



# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

*Executive Office of Energy and  
Environmental Affairs*

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**Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act  
MEPA Advisory Committee  
*April 29, 2022***



# Status Update: MEPA Projects Near EJ Populations

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## Project filings submitted Jan. 1 to Apr. 15, 2022

- 57 filings accepted (average 8 per cycle)
- 31 **new** projects (ENF/EENFs)
  - 17 within designated geographic areas (DGA) around EJ populations
  - 7 with language translation needs
- 2 additional projects subject to 2021 EJ policy (wastewater treatment)

## Rollover/Single EIR requests (of 17 EJ projects)

- 2 requests for Single EIR (1 exceeds mandatory EIR thresholds)
- 5 requests for Rollover or Single EIR
- 10 with no request for streamlined procedure (5 exceed mandatory EIR thresholds)



# Status Update: Key Observations

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## Project Types

- Residential/Commercial – multifamily, warehouse, lab/office
- Wastewater - sewer main extension, sludge treatment (2)
- Resiliency – dune nourishment, bank stabilization, dam repair
- Others – solar, fire station upgrade

## Advance Notifications / Outreach

- All but 4 projects were filed during “transition period,” so 45-day advance notification was not required.
- While a few EIR-level projects have shown exemplary outreach, projects are largely relying on the advance notification process to satisfy public involvement requirements.



# Status Update: Potential Refinements

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## **Make Project Information More Readily Available**

- Working to add “EJ Notice” to Environmental Monitor
- Consider making available list of pending EJ projects by EEA#

## **Improve Public Involvement and Outreach**

- Consider requiring 45-day advance notification for all EJ projects
- Working to expand staffing to provide better guidance on developing public involvement plans for individual projects

## **Consider Updates to MEPA Thresholds & EJ Protocols**

- Continue to analyze MEPA review thresholds to consider raising/lowering to align with statutory intent of requiring enhanced analysis for projects likely to cause significant damage to the environment
- Coordinate with MassDEP’s cumulative impacts analysis stakeholder effort