Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES

SMALL CLEAN ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITY SITING & PERMITTING (225 CMR 29.00)

DRAFT GUIDELINE

Guideline on Common Conditions

Effective Date: March xx, 2026

Background and Purpose

In accordance with the requirements of 225 CMR 29.12, a Consolidated Local Permit Application must meet these common conditions and requirements to receive Constructive Approval. The common conditions apply throughout the design, construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of a Small Clean Energy Infrastructure Facility (SCEIF). The common conditions are separated into four categories: Administrative/Legal, Construction, Operations & Maintenance, and Decommissioning. This guidance is further organized by standards that apply to all SCEIF, and those which only apply to specific types of SCEIF.

1. Common Conditions that Apply to All Small Clean Energy Infrastructure Facilities

SCEIF – All Facilities	
Phase: Administrative/Legal	
Project	All work must commence within three (3) years of date of Constructive
Commencement	Approval, or the Local Government may grant an extension if the
	Applicant submits a request for an extension in a manner to be
	determined by the Local Government.
Final Plan	Final plans shall include final legal addresses, as approved by the
Submittals	Assessor, for the subject lot and all structures on the subject lot prior to
	the holding of a pre-construction meeting. Final plan submittals shall be
	delivered to the Local Government at least one week prior to the pre-
	construction meeting and shall include an original set of plans on mylar
	in addition to hard copies of the final plan in accordance with the
	relevant municipal departments. The Applicant shall also provide an
	electronic file of all sheets of the final plan as well as AutoCAD files
	for the project.
Project Changes	No alteration of final plans shall be made or affected after submission
	of the final decision without permission from the Local Government.
	Minor changes that do not impact structure footprints or alter Site
	Suitability scoring may be approved by the Building Commissioner.
Compliance with	Applicant and/or property owner must obtain all necessary licenses,
All Laws	permits, and approvals and demonstrate compliance with all applicable

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Provide Decision to General Contractor	The Applicant shall provide a copy of the Decision on Individual Application Components, including all conditions and attachments, to its general contractor no later than 30 days prior to construction commencement.
Third-Party Construction Inspections	All third-party inspections and reviews shall be at the Applicant's expense, including during the construction phase.
Community Outreach Plan	The Applicant shall, in consultation with the Local Government and other stakeholders, develop a community outreach plan for SCEIF construction. The community outreach plan shall be made available to the Local Government no later than 30 days prior to construction commencement, and shall list all residents, officials, businesses, and others with whom the Applicant will engage with. Further, the plan shall specify procedures for providing prior notification to affected residents regarding: (i) the scheduled start, duration, and hours of construction; (ii) construction specific to particular areas; (iii) construction that must occur outside of the hours detailed above (including night hours); and (iv) anticipated street closures or detours. Further, the community engagement plan shall detail communication methods that the Applicant will employ in its engagement efforts, which shall include, but not be limited to: (i) the SCEIF's website that provides regular construction updates; (ii) email and/or text (via cell phone) updates sent to the public; and (iii) a phone number and email address to be used by the public to contact the Applicant with SCEIF-based concerns. The community outreach plan shall require the Applicant to respond to all such concerns within 48 hours of receipt of call or email, and maintain a log of dates, times, and reasons for each call or email, and the Applicant's response. The community engagement plan shall require that the Applicant, in good faith, work to rectify SCEIF-based concerns in a reasonable timeframe and to the reasonable satisfaction of negatively affected parties. Further, the plan shall use plain, concise language, and shall be translated into other languages, if and as necessary.
	The Applicant shall consider using maps and other visual media to disseminate SCEIF information to the public. Such media may include: (i) schematics, maps, elevations, renderings, or other visual material from the SCEIF's construction documentation; (ii) three-dimensional fly-through simulations, or videos; and (iii) real-time maps, charts, graphs, or other media that track construction progress, display the anticipated progression of future construction, or track construction impacts and disruptions (e.g., physical obstructions, traffic congestion, parking limits, access limits).
Debris Clean-Up	The Applicant shall provide, within 60 days of construction completion, a report to the Local Government confirming that it has completed the clean-up of all construction debris and that any complaints concerning construction debris have been properly addressed.

