

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs**  
**Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Office**

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**Environmental Notification Form**

For Office Use Only

EEA#: 16109MEPA Analyst: Alex Steysky

OCT 31 2019

MEPA

The information requested on this form must be completed in order to submit a document electronically for review under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, 301 CMR 11.00.

Project Name: Town of Amherst Solar		
Street Address: 740 Belchertown Road		
Municipality: Amherst MA 01002	Watershed: Connecticut River	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:	Latitude: 4692548.68 m N	Longitude: 707681.87 m E
Estimated commencement date: June 2020	Estimated completion date: December 2020	
Project Type: Solar Facility on Landfill	Status of project design: 30 percent	
Proponent: Town of Amherst Solar, LLC		
Street Address: 3402 Pico Blvd		
Municipality: Santa Monica	State: CA	Zip Code: 90405
Name of Contact Person: Jeff Brandt		
Firm/Agency: TRC Environmental Corp	Street Address: 650 Suffolk Street	
Municipality: Lowell	State: MA	Zip Code: 01982
Phone: 978-656-3662	Fax: 978-435-1995	E-mail: <a href="mailto:JBrandt@trcsolutions.com">JBrandt@trcsolutions.com</a>

Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)?

 Yes  No

If this is an Expanded Environmental Notification Form (ENF) (see 301 CMR 11.05(7)) or a Notice of Project Change (NPC), are you requesting:

a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8))

 Yes  No

a Special Review Procedure? (see 301CMR 11.09)

 Yes  No

a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11)

 Yes  No

a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11)

 Yes  No

(Note: Greenhouse Gas Emissions analysis must be included in the Expanded ENF.)

Which MEPA review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03)?

The Project triggers 301 CMR 11.03(2)(b) "greater than 2 acres of disturbance of designated priority habitat."

Which State Agency Permits will the project require? Mass Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program Conservation Management Permit and Mass DEP Post Closure Use Permit. 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

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total
<b>LAND</b>			
Total site acreage	56.2*		
New acres of land altered		0.5	
Acres of impervious area	2.5	0.7	3.2
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	
<b>STRUCTURES</b>			
Gross square footage	5,440	NA**	5,440
Number of housing units	0	0	0
Maximum height (feet) - array area	0	13	13
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>			
Vehicle trips per day	0	0	0
Parking spaces	24	0	24
<b>WASTEWATER</b>			
Water Use (Gallons per day)	0	0	0
Water withdrawal (GPD)	0	0	0
Wastewater generation/treatment (GPD)	0	0	0
Length of water mains (miles)	0	0	0
Length of sewer mains (miles)	0	0	0
Has this project been filed with MEPA before? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (EEA # _____) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (EEA # _____) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			

\* Area of Parcel

\*\* No structures with interior use proposed. Approximate lot coverage of solar array is 7.5 acres

**GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION – all proponents must fill out this section**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

**Describe the existing conditions and land uses on the project site:** The site is an existing closed, capped solid waste landfill with a portion of the property used for a transfer station and recycling facility. The area of the landfill where the work is proposed is grassy and mowed regularly to prevent growth of woody vegetation. The property is separated from a residential area to the west by an approximately 100 foot strip of forest, and is bordered to the north and east by forested land containing scattered homes. To the south the landfill is bordered by Belchertown Road, and south of Belchertown Road is a second town-owned, closed landfill. See Town of Amherst Solar project description in Attachment 1.

**Describe the proposed project and its programmatic and physical elements:** The Town of Amherst Solar project will include a large-scale ground mounted solar photovoltaic facility situated on top of a closed capped landfill. The facility will include an above ground electrical interconnect to the local distribution lines along with associated electrical equipment (e.g. inverters/transformers and battery storage). See Town of Amherst Solar project description in Attachment 1.

*NOTE: The project description should summarize both the project's direct and indirect impacts (including construction period impacts) in terms of their magnitude, geographic extent, duration and frequency, and reversibility, as applicable. It should also discuss the infrastructure requirements of the project and the capacity of the municipal and/or regional infrastructure to sustain these requirements into the future. See Town of Amherst Solar project description in Attachment 1.*

**Describe the on-site project alternatives (and alternative off-site locations, if applicable), considered by the proponent, including at least one feasible alternative that is allowed under current zoning, and the reasons(s) that they were not selected as the preferred alternative:** See Town of Amherst Solar project description in Attachment 1.

*NOTE: The purpose of the alternatives analysis is to consider what effect changing the parameters and/or siting of a project, or components thereof, will have on the environment, keeping in mind that the objective of the MEPA review process is to avoid or minimize damage to the environment to the greatest extent feasible. Examples of alternative projects include alternative site locations, alternative site uses, and alternative site configurations.*

**Summarize the mitigation measures proposed to offset the impacts of the preferred alternative:** Mitigation Measures include avoidance of wetlands resources and extensive use of erosion controls to prevent siltation of environmental resources adjacent to the work. To compensate for loss of habitat of the grasshopper sparrow, the work includes protection of suitable priority habitat south of the landfill. See Town of Amherst Solar project description in Attachment 1 and responses to question on Rare Species impacts.

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If the project is proposed to be constructed in phases, please describe each phase:

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