing their respective permitting standards.~~

~~EFSB and DOER also have similar responsibilities in developing "common conditions" applicable to Constructive Approval of CEIF Consolidated Permits. For the same reasons described above, EFSB and DOER are also collaborating on developing their respective common conditions for CEIFs.~~

~~EFSB will release draft Baseline Standards and Common Conditions for public comment as soon as possible, and these will be reviewed and approved by the Board before taking effect.~~

B. Application Filing Process

1. Filing Instructions

a. The Applicant should use clear, concise, and plain language that presents relevant and material facts regarding the Project. The Applicant~~tion~~ should specifically address each required finding, determination, and consideration that the Board must~~will need to~~ make in its ~~a~~ decision. The Applicant~~, as well as~~ should also include the basis for its~~the Applicant's~~ request that the Board grant the requested state and local permits ~~should be granted by the Board~~.

b. Applicants should provide all data, assumptions, and calculations relied upon and provide the source of, and basis for, all data and assumptions employed.

i. Include all studies, reports, and planning documents from which data, estimates, or assumptions were drawn, and support for how the data or assumptions were used in developing the projections or estimates.

ii. Provide and explain each supporting ~~work paper~~document.

c. For state p~~P~~ermits and approvals requested by an Applicant, Applicants should use the application forms, procedures, and required content specified by the relevant PEAs whose permits are being requested ~~sought~~ in an EFSB Consolidated Permit. See 980 CMR 13.05(1)(a). For local and regional permits, Applicants ~~should~~ may use either of the following~~, at the discretion of~~

~~the Applicant~~: (1) local PEA application and required filing documents; or (2) the Consolidated Local Permit Application specified in 225 CMR 29.00.~~.~~

d. In the event an Applicant identifies conflicting requirements between different permitting programs, or where relief from zoning ordinances is being sought under a separate petition filed with the Board, and the Applicant cannot resolve any such conflicting requirements through pre-filing Agency Consultation (as defined in 980 CMR 16.02), then the Applicant may propose a resolution to such conflict in ~~its~~ the Application. Such proposed resolutions to conflicting requirements must be identified and explained in the Application with the Board. See Section III.~~D~~A: Application and Draft Permit Conflicting Requirement Summary Table~~Application Conflicting Requirement Summary~~.

e. If the same information is required for more than one permit application or exhibit, it may be supplied in a single permit application or exhibit and cross-referenced ~~(and hyperlinked)~~ in the other permit applications or exhibit(s) where it is also required. See 980 CMR 13.05(2)(b).

f. For all maps, include a map title, a north arrow, an accurate scale, a legible detailed legend, the source of the data, and the date the map was published, if applicable. Project overview maps should typically include:

   i. The outline ~~and centroid~~ of every major Project component.

   ii. The Facility Boundary for the Project.

   iii. Boundaries of lots/parcels associated with the Project.

g. The Applicant should file ~~G~~geospatial data ~~should be filed~~ in common file formats such as GIS shapefiles (.shp), and in the projection and datum (e.g., NAD 1983 State Plane Massachusetts Mainland FIPS 2001 Feet) appropriate for Board review of the Project.

h. The Applicant should ~~S~~submit each document in a searchable PDF file format, unless the Applicant receives prior permission from the Presiding Officer to submit in another form ~~is obtained from the Presiding Officer~~. Other file types may be submitted, if appropriate (e.g., Excel, Word, PowerPoint files). However, a searchable PDF of such files is also required.

i. File names must include the exhibit number (which provides a recognizable abbreviation for the Applicant) and a brief descriptive phrase. For example, “Exh. GET-1 Initial Petition” (“GET” for “Grid-Enhancing Tech Company”).

j. For each file consisting of ten or more pages, the Applicant should add a table of contents (each section hyperlinked to the specific page) citing the related sections by page and section number.

2. Electronic and Hard Copy Filing

a. Pre-filing requirements in 980 CMR 16.00 for projects filed under ~~M~~G.L. c. 164, §§ 69T and 69U require prospective Applicants to notify the Board no less than 60 days and no more than 90 days prior to filing an Application with the EFSB.[10] ~~Upon notification, Board staff will create a docket number(s) for the Application and enable posting for pre-filing materials.~~Docket numbers for a Project will be generated through the Massachusetts Energy Siting Hub ("MESH") portal during the pre-filing phase.

b. The Applicant should ~~S~~submit each document ~~electronically to the Board through the Board's electronic filing system.~~electronically through the Application form on the Project's MESH page. Each document submitted will be posted on the ~~electronic filing system~~Project's MESH page and sent to the Board and the designated PEAs.[11]

c. The Board will use the date of ~~the~~ electronic filing for any applicable regulatory deadlines ~~imposed~~.

d. The Applicant must provide ~~T~~the Board ~~requires a~~a minimum of one hard copy of the complete Application filing for record and public viewing purposes. In addition, prior to submission of the Application, the Applicant must contact the DPU Siting Division Program Coordinator ~~assigned to the proceeding~~proceedings to inquire if additional hard copies will be necessary, and, if so, how many. [12]

II. REQUIRED COMPONENTS OF EFSB CONSOLIDATED PERMIT APPLICATION

The following sections provide an overview of the main components of an Application:

A. Application Completeness Determination Checklist

The Completeness Determination Checklist provides a means of confirming that the necessary components of the~~an~~ Application have been prepared, ~~and~~ submitted, and where they are located in the Application. The Presiding Officer~~, with input from PEAs,~~ will review the

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[10] Pre-filing requirements for Consolidated State Permits (under ~~M.~~G.L. c. 164, § 69V) will follow the pre-filing requirements established by DOER for Consolidated Local Permits. See 980 CMR 16.00; 225 CMR 29.00.

~~[11] The Board may create a new filing portal in coordination with DOER. The new portal would enable applicants to upload files directly.~~

[12] Applicants shall file confidential information pursuant to 980 CMR 1.06(5)(f).

Application to determine if it satisfies the requirements for "Notice of Completeness." See 980 CMR 13.06(2)~~1(4)~~ and ~~See~~ Attachment 3: Application Completeness Determination Checklist ~~[TBD]~~.

The Presiding Officer ~~shall~~ must determine whether the information required by the Board is provided ~~by the Applicant~~ in the Application. ~~The~~ A Completeness Determination is intended to be primarily administrative in nature to ensure the filing of information in the Application is responsive to 980 CMR 13.00 and is not intended to be an evaluation ~~on~~ of the substantive merits of each piece of information provided by the Applicant ~~to facilitate Completeness Determinations~~. The Presiding Officer may elect to communicate with a PEA and/or PAAs regarding ~~thea~~ Completeness Determination. See 980 CMR 13.06(~~1~~3)(c).

B. Draft Notice Templates

The Board requires the Applicant to distribute Notices of Public Comment Hearing and Adjudication by mail and other media to ~~formally~~ officially announce the submission of the Applicant's Project to the EFSB for review, and upcoming public comment opportunities. Notices ~~will~~ shall include information on how to participate in the public comment hearing and in the proceeding, as well as an overview of the Project. A template for a standard draft Notice can be found on the EFSB's website~~Recent examples of notices, which generally conform to a standard form, can be found on Board's website~~: EFSB Permitting Dashboard~~EFSB/Siting Calendar | Mass.gov~~. EFSB Permitting Dashboard (https://www.mass.gov/info-details/efsb-permitting-dashboard~~Click here for a direct link to an example notice.~~). ~~[The Board will provide a template to assist Applicants in preparing a standard draft Notice with the Application – TBD.]~~

C. Other State, Regional, and Local Permits and Approvals

This ~~section~~ component of the Application will contain the specific documents required for the Board, PEAs, ~~permit advisory agencies ("~~PAAs~~")~~, and other stakeholders to evaluate the Applicant's request for Permits that are within the Board's authority to issue in an EFSB Consolidated Permit.[13]

For state permits, the Guidance relies on existing Permit application forms and filing requirements by the PEAs whose permits and approvals will be included in an EFSB Consolidated Permit. For the local components of Applications, Applicants ~~should~~ may use either of the following~~, at the discretion of the Applicant~~: (1) local PEA applications and required filing documents; or (2) the Consolidated Local Permit Application specified in 225 CMR 29.00.[14] To the extent an Applicant is requesting ~~that~~ zoning relief ~~is sought by~~

[13] ~~M.~~G.L. c. 164, § 69G recognizes that certain federal permits may be delegated to specific state agencies and, therefore, may or may ~~would~~ not be included in an EFSB Consolidated Permit.

[14] "Local Government" means a municipal or regional authority, board, commission, office, or other entity, as defined in ~~M.~~G.L. c. 25A, § 21, that would have had jurisdiction to issue at least one permit for an LCEIF or SCEIF absent a Consolidated Permit. Local Governments enforce the portions of a Consolidated Permit that relate to subject matter

~~Applicants~~, Applicants should include ~~prepare their Applications inclusive of the~~ a separate~~ly requested~~ zoning exemption request with its Applications~~.~~

D. Proposal and Analysis Sections ("P&A")

The purpose of the P&A Sections is to explain the type of information required for the Board to issue an EFSB Construction Permit, as well as context supporting other Permits and approvals. ~~Existing~~ Applications to the Board in the past have largely relied on using a~~A~~pplications from previous years as a basis. This Guidance is intended to explain and standardize what has largely evolved over time through Board precedent and practice. The Guidance establishes the minimum filing requirements, which may need to be supplemented by the Applicant, as appropriate.

In appearance, the P&A should ~~closely~~ resemble the type of information that applicants have provided to the Board in the past ~~has previously received~~ in an Application or "Analysis" sections supporting petitions (filed under ~~M.~~G.L. c. 164, §§ 69J, 69J¼) and Zoning Exemption requests (~~M.~~G.L. c. 40A, § 3 or~~and~~ St. 1956, c. 665, § 6). The P&A would also contain similar material to past Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act ("MEPA") filings for Energy Facilities, i.e., Expanded Environmental Notification Forms, Draft Environmental Impact Reports, and Final Environmental Impact Reports. The P&A should generally follow the structure outlined in this Guidance. Applicants should submit each of the specified P&A Sections both as separate documents and as a compiled P&A report. As good practice, Applicants are encouraged to meet with EFSB Staff prior to filing to clarify the scope and type of information required. To request such a meeting, Applicants can e-mail ~~XX@mass.gov~~SitingBoard.Filing@mass.gov. Applicants are also reminded that they must ~~to~~ meet pre-filing requirements articulated in 980 CMR 16.00.

E. Zoning Exemptions

~~If applicable, t~~If an ~~The~~ Applicant is requesting ~~shall must submit~~ a zoning exemption, that request must be submitted as part of ~~their~~its EFSB Consolidated Permit Application pursuant to the requirements of ~~M.~~G.L. c. 40A, § 3, or St. 1956, c. 665, § 6, if applicable to the proposed Project. The Board will consolidate the zoning exemption request ~~will be automatically consolidated~~ with the Application for an EFSB Consolidated Permit upon filing. ~~describe all zoning exemptions that the Applicant asserts the Project would need to be constructed and operated, as summarized in Exhibit Y below:~~

~~**Exhibit Y**~~

within their jurisdiction as if that portion of the Consolidated Permit had been directly granted by the Local Government. 980 CMR 1.01(4).

~~**Zoning Exemption Table**~~

~~**Zoning Provision from which Exemption is Requested**~~	~~**Local Zoning Exemption Required**~~	~~**Why Exemption is Required**~~

F. Fee Worksheet ~~[TBD]~~

~~[~~The ~~EFSB and DPU will issue EFSB~~ fee regulations for the EFSB Consolidated Permit process~~.~~ ~~See~~ are specified in ~~220 CMR 32.00~~220 CMR 32.00, including ~~and~~the fee schedule applicable to Consolidated Permit Applications ~~is dictated~~ in 220 CMR 32.00:~~-~~ Energy Facilities Siting Board Fee Schedules. ~~220 CMR 32.00 will include a fee schedule applicable to Consolidated Permit Applications.]~~ Applicants must submit the Fee Worksheet as provided in the EFSB Application Completeness Determination Checklist (Attachment ~~3~~4 of this Guidance) specifying the applicable base fee, zoning exemption fee (if applicable), Intervenor Support Fund Application Fee, and each required PEA fee.

G. CEIF Project Overview Presentation

Applicants are encouraged to supplement the ~~written~~ Application materials with a short (approximately 5-minute) visual presentation overview of the Project (e.g., a video). The Applicant should ~~also~~ link the video on its Project website and include the link to the presentation when filling out Project information on MESH. ~~-~~The Board will post a link to the presentation~~in the DPU/EFSB File Room~~ on the EFSB's website for the Project.

The presentation should provide factual information using neutral language and avoiding ~~a tone of~~ "marketing advocacy" for the proposed Project, with images of proposed Project sites/routes, and visual renderings that would aid the public in ~~gaining an~~ understanding of the Project. The presentation must be compatible with on-demand closed captioning, translated closed captioning, and other accessibility features.

III. PERMITS REQUIRED FOR AN EFSB CONSOLIDATED PERMIT

A. PEA Permits

- For each permit and approval requested, the Applicant shall provide as attachments to the P&A:

- A summary sheet with the following information for each permit and approval which would otherwise be required, absent an EFSB Consolidated Permit:
    - Permit name.
    - Permit type: state/regional/local/federally delegated.
    - PEA, and the related permit program (e.g., "Wetlands Program").
    - PAA[15] (if required by law or regulation).
    - PEA statutory and regulatory authorities for the requested permit.
    - Website (URLs) for PEA's permit rules, forms, and general requirements and guidance.

