Environmental Justice Council

Meeting #28

Thursday, October 8, 2026, 6:30 pm

In Person location: Springfield MA

South Congregational Church

45 Maple Street, Springfield, MA

Logistics and Agenda

Environmental Justice Council

Meeting #28 • October 8, 2026 • 6:30 pm

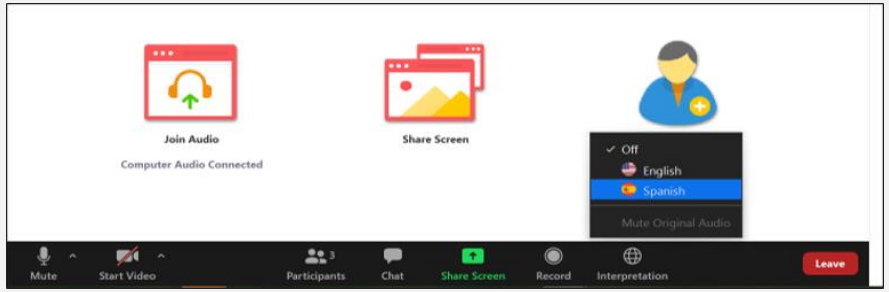
LOGISTICS

➲ **Language Interpretation is being offered in: Español, Kreyòl ayisyen, 普通话, Português, Kriolu, and Tiếng Việt.**

- To participate in English, click the “Interpretation” icon and select English.
- Para entrar no canal em português, clique no ícone “Interpretation” e selecione “Portuguese”
- Si alguien desea interpretación en español, haga clic en “Interpretation” y seleccione “Spanish”
- Pa partisipa na Kriolu, klika na íkone "Intirpretason" y silisiona "Cape Verdean Creole“
- Pou rantre nan chanèl kreyòl ayisyen an, klike sou ikòn “Interpretation” an epi chwazi “Haitian Creole”
- 要以普通话参加会议，请单击口语图标并选择 "Chinese”.
- Để vào kênh bằng tiếng Việt, hãy nhấp vào biểu tượng “Interpretation” và chọn “Vietnamese”.

➲ **Please speak slowly.**

➲ **All attendees must select a language channel, even if viewing the presentation in English.**



➲ **If you would like a translated version of the slides, please go to the EJC website at: https://www.mass.gov/service-details/environmental-justice-council-ejc-meetings**

THIS MEETING IS BEING RECORDED

Agenda

- Overview of Meeting, Logistics and Agenda
- Roll Call and Approval of Prior EJC Meeting Minutes
- Public Comments
- Intervenor Support Grant Program
- Public Comments (as time is permissible)
- Next Steps
- Adjourn



Approval of August 13, 2026, Meeting Minutes & Roll Call: EJ Council Members

- Madeline Fraser Cook
- Melissa Harding-Ferretti
- Cheryll Holley
- Caroline Hon
- Lydia Lowe
- Marcos Luna
- Peter Maathey
- María Belén Power
- Sofia Owen
- Jen Salinetti
- Patricia Spence
- Miles Gresham
- Harleen Marwah
- Paula Garcia

Public Comments and Questions

Please limit each comment to two minutes to allow time for others to speak

Intervenor Support Grant Program

Intervenor Support Grant Program Overview

Department of Public Utilities, Division of Public Participation

October 8, 2026

Topic Areas Covered in Presentation

- Purpose of the Intervenor Support Grant Program
- Proceedings Eligible for Intervention
- Rights and Responsibilities of an Intervenor
- Process to Become an Intervenor
- Process to Intervene and Process to Apply for an Intervenor Grant
- Entities Eligible to Receive Grant Funding
- Information Required in Grant Application
- Grant Awards and Payment Process
- Use of Grant Funding
- Grants Management System (GMS) – Online Grant Application Portal
- Resources Available

Purpose of the Intervenor Support Grant Program ("Program")



