

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
ENERGY FACILITIES SITING BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT AND HEARINGS



<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/efsb-25-10-proposed-rulemaking>

EFSB 25-10-A – Proposed Rulemakings Pursuant to 2024 Climate Act – Cumulative Impact Analysis and Standards for Applying Site Suitability Criteria

The Energy Facilities Siting Board (“Siting Board”) invites you to attend two public comment hearings to learn about implementation of the siting and permitting changes required by the 2024 Climate Act ([An Act promoting a clean energy grid, advancing equity and protecting ratepayers](#)), and provide written and/or oral comments. The Siting Board proposes to issue new regulations 980 CMR 15.00, Cumulative Impact Analysis and Standards for Applying Site Suitability Criteria. The proposed regulations and guidance documents for 980 CMR 15.00 are posted on the Siting Board’s webpage at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/efsb-25-10-proposed-rulemaking>.

The Siting Board will conduct two hybrid public comment hearings with in-person and remote participation options:

Public Comment Hearing 1:

Monday, February 2, 2026, 1:00 p.m.
One South Station, Boston, MA 02110
3rd floor, Large Hearing Room

Public Comment Hearing 2:

Monday, February 2, 2026, 6:00 p.m.
One South Station, Boston, MA 02110
3rd floor, Large Hearing Room

Remote attendees: join by using this link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88522157975> from a computer, tablet, or smart device. For audio-only participation, attendees can dial-in at (646) 558-8656 (not a toll-free number) and then enter the Webinar ID: 885 2215 7975

The Siting Board also welcomes written comments on the proposed regulations. Written comments are due by 5:00 p.m., **Friday, February 13, 2026.**

Pre-registered commenters will speak first and others afterwards. To pre-register to provide oral comments (in person or remote), email SitingBoard.Filing@mass.gov with the subject line “EFSB 25-10-A SPEAKER SIGN UP,” or leave a voice mail at (617) 305-3544. Please provide your name and email address by **noon**, February 2, 2026.

Comments are sought regarding the proposed regulations and guidance documents. The Siting Board will not take comments on pending projects or other cases that are under review at the Siting Board. The public comment hearing will be transcribed by a court reporter. In addition, a recording of the public comment hearings will be available on the Siting Board’s YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/@MaDPU_hearing.

Important Dates

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| Siting Board Meeting on Rulemaking for Cumulative Impact Analysis and Site Suitability Criteria | Monday, December 15, 2025 |
| Siting Board files Proposed Regulations with the Secretary of State | Friday, December 19, 2025 |
| Proposed Regulations published in MassRegister | Friday, January 2, 2026 |
| Public Comment Hearings | Monday, February 2, 2026, at 1:00 p.m., and 6:00 p.m. |
| Final Deadline for Written Comments | Friday, February 13, 2026 |

Procedural History

In November 2024, Governor Maura Healey signed into law the 2024 Climate Act, St. 2024, c. 239, which makes many changes to the way that energy infrastructure is sited and permitted in Massachusetts. The Siting Board is required to promulgate regulations and guidance to implement reforms related to siting and permitting by March 1, 2026. The Siting Board issued straw proposals and conducted public meetings to hear comments on the straw proposals. Based on comments received, the Siting Board drafted proposed regulations. For more information, visit: <https://www.mass.gov/climateact>. Siting Division staff issued for discussion purposes draft proposed regulations and guidance in July 2025, then the Siting Board conducted a public meeting to hear comments on the draft proposed regulations. Based on comments received, Siting Division staff revised the proposed regulations. For more information, visit: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/2024-climate-act-regulations-meetings>. On September 8, 2025, the Siting Board heard staff presentations on the revised regulations and guidance proposals, and voted to open a formal rulemaking process. On September 12, 2025, the Siting Board issued a Final Decision to open the proposed rulemaking, docketed as EFSB 25-10. Available at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/efsb-25-10-proposed-rulemaking>.

