

Environmental Justice (EJ) Fact Sheet:

St. Michael Cemetery Air Permit Application

Address: 500 Canterbury Street, Boston, MA 02131

Applicant Contact: Michael Sheehan, michael.smc@comcast.net , 617-524-1036

Overview of the St Michael Cemetery

The St Michael Cemetery (SMC) has been in operation since 1905 and is located at 500 Canterbury Street, Boston. The SMC includes an administration building, a chapel, and a crematory building that currently operates eight natural gas fired cremation units/retorts, exclusively for human cremation.

SMC Proposed Project & Air Permit Application

The project proponent proposes to replace all eight existing cremation retorts with eight new retorts manufactured by Facultative Technologies (FT) to help address the increasing public demand for cremation services. With the installation of the new retorts, there will be an overall decrease in permitted air emissions from the facility. Permitted air emissions from the facility will not cause a condition of air pollution or an exceedance of any National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) or any MassDEP air toxics guideline. The facility will remain a minor source of air emissions.

SMC has filed an Air Quality Plan Application with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) for its existing facility for these new technologies which reduce overall air emissions. The facility is subject to the Massachusetts Air Pollution Control Regulations (310 CMR 7.00) and must apply for and receive an Air Quality Plan Approval from MassDEP.

SMC Environmental Compliance History

SMC currently operates under Plan Approval NE-020-007 issued by MassDEP in October 2020. The Plan Approval includes all monitoring, testing, recordkeeping, and reporting requirements necessary to ensure that the facility operates in compliance with applicable regulations and air emission limits. Air emissions from the facility are primarily nitrogen oxides (NOx), carbon monoxide (CO) and particulate matter (PM) from the cremation process.

Public Participation and Comments

MassDEP is currently reviewing this Permit Application, which can be found online at the MassDEP website: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/EEA/PublicApp/>.

After MassDEP completes its review of the permit application, the agency will issue a proposed decision, subject to a 30-day public comment period. This information will also be posted in the ePLACE Public Access Portal. Any questions or comments related to this Permit application should be directed to Kayla Clarke, Environmental Justice Program Coordinator, 150 Presidential Way, Woburn, MA or via email at Kayla.Clarke@mass.gov.

Environmental Justice (EJ) Community and Population Map



The above EJ Map Viewer image shows the facility location with a red line designating both the one-mile radius and the five-mile radius to nearby Environmental Justice (EJ) Populations. The EJ populations located within one and five miles of the facility are based on the EJ criteria for minority and income.

EJ Communities were located using the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) interactive mapping system: [Environmental Justice Populations in Massachusetts \(arcgis.com\)](https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/EEA/PublicApp/). For more information on EJ, please see the MassDEP EJ Overview Fact Sheet (attached in this email).

Contact information for questions pertaining to EJ involvement:

Kayla Clarke, Program Coordinator,
Environmental Justice at
Kayla.Clarke@mass.gov



MassDEP
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Environmental Protection

Date: October 1, 2025

Contact information for questions pertaining to the plan application:

Susan McConnell, Environmental
Engineer, Bureau of Air and Waste at
Susan.McConnell@mass.gov