Construction Work Hours	The Applicant must limit construction work hours of the Project to 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday to Friday. Normal construction work hours shall not include Sundays or state or federal holidays. Should the construction work extend beyond the above-noted hours and days, with the exception of emergency circumstances on a given day necessitating extended hours, the Applicant shall seek written permission from the relevant Local Government Representative before commencing such work. If the Applicant determines the SCEIF's construction work requires a longer continuous duration than normal, the Applicant may request an exemption from the Local Government to complete work outside the hours of 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. The Applicant shall promptly inform the relevant Local Government Representative of any emergency work occurring outside of normal construction work hours.
	The Applicant shall notify the Local Government in the TMP if anticipated work hours will negatively impact rush-hour traffic conditions. The Applicant may suggest alternative work hours to offset impacts on rush-hour traffic.
Staging and Laydown Plan	The Applicant shall produce a staging and laydown plan to be submitted to the Local Government no later than 60 days before construction commencement. At minimum, the plan shall detail the SCEIF's staging and laydown site location(s) and, for each site, the timeline for use, the proposed activities and hours of occurrence, use restrictions, mitigation methods to minimize impacts to surrounding areas, and post-use restoration plans
Air Impacts from Vehicles and Equipment	The Applicant shall use electric vehicles and equipment when practicable during the SCEIF's construction.
	The Applicant shall ensure that all diesel-powered non-road construction equipment with engine horsepower ratings of 50 and above, and to be used for 30 or more days over the course of Project construction, be certified to the most recent U.S. EPA Tier emissions standards or have U.S. EPA-verified (or equivalent) emissions control devices, such as oxidation catalysts, particulate filters, or other comparable technologies (to the extent that they are commercially available), installed on the exhaust system side of the diesel combustion engine.
	When practicable, the Applicant shall use ultra-low diesel fuel for off-road construction equipment. Further, the Applicant, when practicable, shall limit idling time to a maximum of five minutes for off-road construction equipment.
Noise Impacts	The Applicant shall locate any stationary equipment that emits loud noise at the maximum possible distance from residents and other sensitive receptors during construction.

The Applicant, as practicable, shall use the quietest available noise generating equipment, including generators and portable HVAC units during construction. The Applicant shall develop a flexible noise mitigation plan for selective use of portable noise barriers that would balance the benefit of reducing noise at locations where maximum noise impacts are expected for significant durations with site conditions that may not allow for effective use of regular noise barriers (e.g., heavy pedestrian or vehicular traffic). The Applicant shall submit a noise evaluation and mitigation plan to the Local Government no later than 30 days before construction commencement. At minimum, the evaluation and plan shall require: (i) Applicant-generated data demonstrating current and continued compliance with all applicable noise control regulations; (ii) Applicant noise-testing protocols to be employed during construction; (iii) remedies and response actions for noise violations or complaints; (iv) inspections and measurements, conducted by relevant municipal authorities, as necessary, to ensure compliance; and (v) mitigation measures. Mitigation measures may include pathway controls (e.g., perimeter fencing, noise attenuation blankets) and noise control devices (e.g., mufflers, shrouds, and alternate tooling). The Applicant shall design a SCEIF to minimize visual impacts. **Visual Impacts** including preserving natural vegetation to the maximum extent possible, blending in equipment with the surroundings, adding vegetative buffers to provide an effective visual barrier from adjacent roads and driveways, and to screen abutting residential dwellings. The Applicant shall develop a landscaping plan for the SCEIF's site(s) no later than thirty (30) days before construction commencement. At minimum, the plan shall detail existing topography and vegetation, and any proposed: (i) vegetation removal; (ii) hardscape (e.g., walkways) and softscape (e.g., vegetative buffering) measures; (iii) woodland preservation; (iv) structural screening (e.g., fencing, decorative masonry and sound walls); (v) site layout measures (e.g., strategic setbacks, orientation, and grading); (vi) integration of materials and designs into the existing landscape (e.g., use of matching palates); (vii) lighting control (e.g., turning off lights when not in use, motion detectors, dimmers, shielded light fixtures, warm-colored bulbs); (viii) irrigation and drainage; (ix) erosion and sediment control; and (x) maintenance protocols. The plan shall include native, drought-resistant plantings. Site Visits Local Government shall have the right to conduct site visits during construction and upon completion of the project. **Earth Removal** No earthwork, including grading, removing of soils, hauling in of soils, hammering, and blasting, shall take place without first receiving all required permits from the Local Government.

