

Environmental Justice Screening Form

Project Name	Whitney Pond Dam Repairs and Overtopping Protection Project
Anticipated Date of MEPA Filing	Summer 2026
Proponent Name	Town of Winchendon Department of Public Works
Contact Information (e.g., consultant)	Briony Angus, Tighe & Bond bangus@tighebond.com 617-640-2055
Public website for project or other physical location where project materials can be obtained (if available)	Department of Public Works 109 Front Street, Department 4 Winchendon, MA 01475
Municipality and Zip Code for Project (if known)	Winchendon, MA 01475
Project Type* (list all that apply)	Dam Repair / Replacement
Is the project site within a mapped 100-year FEMA flood plain? Y/N/unknown	Yes - Portions of the Project Site are located within the 100-year FEMA floodplain.
Estimated GHG emissions of conditioned spaces (click here for GHG Estimation tool)	No conditioned spaces/buildings are proposed as part of this project. No residential dwellings or commercial buildings intended for human use or occupancy are proposed.

Project Description

1. Provide a brief project description, including overall size of the project site and square footage of proposed buildings and structures if known. The Whitney Pond Dam Repairs and Overtopping Protection Project consists of improvements to the existing Whitney Pond Dam and spillway in Winchendon, Massachusetts. The Project includes dam embankment regrading and stabilization, installation of articulated concrete block overtopping protection, removal of trees and brush from the embankments, installation of seepage controls and riprap protection, repair of the existing spillway through injection grouting, and removal of deteriorated ancillary infrastructure. The Project will occur within an approximately 3.2-acre limit of work and involves improvements to the existing approximately 887-foot-long dam and associated appurtenant structures. No new buildings are proposed.
2. List anticipated MEPA review thresholds (301 CMR 11.03) (if known) • 11.03(3)(b)(1)(b): Alteration of 500 or more linear feet of bank along an inland bank • 11.03(b)(1)(d): Alteration of 5,000 or more sf of bordering vegetated wetlands

- **11.03(3)(b)(1)(e): New fill or structure or expansion of existing fill or structure in a velocity zone or regulatory floodway**

3. List all anticipated state, local and federal permits needed for the project (if known)

Agency Name	Type of License or Permit
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)	MEPA Review/Certificate of the Secretary - EENF/Single EIR
Winchendon Conservation Commission	Order of Conditions
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection	Individual 401 Water Quality Certification
	Chapter 91 Waterways License
Massachusetts Historical Commission	Project Notification Form
Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Office of Dam Safety	Dam Safety Permit
US Army Corps of Engineers	Pre-Construction Notification

4. Identify EJ populations and characteristics (Minority, Income, English Isolation) within 5 miles of project site (can attach map identifying 5-mile radius from [EJ Maps Viewer](#) in lieu of narrative)

The Designated Geographic Area (DGA) for the Whitney Pond Dam Overtopping Protection Project is one (1) mile. There is one block group with EJ populations within 1 mile of the project site:

- **Income (Block Group 1, Census Tract 7011.02)**

There is one (1) block group within 5 miles of the project site, in the neighboring community of Gardner, that is an EJ population.

- **Income (Block Group 1, Census Tract 7075)**

Please refer to the attached EJ Maps Viewer for more information.

5. Identify any municipality or census tract meeting the definition of “vulnerable health EJ criteria” in the [DPH EJ Tool](#) located in whole or in part within a 1 mile radius of the project site

While the Town of Winchendon does not meet the Vulnerable Health EJ criteria for childhood asthma, it does meet the criteria for heart attack hospitalization (both criteria are measured at the municipal level). According to the DPH EJ Tool, the Town also meets the criteria for elevated childhood blood lead levels and low birth weight, which are tracked at the census tract level. The census tracts meeting or exceeding 110% of the statewide rate per 1,000, based on a five-year rolling average, for these criteria are Tract 25027701100 and Tract 25027702200. Both tracts meet both criteria. Only Tract 25027701100, for childhood blood lead levels, is noted as statistically stable. Both tracts for low birth weight, as well as Tract 25027702200 for childhood blood lead levels, are noted as statistically unstable. These results indicate that EJ populations appear to exhibit vulnerable health EJ criteria.

6. Identify potential short-term and long-term environmental and public health impacts that may affect EJ Populations and any anticipated mitigation

The Project is not expected to create disproportionate adverse environmental or public health impacts on EJ populations. The Project will not create new sources of air, water, or soil pollution and is not anticipated to generate substantial additional traffic or vehicle emissions. Potential short-term impacts are limited to the construction period and may include temporary noise, dust, and restricted access to the North Central Pathway. The public will be notified of temporary pathway closures through posted signage.

These impacts will be minimized through implementation of erosion and sedimentation controls, dust suppression measures, spill prevention measures, and other construction-period best management practices (BMPs). The Project is not expected to exacerbate existing environmental or public health burdens identified through the DPH EJ Tool.

