
Fw: Draft Guidelines for 225 CMR 29.00 Out for Review

From Ray Purington/Gill Town Administrator <administrator@gillmass.org>

Date Mon 2/9/2026 12:57 PM

To EnergyPermitting (EEA) <EnergyPermitting@mass.gov>

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I have done exhaustive testing of the beta version of the mapping tool but will offer these brief comments:

1. The tool is very intriguing and shows hints of great promise and possibility.
2. When doing several test shapes in my town of Gill - one in a non-descript area, one in an area of known wetlands and species of interest, and one in the middle of APR farm fields along the Connecticut River, all three scored the same 41.5 MassEnviroScore. The carbon, biodiversity, and ag resources indices change depending on the region, but it's not intuitively obvious why the overall score would be the same.
3. Will future versions of the tool take into consideration land that is know to have permanent CRs or APRs on it?
4. There should be a reset button or other means to close the blue report window. The Home button on the report doesn't do anything.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Ray

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From: Gage, Allison (ENE) <Allison.Gage@mass.gov>

Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 12:32 PM

To: Gage, Allison (ENE) <Allison.Gage@mass.gov>

Subject: RE: Draft Guidelines for 225 CMR 29.00 Out for Review

Hi all, I'm following up on my message below with registration links to two upcoming informational sessions about the guidelines.

Tuesday, February 24th: 10am – 12pm. [Register here](#)

Wednesday, February 25th: 6pm – 8pm. [Register here](#)

Additionally, I'm sharing some news from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) about the updated Site Suitability Guidance and Draft Scoring Tool:

EEA recently released revisions to its draft Guidance on Site Suitability Assessments for Clean Energy Infrastructure, as well as a beta version of its new Site Suitability Mapping Tool. The revised guidance and tool incorporate changes made in response to public comments received on an earlier draft last Fall.

The documents released include the following:

[Revised Site Suitability Guidance \(Draft Redline\)](#)

[Revised Site Suitability Guidance \(Draft Clean\)](#)

[Summary of Changes Made in Response to Comments](#)

[Site Suitability Mapping Tool \(Draft\)](#)

These documents can be accessed on EEA's [Site Suitability Assessments webpage](#).

EEA will accept written comments on both the guidance and the mapping tool submitted to EnergyPermitting@mass.gov through February 13, 2026. More information on the implementation of the siting and permitting reforms for energy infrastructure can be found at mass.gov/energypermitting.

Thank you,
Allison

Allison Gage *(she/her)*

Clean Energy Siting & Permitting Regional Coordinator - Western Region
Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources
100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor, Boston MA 02114
Phone: (857) 274-1219



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energy future for all in the Commonwealth.

From: Gage, Allison (ENE)
Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2026 11:14 AM
To: Gage, Allison (ENE) <Allison.Gage@mass.gov>
Subject: Draft Guidelines for 225 CMR 29.00 Out for Review

Good morning all,

The Department of Energy Resources (DOER) has released draft guidelines to accompany [225 CMR 29.00](#), the forthcoming regulation that establishes a consolidated local permitting process for small clean energy projects. The draft guidelines are available below and on the [website of the Clean Energy Siting & Permitting Division](#):

- [Guideline on Pre-Filing Stakeholder Engagement](#)
- [Guideline on Public Health, Safety, Environmental, and Other Standards](#)
- [Guideline on Common Conditions in Cases of Constructive Approval](#)
- [Guideline on Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures](#)

DOER will accept public comments on the guidelines until March 13th, 2026. Public comments may be emailed to: DOER.Siting.Permitting@mass.gov

Comments may also be mailed to:
Division of Clean Energy Siting & Permitting, c/o Rick Collins, Director
100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

DOER will host two virtual listening sessions on the guidelines in late February. Final dates and registration information will be available shortly – I'll send around another message with sign up links as soon as they are available.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions. If for any reason you do not wish to receive these updates, please respond directly to this email. You can also sign up for DOER email lists here:

<https://www.mass.gov/forms/subscribe-to-doer-email-lists>

Best,
Allison

Allison Gage *(she/her)*

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