

FACT SHEET

Jessica's Brick Oven Bakery, Methuen Air Quality non-Major Comprehensive Plan Application and Cumulative Impact Analysis

Introduction

Jessica's Brick Oven Bakery ("the Bakery") is proposing to expand its existing bakery operations due to increased demand. The facility will expand operations to a new building located at 33 Danton Dr in Methuen, Massachusetts. The proposed expansion project ("the Project") is subject to the Massachusetts Air Pollution Control Regulations (310 CMR 7.00) and requires an air quality permit for emissions from the expanded bakery operations. The Bakery plans to submit a non-major Comprehensive Plan Application (nmCPA) with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), which will include a Cumulative Impact Analysis (CIA) as required by 310 CMR 7.02(14) to ensure that the Project does not result in any adverse or disproportionate impacts to neighboring communities, including Environmental Justice (EJ) communities. The CIA includes enhanced public outreach to nearby EJ communities, assessment of existing community conditions, and analysis of cumulative impacts of the Project. The Bakery encourages members of the public who are interested in learning more about the Project or who wish to be added to the distribution list to reach out to the Bakery contact (information at the bottom of the Fact Sheet). Once completed, the nmCPA with CIA will be submitted and a proposed decision on the permit will be issued after MassDEP completes its review. There will be a formal 60-day public comment period on the MassDEP proposed decision.

Facility Information

Jessica's Brick Oven, Inc. operates a commercial bakery located at 35 Danton Dr in Methuen City, Massachusetts. The Bakery provides a large selection and variety of fresh yeast-leavened breads to local and state markets. The predominant products produced use a "sponge and dough" method of breadmaking, which involves the production of a "sponge" where the flour dough is subjected to fermented yeast before it is combined with other ingredients in the mixing stage. The primary emissions associated with this process are volatile organic compounds (VOC, primarily ethanol and small amounts of other volatiles) emitted from the ovens during baking. Natural gas is used as a fuel source for the ovens and a single pan washer and is associated with typical combustion emissions. The Project will expand the Bakery's production in a separate building (33 Danton Dr, Methuen, MA). The new building will include a new conveyor belt system with a new rack oven to support the commercial bread making process. The systems will have two stacks – a combustion and a process stack with a height ending 10 feet above the roofline. The Bakery is surrounded by existing low-rise buildings. The area is primarily dedicated to industrial and commercial operations and adjacent to major transportation routes. The Bakery has an existing air quality plan approval (Approval#: NE-20-006 and ePlace Authorization #: A002P-0000023) associated with the current facility.

Project Information

As noted above, the facility is expanding its operations with more baking ovens and combustion processes in a new building. The new operations will be associated with a natural-gas fired oven and pan washer. The building will have a process exhaust stack and a combustion exhaust stack that will vent to the roof through stacks with a height ending 10 feet above the roofline. Potential emissions at rated capacity are 11.5 tons of VOC from the breadmaking process. Potential products of combustion from the natural gas burners are : nitrogen oxides (NOx): 0.8 ton/year, carbon monoxide (CO): 0.7 ton/year, particulate matter (PM): <0.1 ton/year, VOC: <0.1 ton/year, sulfur dioxide: <0.01 ton/year, and carbon dioxide (CO2): 900 tons/year. The Project is not subject to any federal air requirements and does not meet any thresholds for review under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA).

Environmental Justice Populations

The facility is located in an Environmental Justice (EJ) community, and there are six EJ Blocks within one mile of the Project as shown in Figure 1 using MassDEP's CIA Mapping tool. Four EJ Block Groups are based on the minority criteria (yellow), one is based on the income criteria (green), and one is based on minority, income and English

We will continue to broadly engage with neighboring communities, including the EJ communities, to provide information about the Project. We will provide this Fact Sheet to the City of Methuen to post via their website. It will also be posted on Jessica's Brick Oven Bakery's website, at the library and Town Hall, and at other locations around town. The Fact Sheet includes a QR code to a form for providing comments, and to register for future information about meetings. We will post the Fact Sheet. The Fact Sheet and other Project information will be shared with the outreach list provided by MassDEP and other interested parties. This communication will build on Jessica's Brick Oven Bakery existing robust community engagement efforts and programs.



or through the QR code and provided [Inquiry Form](#):



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