- A c~~C~~ompleted p~~P~~ermit application form, i.e., the application for the permit that would normally be submitted to the PEA, including any required filing documents. For state permits, use the state PEA application forms; for local permits, use the local PEA application forms, or the DOER Consolidated Local Permit application, per 225 CMR 29.00. This requirement ~~does not apply~~applies to a ministerial permit only if the Applicant elects to seek issuance of such ministerial permit from the Board. See 980 CMR 13.0~~1~~5(~~4~~1)(d).
- A proposed draft p~~P~~ermit for the Project, including site-specific conditions proposed by the Applicant, and applicable Common Conditions, as may be adapted by the Applicant for the specific requirements of the Project ~~by the Applicant~~. See Attachment 1: EFSB Common Conditions. For ~~S~~state ~~P~~permits, Applicants shall use the current State PEA permit format. For local permits, Applicants shall use the current local PEA permit format, or the DOER Consolidated Local Permit form.[16] For ministerial permits, the Applicant shall provide conditions that would be expected to be included in the ministerial permit based on best professional judg~~e~~ment given the nature and design of the Project.

The Applicant's ~~proposed~~ draft PEA permit(s) ~~shall~~ must highlight all instances where established PEA program requirements may be inconsistent with other PEA requirements and the manner in which the Applicant proposes to resolve any such conflicting requirements. All such proposed resolutions must be identified in the Permit Application submission and summarized in the P&A Draft Permit Conflicting Requirement Summary Table (see example below).

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[15] A PAA describes agencies that have a statutory or regulatory responsibility to advise a PEA during the usual review process for a particular permit. See 980 CMR 13.01(4).

[16] To facilitate the efficient review and adjudication of the Applicant's proposed permits, such forms must be submitted as editable text, in Microsoft Word, regardless of the PEA's normal permit issuance format (e.g., PDF, Excel, etc.).

~~Exhibit~~ ~~X~~

Application and Draft Permit Conflicting Requirement Summary Table

Permit Name	**Description of Conflicting Requirement(s) Between Different PEA Permit Programs**	**Proposed Resolution** **(Please cite (and hyperlink) to Application page where the proposed resolution occurs)**

Applicants should note that the EFSB's Consolidated Permit must be consistent with the statutory requirements applicable to PEA permits. Similarly, the Board intends to comply with the substantive requirements contained in PEA statutes, regulations, ordinances/by-laws, and guidance ~~and ordinances~~, where not otherwise exempted or expressly modified by the Board. However, the Board is not compelled to follow the procedural requirements normally applicable to PEA ~~regulations and ordinances~~administration of its permitting process, as the Board's own statutes and regulations will govern procedures for EFSB Consolidated Permits issued by ~~the Board~~the Board.

~~**Exhibit X**~~

~~**Application and Draft Permit Conflicting Requirement Summary Table**~~

~~**Permit Name**~~	~~**Description of Conflicting Requirement(s) Between Different PEA Permit Programs**~~	~~**Proposed Resolution**~~ ~~**(Please cite (and hyperlink) to Application page where the proposed resolution occurs)**~~

B. Federal Permits

List all federal permits and approvals required for the proposed Project. See 980 CMR 13.05(1)(c): *Federal Permits*. ~~[.]~~ The listing of federal permits is for informational purposes only. Provide the following for each such permit:

- Permit name.
- Permit Agency and issuing program entity.
- Statutory and regulatory authorities for permit issuance.
- Status of the permit process.
- Website URLs to permit agency's permit rules, forms, and general requirements and guidance.
- Website URLs for Project application(s) filed with each federal agency.

C. Federally Delegated Permits

Identify ~~Federally delegated permits: The Applicant shall identify~~ all required federal permits for which authorization to issue the ~~P~~permit has been delegated to a Massachusetts state agency. The Applicant shall provide information pursuant to 980 CMR 13.05(1)(~~e~~e): *Federally Delegated Permits*. ~~Presumption. The Board presumes that federally delegated permits may not be issued in the EFSB Consolidated Permit without Board approval of a request for inclusion in 980 CMR 13.05(1)(e)(3).~~

Request for Inclusion. An Applicant may request in the Application that the Board issue a federally delegated Permit in the EFSB Consolidated Permit. The request for inclusion of the federally delegated Permit shall include all information as required by 980 CMR 13.05(1)(a): *State Permits*.

Presumption. The Board presumes that federally delegated permits may not be issued in the EFSB Consolidated Permit without Board approval of a request for inclusion in 980 CMR 13.05(1)(e)(3).

IV. PROPOSAL & ~~ANALYSIS~~ANALYSIS: PROJECT OVERVIEW

A. Application Summary ~~Form~~

The Applicant should ~~D~~describe the proposed Project in a concise and clear narrative that uses plain English in a one- to two-page~~n~~ e~~E~~xecutive s~~S~~ummary, which should include:

- Project type (e.g., Large Clean Transmission and Distribution Infrastructure Facility ("LCTDIF"), Small Clean Transmission and Distribution Infrastructure Facility ("SCTDIF"), Large Clean Energy ~~Infrastructure~~Generation Facility ("LCEGF"), Small Clean Energy ~~Infrastructure~~Generation Facility ("SCEGF"), Large Clean Energy Storage Facility ("LCESF"), Small Clean Energy Storage Facility ("SCESF")).
- Basic description of the Applicant's proposed Project, major components, locations, and surrounding community and land uses.
- Purpose of the proposed Project and intended energy/environmental benefits.
- Estimated Cost (for LCTDIF and SCTDIF only).
- Construction timing and key methods.
- Potential environmental, health, and safety impacts, and how the proposed Project avoids, minimizes, and mitigates them through Project design and the use of Common Conditions or Applicant-proposed site-specific conditions.
- Summary of Cumulative Impact Analysis ("CIA") (~~if applicable; s~~See 980 CMR 15.00), Site Suitability Criteria scoring evaluation (if applicable), and other mitigation strategies.
- Summary of pre-construction outreach plan and intended follow-on communication and engagement plan with community during construction and operational phases; sources of Project information (e.g., websites, hotlines, meetings, electronic filing systems~~.~~).

B. Description of the CEIF Project, Site, and Surrounding Area

The Applicant should ~~P~~provide the following ~~listed~~ information in the Description section:

1. Applicant Information

- Applicant's legal name and common name.
- Applicant's mailing address, phone number, email address, Project webpage URL.
- A brief explanation of Applicant's type of business entity, including its date and location of formation, and the name and address of any parent entities.

- Name of Applicant's representative, mailing address, phone number, email address (if different from Applicant company).
- Project owner(s) (if different from Applicant) and ownership percentages.
- If the Project is to be owned by a corporation, a copy of the charter of such corporation, as an attachment to the P&A. If the Project is not to be owned by a corporation, a copy of the certificate or other documents of formation.
- Project owner(s) mailing address, company webpage URL (if different from Applicant).
- Project operator(s) mailing address, phone number, email address (if different from Applicant company).

2. Application Information

- Project name.
- Municipalities where Project would be located.
- Assigned EFSB docket number(s) for the Application.
- Does the Application include a separate request for zoning exemptions? If so, reference the exhibit ~~name~~number of the zoning exemption request~~provide the docket number~~.
- ~~Project type (e.g., LCTDIF, SCTDIF, LCEGF, SCEGF, LCESF, SCESF).~~
- Status of Project design (percent completed).
- Proceeding Type (e.g., ~~M.~~G.L. c. 164, §§ 69T, 69U, or 69V).
- Identify whether the Project, or any portion of it, has been filed with the Board or the DPU for siting/permitting approvals before. If yes, list the EFSB/DPU docket number(s).
- Identify whether any projects on this site have been filed with the Board or the DPU before for any type of siting/permitting or other regulatory approvals. If yes, list the projects' EFSB/DPU docket number(s).
- List any related EFSB/DPU docket(s) that explicitly address the Project, including but not limited to, the following areas of review: planning, ratemaking, safety, operations, contract review, and enforcement actions. If any such reviews have taken place as informal (non-docketed) matters, provide relevant summary details.

3. Project Description

The Applicant should ~~D~~describe the Project in detail ~~in the Project Description~~ and include the following information:

- An overview of the proposed Project including a brief description of size, ratings, purpose, location, and expected use.
- Statement of Project need.
- General description of the community where the Project would be located (e.g., land use, population).
- The major components of the Project, which may include, but are not limited to: generating equipment, energy storage units, conductors, structures/towers/containers, insulators, splice vaults, transition vaults, interconnection facilities, substations and switching stations, inverters, converter stations, collection lines, access roads, laydown areas, stormwater facilities, parking and vehicle access points, administrative, maintenance and control facilities, and any other related on-site facilities and equipment.
- Estimated Cost (~~only~~ required only for LCTDIF and SCTDIF ~~– other than generator interconnection lines~~).
- General Project construction methods, including the following:
    - Construction phases.
    - Construction methods.
    - Estimated number of ~~C~~construction ~~crews~~personnel that would be on the Project site at a given time, including location of personnel parking.
    - Staging areas and material delivery procedures.
    - Any other details necessary for the Board review of Project construction, including a Construction Management Plan, as an attachment if available.
- A Gantt Chart showing the timing and duration of the entire Project and the stages of construction.
- Identification and discussion of any site-specific adverse environmental impacts of the proposed Project and the manner in which the Applicant has proposed these impacts would be avoided, minimized, or mitigated by Project design or the EFSB ~~and DOER's~~ Common Conditions (as applicable, and adapted by the Applicant for site-specific conditions), the Applicant's proposed site-specific mitigation, design improvements, Project and/or site alternatives, or C~~c~~ommunity B~~b~~enefit ~~p~~Plans or A~~a~~greements.
- Identification and discussion of any areas of anticipated controversy and public concern over the Project.
- Append the following as attachments~~, or include as figures as appropriate~~:
    - Area Locus Map (or United States Geological Survey) Quadrangle Map with Project and Project Area delineated.
    - Map of the Project Area as defined by the Applicant.
    - Site plans, including general construction plans and elevation view drawings.

- Design and technical drawings.
- Map indicating property lines markings, identifying direct abutters.
- Transmission and distribution system diagrams/maps of the existing electric system in the Project Area, including other projects in development.
- ~~Visual simulations, before and after construction, from key vantage points of greatest visibility.~~

4. Project Site

The Applicant should ~~D~~describe all property (e.g., parcels, lots, easements) involved in the Project, including the following:

- The proposed location of the Project facility including proposed electric collection and transmission lines and interconnections, as well as ancillary features located on the Project site such as roads, railroads, switchyards, energy storage or regulation facilities, substations and similar facilities.
- General dimensions of the Project site, including area in acres or square feet.
- A description of the maximum height of transmission and distribution structures, substations, solar panels, wind turbines, storage tanks, energy storage facilities, and associated electrical equipment.
- The proposed limits of clearing and disturbance for construction of all Project components and ancillary features, including laydown yards and temporary staging or storage areas.
- Existing land ownership, including whether ownership is private, public, tribal, conservation-based, and/or other.
- ~~Proposed land ownership status~~Summary and status of Applicant site control arrangements for proposed Project sites ~~(e.g., would the Applicant own the land)~~.
- Identify any financial assistance or land transfer from an agency of the Commonwealth, including the agency name and the amount of funding or land area in acres.
- ~~The location of noise-emitting facilities during operation, such as inverters and transformers, including the distance to occupied structures, property lines, and public rights-of-way.~~
- A map using satellite imagery (or aerial photograph) with depictions of planned facilities, fences, roads, occupied buildings, and planned screening, landscaping, and vegetative cover.
- The proposed location of any off-site utility interconnections, including all electric transmission lines, communications lines, stormwater drainage lines connecting to and servicing the site of the facility.

- ~~Output report from ResilientMass Action Team ("RMAT") Climate Resilience Design Standards Tool.~~

5. Surrounding Area

The Applicant should ~~D~~describe the general characteristics of the area surrounding the Project (within at least one-half mile of the proposed facilities) using maps and related geospatial data where appropriate. The ~~Application~~ description should include the following information:

- ~~Geophysical, environmental, cultural resource, land use, and other constraints impacting facility design and layout within the Project area. Constraints shall include but are not limited to: state protected wetlands and waterbodies, lands used in agricultural production, prime agricultural soils, environmentally sensitive areas (e.g., threatened or endangered species locations, archaeologically sensitive areas), required setbacks.~~
- State, regional, and municipal boundaries.
- Adjacent neighborhoods and the populations residing therein.
- Recreation and conservation areas.
- Major institutions, landmarks, and facilities.
- Waterbodies and other notable topographical features.
- Major overhead and underground energy facility infrastructure, including transmission lines, electrical stations, generation facilities, energy storage facilities, gas pipelines, telecommunications, and water/sewer facilities.
-

C. Accessibility

- The Applicant shall describe how the public can access CEIF Project information, how CEIF Project materials are consistent with the Board's Language Access Plan ("LAP") found on the EFSB Environmental Justice webpage (https://www.mass.gov/info-details/efsb-environmental-justice-information), and provisions for meeting additional locality-specific accessibility needs.

V. PROPOSAL & ANALYSIS: CONSULTATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A. Community Demographic Information

Describe the following language and demographic information for the community or communities affected by the Project, including the following information:

- Pursuant to the Board's current LAP ~~Language Access Plan ("LAP") found on the EFSB Environmental Justice webpagehttps://www.mass.gov/info-details/efsb-environmental-justice-information~~: Identify the presence of any Census Block

Groups ~~within~~ intersecting designated geographic areas[17] of the Project's boundaries in which five percent or more of the population reports speaking a specific non-English language and also indicate that they "speak English less than very well" ("Limited English Proficiency" or "LEP"); identity each Census Block Group that meets this population threshold, and the relevant languages in each Census Block Group.

