

Public Hearing on Northeast Energy Center (NEC) Air Quality Plan Approval Proposed Decision

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
(MassDEP)

Central Regional Office
8 New Bond Street, Worcester



July 29, 2021

Welcome & Introductions

MassDEP Central Regional Office Presenter:

- Douglas Fine – Deputy Regional Director
 - Douglas.Fine@mass.gov (508-767-2757)

Northeast Energy Center Presenter:

- A. J. Jablonowski – P.E., Epsilon Associates, Inc.
 - ajablonowski@epsilonassociates.com (978-793-2571)

Note: This entire proceeding, including presentations & testimony, is being recorded for the public record.

Hearing Agenda

- Zoom & Public Hearing Logistics (MassDEP)
- Summary of Proposed Project & Air Quality Plan Approval Application (NEC)
- Summary of Air Quality Plan Approval Proposed Decision (MassDEP)
- Public Comment – Access to Documents, Process, and Timing (MassDEP)
- Process for Air Quality Plan Approval Final Decision (MassDEP)
- Testimony from Hearing Attendees
- Next Steps and Adjourn (MassDEP)

Zoom Hearing Logistics

- To minimize background noise, Attendees are on mute.
- Instructions on how to present oral testimony will come after the presentation when the testimony begins.
- Use the "chat" feature at any time to report technical difficulties.
- **Please do not use chat to submit testimony.**
- Questions asked during oral testimony or via written comments will be addressed in MassDEP's written response to comments included with MassDEP's final decision, which comes after the close of the public comment period (August 9, 2021).

NEC Presentation by A.J. Jablonowski, PE, Epsilon Associates

Air Quality Plan Approval Application Review

- MassDEP Application Review Process
 - Administrative Review – All Documents and Information
 - Technical Review – Equipment and Processes Details
 - Public Comment Period:
 - Began July 8, 2021
 - Ends 5:00 pm on August 9, 2021
 - MassDEP considers testimony/comments received and then issues final decision.

Air Quality Plan Approval Application Review

- Massachusetts Air Quality Regulations (310 CMR 7.00)
- Federal Air Requirements (40 CFR 50 and 60)
- Best Available Control Technology (BACT) and other applicable standards
- Ambient air dispersion modeling for compliance with:
 - National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)
 - Massachusetts Ambient Air Toxic Guidelines Threshold Effect Exposure Limits (TELs) and Allowable Ambient Limits (AALs)
- Sound monitoring & modeling

Elements of Proposed Decision

- Identification of all equipment and processes that emit regulated air pollutants.
- Pollutant limits include:
 - Both short-term and/or long-term emission limits for regulated air pollutants to demonstrate compliance with state and federal regulations.
 - Pollutants include: nitrogen oxide (NO_x), carbon monoxide (CO), carbon dioxide (CO_2), particulate matter (PM), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), sulfur dioxide (SO_2) and hazardous air pollutants (HAPs).
 - Stack opacity limits
 - Limits on total fuel burning (which limits emissions)
- Off-site sound mitigation measures, including:
 - Sound barrier wall
 - Acoustical enclosures around highest sound-emitting components
 - Stack and inlet silencers
 - Site layout to reduce off-site sound

Elements of Proposed Decision (Cont'd)

- Natural gas leak detection & repair requirements
- Compliance demonstration, including:
 - Continuous monitoring of fuel use
 - Monitoring of operating hours
 - Periodic emission testing (incl. stack tests)
 - One-time post-construction sound testing (with follow up actions depending on off-site impacts)
 - On-site record keeping
 - Initial and on-going reporting to MassDEP

Comments on Proposed Decision

- Public Notice/Proposed Decision with Fact Sheet (both in English and Spanish) issued July 8, 2021
- **Comments due to MassDEP 5:00 pm August 9, 2021**
- To View Application & Proposed Decision
 - Online: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/EEA/PublicApp/>
 - Paper copy:
 - Charlton Public Library, 40 Main St, Charlton
 - Jacob Edwards Library, 236 Main St, Southbridge
 - Up to one week borrowing period

Comments on Proposed Decision (Cont'd)

- Oral testimony received today during this hearing.
- Submit written comments by 5pm August 9, 2021, via any of the following options:
 - Online: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/EEA/PublicApp/>
 - Email: CERO.air@mass.gov
 - US Mail: MassDEP, Central Regional Office, 8 New Bond St, Worcester, MA 01606 – Attention: “NEC Air Permit”

Welcome to the EEA ePLACE Public Access Portal

Search

All Online Authorizations

Search and view all pending and final decisions for Permit, Certification, License or Notification Applications submitted online through the EEA ePLACE Portal. Search by location, permit category, status, and submission date. **EEA began accepting online applications on May 5th 2017.** See [Help/FAQs](#) for list of applications and date online submission began

Search and/or Comment

All Applications Open for Public Comment

Search and/or provide Comments on Applications that are open for Public Comments. Not all applications will have comment periods and not all comments are published.

To submit an Application online, visit [the EEA ePLACE Portal](#)



Records found (1) (permits, certifications, licenses and notifications)

☐ Open for comments only

Note: 'Record types' listed in grid below distinguish between 'Application', and the official 'Approval' records. Types of Applications* include:

- Permits, certifications, licenses, notifications

All types of Applications, if approved, are identified with a record type of 'Authorization' and have a status of Active.

*An Application may be a renewal or an amendment for an existing 'authorization' See [Help/FAQs](#) for a complete explanation and glossary of terms.