7. Identify project benefits, including “Environmental Benefits” as defined in 301 CMR 11.02, that may improve environmental conditions or public health of the EJ population

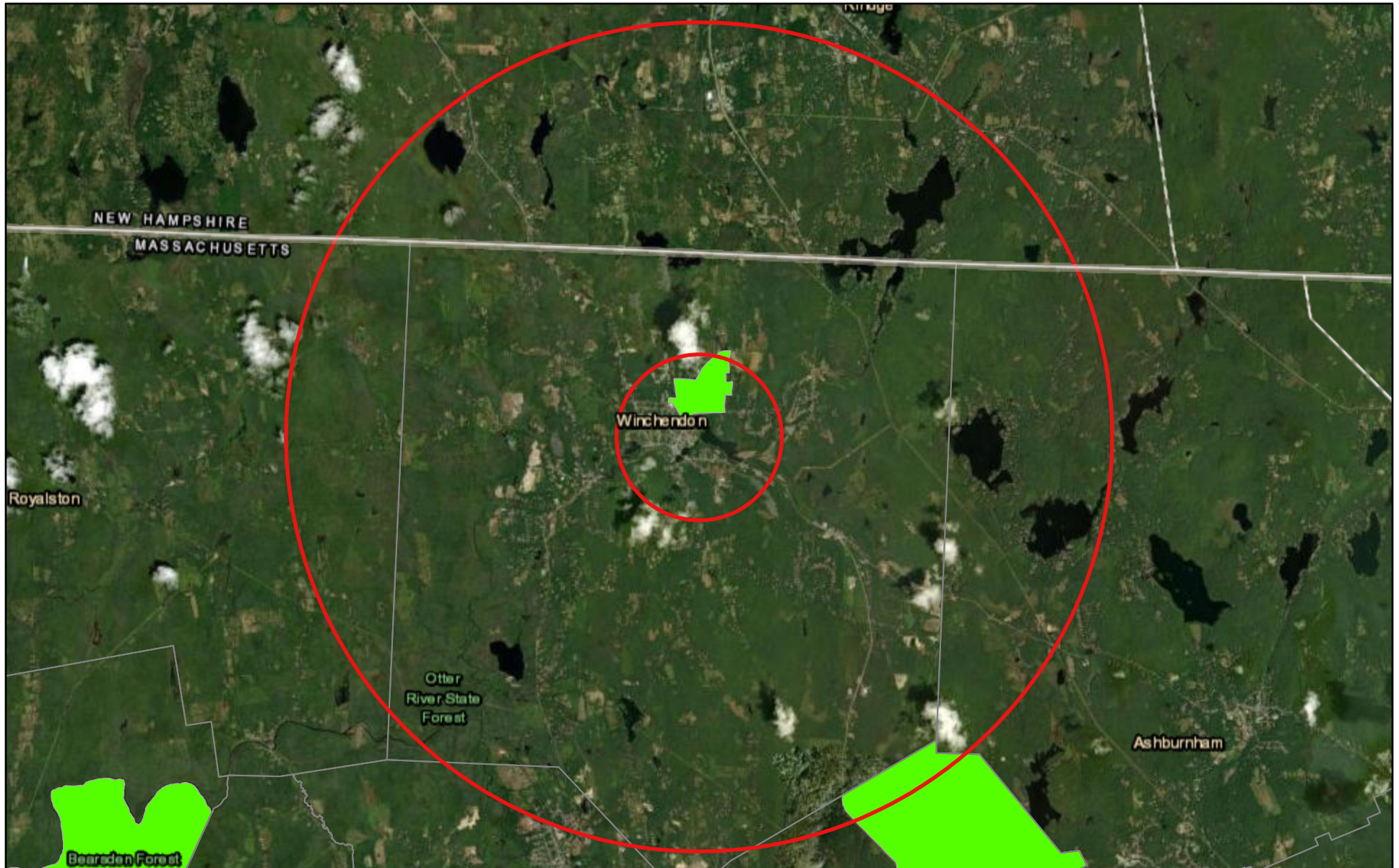
The Project will improve public safety and climate resiliency through rehabilitation of the Whitney Pond Dam, reducing the risk of dam failure and improving the dam’s ability to withstand extreme storm events. The Project will also preserve Whitney Pond and associated community resources, including recreational use of the impoundment and the North Central Pathway. These benefits will be available to all nearby residents, including Environmental Justice populations within the Designated Geographic Area.

Other environmental benefits include rehabilitation of aging dam infrastructure, reduction of existing spillway leakage, restoration and stabilization of disturbed areas following construction, and implementation of erosion and sedimentation controls and other BMPs that will protect adjacent wetland resource areas.

8. Describe how the community can request a meeting to discuss the project, and how the community can request oral language interpretation services at the meeting . Specify how to request other accommodations, including meetings after business hours and at locations near public transportation.

The Town of Winchendon Department of Public Works can be contacted at (978) 297-0170 to request a meeting, obtain additional information about the proposed project, or request reasonable accommodation, including language interpretation services, if needed.

Whitney Pond Dam Project - 2020 EJ Neighborhoods

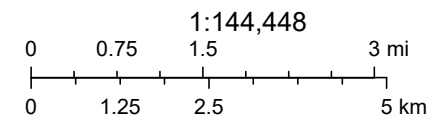


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 Override 1

MA 2020 Environmental Justice Block Groups

 Income: the block group median household income is 65% or less than the state median household income



Esri, HERE, Garmin, Earthstar Geographics