

MEPA Advisory Committee

April 29, 2022, 1:00PM-3:00PM

Remote Meeting

Organizations Represented/In Attendance

- Alternatives for Community & Environment
- American Council of Engineering Companies of MA/Stantec
- Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
- Boston Harbor Now
- Connecticut River Conservancy
- Conservation Law Foundation
- Environmental Business Council/VHB
- Eversource
- GreenRoots
- Home Builders and Remodelers Association of Massachusetts
- MassAudubon
- Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions
- Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies
- Massachusetts Municipal Association
- Massachusetts Water Works Association
- Metropolitan Area Planning Council
- NAIOP Commercial Real Estate Development Association of MA
- National Grid
- Pioneer Valley Regional Planning Commission
- Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), New England Chapter

State agency/authority attendees

- Division of Ecological Restoration (DER)
- DHCD/OCD
- EEA EJ Director
- EOHEd
- MassDEP
- MassPort
- NHESP

Meeting Summary

Discussion of MEPA's "Phase II" regulatory review effort continued with a presentation by MassAudubon, CLF, and DER that proposed an exemption from typical MEPA review procedures for projects that qualify as ecological restoration under the Wetlands Protection Act (WPA, 310 CMR 10.00). Such Ecological Restoration projects include Ecological Restoration Limited Projects and projects that are eligible for a Restoration Order of Conditions through local Conservation Commissions. The advisory committee discussed a potential framework for streamlined review.

The MEPA Director then provided an update on MEPA projects reviewed since the amended regulations/Environmental Justice (EJ) protocols went into effect on January 1, 2022. Key observations on these projects and potential refinements to the EJ protocols were discussed.

Next Steps

The next meeting of the MEPA Advisory Committee will take place on Friday, May 6, 2022, at 1-3pm. The MEPA Office and EEA will present on potential options for a MEPA Climate Resiliency Policy. Power point presentations used at each MEPA advisory committee meeting will be made available on the MEPA website at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/mepa-advisory-committee>.