The Siting Board is promulgating regulations to implement the Cumulative Impact Analysis and Site Suitability Criteria provisions of the 2024 Climate Act separately from its other regulations. The Office of Environmental Justice and Equity (“OEJE”) at the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (“EEA”) has developed draft guidance on Cumulative Impact Analysis. EEA has developed draft guidance on Site Suitability Criteria. The 2024 Climate Act requires the Siting Board to promulgate regulations which incorporate the Cumulative Impact Analysis and Site Suitability Criteria guidance. The Siting Board issued draft proposed regulations on Cumulative Impact Analysis and Site Suitability Criteria for discussion purposes on October 31, 2025. Siting Board staff, along with staff from OEJE, conducted a virtual webinar on November 6, 2025, and accepted written comments on the draft proposed regulations and guidance. Based on comments received, Siting Division staff revised the draft proposed regulations. On December 15, 2025, the Siting Board heard staff presentations on the revised regulations proposals, and voted to open a formal rulemaking process. On December 19, 2025, the Siting Board issued a Final Decision to open a formal rulemaking, under the existing docket EFSB 25-10, on new regulations 980 CMR 15.00, Cumulative Impact Analysis and Standards for Applying Site Suitability Criteria.

Instructions for Filing Written Comments

Written comments on the Siting Board’s proposed regulations, docket EFSB 25-10-A, must be sent to

the following two email addresses: dpu.efiling@mass.gov and sitingboard.filing@mass.gov. Written comments are due by 5:00 pm, **Friday, February 13, 2026**. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (EFSB 25-10-A); (2) the name of the person or entity submitting the filing; and (3) a brief description of the document. The email should also include the name, title, and telephone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. Written comments will be posted to the Siting Board file room and accessible for the public to view.

Accommodation Requests and Language Services Requests

Interpretation services for the public comment hearings (in-person and Zoom) will be provided in Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Vietnamese, and American Sign Language (ASL). Additional language interpretation services are also available upon request to Yonathan Mengesha at (617) 305-3544 or Yonathan.Mengesha@mass.gov. Include in your request the language required and your contact information. To assist us in accommodating your request, please submit it as soon as possible, and at least one week before the public comment hearing date.

Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities (e.g., Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format) are available upon request. To request an accommodation, please contact:

Melixza Esenyie
Non-Discrimination Coordinator and Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Human Resources, 9th Floor
100 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114
eeadiversity@mass.gov, 617-626-1282

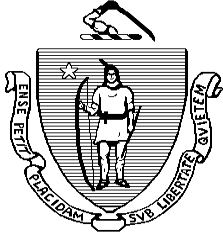
In your communication, state the accommodation you need and why you need the accommodation. Provide contact information in case the Coordinator needs more information. Provide your request as soon as possible. The Coordinator will consider but may not be able to fulfill late requests.

Non-discrimination Notice

The Siting Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex, income, ethnicity, class, disability, religious creed or belief, gender identity, sexual orientation, genetic information, English language proficiency or ancestry in administration of its programs or activities. See the Siting Board's Non-Discrimination Notice at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/efsb-non-discrimination-notice-and-grievance-procedure>. If you have any questions about this notice or any of the Siting Board's non-discrimination programs, policies, or procedures or believe the Siting Board has discriminated against you, you may contact Melixza Esenyie (see above for contact information) for more information.

Contacts

For further information about the public comment hearings or proposed regulations, please send an email to sitingboard.filing@mass.gov. For periodic updates, please visit the Siting Board's webpage at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/efsb-25-10-proposed-rulemaking>.



**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
ENERGY FACILITIES SITING BOARD
ONE SOUTH STATION
BOSTON, MA 02110
(617) 305-3525**

Translation and Interpretation Services

English

ATTENTION: Additional translation and/or interpretation services are available upon request at no direct cost to the individual requesting the service. Include in your request the language required and a way to contact you if we need more information. It may not be possible to fulfill last-minute requests. Contact Yonathan Mengesha at Yonathan.Mengesha@mass.gov to make a request.

Portugues (Standard Portuguese)

ATENÇÃO: Serviços adicionais de tradução e/ou interpretação estão disponíveis mediante solicitação, sem custo direto para o indivíduo que solicita o serviço. Inclua em sua solicitação o idioma necessário e uma forma de contato caso precisemos de mais informações. Pode não ser possível atender a pedidos de última hora. Entre em contato com Yonathan Mengesha pelo e-mail Yonathan.Mengesha@mass.gov para fazer a solicitação.