- Provides funding to eligible groups who are unable to participate in Department of Public Utilities ("DPU" or "Department") or Energy Facilities Siting Board ("Siting Board") proceedings because of financial hardship
- Allows grantees to cover fees for attorneys, expert witnesses, community experts, administrative, and other eligible expenses
- Provides diverse voices a seat at the table and an opportunity to influence decisions
- Administered by the Department's Division of Public Participation (DPP)

Funding is available for proceedings initiated on or after July 1st, 2026

Proceedings Eligible for Grant Funding for Intervening

Department

- Petitions from utilities to change electric and gas distribution rates for customers
- Grid modernization and infrastructure investment plans
- Net metering and interconnection petitions (e.g., approval of revised interconnection standards)
- Energy efficiency and decarbonization programs (e.g., pilot programs for networked geothermal, heat pump rates)

Siting Board

Reviews proposed large energy infrastructure facilities

- Renewable energy generating facilities (Solar, wind)
- Battery energy storage facilities
- Substations
- Transmission and distribution infrastructure
- Gas pipelines and related facilities

Investigations and rulemaking initiated by the Department are not eligible for grant funding.

Rights and Responsibilities of an Intervenor

Increasing Levels of Participation in a Proceeding

Intervenor

Limited Participant

Public Commentor

An Intervenor is a legally recognized participant (party) with a higher level of involvement in the proceeding

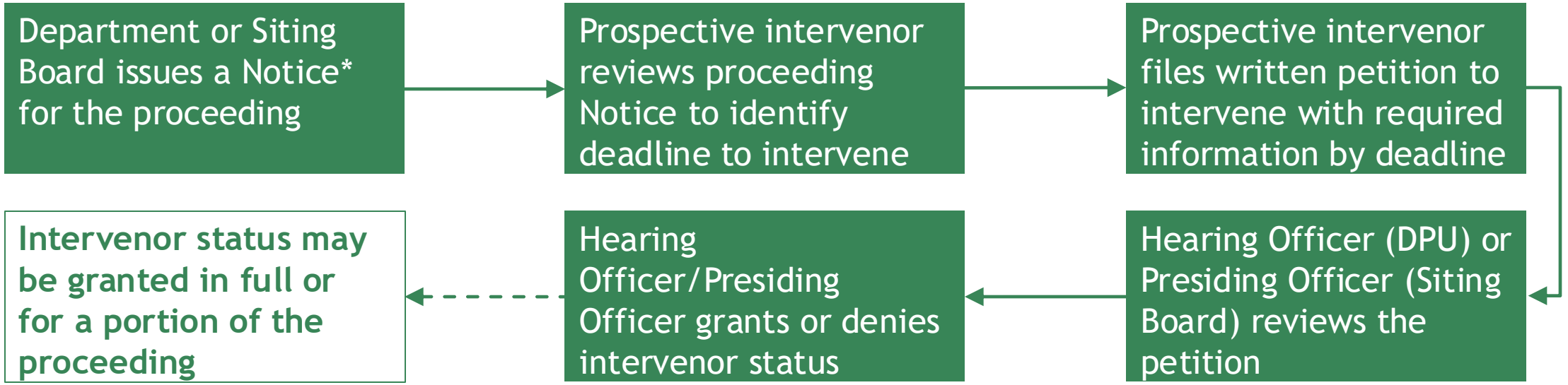
- Submit evidence
- Issue information requests
- Present and cross-examine witnesses
- File briefs
- Appeal decisions

- Being an intervenor requires time, energy, and resources

Limited Participant
A person or entity whose participation is restricted to specific issues in a proceeding. Can file comments, file a brief, and receive copies of information requests and responses, responses to information requests, and testimony.