- Presumptive translation and interpretation required by the Board LAP.
- ~~Burdened Areas ("BA") within the Specific Geographic Area of the Project for CIA purposes.~~

B. Pre-Filing Consultation and Community Engagement

Provide, as attachments to the P&A, ~~an affidavit and~~ documentation of compliance pursuant to 980 CMR 16.00 and provide a summary of pre-filing consultation and community engagement conducted. Include an overview of the primary concerns expressed by community members regarding the Project, and how the Applicant ~~Company~~ has responded or plans to respond to these concerns. If applicable, d~~D~~escribe the Applicant's past and ongoing efforts towards establishing a Community Benefits Plan or Community Benefits Agreement with stakeholders in the affected communities.

C. Community Outreach Plan

~~This section details how Applicants should develop communication and engagement plans ("Community Outreach Plan" or "COP") for construction and operation phases of the Project, for inclusion in EFSB Consolidated Permit.~~ The Applicant should provide, as an attach~~m~~ment, a draft communication and engagement plan ("Community Outreach Plan" or "COP") for construction and operation phases of the Project or, if ~~COP or, if~~ a draft COP is not yet available, discuss the expected development and contents of the COP.

The COP should use plain language, and include the following components:

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17 The current designated geographic area varies according to project type, as follows: (a) one quarter mile from the boundaries (such as edges of rights-of-way) of linear projects or linear project components that are not site-specific and lack a single point address, such as transmission lines and gas pipelines; and (b) one mile from the boundary of projects and project components for electrical switching stations, substations, pipeline meter stations, gas regulators, electric generating facilities, gas storage facilities, energy storage systems, or gas compressor stations. The Siting Board will revise its LAP to include a requirement for a geographic area of ½ mile from the boundary of CEIF. The Applicant should ensure that it is using the designated geographic area from the current EFSB LAP.

1. Coordination Component.

The Applicant is expected to coordinate with stakeholders, including abutters, municipal officials, community groups, and property owners regarding:

- Development of the COP.
- Discussion of upcoming construction activities prior to each major construction stage, including: (1) those that would create significant adverse impacts on or affect access to stakeholders' properties, including traffic lane and street closures and detours; and (2) planned or unplanned construction activities that would occur outside of regular work hours, including during nighttime, weekends, and public holidays.

2. Notification Component.

- Notice sent via email, U.S. mail, or hand-delivered flyers or door hangers to abutters and other stakeholders regarding advance notice of scheduled construction activities in affected neighborhoods, including: (1) the scheduled start, duration, and hours of construction in particular areas; (2) the methods of construction that will be used in particular areas (including any use of nighttime construction); and (3) anticipated traffic lane and street closures and detours, as well as special deliveries such as involving outsized equipment or components.
- Translations into appropriate languages for the Project area, consistent with the EFSB current LAP provisions for presumptive language services.
- Outreach protocols to sensitive receptors of upcoming construction.
- Work area signage.

3. Communication Component.

- Project representative(s) contact information.
- Creation of webpages displaying Project information.
- Creation of a telephone hotline, email address, and point of contact for public inquiries and complaints and a protocol to respond to complaints in a timely manner.
- Regular email updates to municipal officials and email lists.
- Opportunity to sign up for updates via the Applicant's Project website.

VI. PROPOSAL & ANALYSIS: PROJECT NEED (FOR LCTDIF AND SCTDIF)

A. Basis of Need

- Describe the basis of need for the Project and provide, as attachments, supporting documentation.~~;~~

- Identify transmission and/or distribution system reliability issues (including due to system planning criteria from NERC, NPCC, ISO-NE, etc., or environmental risk to system infrastructure).~~;~~
- Provide current Project area load projections by substation, over a 10-year (or longer) period.~~;~~
- Describe asset condition improvement or modernization needs (e.g., damage to electric line structures, cable, obsolescence, outdated specifications).~~;~~
- Describe performance improvement/economic benefit objectives of the Project supporting need.~~;~~
- Describe interconnection needs for generation or energy storage facilities.~~; and~~
- Other state and federal policies that support Project need.

B. System Background Conditions

Describe system background conditions, including:

- The Project Area's electric system topology, including: transmission and major distribution lines, generation/storage sources and expected retirements, substations, customer energy requirements served, and particular concerns regarding critical infrastructure or vulnerable populations~~;~~.[18]
- If applicable, any electrical load pocket(s) in the electric system which require relief~~;~~.
- Information about whether the Project facilities would be part of a regional transmission (e.g., pool transmission facilities, "PTF") or local transmission (non-PTF)~~;~~.
- The nameplate capacities and long-term emergency ("LTE") ratings of transformers, the firm capacity for substations, and the N-1 and N-1-1 contingency scenarios and timelines for potential overloads~~;~~. ~~and~~
- ~~If applicable, e~~Equipment performance concerns and ~~or recurring line~~ outage history, if applicable.

C. Load Forecast Studies

- If the Project need is based on ISO New England ("ISO-NE") system studies, or company-specific load forecast studies, provide those~~said~~ studies as attachments. Other relevant studies (such as Electric Sector Modernization Plans ("ESMPs"), or Long-Term System Planning Program studies) may also be provided (or referenced) to demonstrate Project need.

[18] Applicants shall file confidential system information pursuant to 980 CMR 1.06(5)(f).

- If the Project need is based on existing or forecasted demand for interconnection of CEIF, describe the interconnecting facility and current interconnection queue ~~related to the Project~~status.
- If Project need is based on, or related to, a load projection, provide a reviewable, appropriate, and reliable load forecast or forecasts of ten years (or longer, if appropriate). Such forecasts:
    - Are based on accurate historical information and reasonable statistical projection methods, which should include an adequate consideration of conservation and load management.
    - Include a full description of the load forecast methodology, including the relevant standards, and expected accuracy levels.
    - Address both summer and winter peak demands over the forecast period
    - Address significant trends including energy efficiency, clean energy generation, energy storage, major known step-load additions or expected load retirements, and electrification of buildings and transportation uses, and provide relevant breakdowns of these sub-categories of demand.

D. State Policies

If Project need is related to implementation of state policies, identify the policies (e.g., policy documents, statutes, regulations, rulings, orders and decisions) and describe how they influence Project need.

E. Consequences of "No Build"

Regardless of the asserted basis of Project need, describe the consequences of leaving the existing transmission and distribution system as is. Relevant considerations include:

- System failures (e.g., areas/number of customers affected, anticipated time to restore service, damage to the system, economic/public health/safety consequences of outages).
- Non-compliance with state policies or established reliability standards.
- Whether any stopgap improvements, and/or operational measures could defer the need, and if so, for how long and at what cost/impact.

VII. PROPOSAL & ANALYSIS: DESCRIPTION OF BENEFITS

A. ~~For~~ LCTDIF and SCTDIF Applications:~~,~~

The Applicant should describe any benefits the Project would provide in addition to meeting the Project need ~~identified in the section above~~ and append as attachments any supporting studies or calculations. Include a discussion of how the Project will:

- ~~i~~Increase the capacity of the system to interconnect large electricity customers, electric vehicle supply equipment, clean energy generation, clean energy storage or other clean energy generation sources that qualify under any clean energy standard regulation established pursuant to ~~M.~~G.L. c. 21N, § 3(d)
- ~~, or will f~~Facilitate the electrification of the building and transportation sectors.
- ~~This section should also discuss local benefits and other benefits anticipated by the Project to the community or region.~~The Applicant should also address any other relevant benefits covered in Section VII.B. below.

B. ~~For LCEGF, LCESF, SCEGF and SCESF~~All CEIF Applications:

- ~~The Applicant should , d~~Describe ~~any energy~~ benefits the Project would provide, including, but not limited to~~, in the following context~~:
  - ~~Describe any e~~Energy benefits ~~the Project would provide. In light of the Board's goal to "provide a reliable, resilient and clean supply of energy," energy benefits could include, but are not limited to~~:
    - Enhancing energy system reliability.
    - Meeting future energy ~~load projections~~demand.
    - Achieving state policy ~~goals~~ objectives, such as Net Zero, Smart Growth, etc. ~~climate goals.~~
    - Offering ~~financial~~ cost savings or price stability to retail customers ~~or~~ and wholesale energy market ~~energy costss~~.
    - Expanding energy access or service quality ~~to~~ in underserved communities.
    - ~~Specify to whom the benefits would be provided (e.g., the ISO-NE region, the Commonwealth, the affected municipalities, specific ratepayers, Project partners, etc.).~~
    - Append as attachments any supporting studies or calculations.
  - ~~Describe any en~~Environmental and public health benefits.
  - ~~Describe any~~ Other ~~local~~ benefits ~~and other benefits anticipated~~provided by the Project to the community or region, including, but not limited to: employment opportunities; workforce training; social, cultural and recreational contributions; economic development; and tax revenues.~~,~~

- ~~For all CEIF Projects also describe the following:~~
  - ~~Local benefits.~~
  - ~~Other benefits anticipated by the Project to the community or region.~~

VIII. PROPOSAL & ANALYSIS: PROJECT ALTERNATIVES (FOR LCTDIF AND SCTDIF)

A. Consideration of Project Alternatives

- The Applicant should ~~D~~describe ~~the~~its ~~how the Applicant has~~ consider~~ationed~~ or implement~~ation of~~ed~~ alternative approaches to meet the identified Project need, including, but not limited to the following:
  - Asset condition repairs, refurbishment, or targeted replacement of worn equipment to extend the life of existing infrastructure, rather than retire and replace existing facilities.
  - ~~o~~ Advanced transmission technologies, including advanced conductors.
  - ~~o~~ Grid enhancement technologies.
  - ~~o~~ Non-wires alternatives, such as energy storage, distributed energy resources, etc.
  - ~~o~~ Alternative methods of transmitting or storing energy, including distribution system solution alternatives.
  - ~~o~~ Alternative sources of power.
  - ~~o~~ A reduction of demand requirements through load management.
  - ~~o How the Project will increase the capacity of the system to interconnect large electricity customers, electric vehicle supply equipment, clean energy generation, clean energy storage or other clean energy generation sources that qualify under any clean energy standard regulation established pursuant to M.G.L. c. 21N, § 3(d), or will facilitate the electrification of the building and transportation sectors.~~
  - ~~o~~ Other alternatives to avoid or minimize expenditures.

B. Costs, Benefits, Reliability, Feasibility and Policy Consideration

- The Applicant should ~~P~~provide a comparison of the ~~above~~ Project ~~alternatives~~ Alternatives addressed in Section VIII.A above with the proposed Project in terms of ability to meet the identified Project need; cost (both initial capital outlay, and net present value ("NPV") of capital and operating costs); energy ~~benefits~~ and ~~other co~~ other benefits (s~~S~~ee VII above); environmental impacts; reliability; feasibility; and ~~other~~ state policy considerations, such as Environmental Justice, ~~or~~ CIA; Smart Growth, and Site Suitability (if applicable~~and Project management considerations.~~).

C. Final Determination on Project Alternatives

- The Applicant should ~~D~~describe whether, on balance, the proposed Project is superior to the alternative approaches identified, and how it weighs tradeoffs among relevant criteria identified in Section VIII.B, above.~~.~~

D. Supporting Documentation

- The Applicant must ~~Append as attachments~~provide any supporting studies or calculations.

IX. PROPOSAL & ANALYSIS: ROUTE SELECTION AND SITE SELECTION (FOR LCTDIF AND SCTDIF)

~~The Board's statutes do not impose the same requirements on LCTDIF or SCTDIF as compared with clean generation/energy storage facilities for the Board's evaluation of site and Project alternatives.~~ For LCTDIF or SCTDIF (under both ~~M.~~G.L. c. 164 §§ 69T and 69U)~~]~~, the Applicant must provide "a description of the alternatives to the large [and small] clean transmission and distribution infrastructure facility, including siting and Project alternatives to avoid or minimize or, if impacts cannot be avoided or minimized, mitigate impacts."

~~Regarding clean energy storage and clean generation facilities, the Applicant must provide "a description of the Project site selection process and alternatives analysis used in choosing the location of the proposed large [or small] clean energy generation facility or large clean energy storage facility to avoid or minimize or, if impacts cannot be avoided or minimized, mitigate impacts." Unlike the requirements for LCTDIF or SCTDIF projects, the Board's statute does not specifically mandate "siting and project alternatives" for clean energy storage and generation facilities.[19]~~

~~A. Route/Site Selection~~

~~The route/site selection process involves the following steps in EFSB proceedings:~~

- ~~T&D Project route/site selection often revolves around connecting existing, upgraded, or new substations or switching stations to other such substations (or switching stations) to address identified system needs. This is generally the starting point for analysis of transmission line routing options.~~

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[19] ~~The statutory language for clean generation and energy storage facilities is similar to the language for legacy generation facilities contained in M.G.L. c. 164, § 69J¼ that imposes only a ***descriptive*** requirement on the applicant regarding its site selection. In contrast, the Site Suitability Criteria, established by EEA, are specifically intended to help guide the proponent's selection of sites for clean generation and clean energy storage facilities, and not be limited to an after-the-fact "descriptive" use. The Board is required to develop standards for applying the Site Suitability Criteria.REPLACE WITH REFERENCE TO SITE SUITABILITY GUIDANCE~~

- Where new substations/switching station locations are required, Applicants shall identify relevant factors for consideration of potential sites, such as ownership status, local zoning, community input, engineering and planning considerations, constructability, environmental impacts, site security, and cost.

- The Applicant shall also identify the objectives for route selection for the LCTDIF or SCTDIF. Such factors may include environmental impact avoidance, minimization and mitigation to built and natural environments, constructability constraints, reliability, and cost, among others.