Vegetation	Vegetative buffering and screening at an SCEIF shall meet all local requirements, provided that the plantings used shall be native drought-resistant species.
Lighting	All exterior lighting used during construction must be directed downward and prevent light from straying beyond the property boundary (commonly known as dark-sky type).
Dust Control	During construction, all disturbed soils and unpaved roads shall be adequately watered to keep soil moist to provide dust control.
Soil	Except for well drained, stable gravel, six (6) inches of topsoil shall be applied to areas stripped of topsoil during contouring or other site preparation. Wherever practicable, the Applicant shall re-use sufficient on-site topsoil from excavated areas to establish a vegetative cover that blends disturbed areas into the surrounding landscape when the work on the project is completed. Topsoil shall not be imported unless the Applicant demonstrates to the relevant Local Government Representative a demonstrated engineering need, and such imports must be approved by the Local Government prior to any introduction, with particular attention paid to preventing importation of invasive species. No topsoil may be removed from the site. Provisions shall be made to stabilize any topsoil banks or berms.
Stormwater:	During construction, at the cost of the Applicant, a third-party inspector
Stormwater	shall submit monthly reports to the Local Government. The third-party
Prevention Pollution Plan	inspector shall go to site after significant storm events to confirm
Pollution Plan	compliance with the Applicant's Stormwater Prevention Pollution Plan (SWPPP), if applicable. A significant storm event shall be defined as an event involving more than 1 inch of rainfall in a 24-hour period.
Chemicals and	All chemicals and hazardous materials shall be handled in accordance
Hazardous	with local, state, and federal laws and regulations.
Materials	
	The Applicant shall provide to the Local Government a full list of chemical and hazardous materials that will be present on site. All equipment refueling shall occur in designated areas. A spill kit, including adsorbents, shall be present at the site at all times for all equipment. Operators of the SCEIF must be trained to report and respond to fuel, lubricant, or other releases.
	All Safety Data Sheets (SDS's) for the Hazardous Materials shall be maintained at the SCEIF. SDS's shall be reviewed with the SCEIF's employees at the time of their employment and on an annual basis thereafter. SDS sheets shall be made available to all employees upon request.
	The operation of a SCEIF shall be in compliance with all present and future regulations of the Environmental Protection Agency (the "EPA") and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (the "D.E.P.") at all times.
Phase: Operations a	nd Maintenance

Herbicide/Pesticide Application Storage of Chemicals and Hazardous Materials	The clearing of natural vegetation from the SCEIF's site shall be limited to what is necessary for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the SCEIF. If applicable, the Applicant shall ensure than any herbicide or pesticide application is approved by Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources and consistent with all local regulations. Pursuant to 310 CMR 30.000, Hazardous materials stored, used, or generated at a SCEIF shall not exceed the amount for a Very Small Quantity Generator of Hazardous Waste. SCEIFs shall store all hazardous materials pursuant to the requirements of 310 CMR 30.000, including storage of hazardous materials in a building with an impervious floor that is not adjacent to any floor drains, to prevent discharge to the outdoor environment.
Access Roads	The Applicant shall be responsible for maintaining the access roads to the SCEIF in a viable condition for emergency vehicles to travel on. If an installation of a SCEIF occurs using an unpaved access road, the Local Government may require mitigation measures such as drainage improvements, dust suppression, widening, or re-surfacing.
Operations and Maintenance Plan	The Applicant shall submit to the Local Government a plan for the operation and maintenance of the facility concurrently with the submission of the Building Permit Application. That plan shall include measures for maintaining safe access to the facility, stormwater management control, and general procedures for operational maintenance of the facility. The Applicant shall maintain the SCEIF in good condition. Maintenance shall also include, but not be limited to, painting structures, structural repairs, and integrity of security measures.
Insurance and Surety	Proof of Liability insurance and financial surety shall be submitted to the Local Government concurrently with the submittal of the Final Issuance to Build
Maintenance of	The Applicant shall work with the Local Government to ensure that any
Existing	existing recreational uses are maintained and publicly accessible. If
Recreational Uses	there is any need to alter existing recreational uses (e.g. relocating a
	portion of a trail), the Applicant shall work with the Local Government
	Representative to identify the optimal location. To maintain
	connectivity, construction of any relocated recreational use shall occur
Snow Removal and	during the land clearing stage. Snow shall not be stored at an SCEIF in areas that inhibit vehicular
Storage	access or sight lines. If snow cannot be stored safely on at an SCEIF,
Storage	then the Operator of the SCEIF shall remove and properly dispose of it
	from the site.
As-Built Plans	After construction is completed, the Applicant shall provide an as-built plan to the Local Government. Original as-built plans for the final plan shall be printed on mylar and stamped by a Professional Land Surveyor. The as-built plans shall also include a certification stamped by a Professional Engineer indicating the project was constructed in accordance with the approved plans. An electronic file of the As-Built

Plan sheets and AutoCAD files of the As-Built Plan for the project shall be submitted concurrently with the hard copies. Elevations on the as-built plans shall reference the municipal GIS datum.

