



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENT

ON PROPOSED ADMENDMENTS TO

310 CMR 7.02(14) CUMULATIVE IMPACT ANALYSIS IN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN APPROVALS

January 30, 2026

Regulatory Authority:

M.G.L. c. 21A, §§ 2 and 8

M.G.L. c. 111, §§ 2C and 142A through 142N

I. SUMMARY

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) is proposing to amend 310 CMR 7.02(14) *Cumulative Impact Analysis (CIA)* to extend the deadline for the completion of the required CIA program review from December 31, 2025, to December 31, 2027.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

310 CMR 7.02(14) *Cumulative Impact Analysis* requires a cumulative impact analysis (CIA) for certain air quality permits for facilities in or near an Environmental Justice (EJ) Population. The current CIA regulation requires a program review to be completed by MassDEP by December 31, 2025.

Since the CIA program began on July 1, 2024, one facility has submitted an air permit application with a CIA, which MassDEP is currently reviewing. One additional facility has started the CIA process. To allow MassDEP, permit applicants, and EJ populations to gain experience implementing the CIA program before conducting a program review, the proposed amendment extends the program review deadline from December 31, 2025, to December 31, 2027. Additional information on the CIA program is available on MassDEP's website at [MassDEP Cumulative Impact Analysis in Air Quality Permitting](#).

III. IMPACTS OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

1. Economic Impacts

The proposed amendment extends the deadline for the CIA program review and will not have any economic impacts.

2. Impacts on Massachusetts Municipalities

Pursuant to Executive Order 145, state agencies must assess the fiscal impact of new regulations on the Commonwealth's municipalities. The proposed amendment does not impose additional requirements directly on municipalities.

3. Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA)

Pursuant to 301 CMR 11.03(12) (Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act Regulations), MassDEP is not required to file an Environmental Notification Form (ENF) regarding the proposed amendment because it does not reduce standards for environmental protection, nor does it reduce opportunities for public involvement in review processes or public access to information generated or provided in accordance with the regulations.

IV PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT

MassDEP will hold public hearings and a 30-day comment period on the proposed regulation amendment in accordance with M.G.L c. 30A. The public hearing notice and proposed amendment are available on MassDEP's website at [Public Hearings and Comment Opportunities](#). For further information, please contact Laura Warren at laura.l.warren@mass.gov.