- The Applicant shall describe geographical diversity among the proposed routes/sites and the alternatives considered for the Project. The Applicant should evaluate geographical diversity as a function of land use, vegetation cover, population density, presence or proximity to sensitive receptors, archeological and historical resources, pollutant sources and regulated contaminated sites, water resource areas, existing public roads and utility corridors, cost, and reliability considerations. In general, the Applicant must establish that it identified at least two sites or routes with some measure of geographic diversity.[20]

- Consideration of CIA – the Board is required to evaluate cumulative impacts for all jurisdictional energy facilities. The Board is proposing a route/site scoring system that integrates CIA factors into the evaluations; See 980 CMR 15.00.

- EEA's Site Suitability Criteria apply to LCTDIF or SCTDIF where Applicants propose to construct the Project in a newly established public right of way.

B. Superior Route/Site Not Overlooked

The Applicant must establish a developed and appliedand apply a reasonable set of criteria for identifying and evaluating alternative routes/sites in a manner that ensures that it has not overlooked or eliminated any routes/sites that, on balance, are clearly superior to the proposed route/site. The following steps describe a general method, based on precedent, which the Applicant should adapt to achieve this objective:

- Identification of a Project Study Area: This step defines the geographic boundaries of where facilities could be located that would serve the identified Project need and provides a wide range of siting options to consider.
- Development of a Universe of Routes: tThis step involves identifying considering many possible routing options between two or more points (such as substations) that offer geographic diversity, and a wide variety of route characteristics such as

[20] Given the designation of a noticed alternative route: (a) is not required by statute; (b) necessitates that a project proponent expend significant funds in both developing and supporting a noticed alternative route; and (c) has the potential to raise concern unnecessarily among potential abutters and others in the affected communities, the Board has indicated that a noticed alternative route may not be warranted in all cases. See e.g., Mid-Cape Main Replacement Project, EFSB 16-01, at 21 (2016).

distance, environmental impacts, construction challenges, community factors, cost, and reliability. In urban areas, the number of routing possibilities can be quite large, and various screening procedures can be used to ~~down select~~screen the selection to the more promising candidates.

- Identification of Candidate Routes: This step allows an Applicant to screen the Universe of Routes to reduce the number of options to a more manageable number of promising candidates. In this step, Applicants will typically consider early stakeholder input and conduct pre-filing meetings with local and state regulatory agencies, and elected officials. Screening procedures include desktop and GIS analysis, document and plan review, site reconnaissance, general constructability assessments, cost considerations, deed research/property rights evaluations, evaluation of the presence of wetlands/waterways, traffic analyses, and a review of active and future planned developments.
- Route Scoring: The Applicant ~~will~~ evaluates ~~the~~candidate site/route options based on identified ~~E~~environmental and c~~C~~onstructability factors in a scoring system that quantifies impacts on the specified evaluation metrics, weighs the relative importance of such criteria with respect to good engineering practice, sound project management, protection of public health and environmental quality, and input from the impacted communities.[21]~~.~~ Such criteria often consider, among other factors, land use, vegetation cover, population density, presence or proximity to sensitive receptors, archeological and historical resources, pollutant sources and regulated contaminated sites, water resource areas, listed rare and threatened species, and existing public roads and utility corridors
- Cost Analysis: A ~~more~~ detailed comparison of estimated costs for the Candidate Routes ~~will be completed by the Applicant~~/Sites.
- Reliability Analysis: ~~The Applicant will complete a~~A ~~more detailed~~ An evaluation of ~~any~~ differences in reliability of the LCTDIF or SCTDIF ~~infrastructure related to the routing characteristics~~site/route alternatives.
- Geographic Diversity: The Applicant should ~~evaluate~~consider geographic~~al~~ diversity as an additional factor ~~as a function of land use, vegetation cover, population density, presence or proximity to sensitive receptors, archeological and historical resources, pollutant sources and regulated contaminated sites, water resource areas, listed rare and threatened species, and existing public roads and utility corridor~~in developing a final set of route/site option~~s~~.
- Selection of a Preferred Route and Noticed Alternative Route: This step generally results in two remaining route choices for final evaluation based on relevant factors such as environmental impacts, reliability, and cost~~, and cumulative impact~~

[21] The Board has found that contemporaneous meeting minutes with stakeholders (e.g., elected officials, state and local agency representatives, members of the general public) are of great value in its route/site selection review process. Applicants should share these minutes with meeting participants to ensure their accuracy.

~~considerations~~.[22] This evaluation m~~M~~ay also include "route variations," which are short alternative segments of a route intended to address potential issues such as land acquisition/access constraints and construction impediments.

- ~~Pre-Filing Consultation and Engagement: As part of 980 CMR 16.00, the Applicant should provide ample information about the process and substance of communications between the Applicant and the host community, its stakeholders, elected officials, and state and local agency representatives. The Board has found that contemporaneous meeting minutes with stakeholders (e.g., elected officials, state and local agency representatives, members of the general public) are of great value in its review process. Applicants should share these minutes with meeting participants to ensure their accuracy.~~

X. PROPOSAL & ANALYSIS: SITE SELECTION AND SITE ALTERNATIVES (LCEGF, LCESF, SCEGF, AND SCESF)

For~~Regarding~~ clean energy storage and clean generation facilities, the Applicant must provide "a description of the Project site selection process and alternatives analysis used in choosing the location of the proposed large [or small] clean energy generation facility or large clean energy storage facility to avoid or minimize or, if impacts cannot be avoided or minimized, mitigate impacts." G.L. c. 164 § 69T. Unlike the requirements for LCTDIF or SCTDIF projects, the Board's statute does not specifically mandate "siting and project alternatives" for clean energy storage and generation facilities.[23] Pursuant to 980 CMR 13.03(3), the Applicant must describe:

- The site selection process, including (a) consideration of ~~alternative~~ candidate sites and (b)~~-~~ the siting of any ancillary structures (e.g. transmission interconnection lines).

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[22] ~~Given t~~The designation of a noticed alternative route: (a) is not required by statute; (b) may necessitate~~s~~ that an Applicant ~~a project proponent~~ expend significant funds in both developing and supporting a noticed alternative route; and (c) has the potential to raise concern unnecessarily among potential abutters and others in the affected communities. Accordingly, ~~,~~the ~~b~~Board has ~~indicated~~found that a noticed alternative route may not be warranted in all cases. See e.g., Mid Cape Main Replacement Project, EFSB-16-01, at 21 (2016).

[23] The statutory language for clean generation and energy storage facilities is similar to the language for legacy generati~~on~~ facilities ~~contained~~ in ~~M.~~G.L. c. 164, § 69J¼ in that it requires ~~imposes only a ***descriptive*** requirement on~~an the applicant only to describe ~~regarding~~ its site selection process. In contrast, the Site Suitability Criteria, established by EEA, are specifically intended to help guide the applicant~~proponent~~'s selection of sites for clean generation and clean energy storage facilities, and not be limited to an after-the-fact "descriptive" use.

- How this site selection process avoids or minimizes, or if impacts cannot be avoided or minimized, mitigates impacts of the Project.

~~Consideration or implementation of any alternative sites.~~The Board recommends that, to the extent possible, this alternatives analysis should be consistent with the requirements of any PEA-mandated alternatives analysis. For transmission interconnection lines that are greater than one mile in length, the Applicant should complete the route selection analysis described in Section IX as applicable.

XI. PROPOSAL & ANALYSIS: SITE SUITABILITY AND CUMULATIVE IMPACT ANALYSIS

~~A. General Requirements~~

~~In 980 CMR 15.00, the Board is establisheding standards for applying Site Suitability Criteria developed by EEA. The Board was directed establish "standards for applying site suitability criteria developed [by EEA pursuant to M.G.L. c. 21A, § 30] to evaluate the social and environmental impacts of proposed clean energy infrastructure project sites include a mitigation hierarchy to be applied during the permitting process to avoid or minimize or, if impacts cannot be avoided or minimized, mitigate impacts of siting on the environment, people and goals and objectives of the commonwealth for climate mitigation, carbon storage and sequestration, resilience, biodiversity and protection of natural and working lands to the extent practicable." M.G.L. c. 164, § 69T. With respect to LCTDIF and SCTDIF, the applicability of the Site Suitability Criteria is limited to LCTDIF or SCTDIF in "newly established public rights of way." M.G.L. c. 21A, § 30.~~

~~B.~~A. ~~Applicant Instructions~~Site Suitability

In 980 CMR 15.00, the Board established standards for applying Site Suitability Criteria developed by EEA. The Board was directed to establish "standards for applying site suitability criteria developed [by EEA pursuant to ~~M.~~G.L. c. 21A, § 30] to evaluate the social and environmental impacts of proposed clean energy infrastructure project sites include a mitigation hierarchy to be applied during the permitting process to avoid or minimize or, if impacts cannot be avoided or minimized, mitigate impacts of siting on the environment, people and goals and objectives of the commonwealth for climate mitigation, carbon storage and sequestration, resilience, biodiversity and protection of natural and working lands to the extent practicable." ~~M.~~G.L. c. 164, § 69T. With respect to LCTDIF and SCTDIF, the applicability of the Site Suitability Criteria is limited to LCTDIF or SCTDIF in "newly established public rights of way." ~~M.~~G.L. c. 21A, § 30.

~~CEIF~~ For Projects subject to the Site Suitability requirements, Applicants must:

- Provide an overview of the Site Suitability Report results, including the Criteria-specific Suitability Scores and any score modifiers. Include a narrative on how the Site Suitability Criteria guided the Applicant's Project development approach

in terms of avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating impacts on the environment and people to the greatest extent possible.

- ~~Use the Site Suitability Criteria established by EEA to evaluate proposed sites and routes, as applicable. In the case of proposed LCTDIF and SCTDIF that are not in "newly established public rights of way," there is no required evaluation for such facilities using the Site Suitability Criteria in such locations.~~

- Submit a Site Suitability Report in accordance with 980 CMR 15.00 and EEA's Site Suitability Guidance ~~[and Site Suitability Template]~~as attachments. ~~The Site Suitability Report will consist of multiple documents:~~Include a report ~~summarizing an analysis of candidate routes and sites using the Site Suitability Criteria, and explain how, and to what degree, the Site Suitability Criteria influenced the Applicant's selection of a preferred route/site versus alternative locations. Include a narrative on how the Site Suitability Criteria guided the Applicant's Project development approach in terms of avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating impacts on the environment and people to the greatest extent possible.~~

  - ~~Site Suitability Report Checklist~~

  - ~~Site Suitability Map Report~~

  - ~~Proposed avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation supporting documentation, if applicable~~

  - ~~Development potential supporting documentation, if applicable~~

  - ~~Social and environmental benefits supporting documentation, if applicable~~

-

B. Cumulative Impact Analysis (CIA)

980 CMR 15.00 ~~also~~ establishes the requirements and procedures for CIA, and the Board has ~~released~~provided ~~the 980 CMR 15.00:~~a CIA Report Template for Applicants to use.

CEIF Applicants must:

- Provide an overview of the CIA results, including a map of the Project Boundaries and Specific Geographical Area (SGA), any Burdened Areas that overlap the Project's SGA, Elevated Indicators within the Burdened Areas, a discussion of any construction phase or operations phase Disproportionate Adverse Effects that may result from the Project, and proposed avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures.

- Submit~~.~~ as an attachment, a CIA Report in accordance with the CIA Report Template.

XII. PROPOSAL & ANALYSIS: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The following is a description of the typical environmental impacts associated with CEIF Projects. This list is not intended to be exhaustive; the Board encourages additional information where the Applicant deems it appropriate or impacts are substantial. If any sections in this list are determined by the Applicant not to apply to a CEIF Project, the Applicant should ~~identify the proposed impact and~~ provide an explanation as to why the impact is not applicable. The Applicant should describe consultations with PEAs and PAAs and include supporting documentation.

As part of this section, Applicants must evaluate practicable measures to avoid, minimize and mitigate identified impacts. The Applicant should explain the basis of its proposed approach to avoid, minimize and mitigate such impacts, and its proposed ~~approval~~ conditions for the EFSB Construction Permit and other state and local PEA permits and approvals.

A. Land Use and Land-Based Resources

1. Land Uses

~~Provide~~ The Applicant should provide a description of the current and historic land~~s~~ use at the Project site. The description should be as detailed as supported by available information, i.e., it is preferrable to state the type of specific commercial operations that have occurred rather than simply applying the broad term of "commercial".

2. Adjacent Land Uses

~~Provide~~ The Applicant should provide a description of the current and historic lands uses at abutting properties and in proximity to the Project site. Nearby public resources (e.g., protected open space, parks, state forests) should be identified.

~~1.~~3. Project Site Locus

~~Provide~~ The Applicant should provide a detailed description of the ~~description of the Project locus (reference above sections on Project Description,~~ Project Site, and ~~Surrounding Areas~~surrounding Area~~, as necessary)~~, including:

- A brief description of the regional and local landscape setting.
- All zoning designations applicable to the Project site (e.g., districts, overlays) and corresponding compliance criteria (e.g., permitted uses; dimensional, setback, parking, and open space requirements).
- The topography of the Project site(s) and surrounding area(s). ~~-~~A qualitative description of the general character (e.g., urban, rural, industrial) of the surrounding land uses and any anticipated challenges with integrating the Project accordingly. Specify any anticipated physical alteration(s) to surrounding land uses from Project construction, operations, or decommissioning, and how such alterations would

contribute to the above challenges, if applicable. The Project's consistency with municipal or state land use planning documents and studies regarding: (1) economic development objectives; (2) adequacy of infrastructure; (3) open space impacts; and (4) compatibility with adjacent land uses.

- A description of the following features of the Project Site and surrounding area, as applicable:
    - Agricultural uses at present or past five years.
    - Active forestry use.
    - Article 97 land.
    - Conservation restrictions, preservation restrictions, agricultural preservation restrictions, or watershed preservation restrictions.
- If applicable, describe any impervious surface increase and resultant impact(s) on heat island conditions.