Public Commentor
Provides written or oral feedback on a proceeding but does not have the rights of an intervenor

Process to Become an Intervenor



- Petition to intervene must include basic information about petitioner (name, address, and contact information), how the petitioner is substantially and specifically affected by the proceeding, and what issues they will address as an intervenor
- Timing to submit petition to intervene
  - Department – usually 7 days before the public comment hearing
  - Siting Board – usually 14 days after public hearing
  - Can request additional time to file petition to intervene if done prior to original deadline

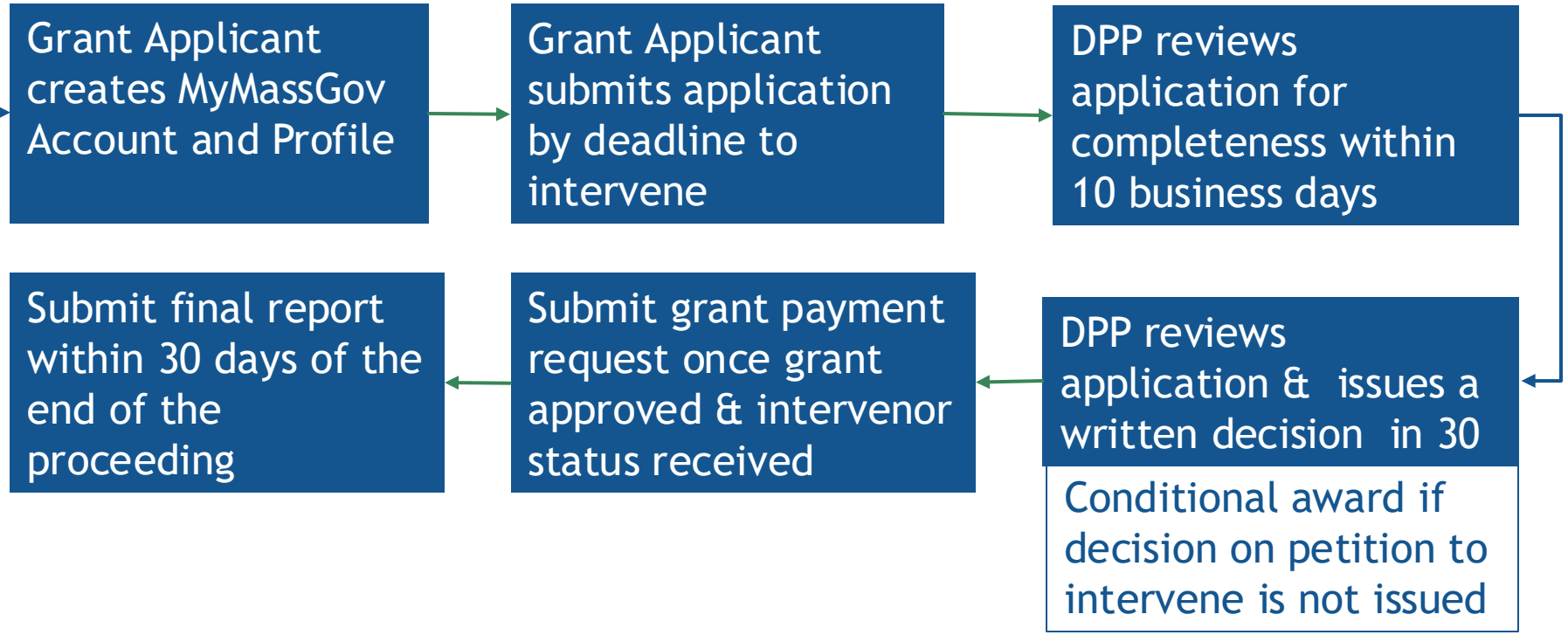
*Notice is referred to as Notice of Filing and Public Hearing in a Department Proceeding or a Notice of Adjudication and Public Hearing in a Siting Board Proceeding

Process to Intervene & Process to Apply for an Intervenor Grant

Process to Intervene in a Proceeding



Process to Apply for an Intervenor Grant



Entities Eligible to Receive Grant Funding

Only parties granted intervenor status are eligible to receive grant funding

Ineligible Entities include Individuals, Limited Participants, and those whose petitions to intervene are unsuccessful