Phase: Decommissioning

Decommissioning/ Abandonment

The Applicant shall provide a form of surety to the Local Government that shall compensate the Local Government in the event that the Local Government must install and remediate the site's landscape. The Applicant shall determine the cost of decommissioning a system as the total amount of equipment and labor rates outlined by the Massachusetts Department of Labor Standard's Prevailing Wage Program and shall account for increased costs due to inflation at a rate of 2.5% per year. The Local Government shall reserve the right to have the decommissioning plan reviewed by a third-party engineer at the cost to the Applicant.

In the absence of a proposed date of decommissioning or written notice of extenuating circumstances, a SCEIF shall be considered abandoned when it ceases to operate, meaning the SCIEF is not performing the normal functions associated with the SCEIF and its equipment on a continuous and ongoing basis, for more than twelve (12) months, without written consent of the Local Government. The Local Government shall provide written notification of abandonment to the SCEIF's Owner and Operator.

Decommissioning shall include removal of all structures, buildings, cabling, electrical components, security barriers, roads, foundations, pilings, and any other associated facilities, so that any agricultural ground upon which the facility and/or system was located is again tillable and suitable for agricultural uses. Disturbed earth shall be graded and re-seeded as necessary to minimize erosion unless the landowner requests in writing that the access roads or other land surface areas not be restored. Hazardous material from the property shall be disposed of in accordance with federal, state, and local law. The decommissioning plan shall also utilize best recycling practices to the maximum feasible extent.

2. Common Conditions that Apply Only to Small Clean Energy Storage Facilities

SCEIF – Storage Facilities Only	
Phase: Administrative and Legal	
Battery Energy	The Applicant shall develop an emergency response plan ("ERP") that
Storage System	meets the requirements of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
("BESS"):	855 and state and local fire laws and regulations. The ERP shall: (i) be
Emergency	developed in consultation with the Local Government's public safety
Response Plan	officials; and (ii) require close coordination between the Applicant and
("ERP")	emergency responders to ensure that emergency responders are fully

informed about potential emergency events and understand how to address such events without assuming unnecessary personal risk.

Additionally, the ERP shall include: (i) a communications plan for nearby residents who may be impacted by an emergency event that shall outline the parties responsible for contacting nearby residents; (ii) evacuation and shelter-in-place protocols for residents near the Project; and (iii) the names and phone numbers of local, state, and federal agencies and officials to be contacted in the event of an emergency.

The Applicant shall submit an annual report to the Local Government detailing: (i) any safety incidents that required notification of local safety authorities, including a full description of each incident and response, and the necessary, if any, changes the Owner and Operator of the SCEIF made in response to each incident and response; and (ii) a summary of any complaints about the SCEIF received by the Applicant, including the nature of the complaint and date received, the Applicant's response and date of response, the complaint's resolution, and identification of the individual(s) and/or party/parties who issued the complaint.

Further, the Applicant shall work with the fire departments in the SCEIF's vicinity to determine whether to develop a joint action plan as part of the ERP. The joint action plan shall provide neighboring fire departments with the proper information and necessary training to understand potential emergency risks caused by the SCEIF and provide, if necessary, a coordinated response.

The Applicant shall provide the Local Government with the ERP no later than sixty (60) days before commencement of the SCEIF's operations.

The Applicant shall provide a report to the Local Government within one (1) week of any incident at the SCEIF requiring notification to first responders. The report shall include a description of the incident and response, and the date(s) and time(s) of the incident and response.

In an emergency incident, including a fire, the Applicant shall follow all federal, state, and local emergency response protocols outlining mandatory containment, remediation, testing, and monitoring efforts including but not limited to 310 CMR 22.00 and 310 CMR 40.00.

Phase: Construction

Chemicals and Hazardous Waste

The Applicant shall certify to the Local Government that non-PFAS fire suppression foams shall be employed to the extent that such products are commercially available, efficacious, and compliant with relevant requirements of 310 CMR 30.

Storage Containment

Battery storage container installation and operation must comply with all relevant codes and regulations and must be reviewed by the Local Government's Fire Department and Building Department before installation. All liquid hazardous materials and wastes shall be stored in a containment area capable of containing 110 percent of the largest volume stored in the containment area.