2.4.Terrestrial Vegetation~~Vegetation~~

- ~~Describe the Project's consistency with municipal or state land use planning documents and studies regarding: (1) economic development objectives; (2) adequacy of infrastructure; (3) open space impacts; and (4) compatibility with adjacent land uses.~~

~~P~~The Applicant should provide ~~rovide~~ a detailed description of the terrestrial vegetation at the Project site, including:~~, including:~~

- Describe and quantify vegetation communities and land cover types within the Project area, and how vegetation is integrated with other defining topographical features – built and natural.
- Provide calculations of temporary and permanent disturbance of vegetative communities. Distinguish between disturbance that would occur in previously developed areas (i.e., paved, graveled, or otherwise urbanized), and naturally vegetated areas.
- Provide a supporting map (or maps) showing project features and vegetation communities and land cover type. Specify the delineation methodology (e.g., field delineation, mapping records, use of MassGIS data layers).
- State ~~if~~whether herbicides may be used during construction or operation.
- Describe any anticipated adverse ecological impacts of the Project (e.g., vegetation loss, soil destabilization, and related carbon sequestration impacts).

~~3.~~5.Terrestrial Wildlife and Avian Species~~Terrestrial Wildlife and Avian Species~~

- The Applicant should ~~Describe the Project's consistency with municipal or state land use planning documents and studies regarding: (1) economic development objectives;~~

~~(2) adequacy of infrastructure; (3) open space impacts; and (4) compatibility with adjacent land uses.~~

~~P~~provide a detailed description of the terrestrial wildlife and avian species at the Project Site, including:

- Identify species with the potential to occur in or in proximity to the Project area.
- Identify and describe any regional and/or local wildlife corridors within and surrounding the Project area.
- Identify any biological resource management areas (i.e., conservation or mitigation areas, wildlife management areas, etc.) within and surrounding the project area (approximately 5-mile buffer).
- ~~-~~Describe avian obstructions and risk of electrocution from the project. Describe any standards that will be implemented as part of the project to reduce the risk of collision and electrocution.
- Provide maps specifying the location and extent of any ecologically significant resource areas, e.g., areas of critical environmental concern ("ACECs"). For such areas, specify the delineation methodology (e.g., field delineation, mapping records, use of MassGIS data layers).
- ~~Describe the terrestrial ecology within and surrounding the Project site(s).~~
- ~~Provide a description of vegetation cover, and how vegetation is integrated with other defining topographical features – built and natural.~~
- Describe any anticipated adverse ecological impacts of the Project (e.g., ~~vegetation loss, soil destabilization,~~ habitat ~~(including rare species)~~ destruction, loss of wildlife corridors ~~and biodiversity loss~~).
- ~~Describe the following features of the Project site and surrounding area, as applicable:~~
    - ~~Agricultural uses at present or past five years.~~
    - ~~Active forestry use.~~
    - ~~Article 97 land.~~
    - ~~Conservation restrictions, preservation restrictions, agricultural preservation restrictions, or watershed preservation restrictions.~~
- ~~If applicable, describe any impervious surface increase and resultant impact(s) on heat island conditions, including anticipated impacts on public shade trees.~~
- Describe mitigation, best practices, or regulatory requirements (e.g., ~~public shade tree requirements,~~ avoidance of sensitive areas, establishment or continuation of wildlife

corridors, preservation, rehabilitation, or generation of vegetation or other ecological features).

- Describe any past and /or intended future consultations with the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game regarding the Project.
- ~~Describe consultations to date and anticipated with the Massachusetts Historical Commission ("MHC"), Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program ("NHESP"), and local Native American tribes, respectively.~~

6. Biodiversity

The Applicant should ~~P~~provide a discussion of the biodiversity associated with the Project site, including:

- ~~Provide the site's Biodiversity Score from the Mass Clean Energy Infrastructure Site Suitability Mapping Tool (https://www.mass.gov/info-details/site-suitability-assessments-for-clean-energy-infrastructure).~~
- Describe species diversity; habitat and ecosystem diversity; and genetic diversity.
- Identify existing and proposed ecological stressors, e.g., human activity, threats to habitat connectivity, disease prevalence, and presence of invasive species.; and recent ecological history.
- Describe any impacts associated with the Project in terms of loss of biodiversity.

B. Rare Species

- Discuss presence of ~~both common and~~ listed ~~rare~~vegetative and wildlife ~~-~~species (including migratory species).
- ~~; overall biodiversity; ecological stressors, e.g., human activity, threats to habitat connectivity, disease prevalence, and presence of invasive species; and recent ecological history.~~
- Describe whether the Project S~~s~~ite includes Estimated and/or Priority Habitat of State-Listed Rare Species. If so~~, specify.~~:
    - Describe whether the Project ~~s~~Site falls within mapped rare species habitat in the current Massachusetts Natural Heritage Atlas.
    - If so, provide the ~~relevant page(s)~~map of the rare species habitat in relation to the Project location.
- For Listed species, provide (a) common and scientific name; (b) status and/or rank; (c) habitat characteristics; (d) bloom characteristics for plants. Describe all avoidance and /or minimization measures that will be undertaken, including Time of Year

restrictions and Best Management Practices, related to impacts to endangered, threatened, and special concern species and their habitats.

- Describe any proposed mitigation measures.
- Describe any past and /or intended future consultations with NHESP regarding the Project.

C. Historical/Archeological Resources

- Identify if the Project site includes any structure, site, or district listed in the State Register of Historic Places or the inventory of tribal, Historic, and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth. If so, identify if the Project involves any demolition or destruction of any listed resources.
- Provide either a draft of an~~n~~ unanticipated archaeological discoveries plan or, if a draft plan is not available, a description of what the plan would entail. The plan should outline procedures to be followed in the event of an unanticipated discovery of archaeological resources or human remains during construction activities for the Project.
- Describe any consultations to date and anticipated with the Massachusetts Historical Commission ("MHC") and local Native American tribes~~, respectively~~.

For Projects that have components that are located underwater or offshore, provide the following:

- Describe underwater archaeological resources at or near the Project S~~s~~ite, by type if applicable.
- Provide a summary of and attach to the Application any relevant archeological surveys and studies.

D. Water Resources and Aquatic Ecology

1. Water Use and Wastewater

- Describe the Project's water use and wastewater generation. Describe the water source and disposal method of wastewater. Describe any designated classification to the water use (e.g., potable water, reclaimed water) and wastewater (e.g., sanitary, industrial).
- If the water source is municipal or regional supply, and/or would discharge to a wastewater facility, describe the total capacity of such water supply and/or wastewater facility. Describe the impact of the Project's water use and wastewater generation on such water supply and/or wastewater facility. If the water source

and/or disposal method are something else, describe the impact and mitigation in the appropriate sub-sections below.

2. ~~Description of Wetland~~ Water Resources Areas

- Using maps and tables, describe the occurrence, location, and acreage, of the following surface water resources within or near the Project. Describe the delineation methodology of the water resources in both lists, including, but not limited to, the use of MassGIS data layers, mapping records, and field delineations. Include a description of the method(s) used to identify wetland presence and boundaries within the Project area and the credentials of the person who completed the delineation. Provide the total sum of these areas by type in a table.
    - Surface watercourses, including but not limited to streams, rivers, ponds, and lakes.
    - Public waterways or tidelands, and land under Chapter 91 jurisdiction.
    - Waters of the United States (per 40 CFR Part 120).
    - Outstanding Resource Water ("ORW").
    - Wild and Scenic River.
    - Jurisdictional federal, state, and locally regulated wetlands and adjacent areas (e.g., wetland buffers and setbacks).
    - Vernal pools.
    - Other local water resources, wetland resources, conservation and protection zoning districts or overlays.
    - Coastal resource areas.
    - Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage ("LSCSF") and Land Subject to Flooding ("LSF").
    - Currently impaired water, specify by pollutants.
    - Any other jurisdictional waters and resource areas.
- Using maps and tables, describe the occurrence location of the following subsurface water resources within or near the Project. Describe the delineation methodology of the water resources in both lists, which could include, but is not limited to, the use of MassGIS data layers, mapping records, and field delineations. Provide the total sum of these areas by type in a table. Table should include the following elements:
    - Notable underground aquifers, especially those used as public water sources.
    - Public water wellheads and protection areas.
    - Major water discharge and drainage outfalls.
    - Private water wells and protection areas.

- ~~o~~ Private septic systems including leach fields.
- ~~Wetlands and Waterbodies~~

~~Provide the delineation of all wetland resource areas on and near the Project site. Include a description of the method(s) used to identify wetland presence and boundaries within the Project area and the credentials of the person who completed the delineation.~~

- Discuss the existing functional values of the wetlands present in the area of the Project S~~s~~ite. Functional values include but are not limited to floristic diversity, fish and wildlife habitat, flood storage, protection of public and private water supply, groundwater discharge and recharge, public use, prevention of pollution, storm damage prevention, etc. Discuss how the Project may impact existing functional values of wetlands.

~~Describe any direct impacts such as alterations and impediments, including dredging, that the Project would have on any waterbodies, including but not limited to watercourses, wetlands, and the ocean. Describe areas of waterbodies the Project would affect, as grouped in the following categories:~~

- ~~Wetlands and their resource areas and adjacent areas.~~
- ~~Surface watercourses, including but not limited to streams, rivers, ponds, and lakes.~~
- ~~Coastal areas including tidelands.~~
- ~~Ocean including federal and state waters and the Outer Continental Shelf ("OCS").~~

- Estimate the extent and type of impacts that the Project will have on wetland resources~~,~~ and indicate whether the impacts are temporary or permanent. ~~If proposing any offsite mitigation such as enhancement to existing wetlands, replication of wetlands, or a mitigation fund, provide the details including the mitigation location(s).~~
- Provide the methods to be used for avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating construction impacts in and near wetlands. This discussion could~~should~~ include, but is not limited to:~~,~~
    - Site selection to avoid high-quality wetlands.~~how wetland impact was first avoided then minimized by Project design, shifting the Project boundary~~
    - Establishing limits of disturbance to avoid wetland areas.
    - R~~, rec~~elocating structures and/or fill outside of wetland.
    - M~~, m~~inimizing construction through wetlands including~~, by~~ installation methods (i.e., directional bore versus open-cut trenching, soil segregation during trenching, etc.), equipment crossing methods (i.e. use of construction matting, frozen ground conditions, etc.).

- Minimizing construction related impacts including~~,~~ sediment and erosion controls, invasive species protocols for equipment, etc.~~. If proposing any offsite mitigation such as enhancement to existing wetlands, replication of wetlands, or a mitigation fund, provide the details including the mitigation location(s).~~

- Describe any direct impacts such as alterations and impediments, including dredging, that the Project would have on any waterbodies, including but not limited to watercourses, wetlands, and the ocean. Describe areas of waterbodies the Project would affect, as grouped in the following categories:
  - Wetlands and their resource areas and adjacent areas.
  - Surface watercourses, including but not limited to streams, rivers, ponds, and lakes.
  - Coastal areas including tidelands.
  - Ocean including federal and state waters and the Outer Continental Shelf ("OCS").
- ~~.~~ If proposing any offsite mitigation such as enhancement to existing wetlands, replication of wetlands, or a mitigation fund, provide the details including the mitigation location(s).

3. Aquatic Ecology

- Describe the aquatic ecology within and near the Project, including the type of aquatic ecosystems, presence of both common and rare wildlife, overall biodiversity, recent ecological history if applicable, and ecological health (e.g., degradation from human activities, habitat connectivity, and invasive species).
- Provide maps and sums of these areas by types in a table:
  - ~~Rare wetland wildlife habitat.~~
  - ~~Wild and Scenic River.~~
  - Marine protected areas, including ocean sanctuaries, wildlife refuges, and estuarine research reserves.
  - Waterbodies with the presence of fish runs and shell fishing, if not covered above.
- Describe impacts associated with the Project on the following, and corresponding mitigation:
  - General health and condition of the aquatic ecology.
  - Ecological health of resource areas such as tidelands.
  - ~~Rare species and habitat including migratory species with a local presence, by species.~~

- Habitat connectivity (e.g., fragmentation of habitats).
- Fishery.
- Wildlife-based recreation.

- Describe any past and /or intended future consultations with the Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife (freshwater fisheries) and/or the Massachusetts Department of Marine Fisheries (coastal fisheries).

4. Water Withdrawal and Extraction

- Describe any proposed water withdrawal and extraction for the Project from surface water or groundwater, including the purpose, amount, and timing of the withdrawals.
- Describe any proposed water withdrawal and extraction for the Project during emergency events and how this would be different from standard operations.
- Describe the impacts that the proposed water withdrawal and extraction would have on the source waters, including any impacts that would lead to depletion of water resources, and/or impairment of water quality and classified water use.

