

Northeast Energy Center, Charlton: Proposed Decision on Air Permit

Introduction

Northeast Energy Center LLC (NEC) has proposed construction and operation of a new liquefied natural gas (LNG) liquefaction, storage, and truck loading facility at 304 Southbridge Road (Route 169) in Charlton, Massachusetts. The proposed facility is subject to Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) air pollution regulations, so NEC must apply for and receive a permit (known as an “Approval”) before it can begin construction of the facility. MassDEP will provide a 30-day public comment period on its Proposed Approval. Information on how to review MassDEP’s Proposed Approval and how to submit comments, as well as contact information for both NEC and MassDEP, can be found at the bottom of this Fact Sheet.

Project Description

Location:

- The area surrounding the proposed facility is a mix of residential and commercial, with areas of undeveloped wooded parcels.
- The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) has designated an Environmental Justice (EJ) area within a one-mile radius of the proposed facility. The area is designated as EJ because 25% or more of the population is Minority (individuals who identify themselves as Latino/Hispanic, Black/African American, Asian, Indigenous people, and people who otherwise identify as non-white).
- Figure #1 at the end of this Fact Sheet provides a map that identifies the designated EJ area within a one-mile radius of the Facility.

Proposed Project:

- The proposed facility will receive natural gas from the Tennessee Natural Gas Pipeline Company (TGP) interstate pipeline via a new interconnection

main, and the facility will liquify and produce approximately 168,240 gallons per day of LNG for delivery by truck to National Grid’s LNG storage facilities elsewhere in the state. During the liquefaction process, the natural gas will receive pretreatment and then be compressed. The LNG will be stored in a low-pressure, full containment, two-million-gallon storage tank.

- The Project consists of a feed gas interconnection pipeline; a feed gas pretreatment system; a gas liquefaction system (hybrid drive gas turbine with electric motor generator and compressor); a full-containment, field-erected LNG storage tank; an LNG truck-loading station with four bays; a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system as well as fire protection, hazard detection, and security systems; and other ancillary systems.
- The primary equipment associated with air emissions from the facility are:
 - Siemens SGT-300 Combustion Turbine

Northeast Energy Center, Charlton: Proposed Decision on Air Permit

- Amine Reboiler
- Emergency Flare
- Two natural gas fired Internal Combustion Engines
- Criteria Pollutants emitted will be: carbon monoxide (CO); particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns in diameter (PM₁₀); particulate matter less than or equal to 2.5 microns in diameter (PM_{2.5}); sulfur dioxide (SO₂); nitrogen dioxide (NO₂); as well as Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs).
- Emissions will be minimized through the facility and equipment design, use of clean fuels, good combustion practices, facility operating procedures, and best management practices.
- The facility will operate 24 hours per day, with the busiest activity to occur during the winter months. It is anticipated that the number of combustion turbine startups will be 26 per year.

Summary of MassDEP's Draft Air Quality Permit

- The proposed facility is subject to MassDEP air pollution control regulations at 310 CMR 7.00, and requires a Non-Major Comprehensive Air Plan Approval because nitrogen oxide (NO_x) and CO emissions will be greater than 10 tons per year but less than 50 tons per year of NO_x and 100 tons per year of CO. In addition, MassDEP regulations require the review and application of the Best Available Control Technology (BACT) for the criteria pollutants and for noise.
- Air emissions modeling performed by NEC for criteria pollutants, toxic air pollutants, and noise indicate that those emissions from the facility will be below the applicable requirements and that noise impacts to nearby residences and businesses will be in compliance with MassDEP air regulations on noise (310 CMR 7.10).
- In their application NEC has proposed, and MassDEP will include in any resulting Approval, all monitoring, testing, record-keeping, and reporting requirements necessary to ensure that the facility will operate in compliance with applicable regulations and approval requirements.

MassDEP Air Quality Permitting Process and Public Comment Opportunity

- The proposed project was subject to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), which required an Environmental Notification Form (ENF) review. The MEPA Certificate was issued by the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs on September 10, 2020.
- MassDEP is in the process of reviewing NEC's application for the Approval and will issue a Proposed Approval, and a Public Notice, when the agency's review is completed. At that time, a 30-day public comment period will begin, during which the public is invited to submit comments to MassDEP on the Proposed Approval. The Public Notice will include

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Information for submitting comments and for requesting that MassDEP hold a public meeting on the Proposed Approval.

- After the 30-day public comment period, MassDEP will consider and address any comments received about MassDEP's Proposed Approval.
- When MassDEP issues the Final Approval or denial of NEC's application, a 21-day appeal period will begin. During the appeal period, an adjudicatory hearing may be requested by those individuals or groups that have standing.
- MassDEP will notify interested stakeholders of the start of the public comment period, including the Town Administrator/Town Manager's Offices, Boards of Health, Board of Selectmen/Town Council, and Planning Boards for both Charlton and Southbridge.
- If you wish to be notified of the start of the public comment period, please contact the MassDEP Central Region's Air Quality Permit Chief at thomas.hannah@mass.gov.
- If assistance is needed translating additional permit-related materials into another language, please contact the MassDEP Regional Air Quality Permit Chief at thomas.hannah@mass.gov.

Location of Draft Permit & Application Materials

- Local information repositories for a hard copy:
 - Charlton Public Library, 40 Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507, 508-248-0452 (Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the information will be available to borrow for one week via lobby pickup only.)
 - Jacob Edwards Library, 236 Main Street, Southbridge, MA 01550, 508-764-5426 (Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the information will be available to borrow for one week via curbside pickup only.)
- Online at MassDEP website: (<https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/EEA/PublicApp/>), then search by "Northeast Energy Center."

Proponent Contact Information for Any Questions

- Northeast Energy Center LLC, Boris Brevnov - babrevnov@libertyenergytrust.com - 571-215-9929

MassDEP Contact Information for Any Questions

- Air Quality Permit Chief: Thomas Hannah – thomas.hannah@mass.gov – 508-767-2845
- Deputy Regional Director for Air & Waste: Douglas Fine – douglas.fine@mass.gov – 508-767-2757

Northeast Energy Center, Charlton: Proposed Decision on Air Permit

Figure 1: Proposed NEC Facility Location and Designated Environmental Justice Area

