



# ERM

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## AbbVie Inc.

FACT SHEET – March 13, 2026

### **Introduction**

AbbVie Inc. (AbbVie) has filed a permit application with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) for its existing facility at 100 Research Drive in Worcester, Massachusetts. MassDEP has completed its administrative review of the application and has begun its technical review.

### **Facility Information**

AbbVie's Worcester facility is a drug discovery, development, and biologics research facility which focuses on biotherapeutics development. AbbVie has operated this facility for over 30 years and operates various combustion equipment to support the research and development processes at the facility, including boilers and emergency generators.

AbbVie's facility has an Air Plan Approval from MassDEP, permitting the operation of two generators and their participation in demand response and peak demand management. AbbVie no longer operates these two generators for demand response and peak demand management and currently operates these generators as "emergency-only". AbbVie is proposing to modify the existing Air Plan Approval to permit these generators as "emergency-only" to accurately reflect the current operations of these generators.

### **Project Information**

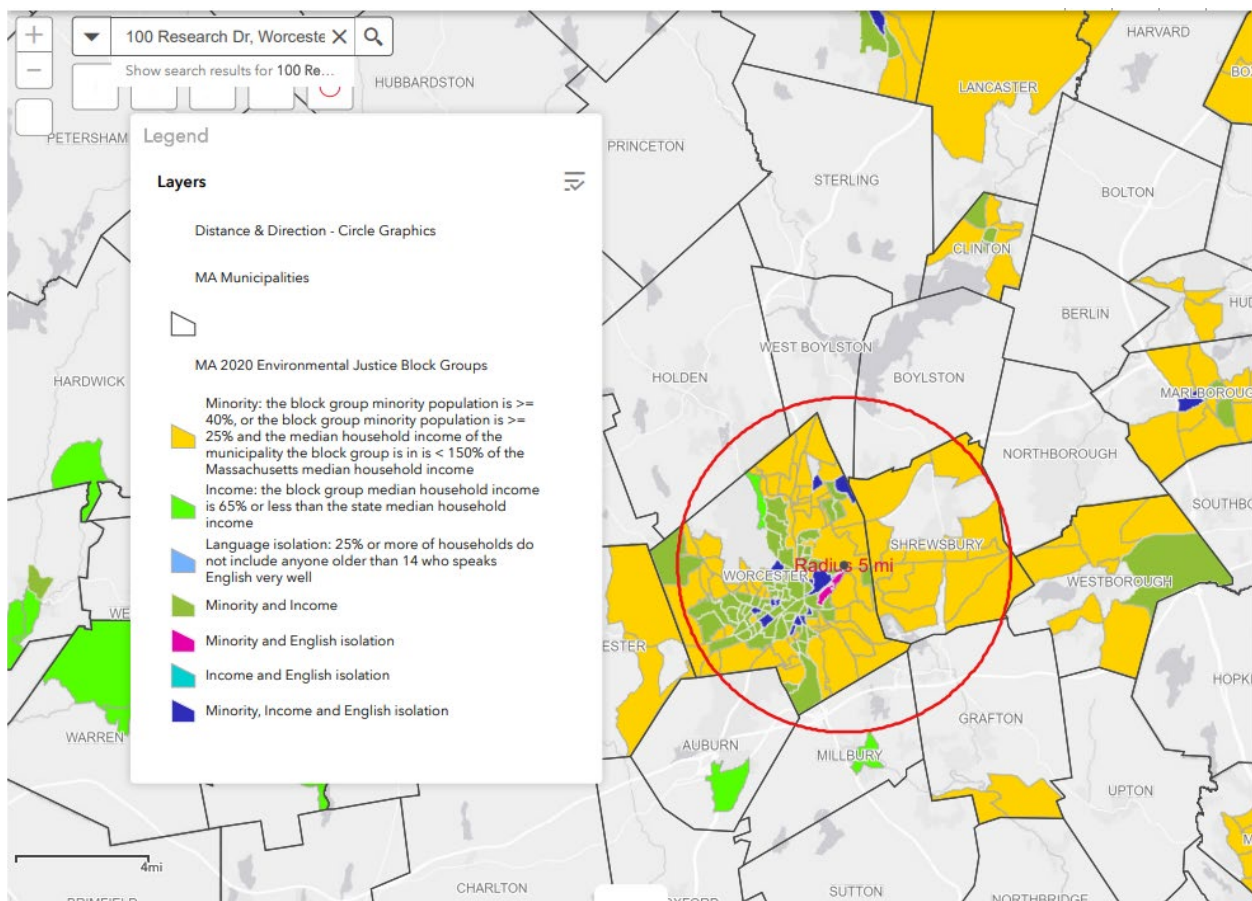
AbbVie filed a Non-Major Comprehensive Plan Approval (nmCPA) application with MassDEP on 13 February 2026. On 3 March 2026, MassDEP concluded its administrative review of the application, and began its technical review.

The two generators emit oxides of nitrogen, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, volatile organic compounds, particulate matter, and hazardous air pollutants during use as the result of the combustion of ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel. Oxidation catalysts are currently installed on these generators to reduce emissions of carbon monoxide and volatile organic compounds. AbbVie will continue to operate these oxidation catalysts in accordance with manufacturer's specification and good air pollution control practices despite the change in operation type. The oxidation catalysts will reduce carbon monoxide emissions by 70%, and the two generators will continue to operate for less than 100 hours per calendar year for non-emergency purposes, as prescribed in the existing Air Plan Approval.

## Environmental Justice Populations

The facility sits at the western edge of Worcester, which is listed by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) for having English isolation, minority, and income populations that qualify the municipality as an environmental justice (EJ) community. The majority of the census block groups within a 5-mile radius of the facility are block groups that meet the Massachusetts EJ criteria for minority and income. All block groups that meet the Massachusetts EJ criteria within a 5-mile radius are in Worcester and/or Shrewsbury. A map of the block groups within a 5-mile radius of the Worcester facility is provided in Figure 1 below.

**Figure 1: MA DPH EJ Tool Map**



## Public Participation Period

MassDEP is currently reviewing this permit application. If you have questions or would like more information about the permit application or agency review process or would like to be added to the distribution list to be notified when the public comment period on the draft decision begins, please contact the MassDEP personnel listed below.

The permit application is currently available for public review via the EEA ePLACE Public Access Portal: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/EEA/PublicApp/>

On the main EEA ePLACE Portal page, click on the orange "Search and/or Comment" button, then on the name of the applicant/facility on the resulting page.

After MassDEP completes its review of the permit application, the agency will issue a proposed decision, subject to a 30-day public comment period. This information will also be posted in the ePLACE Public Access Portal. If you would like to be notified of the proposed decision and the public comment period, please contact **[MassDEP will complete this information]**.

If you need assistance translating any permit-related materials into another language, please contact MassDEP's Central Region Environmental Justice Coordinator, Amy Sullivan, at [Amy.Sullivan@mass.gov](mailto:Amy.Sullivan@mass.gov).

#### **MassDEP Contact Information**

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#### **Applicant Contact Information**

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