~~3.~~5. Water Discharges and Impacts on Water Quality

- For any water discharge not to a wastewater facility, describe the purpose, amount, and timing of the discharges, as well as any pollutants involved.
- Describe any proposed dewatering operations on the Project site (e.g., necessary for Project construction), associated impacts on water quality, and corresponding mitigation.
- Describe any changes that the Project would make to stormwater runoff and erosion at the Project site, and potential impacts on surrounding properties and waters based on the Massachusetts Stormwater Handbook.
- Describe any proposed mitigation, including the stormwater infrastructure. These descriptions may be presented and discussed in the context of a Stormwater Management and Erosion Control Plan and/or a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, if these documents are available~~.~~

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~~4. Water Withdrawal and Extraction~~

~~- Describe any proposed water withdrawal and extraction for the Project from surface water or groundwater, including the purpose, amount, and timing of the withdrawals.~~

- ~~Describe any proposed water withdrawal and extraction for the Project during emergency events and how this would be different from standard operations.~~

- ~~Describe the impacts that the proposed water withdrawal and extraction would have on the source waters, including any impacts that would lead to depletion of water resources, and/or impairment of water quality and classified water use.~~

~~5. Wetlands and Waterbodies~~

- ~~Provide the delineation of all wetland resource areas on and near the Project site. Include a description of the method(s) used to identify wetland presence and boundaries within the Project area and the credentials of the person who completed the delineation.~~

- ~~Discuss the existing functional values of the wetlands present in the area of the Project site. Functional values include but are not limited to floristic diversity, fish and wildlife habitat, flood storage, protection of public and private water supply, groundwater discharge and recharge, public use, prevention of pollution, storm damage prevention, etc. Discuss how the Project may impact existing functional values of wetlands.~~

- ~~Describe any direct impacts such as alterations and impediments, including dredging, that the Project would have on any waterbodies, including but not limited to watercourses, wetlands, and the ocean. Describe areas of waterbodies the Project would affect, as grouped in the following categories:~~

  - ~~Wetlands and their resource areas and adjacent areas.~~

  - ~~Surface watercourses, including but not limited to streams, rivers, ponds, and lakes.~~

  - ~~Coastal areas including tidelands.~~

  - ~~Ocean including federal and state waters and the Outer Continental Shelf ("OCS").~~

- ~~Estimate the extent and type of impacts that the Project will have on wetland resources, and indicate whether the impacts are temporary or permanent. If proposing any offsite mitigation such as enhancement to existing wetlands, replication of wetlands, or a mitigation fund, provide the details including the mitigation location(s).~~

- ~~Provide the methods to be used for avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating construction impacts in and near wetlands. This discussion should include, but is not limited to, how wetland impact was first avoided then minimized by Project design, shifting the Project boundary, relocating structures and/or fill outside of wetland, minimizing construction through wetlands, by installation methods (i.e., directional bore versus open-cut trenching, soil segregation during trenching, etc.), equipment crossing methods (i.e. use of construction matting, frozen ground conditions, etc.), sediment and erosion controls, invasive species protocols for equipment, etc.~~

6. Underwater Archeological Resources

For Projects that have components that are located underwater or offshore, provide the following:

- Describe underwater archaeological resources at or near the Project site, by type if applicable.
- Provide a summary of and attach to the Application any relevant archeological surveys and studies.

7. Aquatic Ecology

- Describe the aquatic ecology within and near the Project, including the type of aquatic ecosystems, presence of both common and rare wildlife, overall biodiversity, recent ecological history if applicable, and ecological health (e.g., degradation from human activities, habitat connectivity, and invasive species).
- Provide maps and sums of these areas by types in a table:
  - Rare wetland wildlife habitat.
  - Wild and Scenic River.
  - Marine protected areas, including ocean sanctuaries, wildlife refuges, and estuarine research reserves.
  - Waterbodies with the presence of fish runs and shell fishing, if not covered above.
- Describe impacts associated with the Project on the following, and corresponding mitigation:
  - General health and condition of the aquatic ecology.
  - Ecological health of resource areas such as tidelands.
  - Rare species and habitat including migratory species with a local presence, by species.
  - Habitat connectivity (e.g., fragmentation of habitats).
  - Fishery.
  - Wildlife-based recreation.

E. Transportation

1. Disruption and Congestion of Roads

- Describe transportation corridors in the Project area with maps and information gathered from MassGIS data layers, aerial photography, field reconnaissance, mapping records, traffic data collection, etc.
- Describe the MassDOT classification of roads (i.e., Limited Access Highway, Multi-Lane Highway, Major Road, and Minor Street), and any other characteristics pertinent to the analysis of impacts on transportation (e.g., road width, number, and direction of lanes); on-street parking; dedicated bike lanes; sidewalks.
- Include as attachments, if available, any traffic studies and traffic management plans as required by applicable permits.
- Provide a description of the pre-construction adjacent roadways' characteristics in the vicinity of the proposed Project site including:
    - Existing data on vehicle traffic and accidents on surrounding roads.
    - A review of non-rail transit facilities and routes, including areas of school bus service.
    - Access routes to and from the Project site for police, fire, ambulance and other emergency vehicles.
    - Available load bearing and structural rating information for construction equipment to access the Project site (including bridges and culverts).
- Provide for each major phase of construction, and for the operation phase, an estimate of the number and frequency of vehicle trips, including an estimation of daily trips (identifying whether trips will occur during day or night) by size, weight and type of vehicle.
- Provide for major cut or fill activity (spoil removal or deposition at the Project S~~s~~ite and affected interconnection areas) a separate estimate of the number and frequency of vehicle trips. Describe approach and departure routes, by size and type of vehicle.
- Identify approach and departure routes to and from the Project site for construction workers and employees of the facility.
- Specify expected road closures and timelines as well as alternative routes.
- Describe overlap with other construction projects in proximity including but not limited to municipal public works departments and MassDOT.

2. Public Transportation

- Describe nearby public transportation operations and public access. Describe how entrances and exits will remain accessible for transit stations, including bus routes and stops.

- Discuss initiatives to encourage or provide shuttling, carpooling, or public transportation options for employees.

3. Cyclists and Pedestrians

- During construction, describe whether~~if~~ the Project would result in restricted access to cyclists and pedestrians, and how the Applicant will manage these restrictions.
- Highlight any co-benefits of the Project for pedestrian or bicycle infrastructure.

4. Parking

- Describe the Project's parking demand and supply, during Project construction and operation.
- Describe temporary parking to be used during Project construction and operation.
- Describe disruption to both on-street and off-street parking during Project construction.

5. Marine Traffic and Navigation

- Provide any U.S. Coast Guard authorizations as necessary including proposed private aids to navigation (e.g., buoys).
- Describe any use of watercraft for the Project, including any expected bulk or large items to be delivered by barge or specialty vessel.
- Provide for each major phase of construction, and for the operation phase, an estimate of the number and frequency of vessel trips (identifying whether trips will occur during day or night) by size, weight and type of vehicle.
- Describe any disruption to maritime traffic during Project construction.
- Describe any potential impacts to maritime navigation, traffic, and/or safety and any proposed avoidance / minimization / mitigation measures.

6. Air Traffic

- Describe use of aircraft, including drones, during the Project, such as construction helicopters.
- Describe any Federal Aviation Agency ("FAA") regulations or guidelines that must be adhered to such as a notice of proposed construction to the administrator of the FAA.
- Include impacts on military training and operations in the national airspace system and special use airspace designated by the FAA.

F. Air Quality

~~1. General Requirements~~

For onshore construction and operational impacts, wherever applicable:

- Describe air quality impacts of the Project and ~~how the Project meets~~compliance with applicable regulations and air quality operational requirements including, but not limited to:
  - MassDEP Air Quality Regulations at 310 CMR 7.10 (1), Air Quality Approval Plan and 310 CMR 7.72, Sulfur Hexafluoride Emissions from Gas-Insulated Switchgear.
  - ~~The state's~~Massachusetts' anti-idling law, ~~M.~~G.L. c. 90, §16A, during the construction and operational phases of the Project, including the installation of on-site anti-idling signage.
  - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ("USEPA") Nonroad Diesel Rule aimed at reducing air emissions from diesel-powered construction equipment.
  - USEPA Tier 4 emission requirements.
  - Use of electric-powered construction equipment and vehicles.
  - New Source Performance Standards ("NSPS") and National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants ("NESHAP"~~S~~).
  - The Dust Control measures outlined in the Massachusetts Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines for Urban and Suburban Areas: A Guide for Planners, Designers, and Municipal Officials for soil stockpile management.
- ~~Describe air quality impacts of the Project and compliance with air quality requirements.~~
- ~~Describe air quality impacts to sensitive receptors and Burdened Areas in the Project area.~~
- ~~As part of a Construction Management Plan for the Project, provide~~
  - ~~Baseline characterization of existing air quality with information on types of existing pollutants emitted, existing ambient concentrations of pollutants and their sources.~~
  - ~~Air Quality Modeling based on federal and state recommended modeling approaches, if required by MassDEP or other regulatory authorities.~~
- If a MassDEP air quality permit would otherwise be required, describe how Project emissions will conform with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards ("NAAQS"), as applicable.
- Describe whether the Project is required to perform a MassDEP CIA for air emissions (per 310 CMR 7.02(14)).

- Describe fugitive dust level monitoring and mitigation including but not be limited to onsite dust control measures such as installing stabilized construction entrances/exits (using stone aprons, tracking pads, etc.) at road access points to reduce tracking of soil onto public roadways or adjacent properties, limiting the amount of bare soil exposed at one time, watering, surface roughening, wind barriers and covers to suppress dust generation during construction as well as precautions during transport/handling of construction materials, land infills and such that can cause fugitive dust impacts.

~~2.~~ ~~Standard Mitigation Measures~~

~~For onshore construction and operational impacts, wherever applicable:~~

- ~~Describe how the Project meets applicable regulations and air quality operational requirements including but not limited to:~~
  - ~~MassDEP Air Quality Regulations at 310 CMR 7.10 (1), Air Quality Approval Plan and 310 CMR 7.72, Sulfur Hexafluoride Emissions from Gas-Insulated Switchgear.~~
  - ~~The state's anti-idling law, M.G.L. c. 90, §16A, during the construction and operational phases of the Project, including the installation of on-site anti-idling signage.~~
  - ~~U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ("EPA") Nonroad Diesel Rule aimed at reducing air emissions from diesel-powered construction equipment.~~
  - ~~EPA Tier 4 emission requirements.~~
  - ~~Use of electric-powered construction equipment and vehicles.~~
  - ~~New Source Performance Standards and National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAPS).~~
  - ~~The Dust Control measures outlined in the Massachusetts Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines for Urban and Suburban Areas: A Guide for Planners, Designers, and Municipal Officials for soil stockpile management.~~

For offshore construction and operational impacts, wherever applicable:

- Describe any Bureau of Ocean Energy Management ("BOEM") and Outer Continental Shelf ("OCS") air permit requirements that apply to the Project.
- For OCS sources, describe how the Project complies with the New Source Performance Standards and the National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air.
- Describe the choice of emissions estimation method used that prioritizes the use of BOEM and US EPA recommended methods.

- Describe how the Project would comply with requirements on Annex VI of the International Maritime Organization's International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships ("MARPOL") treaty requirements.
- Use of shore-to-ship electric power for marine construction activities in lieu of diesel-powered construction equipment.

G. Climate Mitigation and Resiliency

1. ~~Greenhouse Gas Emissions~~Climate Change Impacts

- Describe the reasonably foreseeable climate change impacts of the Project, including, but not limited to, greenhouse gas emissions, climate resilience, predicted sea level rise, flooding, and other climate change impacts.
- Provide, as an attachment, a greenhouse gas inventory of the Project utilizing the MEPA Greenhouse Gas Policy and Protocol~~,~~ and/or another analysis framework, including direct and indirect emissions sources where applicable based on technology. If Project construction involves tree clearing, include the carbon sequestration value of the trees in this inventory.
- Describe ~~any steps taken to~~whether the construction or operation of the Project would result in a ~~contribute to the~~ reduction of ~~minimize~~ greenhouse gas emissions ~~sources compared to 1990 standards specific to the construction and operation of the Project~~. Describe any emissions mitigation techniques through measures such as carbon offsetting or sequestration. If applicable, discuss the estimated greenhouse gas emissions that would be avoided or displaced by the operation of Project. The Applicant may describe and credit any greenhouse gas emissions mitigated against Project alternatives, including the no-built alternative, as mitigation.
- ~~Given the inventory and mitigation above, describe how the Applicant has considered foreseeable long-term climate change impacts, including additional greenhouse gas or other pollutant emissions known to have negative health impacts, predicted sea level rise, flooding and any other disproportionate adverse effects on communities in a specific geographical area/within or near the Project area.~~

2. Climate Resiliency

- Provide climate vulnerabilities of the Project, if applicable, including vulnerabilities from projected sea level rise, extreme temperature, humidity, flooding, severe weather events, wildfires, and other climate-related hazards in the Project area. Utilize state and federal geospatial data from the RMAT Climate Resilience Design Standards Tool, the NOAA Climate Mapping for Resilience and Adaptation ("CMRA") tool, or similar.
    - Consider high (RCP 8.5) and low (RCP 4.5) emissions climate change scenarios in the assessment of Project vulnerabilities if utilizing the CMRA tool.

- Include relevant figures, maps, and metrics outlining the site-specific risks extending to at least 2070.

- Provide a risk assessment for the Project as a whole and major components of the Project. Describe any proposed adaptation techniques to address these vulnerabilities, if relevant, and the timeline for implementation.

- ~~Describe how the Project has taken measures to adapt to climate change for all of the climate parameters analyzed in the RMAT Climate Resilience Design Standards Tool (sea level rise/storm surge, extreme precipitation (urban or riverine flooding), extreme heat).~~

H. Public Health, Safety and Security

- ~~Describe how the Project would comply with all applicable public health and safety regulations, standards and codes at the federal, state, regional, and local levels during the site development, design, construction, and operation phases of the Project.~~

- ~~Describe all applicable performance testing standards, performance testing results, and risks associated with energy transmission, generation, and storage technologies on a Project and how the choice of technologies minimizes performance risks, promotes and maintains public safety.~~

- ~~Provide a roadmap for engagement with the local planning department, fire department, advisory bodies, and first responders to inform them about the Project, understand their safety needs, and receive timely local input on the design and construction phases of the Project (e.g., as part of the COP). The COP must also describe public health and safety education as well as training opportunities the Applicant will provide to ensure safe construction and operations.~~

1. Design and Construction Safety

- Describe all applicable performance testing standards, performance testing results, and risks associated with energy transmission, generation, and storage technologies on a Project and how the choice of technologies minimizes performance risks, promotes and maintains public safety.

