

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs ■ MEPA Office



Environmental Notification Form

<i>For Office Use Only</i>	
<i>Executive Office of Environmental Affairs</i>	
EOEA No.:	14151
MEPA Analyst:	Holly Johnson
Phone: 617-626-	X1023

The information requested on this form must be completed to begin MEPA Review in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, 301 CMR 11.00.

Project Name: Pioneer Valley Energy Center		
Street: Ampad Road		
Municipality: Westfield	Watershed: Westfield River	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: N 4670040.91 E 686525.86	Latitude: 42° 09' 37" N Longitude: 72° 44' 25" W	
Estimated commencement date: Sept. 2009	Estimated completion date: June 2012	
Approximate cost: \$300 Million	Status of project design: 10 % complete	
Proponent: Westfield Land Development Company LLC		
Street: 9 Chapel Street		
Municipality: Westfield	State: MA	Zip Code: 01085
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Dammon M. Frecker		
Firm/Agency: ESS Group, Inc.	Street: 888 Worcester St., Suite 240	
Municipality: Wellesley	State: MA	Zip Code: 02482
Phone: 781-431-0500	Fax: 781-431-7434	E-mail: dfrecker@essgroup.com

Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)?
 Yes No

Has this project been filed with MEPA before?
 Yes (EOEA No. _____) No

Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before?
 Yes (EOEA No. _____) No

Is this an Expanded ENF (see 301 CMR 11.05(7)) requesting:

a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8))	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
a Special Review Procedure? (see 301CMR 11.09)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Identify any financial assistance or land transfer from an agency of the Commonwealth, including the agency name and the amount of funding or land area (in acres): None

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?
 Yes (Specify _____) No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals:

Local: Site Plan Approval, Special Permit, Building Permit, Order of Conditions, Wastewater Discharge Permit

Federal: FAA Notice of Proposed Construction, EPA Prevention of Significant Deterioration, NPDES Stormwater Permit for Construction and Operation

Which ENF or EIR review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03):

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rare Species | <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid & Hazardous Waste |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACEC | <input type="checkbox"/> Regulations | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical & Archaeological Resources |

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total	State Permits & Approvals
LAND				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License <input type="checkbox"/> 401 Water Quality Certification <input type="checkbox"/> MHD or MDC Access Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Water Management Act Permit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Source Approval <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/Extension Permit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Permits <i>(including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:</i> Energy Facility Siting Board – Bulk Electric Generating Facility; MassDEP - Air Operating Permit; Mass Dept of Public Safety – Storage Tank Permit
Total site acreage	36			
New acres of land altered		14		
Acres of impervious area	0	4	4	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		0		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0		
STRUCTURES				
Gross square footage ¹	0	60,000	60,000	
Number of housing units	0	0	0	
Maximum height (in feet) ²	0	145	145	
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day ³	0	50	50	
Parking spaces	0	20	20	
WATER/WASTEWATER				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use ⁴	0	200,000	200,000	
GPD water withdrawal	0	0	0	
GPD wastewater generation/treatment	0	150,000	150,000	
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	0	0.25	0.25	

1 – Represents area of building footprint plus process equipment/structures

2 - Maximum height of building. Stack height to be determined.

3 – Vehicle trips for employees, services, and misc. deliveries. 15-20 additional truck trips per day (on average) may occur during limited periods of fuel oil use.

4 – Normal daily use. During periods of oil firing, the facility would use an additional 10,500 gallons/hour of water. In the extremely unlikely event that the facility ran 24 hours on oil, the total usage would be 452,000 GPD.

CONSERVATION LAND: Will the project involve the conversion of public parkland or other Article 97 public natural resources to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97?

Yes (Specify _____) No

Will it involve the release of any conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction, or watershed preservation restriction?

Yes (Specify _____) No

RARE SPECIES: Does the project site include Estimated Habitat of Rare Species, Vernal Pools, Priority Sites of Rare Species, or Exemplary Natural Communities?

Yes (Specify: Eastern Box Turtle, see Attachment A for correspondence with MassDFW) No

HISTORICAL /ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Does the project site include any structure, site or district listed in the State Register of Historic Place or the inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth?

Yes (Specify _____) No

If yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources?

Yes (Specify _____) No

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN: Is the project in or adjacent to an Area of Critical Environmental Concern?

Yes (Specify _____) No

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project description should include (a) a description of the project site, (b) a description of both on-site and off-site alternatives and the impacts associated with each alternative, and (c) potential on-site and off-site mitigation measures for each alternative (You may attach one additional page, if necessary.)

Westfield Land Development Company, LLC (the Proponent) is proposing to develop an energy generating facility on a vacant site located on Ampad Road in Westfield, Massachusetts (the Project Site – see Figure 1). The Project will be primarily comprised of a combustion turbine that incorporates state-of-the-art energy generating technology to achieve reliable operation and low emissions, while generating up to 400 MW of power. To assure that the Project results in the lowest emissions feasible, the turbine will be fueled primarily with natural gas, and will use Ultra-Low Sulfur Distillate (ULSD) fuel as a back-up for limited periods. No other fuels will be utilized by the Project. The turbine will be equipped with a Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) emissions control system to minimize emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) and an oxidation catalyst to minimize emissions of carbon monoxide (CO) and organic compounds. There are two alternatives for providing natural gas fuel to the Project. Alternative 1 is connecting to the existing Northampton Lateral at the intersection of North Road and East Mountain Road. This alternative would follow North Road westbound to the electric transmission easement and south to the site (Figure 4). Alternative 2 is extending the Westfield Gas & Electric Company (WG&E) natural gas system. The gas pipeline extension will be installed along existing infrastructure easements including a rail bed and a transmission line (see Figure 5). Back-up ULSD fuel will be stored on site in a 1 million gallon storage tank that will be enclosed in berm system to provide secondary containment of 110% of the tank contents. The electricity generated by the facility will be distributed to commercial electricity distribution grid through existing transmission lines that pass through the site. The Project will also include on-site tanks for storage of water and aqueous ammonia that will be used for emissions control. The Project will utilize dry cooled technology (air cooled condenser system) to minimize water consumption, wastewater discharge, and visual plume impacts.

