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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Office within the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, will hold public hearings on proposed amendments to 301 CMR 11.00 *MEPA Regulations*.

The proposed amendments make modest changes to improve the administration of the MEPA program, and complement the regulatory amendments promulgated on December 24, 2021 to implement requirements imposed under Sections 55-60 of Chapter 8 of the Acts of 2021: An Act Creating a Next-Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy.

More specifically, the proposed amendments would:

- Make modest amendments to key MEPA review thresholds to exempt minor projects from review, where MEPA reviews have not materially advanced MEPA's mandate to avoid or minimize environmental impacts;
- Create a streamlined filing process for "Ecological Restoration Projects" (but not "Ecological Restoration Limited Projects") as defined in the Wetlands Protection Act; and
- Make technical amendments to MEPA definitions and procedures to conform to statutory language and add flexibility in conducting reviews

Public hearings will be conducted via Zoom meeting at the dates and times below:

- October 26, 2022, 10am-12noon (register at link below)
<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwuc-GvrDgpHdPI4IRilbjUVSc6koreUsgy>
- October 26, 2022, 6:30-8:00pm (register at link below)
<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEld-mppj8tH9MxtoURa3a9FhOZ3orCebn5>
- October 27, 2022, 10am-12noon (register at link below)
<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMscu6vrTguHdMJHf0CThoE8zMvXB5-twG4>

Following public hearings, written comments will be accepted until **5:00pm on November 14, 2022** by email at MEPA-regs@mass.gov, or by mail to MEPA Office, Attn: Tori Kim, 100 Cambridge Street, 10th fl., Boston, MA 02114. A copy of the proposed regulations is available on the MEPA website at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/information-about-upcoming-regulatory-updates>, or may be obtained by sending an email to MEPA-regs@mass.gov.

To request written language translation or oral interpretation at the public hearings, please contact MEPA-regs@mass.gov (insert “Language Translation Request” in subject line). For oral language interpretation, the request must be received at least three (3) business days prior to the public hearing date at which the interpretation is requested. To request other reasonable accommodations, please contact Melixza Esenyie, ADA and Diversity Manager at Melixza.Esenyie2@mass.gov or 617-626-1282.