- ✓ Organizations representing residential customers, low-or moderate-income residents, residents of historically marginalized or overburdened and underserved communities, or residents of Burdened Areas
- ✓ Governmental bodies (city, town, district, regional school district, or county)
- ✓ Regional planning agencies, e.g., Metropolitan Area Planning Council, Cape Cod Commission
- ✓ Federally-recognized, state-recognized, or state-acknowledged Tribes
- ✓ A group of three of more individuals ("unincorporated association") and may be specifically and substantially affected by the proceeding

Information Required in Grant Application

Grant Application Should

- Demonstrate significant financial hardship (inability to participate without receiving Grant)
- Provide information about last 3 proceedings applicant intervened in, if applicable
- Describe applicant's position and interest in the proceeding
- Describe a clearly stated, reasonable, and achievable plan for participation in proceeding, including expected contribution to evidentiary record
- Detail applicant's unique perspective

Documents to be Submitted with Application

Proposed itemized budget

Attorney and Expert Information Form

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Form

W-9 form with TIN (EIN or SSN)

Form 990

Grant Awards and Payments

Award Amounts

- Up to $150,000 per Grantee
- Up to $500,000 across all Grantees in a Proceeding

Payment Options

Grantees choose to receive Grant Award as either:

a) Advance payments (installments of up to 20% of award)

- Advance payments require showing of good cause and significant financial hardship

b) Reimbursements after costs are incurred throughout proceeding

Payment Requests should be submitted in GMS with supporting documentation (estimates, invoices, or receipts)

- Payments disbursed within 30 days of receiving a Payment Request

Use of Grant Funding

Eligible Uses

Administrative costs up to 10% of Award amount or greater if allowed by DPP Director

