

Gronendyke, Kathleen M (EEA)

From: Donna Byron <dkbyron@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 11:50 AM
To: EnergyPermitting (EEA)
Subject: comments on site suitability assessments for clean energy infrastructure

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you for this opportunity to give feedback on the document 'Draft Guidance on Site Suitability Assessments for Clean Energy Infrastructure'. I am happy to see that the scoring includes all the sections you've included, such as incorporating sections on biodiversity and agricultural resources, so that we prioritize building new industrial scale energy infrastructure on parking lots, rooftops, and other previously developed land suitable for industrial sites. rather than perforating wildlands that serve a crucial function as carbon sequestration and habitat.

My question about the score is how will it be used in the overall permit application process? I see it mentioned in the guidelines that the score can be a reason for municipalities that are host sites for a proposed project to request mitigation/minimization measures. It seems important that a very unsuitable score can also be a reason to deny a permit, but that is not explicitly stated as far as I can see.

Could the scoring also be utilized as a ranking mechanism? For example could a local permitting process require an applicant to show that no alternative location with a more suitable score is available?

Some clarification on these two points would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dr. Donna K. Byron, Petersham