Phase: Operation and Maintenance

Repair, Augmentation, and Repowering

In addition to repairing or replacing BESS components to maintain the system, a BESS may, at any time, be augmented or repowered without the need to submit a new site plan so long as the augmentation or repowering is within the same footprint (e.g., same dedicated use building or on footings/foundations in the same location) as detailed in the Facility's as-built plan and there is no significant change in the battery chemistry (e.g., a change from one lithium-ion battery type, such as Lithium Iron Phosphate, to another, such as Nickel Manganese Cobalt). A proposal to change the Facility's footprint shall be considered a new application, subject to the local and state standards at the time of the request. Significant changes to the battery chemistry shall be subject to review by the Building Commissioner and Fire Department. If the Building Commissioner and/or Fire Department determines the chemistry change requires alterations to the site footprint, the proposal shall be considered a new application.

3. Common Conditions that Apply Only to Ground-Mounted Solar Facilities

SCEIF – Ground-Mounted Solar Facilities Only

Phase: Administrative and Legal

Emergency Response Plan ("ERP")

The Applicant shall create an ERP that shall: (1) be developed in consultation with local public safety officials; and (2) require close coordination between the developer and first responders to ensure that first responders are fully informed about emergency events and understand how to address such events without assuming unnecessary personal risk. The ERP shall include: (1) equipment types and layouts without compromising Critical Energy/Electric Infrastructure Information; (2) safety data sheets for materials used or stored at the SCEIF; (3) a plan drafted in collaboration with the Local Government's Fire Department with suggested response procedures for various emergency conditions; and (4) the Operator's responsibilities in response to an emergency at the SCEIF.

4. Standards that Apply Only to Small Clean Transmission and Distribution Infrastructure Facilities

SCEIF - Transmission & Distribution Facilities Only

Phase: Construction

Nighttime	If applicable, the Applicant must prepare a nighttime construction
Construction	mitigation plan in consultation with relevant local stakeholders. The
Mitigation Plan	Company shall submit the plan to the Local Government for approval
9	no later than thirty (30) days before commencement of nighttime
	construction, which shall be defined as any construction occurring
	between the hours of 7:00pm and 5:00am. The plan shall detail any
	potential impacts beyond the Project site (e.g., illumination spill-over
	and glare, noise and traffic disruptions) and all proposed mitigation
	measures.
Nighttime Cable	The Applicant shall use new, lower-noise-generating equipment for
Splicing	cable splicing. The Applicant shall use portable noise barriers to
	mitigate noise impacts on residential areas from nighttime cable
	splicing, as necessary.
Road	In the event of damage to any public road, or any private road not
Damage/Repair	owned by the Applicant, due to the construction of the SCIEF, the
	Applicant shall repair damage no later than 60 days after construction is
	completed. If the damage occurs between November to March, the
	Applicant shall make temporary repairs within sixty (60) days and final
	repairs once asphalt plants reopen from seasonal closures.

5. Common Conditions that Apply Only to Wind Facilities

SCEIF – Wind Facilities Only		
Phase: Administrati	Phase: Administrative and Legal	
Emergency	The Applicant shall create an ERP that shall: (1) be developed in	
Response Plan	consultation with local public safety officials; and (2) require close	
("ERP")	coordination between the developer and first responders to ensure that	
	first responders are fully informed about emergency events and	
	understand how to address such events without assuming unnecessary	
	personal risk. The ERP shall include: (1) equipment types and layouts	
	without compromising Critical Energy/Electric Infrastructure	
	Information; (2) safety data sheets for materials used or stored at the	
	SCEIF; (3) a plan drafted in collaboration with the Local Government's	
	Fire Department with suggested response procedures for various	
	emergency conditions; and (4) the Operator's responsibilities in	
	response to an emergency at the SCEIF.	

6. Common Conditions that Apply Only to Small Anaerobic Digestion Facilities

SCEIF – Anaerobic Digestion Facilities Only	
Solid Waste	Anaerobic Digestion Facilities shall adhere to the relevant requirements
Facility Standards	of 310 CMR 16.00

7. Common Conditions that Apply to All Small Clean Energy Infrastructure Facilities with Construction that Requires Horizontal Drilling

SCEIF – Horizontal Drilling Component	
Phase: Construction	
Horizontal	The Applicant shall submit a Horizontal Directional Drilling ("HDD")
Directional	contingency report to the Local Government no later than thirty (30)
Drilling ("HDD"):	days prior to construction commencement. The plan shall detail any
Management of	measures that the Applicant will employ to minimize the risk of drilling
Drilling Fluid	fluids inadvertently returning to the surface, and any emergency
Risks	response protocols that the Applicant will implement should such a
	scenario occur.