

Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC)
Simple Cycle Gas Turbine at Waters River Station, Peabody, MA
CO2 Budget Emissions Control Plan

Fact Sheet: July 5, 2022

Introduction

On September 30, 2020, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) issued a Final Air Quality Plan Approval for a Non-Major Comprehensive Plan Application (NMCPA) for MMWEC's nominal 60 MW simple cycle electric generating facility located at the existing Waters River Station located in Peabody, MA (Facility). As required by the NMCPA and MassDEP regulation 310 CMR 7.70, MMWEC has submitted a CO2 (Carbon Dioxide) Budget Emissions Control Plan application to MassDEP (Application). To ensure that the CO2 mass emissions are determined accurately and consistently, regulation 310 CMR 7.70 requires the owner or operator to submit a CO2 Budget Emission Control Plan (ECP), which contains an emissions and an energy output monitoring plan.

Facility Information

The Facility is owned and will be operated by MMWEC. The Facility will be used as a capacity unit, providing required capacity to the ISO New England (ISO-NE) for the participating Massachusetts cities and towns having municipal light plants providing electric service to their citizens pursuant to G.L. c 164. The Facility will be operated as a peaking/cycling capacity unit and is estimated to generate electricity at times of peak demand at a permitted limit of 1,250 hours during the year, of which the Facility will run an estimated 239 hours. The Facility is connected to the ISO-NE grid through the existing Waters River 115 kV substation.

The Facility will be a fast-starting unit which will provide reliability to the electrical grid quickly when there is an urgent requirement to compensate for an electrical grid shortage due to a major grid upset, such as the loss of a large generating unit or the loss of a large transmission line. The Facility will be dispatched by ISO-NE, as needed, to provide necessary reliability to the electrical grid.

Project Information

The Application details how MMWEC will measure the allowable CO2 emissions and how MMWEC will ensure that required CO2 Emissions Allowances will be purchased for all CO2 emissions created by the Facility.

Environmental Justice Populations

Attached is a map pinpointing the location of the Facility with a red line designating both the one-mile radius and the five-mile radius. The map depicts the Environmental Justice areas by designated colors; orange for minority, light green for low income, dark green for both minority and low income, and blue for minority, income and English language isolation. The Environmental Justice areas on this map are based on the 2020 Census and other data.

Public Participation and Comment

The MassDEP is currently reviewing the Application. After completing the review, the MassDEP will issue a proposed decision and then provide a 30-day public comment period on its proposed decision.

The permit application is currently available for public review via the EEA ePLACE Public Access Portal: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/EEA/PublicApp/>

On the main EEA ePLACE Portal page, click on the orange “Search” button, then search for the site Name “MASS MUNICIPAL WHOLESALE ELECTRIC CO” on the resulting page.

Applicant Contact Information

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2020 Environmental Justice Populations, 58 Pulaski St., Peabody, MA:

One-Mile Radius and Five-Mile Radius