- Provide all building codes, technical performance and safety standards as well as structural design standards that apply to the Project site in the development, design, construction, and operation phases.

- Describe how the proposed Project would be in conformance with these codes, regulations, and standards to promote and maintain public safety.

- Describe how the choice of construction sites/routes, staging areas, construction schedules/constructions hours would avoid or minimize public inconvenience and ensure public safety during and outside construction hours.

2. Public Health

- Provide all applicable public health policies and programs at the federal, state, regional, and local levels and describe how the Project would conform to them.
- ~~Describe public health concerns that already exist in the Project area and describe how the Project will alleviate or at the least avoid further exacerbation of these concerns through the design, construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of the Project.~~

3. Site Safety and Security

- Identify all applicable daytime, nighttime, and emergency lighting standards that apply to the Project and describe how the proposed lighting would comply with these requirements.
- ~~Describe how the Project considered Dark Sky standards.~~
- Describe the site safety and security arrangements in the case of unmanned and remotely monitored facilities, including but not limited to 24/7 security camera monitoring, automatic and manual system shutdowns~~, fire suppression system activation~~, and alarm/emergency notification to the local ~~fire departme nt~~first responders in the case of Project emergencies.
- ~~Describe how stormwater management systems convey and collect runoff from fire suppression activities such that any potential pollutants would not be discharged directly into the Project site, local stormwater system, or natural water bodies.~~
- Identify federal and local codes and standards that apply to site access and fencing and describe how the Project would conform with these requirements.
- Describe the consultation process with the local planning authority, the fire department, advisory committees, and the public in designing the Project's perimeter fence, including the fencing material, fence façade treatments, dimensions, determining setbacks, and signage installations on and around the fence.
- Describe how electrical structures are clearly marked with warning signs to alert the public to potential hazards.
- Identify all cybersecurity requirements that apply to the Project and describe how the Project will conform with these requirements.

- Describe how access restrictions and identity verification mechanisms for personnel would provide protection against security risks.

- In the case of Project sites that have egress to public roadways including highways, provide all egress safety design standards, traffic safety permits, and regulations that apply to the Project and describe how the Project would meet these requirements. Describe how the design of such egress meets these requirements, supplementing such description with road safety audits, crash analysis reports, sight distance determinations, and other analyses that apply.

- Provide all applicable height and clearance standards for Project components/structures and describe how the Project conforms with these requirements to ensure public safety during construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning.

4. Occupational Safety

Describe all occupational safety standards, programs, and regulations that apply to the Project at the federal, state, regional, and local levels, including the Occupational Safety and Health Administration ("OSHA") and Massachusetts Department of Labor standards, and how the Applicant proposes to comply with them.

5. Fire Safety

- Identify the following:
    - All international, national, and state level fire safety standards, codes, and best practices that apply to the Project.
    - All applicable technology and performance standards to promote and maintain fire safety, both to the public and on-site personnel.
    - Requirements of local permits, ordinances, and standards on the Project that promote and maintain fire safety.
    - All applicable codes, regulations, and standards that are being updated at the time of filing and describe the nature of updates or new provisions that the Applicant would incorporate into the Project.
- Wherever applicable, describe how the Project would be in conformance with these standards, local requirements, and local permits and codes to prevent, mitigate, and manage incidents of fire within the Project site or in the vicinity of the Project site.
- Describe how fire safety considerations have been incorporated into determining site size and site design ~~on~~ of the Project.
- Describe how the P~~p~~roject will provide unimpeded site access by firefighting and first responder vehicles and personnel in the event of an emergency.

- Describe ~~how~~how- stormwater management systems would convey and collect runoff from fire suppression activities such that any potential pollutants would not be discharged directly into the Project site, local stormwater system, or natural water bodies.
-
- For SCESF/LCESF, as attachments if available, submit a draft Emergency Response Plan, draft Hazard Mitigation Analysis, UL 9540A test reports, and any other supporting fire safety documentation as applicable.

6. Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Preparedness

- Describe any proposed hazard mitigation and disaster preparedness measures, such as an Emergency Response Plan and Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan, and provide such plans as attachments if available.
- Describe post-incident emergency maintenance procedures as part of the Project's operation and maintenance plan to restore site conditions and safe facility operations following a fire event, hazard, or disaster.
- Describe the liability insurance coverage types and amounts that the Applicant intends to hold that would be applicable to environmental, health, or safety events or emergencies that could result in potential damage claims to the Applicant.

I. ~~Non-Hazardous~~Solid and Hazardous Waste and ~~and~~ Hazardous Materials

1. ~~Non-Hazardous~~Solid Waste

Detail any non-hazardous waste types that would be generated by the Project, and for each type specify anticipated protocols for handling, transport, processing, disposal, and recycling, including, if applicable:

- Protocols for ensuring that waste is not co-mingled with hazardous waste.
- ~~All hazardous waste transport haulers licensed per MassDEP.~~
- Disposal or processing facilities for each waste stream (e.g., recycling, composting, municipal solid waste landfill, or transfer station).
- ~~Documentation~~ Description of compliance with 310 CMR 19.00.
- Recycling and waste diversion strategies, including estimated recycling/diversion rate(s); use of LEED or Envision construction waste tracking, if applicable; any plans to reuse materials onsite; and compliance with local waste diversion bylaws, if applicable.
- Data maintenance protocols for audits.

2. Hazardous ~~Materials and Waste~~Waste and Materials

Detail any hazardous waste types that would be generated by the Project, and for each type specify anticipated protocols for handling, transport, processing, disposal, and recycling, including, if applicable: ~~Provide a Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Plan detailing:~~

- Protocols and regulatory requirements for encountering hazardous materials and contaminated sites.
- Hazardous waste planned for use or storage onsite during each Project phase, e.g., battery chemistries, oils and coolants, transformer fluids, cleaning solvents, adhesives, antifreeze, diesel. For each material, provide quantities, storage methods, and safety data sheets, and address compliance with the Massachusetts Toxics Use Reduction Act ("TURA"), if applicable.
- Hazardous material types that may be generated by the Project (e.g., spent batteries, electrolyte contaminated soil, fire-damaged equipment) and their respective classifications per the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act ("RCRA") regulations (40 CFR 261) and Massachusetts Hazardous Waste Regulations (310 CMR 30.000).
- Materials/waste storage locations and containment designs (e.g., secondary containment, berms, fire-rated rooms), maximum onsite storage durations and quantities, labeling and signage protocols, and security measures to prevent unauthorized access or tampering.
- Hazardous waste manifests and chain-of-custody and cradle-to-grave documentation, if applicable.
- All hazardous waste transport haulers licensed per MassDEP.
- For problems/emergencies: emergency contact information, government agencies that would be informed, and a public engagement strategy.
- Cost, benefits and feasibility of substituting non-hazardous materials in Project design, construction and operation, such as alternatives to use of sulfur hexafluoride (SF_6), and mineral oil dielectric fluid (MODF).

~~J. Decommissioning and Site Restoration~~

~~1. Useful Life~~

~~Describe the designed and anticipated useful life of the Project and every major Project component, including the following:~~

- ~~Thresholds for decommissioning (e.g., end of life, structural conditions, use hours, performance degradation).~~
- ~~Planned major maintenance and overhaul events.~~
- ~~Opportunities for extension of useful life.~~

- ~~Considerations for premature decommissioning.~~

2. ~~Plan for Decommissioning and Site Restoration~~

~~Describe plans for Project decommissioning and subsequent site restoration, if any, including the following information:~~

- ~~Decommission and deconstruction procedures.~~
- ~~Disposal of post-decommissioned waste, including any hazardous waste and recycling.~~
- ~~Site clean-up and remediation, if anticipated.~~
- ~~Restoration of grade and topsoil, including revegetation.~~
- ~~Stormwater management and erosion control.~~
- ~~Continued maintenance of visual screening and buffer, if applicable.~~
- ~~Post-decommission land use and opportunities for redevelopment.~~
- ~~Contingency plan for premature decommissioning.~~

3. ~~Cost and Financial Surety~~

~~Describe the anticipated cost of decommissioning and site restoration, including the following information:~~

- ~~Total cost of decommissioning and site restoration.~~
- ~~Breakdown of cost by major cost items.~~
- ~~Calculations of the cost estimates.~~
- ~~Methodologies of the above calculations.~~
- ~~A reasonable surety amount to guarantee proper decommissioning and site restoration. If the Applicant considers the surety amount unnecessary, provide an explanation.~~

~~K.~~J. Magnetic Fields

1. Baseline and Modeled Magnetic Fields Levels

- Describe the magnetic fields associated with the Project using maps, tables, and figures, including the following information:
    - Existing/baseline magnetic field levels.
    - Source(s) of new magnetic fields.

- Modeled average/sustained changes in magnetic field levels, including modeled maximum levels, during Project operation.

- Provide modeled magnetic field levels in the following contexts:
  - At a reasonable range of distances, heights, and depths away from the source.
  - At average loading or capacity and at maximum loading or capacity.
  - At nearby residences, sensitive receptors, and at the edges of the Project Ssite.
- Describe methodologies used, assumptions and data sources. Note any mitigation (e.g., configuration, shielding) incorporated in the modeling of magnetic field levels above.
- Append as attachments the following or include as figures.
  - Isoline diagrams of existing and modeled magnetic field levels across the Project site including the property line of adjacent properties and structures.
  - For any proposed transmission lines, distribution lines, or other linear project components that could be a significant source of magnetic fields, cross-section profiles of magnetic field levels.
- In Applications that involve any other types of notable radiation (e.g., microwave, ionizing, electric), describe the basic characteristics of such radiation and provide modeled radiation levels and other information similar to the requirements for magnetic fields above.

2. Impacts

- Describe the impacts of ~~electric and~~ the modeled magnetic fields, as well as of any other types of concerning radiation, associated with the Project on the following:
  - Human health.
  - Health of domestic animals and agricultural livestock.
  - Health of wildlife, particularly any rare species identified within or near the Project site (e.g., Magnet-sensitive fish species, bats).
  - Plans for addressing public concerns during construction and operation of the Project.
- Discuss the above in reference to the following:
  - The most recent exposure limits and guidance on electric and magnetic fields published by authoritative subject-matter organizations such as the World Health Organization ("WHO"); International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection ("ICNIRP"); International Committee on Electromagnetic Safety ("ICES") – part of Institute of Electrical and

Electronics Engineers ("IEEE"); and American Conference of Governmental and Industrial Hygienists ("ACGIH"), or any other relevant peer-reviewed research.

- Describe any available low-cost/no-cost measures that would minimize magnetic fields along transmission ROWs and elsewhere. Such measures may include, but are not limited to the following:
  - Increasing distance between the source and abutting properties.
  - Using higher voltage transmission lines.
  - Putting conductors close to each other and optimizing conductor arrangement to maximize magnetic field cancellation effects.
  - Installing ferromagnetic shielding.
  - Inducing active or passive parallel currents.

~~L.~~K. Noise and Vibrations

1. Description of Noise

- Describe the sound producing sources during Project construction and operation. ~~Include expected times when noise will be produced during construction work, also list sound producing equipment and associated sound levels in decibels A-Weighted ("dBA").~~ Include expected times when noise will be produced during construction work. For transmission lines, include a discussion of any noise impacts arising from the corona effect.
  - List the sound producing equipment and associated sound levels in decibels A-Weighted ("dBA").
  - Provide sound information from the manufacturers, if available, including transformers and any other relevant sound sources.
  - ~~o~~ Note any e~~E~~quipment which could result in permanent noise impacts (e.g., exhaust fans, transformers, high voltage transmission lines).
  - ~~•~~○
- Include a study, as an attachment to the P&A, showing existing sound levels, as well as a model simulation estimating operational sound ~~results~~. At a minimum, the sound study should include:
  - Maximum sound levels produced during different times of day and at different times of the year.
  - A map of the sound modeling study area showing the location of sensitive receptors within a one-mile radius in relation to the proposed locations of all noise sources. The map should also depict the distance of noise sources to occupied structures, property lines, and public rights-of-way.~~.~~

- Ambient pre-construction baseline sound conditions using L_{90} (i.e., A-weighted sound level that exceeds 90% of the time measured during equipment operating hours) based on a minimum of seven days of measurement.~~.~~
- Future sound levels after construction of the Project including predicted dBA sound levels using computer-modeled sound projections.

~~• In addition, the sound study should consider the following:~~

- Noise impacts during "leaf off" and, as available, ~~both~~ "leaf on" ~~and "leaf off"~~ conditions.

~~A seven day-long period of measurements.~~

- Exclude data collected during hours with rain or snow, as noted during data collection.

~~o A seven day-long period of measurements.~~

2. Noise Impacts on Humans

- Include the following information:

~~o The noisiest activities during construction and the sound levels of the major sound-generating pieces of equipment.~~

~~o Equipment which could result in permanent noise impacts (e.g., exhaust fans, transformers, high voltage transmission lines).~~

~~o Sound information from the manufacturers, if available, including transformers and any other relevant sound sources.~~

- Compliance with the MassDEP ~~noise~~ Noise ~~polic~~Policy for Project operation (i.e., maximum 10 dBA increase over baseline conditions and pure tone limits).
- Sound mitigation strategies that the Applicant could use during noisy construction activities (e.g., sound barriers).
- Complaint procedures/construction activity notification protocols specific to noise.

