

Saint-Gobain Abrasives, Worcester: Proposed Decision on Air Permit

Introduction

Saint-Gobain Abrasives has proposed construction and operation of a new combined heat and power (CHP) facility (“Facility”) at its existing campus located at One New Bond Street, Worcester, Massachusetts. The proposed new CHP Facility is subject to Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) air pollution regulations, so Saint-Gobain Abrasives must apply for and receive a permit before it can construct and operate the Facility. MassDEP will provide a 30-day public comment period on its draft decision approving or denying the air permit. Information on how to review MassDEP’s draft air permit decision and how to submit comments, as well as contact information for both Saint-Gobain Abrasives and MassDEP, can be found at the end of this Fact Sheet.

Project Description

Location:

- Saint-Gobain Abrasives (the “Company”) and its predecessors have manufactured abrasives products at One New Bond Street in Worcester since the late 1800s.
- The area surrounding the proposed CHP Facility is a mix of industrial, commercial, and residential uses.
- The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs has designated Environmental Justice (EJ) populations within a one-mile radius of the proposed CHP Facility. The areas are designated as EJ populations for Minority, Income, and/or English Isolation.
 - The Minority classification applies to areas with 25% of the population consisting of individuals who identify themselves as Latino/Hispanic, Black/African American, Asian, Indigenous people, and people who otherwise identify as non-white.
 - The Income classification applies to areas where the median annual household income is at or below 65 percent of the statewide median income for Massachusetts, according to federal census data.
 - The English isolation classification refers to 25% of the households that are English Language isolated according to federal census forms, or do not have an adult over the age of 14 that speaks only English or English very well.
- Figure #1 at the end of this Fact Sheet provides a map that identifies the various designated EJ population areas within a one-mile radius of the CHP Facility.

Proposed Project:

- The proposed CHP Facility will generate both electricity and steam for the Company’s operations, and excess electricity will be sold to the grid.
- The proposed CHP Facility will replace less efficient and aging steam heat and electricity-producing boilers with a more environmentally sustainable and efficient equipment, which will result in an overall reduction in air pollutant emissions.
- The CHP Facility consists of the following natural gas fueled equipment: a 4.7-megawatt (MW) combustion turbine, a 9.9 million British thermal units per hour (MMBtu/hr) duct burner (to

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produce supplemental steam), two 600 horsepower (HP) / 25 MMBtu/hr steam-producing boilers, and a 0.5 MW ultra-low-sulfur-diesel (ULSD) fueled emergency generator.

- Criteria pollutants emitted will include: carbon monoxide (CO); particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns in diameter (PM₁₀); particulate matter less than or equal to 2.5 microns in diameter (PM_{2.5}); sulfur dioxide (SO₂); and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂).
- The permit application states that the new equipment and the use of natural gas, a cleaner fuel, will reduce emissions from the CHP Facility.
- Noise impacts will be minimized through use of silencers and acoustic enclosures around the new equipment, and by positioning of the new equipment.
- The Facility will operate 24 hours per day, except the ULSD emergency generator will operate briefly once a week during daytime hours for exercising and maintenance and briefly during emergency situations.

Summary of MassDEP's Draft Air Quality Permit

- The proposed Facility is subject to MassDEP air pollution control regulations at 310 CMR 7.00 and requires a Non-Major Comprehensive Air Plan Approval ("Air Permit") because nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions will be greater than 10 tons per year but less than 50 tons per year and CO emissions will be greater than 10 tons per year but less than 100 tons per year. CO and NO_x are referred to as "criteria pollutants."
- In accordance with MassDEP regulations, this project is required to use the Best Available Control Technology (BACT) for the criteria pollutants.
- Air emissions modeling performed by the Company for criteria pollutants indicates that emissions from the CHP Facility will be below the applicable requirements. Modeling also demonstrates that noise impacts to nearby residences and businesses will comply with MassDEP air regulations and guidance on noise.
- In the resulting Air Permit, MassDEP will include all monitoring, testing, recordkeeping, and reporting requirements necessary to ensure that the CHP Facility will operate in compliance with applicable regulations and emissions limits.

MassDEP Air Quality Permitting Process and Public Comment Opportunity

- MassDEP is currently reviewing the Company's permit application and will issue a Public Notice when the agency's review is completed. At that time MassDEP will issue a proposed decision on the permit application and a 30-day public comment period will begin, during which the public may submit comments to MassDEP about the proposed decision. The Public Notice will include instructions for submitting comments.
- After the 30-day public comment period, MassDEP will consider and address any comments received about MassDEP's proposed decision.
- When MassDEP issues a final approval or denial of the permit application, a 21-day appeal

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period will begin. During the appeal period, individuals or groups that have legal standing as described in MassDEP's regulations may request an adjudicatory hearing on the decision as per MassDEP's air pollution control regulations at 310 CMR 7.51.

- MassDEP will notify interested stakeholders of the start of the public comment period, including but not limited to: the City Manager's Office, the Worcester Department of Inspectional Services, the Worcester Health Board, Neighbor to Neighbor, Unitarian Universalist Mass Action, Worcester Roots, and the YMCA Greendale Family Branch.
- If you wish to be notified of the start of the public comment period, please contact the MassDEP Central Region's Air Quality Permit Unit at thomas.hannah@mass.gov and maria.lannunziata@mass.gov.
- If you need assistance translating additional permit-related materials into another language, please contact the MassDEP Regional Air Quality Permit Unit at thomas.hannah@mass.gov and Maria.lannunziata@mass.gov.

Location of Draft Permit & Application Materials

- Online at MassDEP website: (<https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/EEA/PublicApp/>), then search for Site Name "Saint Gobain Abrasives" and Status "Under Review."

Proponent Contact Information for Any Questions

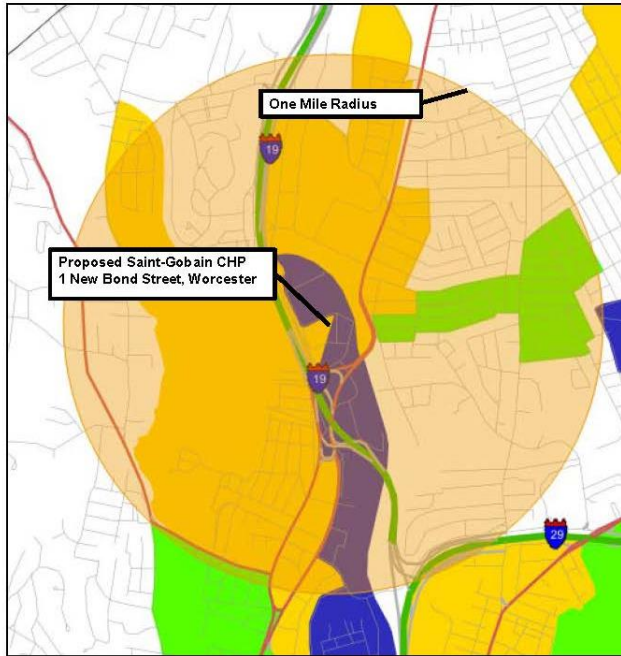
- Saint-Gobain Abrasives, Jason Myers
- jason.myers@saint-gobain.com -
508-795-2441

MassDEP Contact Information for Any Questions

- Air Quality Permit Chief: Thomas Hannah – thomas.hannah@mass.gov – 508-767-2845
- Deputy Regional Director for Air & Waste: Douglas Fine – douglas.fine@mass.gov – 508-767-2757

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Figure 1: Proposed Saint-Gobain CHP Location and Designated Environmental Justice Areas



Environmental Justice Populations 2010
Minority
Income
Minority, Income and English Isolation