Attorney fees

Expert witness fees, including Community Expert fees*

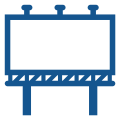
Ineligible Uses



Purchase or lease of equipment



Political lobbying



Advertising/marketing to publicize the Grantee's view on a proceeding



Costs to appeal DPU or EFSB final decision in proceeding

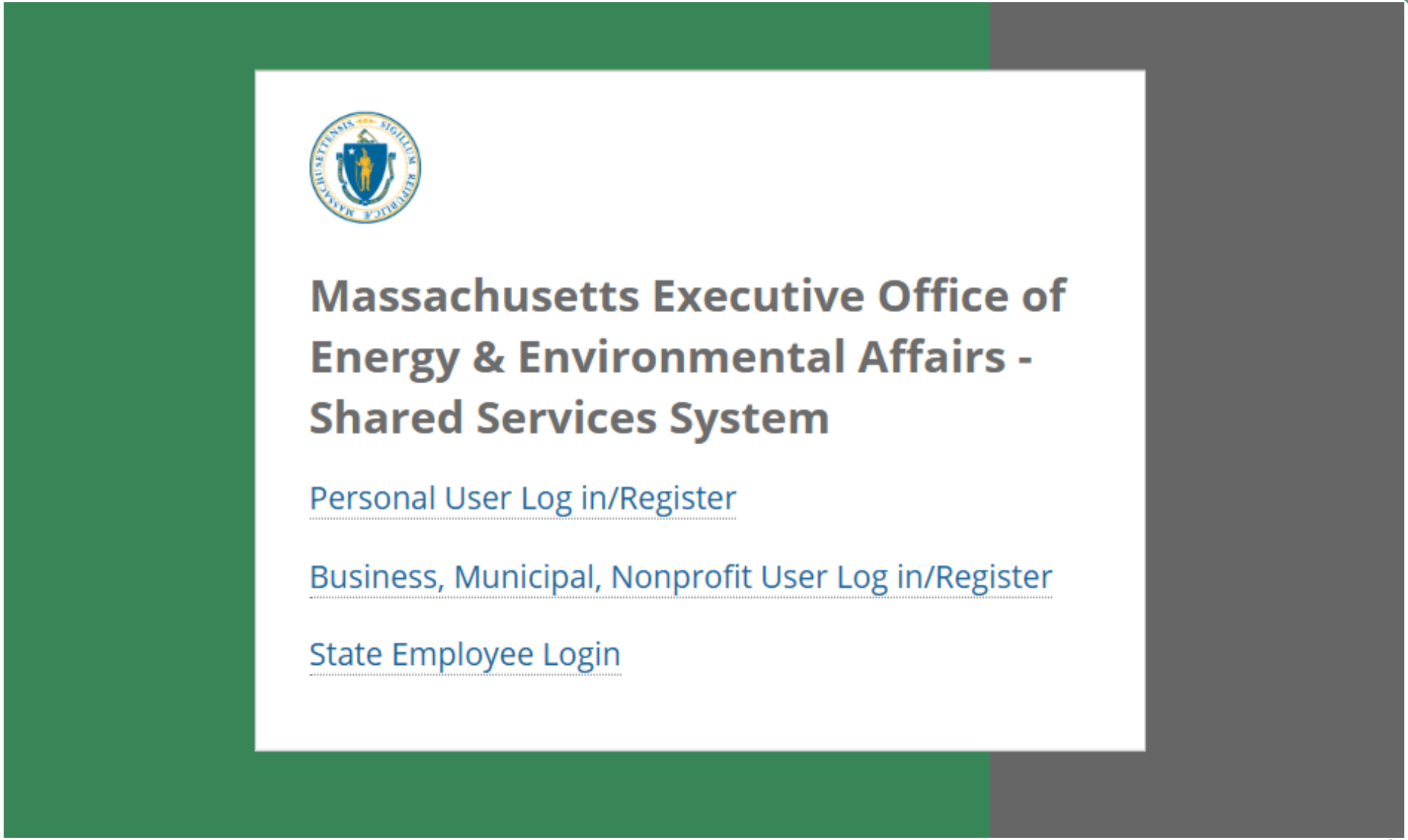


Other unlawful, unethical, or improper use

*Community Experts: Members of an affected community, including residents or community groups, with knowledge or lived experience relevant to the proceeding

Grants Management System (GMS) - Log-in Screen

Applicants will need to first register for a MyMassGov account and wait for approval (can take up to 48 hours)



Grants Management System (GMS) - Online Application Portal

A video and written guide on how to use GMS are coming soon



Resources Available for Applicants

- Intervenor Support Grant Program webpage - (mass.gov/IntervenorProgram)
- Intervenor Support Grant Program Guide (July 1, 2026)
- Flyers
  - Understanding Steps in a Department Adjudicatory Proceeding
  - Understanding Steps in a Siting Board Proceeding Flyer (in development)
  - Intervenor Support Grant Program Overview Flyer
  - Becoming an Intervenor and Applying for a Grant: Overview Flyer
- Video modules (in development)
  - Overview of DPU and Siting Board
  - Overview of Intervenor Support Grant Program
  - Participating as an Intervenor- Roles and Process
  - How to Apply for the Intervenor Support Grant Program in GMS (with screen recordings)
- Grants Management System Guide (in development)
- Program email - dpu.isgp@mass.gov

Upcoming Department of Public Utilities Webinars

- The Intervenor Support Grant Program: An Overview and How to Apply

  October 29th, 1:00 - 2:00 pm

- Navigating Pre-filing Requirements for Large Clean Energy Infrastructure Projects

  November 12th, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

- Becoming an Intervenor: Understanding the Process and Applying for the Intervenor Support Grant Program

  December 3rd, 12:00 - 1:30pm

Q&A

Public Comments and Questions

Please limit each comment to two minutes to allow time for others to speak



Next Steps & Adjourn

Next meeting date:

- December 10

Information on the EJC and its meetings can be found at https://www.mass.gov/orgs/environmental-justice-council-ejc

ASL interpretations must be requested three weeks in advance of the meeting at meetings@erg.com