3. Vibration~~s~~

- Describe any blasting, underground construction (e.g., h~~H~~orizontal d~~D~~irectional d~~D~~rilling), or other work which could cause intense vibrations that may impact the integrity of nearby structures.
- Describe the use of critical grade silencers, enclosures, or other strategies where practicable, on continuously operating equipment such as compressors and generators for noise reduction.

4. Noise and Vibrations Impacts on Wildlife

- Describe the expected impacts on wildlife during construction and operation~~s that include~~from noise and vibrations, especially in areas of natural habitat. ~~Consider different Project technologies (i.e., wind, solar, battery) may require solutions to unique environmental concerns based on location and technology type and scenarios.~~

~~M.~~L. Visual

1. Visual Assessment

- Describe the visual impacts of the Project. Include representative front, side, and rear simulations, and describe current and anticipated visual conditions. Provide the following detail:
    - Visual character of the existing area.
    - General nature and degree of visual change expected from Project construction and operations.
    - Anticipated visibility of the Project, including effects from Project operations, e.g., shading, lighting, glare, shadow flicker.
    - Visibility of any proposed above-ground interconnections and roads.
- ~~P~~Identify and describe any vistas, scenic highways, national scenic areas, or other scenic resources within and surrounding the project area (approximately 5-mile buffer but may be greater if necessary).
- Provide viewshed maps, as attachments to the P&A, depicting views of the Project by sensitive receptors, e.g., views from cultural, historic, scenic, and recreational sites/areas; transportation corridors; public and private vantage points; and areas of local, regional, or statewide concern. Develop the maps to:
    - ~~Depict any sensitive views beyond the study area, as necessary.~~
    - Depict line-of-sight profiles for all sensitive receptor views.
    - Illustrate visual screening and permeability conditions integral to the profiles.
    - Detail all quantitative and qualitative data sources and baselines used in profile development, e.g., topography and vegetation; elevation of Project structures; distance zone - foreground, midground, and background; consultation with local officials and community members.

- ~~o~~ Provide, as attachments, visual simulations, before and after construction, from key vantage points of greatest visibility.

2. Light Pollution

- Describe any light emitted by the Project during operations. Detail lighting levels at the edges of the Project site(s); any lighting impacts on adjacent properties, including on wildlife; and any proposed mitigation (e.g., light shrouds, downward facing lighting).
- Describe how the Project considered Dark Sky standards.

~~N.~~M. Other Environmental Impacts

Describe any other environmental impacts associated with the Project not covered by any sections above, as well as corresponding mitigation.

XIII. PROPOSAL & ANALYSIS: DECOMMISSIONING AND SITE RESTORATION

In the ~~Proposal & Analysis~~P&A, provide an overview of the decommissioning and site restoration process for the Project, including a description of its intended useful life. Applicants are required to submit, as an attachment if available, a Decommissioning and Site Restoration Plan that includes the following information. For LCTDIF/SCTDIF, indicate ~~if~~whether the Project ~~does not require~~requires a decommissioning or site restoration plan and, if not, provide an explanation.

A. Useful Life

Describe the designed and anticipated useful life of the Project and every major Project component, including the following:

- Thresholds for decommissioning (e.g., end of life, structural conditions, use hours, performance degradation).
- Planned major maintenance and overhaul events.
- Opportunities for extension of useful life.
- Considerations for premature decommissioning.

B. Plan for Decommissioning and Site Restoration

Describe plans for Project decommissioning and subsequent site restoration, if any, including the following information:

- Identification of materials to be removed and how the Applicant plans to recycle or dispose of materials.
- General description and schedule of ~~D~~decommissioning and deconstruction procedures.
- ~~Disposal of post-decommissioned waste, including any hazardous waste and recycling.~~
- Description of site restoration activities, including:
    - Site clean-up and remediation, if anticipated.
    - Restoration of grade and topsoil, including revegetation.
    - Stormwater management and erosion control.
    - Continued maintenance of visual screening and buffer, if applicable.
- Post-decommission land use and opportunities for redevelopment.
- Contingency plan for premature decommissioning.

C. Cost and Financial Surety

~~Describe the anticipated~~Provide an estimate of ~~cost of~~ decommissioning and site restoration costs, including the following information:

- Total cost of decommissioning and site restoration.
- Breakdown of cost by major cost items.
- Calculations of the cost estimates.
- Methodologies for~~of~~ the above calculations.
- A reasonable surety amount to guarantee proper decommissioning and site restoration. If the Applicant considers the surety amount unnecessary, provide an explanation.

XIV. PROPOSAL & ANALYSIS: PROJECT COST (FOR LCTDIF AND SCTDIF)

For LCTDIF and SCTDIF Projects:

- Describe the Project cost including the following:
    - Capital cost of the Project, total cost and breakdown by Project components.
    - Annual operating and maintenance cost, total cost and breakdown by major cost item.
    - Net Present Value cost estimate for the Project over its useful life.

- Describe cost escalation contingencies, or the lack thereof, in the estimated costs. Describe risks to the costs from foreseeable trends of inflation, economic conditions, materials costs and supply chain shortage, labor costs, etc., and mitigation to these.
- Identify costs that would be recovered regionally, and those costs that would be recovered locally.
- Describe the percentage of utility-proposed Project costs would be borne by ratepayers, if any. Describe how the Project would change the monthly utility bill for an average residential customer, with one example from a summer month and another from a winter month.
- Describe sources of Project funding other than cost recovery from ratepayers, if applicable.

XV. PROPOSAL & ANALYSS: RELIABILITY

A. Grid Reliability

- Describe the reliability benefits or impacts on the Massachusetts and regional energy transmission system, as well as any applicable local energy transmission or distribution systems, from the Project.
- Describe any proposed mitigation that would enhance benefits or minimize impacts on such systems.

B. Project System Reliability

- Describe the designed and anticipated reliability of the Project as a whole, over its useful life.
- Describe any foreseeable reliability risks. Describe any proposed mitigation to such risks and major maintenance or overhaul efforts planned or anticipated.

C. Project Component Reliability

- Describe the designed and anticipated reliability of each major component of the Project, if applicable, over the component's useful life.
- Describe any foreseeable reliability risks. Describe any proposed mitigation to such risks and major maintenance or overhaul efforts planned or anticipated.

XVI. PROPOSAL & ANALYSIS: POLICIES OF THE COMMONWEALTH

~~M.~~G.L. c. 164, § 69H establishes a set of ~~expanded~~ policy requirements for consideration by the Board when reviewing CEIF. Specifically, the Board must: "ensure that large clean

energy infrastructure facilities, small clean energy infrastructure facilities, facilities and oil facilities are, to the extent practicable, in compliance with energy, environmental, land use, labor, economic justice, environmental justice and equity and public health and safety policies of the commonwealth, its subdivisions and its municipalities." See 980 CMR 13.03.

- Describe how the Project would comply with the policies of the Commonwealth as identified in ~~M.~~G.L. c. 164, § 69H.

XVII. STATEMENT OF RECOMMENDED PERMIT CONDITIONS GUIDANCE ~~(PER 13.07(5)) [TBD]~~

As part of the Consolidated Permit review process, each PEA may submit a Statement of Recommended Permit Conditions regarding the subject matters for which the PEA would issue a permit or permits. 980 CMR 13.07(5). ~~The PEA should identify if they consulted with a PAA(s) in the development of their recommendations.~~ Parties to the proceeding may also submit a Statement of Recommended Permit Conditions.

As an initial matter, the Applicant is required to submit~~would have submitted~~ proposed conditions as part of its draft permits with the Application. ~~PEAs and Parties should provide separate comments for each permit and approval. In general, permit conditions will represent either (a) a modification of conditions proposed by the Applicant in their Application or any other filing with the EFSB; or (b) proposed new conditions.~~ PEAs and Parties should provide separate comments for each permit and approval. For ease of review, the Board appreciates receiving a marked-up version of the conditions proposed by the Applicant.

In addition to providing ~~the proposed conditions~~Statements of Recommended Permits Conditions, PEAs and Parties are encouraged to explain the reasoning behind their recommendation(s). This explanation will ideally describe how the proposed recommendations would better meet existing policies and standards and/or avoid / minimize / mitigation impacts to the environment, public health and/or public safety. When possible, substantive data, facts and/or expert opinions should be provided and referenced articles / documents provided. The PEA should identify ~~if~~whether they consulted with a PAA(s) in the development of their recommendations.

XVIII. ATTACHMENT 1: COMMON CONDITIONS FOR EFSB CONSOLIDATED PERMITS

The primary purpose of the Common Conditions is to help guide the Applicant in developing draft permits (980 CMR 13.05) and the Presiding Officer when developing draft proposed conditions for the CEIF project (pursuant to 980 CMR 13.07(6)(a)) prior to the Conditions Conference (980 CMR 13.07(6)).

~~XVII.~~XIX. ATTACHMENT 2: UNIFORM SET OF BASELINE HEALTH, SAFETY, ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER STANDARDS

The purpose of Attachment 2: Uniform Set of Baseline Health Safety, Environmental and Other Standards ("Baseline Standards") is to identify standards to be applied to an EFSB Consolidated Permit through Siting Board approval pursuant to 980 CMR 13.00, or to a Constructive Approval pursuant to 980 CMR 17.00. The ~~regulatory~~ purposes of the Baseline Standards~~for this document~~ is ~~are~~ to set out generalized standards or categories of standards that: (1) should be used as a reference when A~~a~~pplicants prepare applications (see 980 CMR 13.05(1)(a)(5) & (1)(b)(5)); and (2) should be used by the Siting Board as a reference for assessing whether ~~a~~Applications have met all applicable minimum standards (see 980 CMR 13.08(1)). The applicable Baseline Standards and any referenced regulations are those in effect at the time of the Completeness Determination.

~~XVIII.~~XX. ATTACHMENT 3: APPLICATION COMPLETENESS DETERMINATION CHECKLIST

The purpose of Attachment 3: Application Completeness Determination Checklist ("Checklist") is to provide a tool of convenience for the Applicant and Siting Board staff to track whether all ~~the inclusion of~~ required components are included in ~~of~~ an Application. The Completeness Determination Checklist will be completed by the Applicant. 980CMR 13.06(2)(f). The sections in the Checklist largely mirror the EFSB Consolidated Permit Application Guidance. However, the Checklist does not contain or reference all provisions in ~~the applicable EFSB~~ 980 CMR 13.00 ~~regulation~~, or the Application Guidance ~~Document~~. Therefore, the more detailed provisions of the regulations and Application Guidance shall govern the Application Completeness Determination made by the Presiding Officer.

~~XIX. DEFINITIONS/ACRONYMS [TBD]~~

~~"Facility Boundary" means the outermost boundary of the Project site (such as a Project building or other structures, or the outermost areas of construction activity or disturbance), or the Project fence line. For linear projects, or project components, such as transmission lines or pipelines, the Facility Boundary shall be the edge of the right-of-way.~~

~~"Major Project Component" means a major sub-part of a proposed Project, which could be one facility in a Project that consists of multiple facilities (e.g., one of two proposed new substations), an ancillary facility (e.g., a new transmission line proposed between two new~~

substations), a major work component involving a facility (e.g., proposed upgrade to an existing substation), or a major standalone component of the Project (e.g., an major off-site mitigation project).

"Sensitive Receptors" means, existing (or in active development) facilities that are particularly affected by noise, pollutants, and other environmental and construction-related impacts, including: (1) healthcare facilities; (2) elder care facilities including nursing homes; (3) education facilities; (4) licensed daycare facilities; (5) cemeteries; (6) places of worship; (7) district courts; (8) police stations; (9) fire stations; (10) other locations which provide essential services to the public, (11) environmental resources or habitat protected by state or local laws and regulations;; and (12) other sensitive receptor locations identified in applicable state and local statutes and regulations.

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"Residences" means existing residential properties, or the location of such facilities that are in active development.

"Project" means the proposed Project as a whole, and includes all plant, property and equipment and related construction activities for which the Applicant seeks EFSB approval.

"Project-adjacent elements" include related facilities and construction activities that do not require EFSB approval but are undertaken by the Project Applicant and/or others in concert with the Project, whether prior to, concurrently with, or after Project Construction.

"Project Site" means the actual physical location(s) of all Project components.

"Project Fenceline Boundaries" means the outer boundaries of a Project site demarcated by the edge of a right of way or fenced areas.

A "Project Impact Area" means the geographic area(s) that are estimated to be directly affected by the Project, including its environmental impacts. At a minimum, Applicants must use the Specific Geographic Areas, defined in 980 CMR 15.00 (as applicable to the Project components), as the basis for the Project Impact Area.

See 980 CMR 13.01(4) for additional definitions.

Type of Fee	**Facility Type**	**Fee Amount**
Base Fee		
Zoning Exemption (if applicable)		
Intervenor Support Fund		

Permit Enforcement Agency ("PEA") Fees

Pursuant to 220 CMR 32.02(5), PEA Fees shall be filed with the Application for a Consolidated Permit. The Applicant must identify the state, regional, and local permit review

~~agencies that otherwise would have issued approvals and permits for a Clean Energy Infrastructure Facility and the amounts of such fees that would have been applicable.~~

~~State Permits~~		
~~Name~~	~~Fee Amount~~	~~Payable To~~
~~*Total*~~		

~~Regional Permits~~		
~~Permit Name~~	~~Fee Amount~~	~~Payable To~~
~~*Total*~~		

~~Local Permits~~		
~~Permit Name~~	~~Fee Amount~~	~~Payable To~~
~~*Total*~~		

~~Federally Delegated Permits~~		
~~Permit Name~~	~~Fee Amount~~	~~Payable To~~
~~*Total*~~		

~~Ministerial Permits~~		
~~Permit Name~~	~~Fee Amount~~	~~Payable To~~

~~Ministerial Permits~~		
~~*Total*~~		

~~SUM OF APPLICATION FEES:~~