Kreyòl Ayisyen (Haitian Creole)

ATANSYON: Sèvis tradiksyon ak/oswa entèpretasyon siplemantè disponib si w mande sa san yon pri dirèk pou moun k ap mande sèvis la. Nan demann ou an, mete lang ou egzijè a ak yon mwayen pou kontakte w si nou bezwen plis enfòmasyon. Li gendwa pa posib pou ranpli yon demann nan dènye lè. Kontakte Yonathan Mengesha nan Yonathan.Mengesha@mass.gov pou w fè yon demann

Français (French)

ATTENTION : Des services de traduction et/ou d'interprétation supplémentaires sont disponibles sur demande, sans frais directs pour le demandeur. Indiquez dans votre demande la langue requise et un moyen de vous contacter si nous avons besoin de plus d'informations. Il se peut que nous ne puissions pas répondre aux demandes de dernière minute. Merci de contacter Yonathan Mengesha à Yonathan.Mengesha@mass.gov pour faire une demande.

Русский (Russian)

ВНИМАНИЕ: дополнительные услуги письменного и (или) устного перевода предоставляются по запросу без прямых затрат для лица, обратившегося за услугой. Укажите в запросе требуемый язык и способ связаться с вами, если нам понадобится дополнительная информация. Исполнение срочных запросов не гарантируется. Чтобы сделать запрос, свяжитесь с Yonathan Mengesha по электронной почте Yonathan.Mengesha@mass.gov.

한국 (Korean)

주의: 추가 번역 및/또는 통역 서비스는 요청 시 직접 비용 없이 제공됩니다. 요청 시, 필요한 언어와 추가 정보가 필요할 경우 연락을 드릴 방법을 포함하십시오. 마지막 순간에 요청하시면 처리가 불가능할 수 있습니다. 요청하시려면 Yonathan Mengesha(Yonathan.Mengesha@mass.gov)에게 연락하시기 바랍니다.

Español (Spanish)

ATENCIÓN: Hay servicios adicionales de traducción y/o interpretación disponibles a pedido sin costo directo para la persona que solicita el servicio. Incluya en su solicitud el idioma requerido y una forma de comunicarnos con usted si necesitamos más información. Es posible que no sea posible cumplir con solicitudes de último momento. Comuníquese con Yonathan Mengesha a Yonathan.Mengesha@mass.gov para realizar una solicitud.

中文 (Simplified Chinese)

注意：可应请求提供另外的翻译和/或口译服务，且不会直接向请求服务的个人收取费用。务必在请求中指明所需的语言，还有我们可以联系您的方式。临时或迟交的请求，可能无法满足。提出语言服务请求，联系 Yonathan Mengesha 电子信箱：Yonathan.Mengesha@mass.gov。

Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese)

LUU Ý: Có cung cấp các dịch vụ biên dịch (viết) và/hoặc thông dịch (nói) bổ sung khi được yêu cầu, và dịch vụ này được cung cấp miễn phí cho các cá nhân yêu cầu dịch vụ. Trong yêu cầu của mình, quý vị hãy ghi rõ ngôn ngữ được yêu cầu và phương thức liên hệ quý vị nếu chúng tôi cần thêm thông tin. Những yêu cầu vào phút chót có thể không được đáp ứng. Hãy liên ông Yonathan Mengesha tại địa chỉ Yonathan.Mengesha@mass.gov để gửi yêu cầu.

(Arabic) العربية

ملاحظة: تتوفر خدمات إضافية للترجمة التحريرية و/أو الترجمة الشفوية عند الطلب دون تكلفة مباشرة للفرد الذي يطلب الخدمة. ادرج في طلبك اللغة المطلوبة وطريقة للاتصال بك إذا احتجنا إلى مزيد من المعلومات. قد لا يكون من الممكن تلبية طلبات اللحظة الأخيرة. تواصل مع Yonathan Mengesha على Yonathan.Mengesha@mass.gov لتقديم طلب.

ខ្មែរ (Khmer)

សូមកត់សម្គាល់៖ សេវាកម្មបកប្រែឯកសារ និង/ឬបកប្រែផ្ទាល់មាត់មានតាមការស្នើសុំដោយមិនគិតថ្លៃផ្ទាល់ចំពោះបុគ្គលដែលស្នើសុំសេវាកម្មនេះ។ បញ្ឈប់ទៅក្នុងសំណើរបស់អ្នកសម្រាប់ភាសាដែលត្រូវការ និងវិធីទាក់ទងអ្នកប្រសិនបើយើងត្រូវការព័ត៌មានបន្ថែម។ ប្រហែលជាមិនអាចបំពេញតាមសំណើ ដែលជូនដំណឹងយឺតបានទេ។ សូមទាក់ទង Yonathan Mengesha តាម Yonathan.Mengesha@mass.gov ដើម្បីស្នើសុំ។