

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

Environmental Notification Form

For Office Use Only

EEA#: _____

MEPA Analyst: _____

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: **Solar Photovoltaic Project**

Street Address: **0 Gulf Road (Parcel ID: Map 215, Lots 3, 4,5, 21, 22 + 29)**

Municipality: **Belchertown**

Watershed: **Connecticut River**

Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:

Latitude: **42.336002 N**

Longitude: **-72.439513 W**

Estimated commencement date: **Fall 2021**

Estimated completion date: **Spring 2022**

Project Type: **Solar (Renewable Energy)**

Status of project design: **75** %complete

Proponent: **BWC Scarborough Brook, LLC**

Street Address: **P. O. Box 171381**

Municipality: **Boston**

State: **MA**

Zip Code: **02117**

Name of Contact Person: **Andrea Kendall**

Firm/Agency: **LEC Environmental Consultants, Inc.**

Street Address: **100 Grove Street, Suite 302**

Municipality: **Worcester**

State: **MA**

Zip Code: **01605**

Phone: **508-753-3077**

Fax: **508-753-3177**

E-mail:

akendall@lecenvironmental.com

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: **N/A**

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)?

Land

Which State Agency Permits will the project require?

MassDEP Superseding Order of Conditions

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: **N/A**

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total
LAND			
Total site acreage	156±		
New acres of land altered		31.71±	
Acres of impervious area	0	0.06	0.06
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		35± (Temporary)	
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		1,260± square feet (Riverfront Area) 92± linear feet (Bank) 47± linear feet (LUW)	
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0	
STRUCTURES			
Gross square footage	275	-275	0
Number of housing units	0	0	0
Maximum height (feet)	0	0	0
TRANSPORTATION			
Vehicle trips per day	0	Less than 1 (maintenance)	Less than 1 (maintenance)
Parking spaces	0	0	0
WASTEWATER			
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			

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION – all proponents must fill out this section

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Describe the existing conditions and land uses on the project site: _____

See attached ENF Supplemental Information Report.

Describe the proposed project and its programmatic and physical elements: _____

See attached ENF Supplemental Information Report.

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.

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 attached ENF Supplemental Information Report.

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:

See attached ENF Supplemental Information Report.

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

The project is not proposed to be constructed in phases.

1.0 Summary

The following provides a brief summary of the Proposed Project; summary of required reviews, permits, approvals, and actions; a summary of the alternatives; and a summary of potential environmental impacts and mitigation measures.

1.1 Project Summary

BWC Scarboro Brook, LLC is proposing to construct a photovoltaic solar facility located on a 156± acre site comprised of six subject parcels off Gulf Road in Belchertown, Massachusetts. The current project design includes a single, single-axis tracker array totaling approximately 4.44 MW, a 10-wide gravel access drive extending from Gulf Road to the array, and an associated stormwater management system. Except for portion(s) of the access drive, utility poles and associated overhead wires, the entire project is located outside the 100-foot Buffer Zone and 200-Foot Riverfront Area to Scarboro Brook. The project involves replacing two existing culverted stream crossings and installing a new stream crossing to replace an existing at-grade crossing. The project was designed to avoid direct impacts to wetland resource areas to the maximum extent practicable. Where wetland impacts are unavoidable, wetland mitigation or in-situ restoration is provided.

1.2 Summary of Required Reviews, Permits, Approvals, and Actions

A Notice of Intent (NOI) Application was filed on June 22, 2018 with the Belchertown Conservation Commission under the *Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act* (M.G.L. c. 131, s. 40, the *Act*) and *Belchertown Wetlands Protection Bylaw* (the *Bylaw*). On January 18, 2019, an Order of Conditions (OOC) was issued under the *Act* and a Denial of the Order of Conditions was issued under the *Bylaw*. On March 4, 2019 and March 5, 2019, an appeal was filed under the *Act* with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP) by a group of residents and the Project Proponent, respectively. MADEP's review of the appeal is complete and issuance of a Superseding Order of Conditions is pending following issuance of a MEPA Certificate. The Project Proponent appealed the Denial Order of Conditions under the *Bylaw* to Superior Court who determined that the *case should be remanded to the Conservation Commission for a hearing and decision solely on the issue of whether the project will result in a significant increase in off-site stormwater runoff*.