The Project will directly benefit the region and surrounding community. By working in cooperation with WG&E and other municipal light companies in the area, the Project can use its highly efficient generating capability to provide energy cost savings and capacity price stability for local energy customers. Further, because the Project could connect to the Westfield Gas & Electric natural gas system it will become a customer on that system and with its dual-fuel capability will provide valuable load balancing for the natural gas system. This should also result in savings for local ratepayers. The Independent System Operator for the New England electric grid (ISO-NE) has identified the greater Springfield area as an "area of concern." The need for additional generation resources is underscored by the high concentration of Reliability Must Run (RMR) contracts in place with other units in the area.

The Project Site is a 36 acre parcel of undeveloped land located approximately one mile north of the Massachusetts

Turnpike and three-quarters of a mile west of U.S. Route 202. The Site is bounded on the west by Ampad Road and the south and east by Servistar Industrial Way. Surrounding land uses include a Lowe's distribution center across Servistar Industrial Way to the south of the Site, light industrial/commercial facilities located across Ampad Road to the west of the Site and along Servistar Industrial Way to the northeast of the Site. The land located to the north of the Site is currently undeveloped. The Project Site and all surrounding properties are zoned for industrial use. The closest residences are located a little more than one-half mile away to the east and southeast of the Site.

The Proponent evaluated alternative sites for the proposed Project. As discussed above, a large driver for the Project is to serve local municipal retail energy suppliers in western Massachusetts. A general review of communities in the Project area determined that industrial zoned property of at least 15 acres, located near to interstate natural gas pipelines and electric transmission lines, and reasonably distant from residences and other sensitive receptors, was available in Westfield. An available property located near the Westfield River and the existing municipal wastewater treatment plant was considered. Issues associated with potential impacts to the Westfield River flood plain in the area of the site made development of the site impractical. A property located to the northwest of the Barnes Municipal airfield was also evaluated but adequate agreements could not be established with the current land owner. The proposed Project Site was determined to be the only site of adequate size, meeting the required infrastructure needs, that was available to the Proponent.

The Site layout has been optimized to allow development of the Project without impacting existing wetland resource areas on the site. The layout requires that one about one-third of the existing site requires development, allowing approximately 24 of the total 36 acres to remain undeveloped. The Proponent has developed a Project design that uses highly efficient energy generating technology, applies the maximum degree of emissions control available for the proposed technology, and minimizes water consumption and wastewater discharge.

Impacts of Preferred Alternative

Air: Air quality impacts will be minimized through the use of the natural gas and limited quantities of ULSD fuel, the cleanest burning fuels available. The Project will apply the highest degree of emissions control technology available for the proposed energy generating technology to assure that the requirements of Lowest Achievable Emission Rate (LAER) for NO_x emissions, and Best Available Control Technology (BACT) for other emissions are met. The Project's combustion turbine is one of the most efficient designs currently available and will result in approximately 20% lower emissions per megawatt of power produced than most other similar gas fired combined cycle energy facilities. This attribute will help mitigate emissions of greenhouse gases, which consist primarily of carbon dioxide for the Project. The Proponent is committed to evaluating further measures to result in meaningful mitigation and potentially offsetting GHG emissions from Project as required by MEPA's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Policy and Protocol.

Rare Species: The Project layout has been designed to minimize alteration of land on the Site. The Proponent has contacted the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program (NHESP) regarding the potential presence of Eastern Box Turtles in the Project area. Sharing of information between the Proponent and NHESP is ongoing. If necessary, a portion of the Project Site will be set aside to provide adequate habitat and other mitigation measures will be implemented in concert with a Conservation and Management Permit under the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act.

Water: The Project will use dry cooled technology, which minimizes water consumption and wastewater discharge. Peak water consumption will occur during firing of ULSD fuel, which will be restricted to only limited periods in any year.

Transportation: Peak transportation impacts will occur for limited periods of 6-9 month during project construction. During operation, the Project is expected to require approximately 50 vehicle trips per day, which would result in negligible impacts on roads in the Project area. During limited periods of ULSD fuel use, the Project is expected to generate an additional 20-25 truck trips per day, or less than one per hour, which will have negligible impacts on roads in the Project area.

Environmental Justice Communities: The Proponent recognizes the presence of an Environmental Justice Community based on income that exists approximately one mile to the south of the Site. As the Project exceeds the ENF threshold, but not the mandatory EIR threshold for air, the Proponent is committed to providing enhanced public participation as required under the Environmental Justice Policy of the Executive of Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. The Proponent will work with EOEEA and the local community to provide a proper community outreach and communication program.