Enter keyword to search results



[Clear search](#)

Site Name/Park Name ▾ Individual Licensee	Record Type ▾	Category ▾	Project Name ▾	City ▾	Application ▾ Date
1 NORTHEAST ENERGY CENT...	AQ02P	Application	Plan Approval Non-Major Comprehensive	CHARLTON	03/24/2020

Privacy policy

For technical assistance, call (844) 733-7522 7:30 AM-5:00 PM Monday-Friday or e-mail us at ePLACE_helpdesk@state.ma.us

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NORTHEAST ENERGY CENTER

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Applicant or individual licensee

City | CHARLTON
Email |
Phone |

Agency Contact

John Barlow
Email | john.barlow@mass.gov

Supporting documents

¹
(Other) [2021-07-08 Northeast Energy Center nmCPA - PROPOSED APPROVAL PDF.pdf](#)

(Other) [21-07-08_Public Hearing_Public Comment_Fact Sheet-SPANISH.pdf](#)

(Other) [21-07-08_Public Hearing_Public Comment_Fact Sheet-ENGLISH.pdf](#)

(Process Flow Diagram) [NEC Block Flow Diagram.pdf](#)

(Sound Study/ Protocol) [NEC Figure 1 - revised.pdf](#)

(Sound Study/ Protocol) [NEC Figure 1.pdf](#)

(Plot Plan) [NEC Site Plan - CS102.pdf](#)

(AQ Modeling Analysis/ Report) [Protocol Supporting Documentation.pdf](#)

(AQ Modeling Analysis/ Report) [GP Interactive source data\(prelim3\) Dec. 3.xlsx](#)

(Top Down BACT Analysis) [Electric vs Mechanical Drive BACT 9-28-2020.pdf](#)

(Other) [Electric vs Mechanical Drive Calculations 9-28-2020.xlsx](#)

(Other) [public outreach 10-16.docx](#)

(Other) [NEC proposed conditions 10-9.docx](#)

Application status

☐ Open for comments

Application date

03/24/2020

Authorization ID

#20-AQ02P-0003-APP
Department of Environmental Protection
Plan Approval Non-Major Comprehensive

Submit a comment

Status: Open for comments until 8/9/2021

You may submit a public comment below expressing you or your entity/organization's opinion on this application. Please Note, that all information submitted via this portal is considered public and may be published online by the reviewing agency.

Fields with an asterick (*) are required.

Title *

Title *

Comment *

Comment *

4000 character maximum. If you need more space, you can add comments as attachments below, or you can submit a new comment on the same authorization.

+ Add attachment

First name *

First name *

Last name *

Last name *

Email address *

Email address *

Job title

Job title

Representing

Representing

Organization

Organization

Note: Do not submit private or confidential information. All submitted comments and attachments are considered public and may be published online.

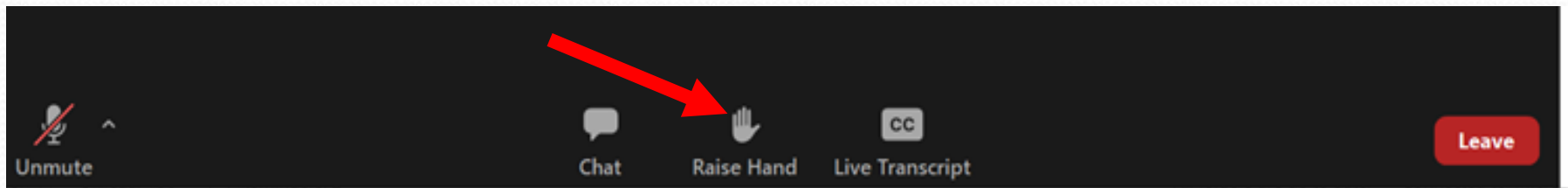
Submit

Plan Approval Final Decision

- MassDEP considers testimony/comments received and then issues final decision
- Final decision will be available online at:
<https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/EEA/PublicApp/>; or
can be sent via email upon request
- To receive an email notice on the day MassDEP issues the final decision, send email request to Thomas.Hannah@mass.gov
- Appeals of Air Quality Plan Approval Final Decision:
 - Right to Appeal information will be included with final decision
 - Rules for appeals are at 310 CMR 7.51(1) and 310 CMR 1.01
 - Must be filed within 21 days of MassDEP's issuance of final decision
 - Requires legal standing (must comment on proposed decision during comment period to have standing).
- No MassDEP final decision until EFSB approval

Oral Testimony Now Open

- To provide oral testimony, raise your “virtual hand,” in the order we call on (public officials will have the opportunity to go first).
 1. Hover your cursor at the bottom of your screen.
 2. MassDEP will announce your name, take you off mute, and lower your raised hand.
 3. Please limit oral testimony to 3 minutes.
 - Questions will be answered in the Response to Comments
 - Remember that anyone can submit written testimony
 4. You will be put back on mute after you speak.



Thank you for your participation!

- Recording of today's hearing will be posted on MassDEP's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/MassDEP/videos>.
- Recording includes transcript and opportunity to select closed caption in Spanish and other languages.
- Any follow up questions about process for public comment, how to access the proposed decision, or application materials:
 - Douglas Fine – Deputy Regional Director
 - douglas.fine@mass.gov; 508-767-2757
 - Thomas Hannah – Chief, Air Permitting
 - thomas.hannah@mass.gov; 508-767-2845