

Environmental Justice Screening Form

Project Name	Metropolitan Water Tunnel Program
Anticipated Date of MEPA Filing	October 17, 2022
Proponent Name	Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA)
Contact Information (e.g., consultant)	MWRA Colleen Rizzi Colleen.Rizzi@mwra.com 857-331-2574
Public website for project or other physical location where project materials can be obtained (if available)	https://www.mwra.com/mwtp.html
Municipality and Zip Code for Project (if known)	Belmont (02478), Boston (02124, 02126, 02130, 02131, 02132, 02136), Brookline (02445), Dedham (02026), Needham (02494), Newton (02459, 02461, 02462, 02464, 02466, 02467), Waltham (02451, 02452, 02453), Watertown (02472), Wellesley (02481), Weston (02493)
Project Type* (list all that apply)	Water Supply – Treatment/conveyance
Is the project site within a mapped 100-year FEMA flood plain? Y/N/unknown	Y
Estimated GHG emissions of conditioned spaces (click here for GHG Estimation tool)	It is expected that the Program will have minimal greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions during its operation (i.e., post-construction). Therefore, the <i>de minimis</i> exemption would be applicable for operations, and a quantitative GHG assessment of Program operations has not been conducted. The MWRA prepared a quantitative assessment of emissions of NO _x , VOC, and GHG during the Program’s construction period which demonstrated that air quality impacts for all alternatives are expected to be relatively minor, and well below state and federal air quality impact thresholds.

Project Description

1. Provide a brief project description, including overall size of the project site and square footage of proposed buildings and structures if known.

Approximately 14.5 miles of two new deep rock water supply tunnels (north and south alignments) to provide redundancy for MWRA’s existing Metropolitan Tunnel System. This includes 14 aboveground sites in 10 municipalities that result in up to 12 acres of permanent easements or land acquisition. Final acreages will be provided in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) and are subject to final design.

2. List anticipated MEPA review thresholds (301 CMR 11.03) (if known)

11.03(4)(a)3. Construction of one or more new water mains ten or more miles in length.

11.03(1)(b)3. Conversion of land held for natural resources purposes in accordance with the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth Article 97 to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97.

3. List all anticipated state, local and federal permits needed for the project (if known)

Agency/Department	Potential Permit/Approval/Action
Federal	
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit (CGP)
	NPDES Dewatering and Remediation General Permit, if needed
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	Section 404 Department of the Army Permit (General and Project Construction Notice) ¹
Commonwealth of Massachusetts	
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)	Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Review
Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC)	Review pursuant to MGL Ch. 9, Section 26-27C
Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT)	Land disposition/easements ¹
	Highway Access/Construction Access Permits ¹
Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA)	MBTA Right of Way Access License Agreement, if needed
Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)	Land disposition/easements ¹
	Construction/Access Permits ¹
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)	Distribution System Modification
	Water Management Act
	Superseding Order of Conditions, upon appeal ¹ , if needed
	Section 401 Water Quality Certificate ¹
Massachusetts Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance	Chapter 91 License ¹
	Article 97 Land Disposition Legislation ¹
Local	
Conservation Commissions	Wetlands Protection Act Order of Conditions ¹
Departments of Public Works	Roadway Access Permits/Street Opening Permits ¹

¹ Indicates that the permit or approval is site specific.

4. Identify EJ populations and characteristics (Minority, Income, English Isolation) within 5 miles of project site (can attach map identifying 5-mile radius from [EJ Maps Viewer](#) in lieu of narrative)

The Environmental Notification Form (ENF) for this Program was filed in March 2021. This DEIR is not a new filing and therefore not subject to the MEPA Public Involvement Protocol for Environmental Justice Populations or the MEPA Interim Protocol for Analysis of Project Impacts on Environmental Justice Populations. However, the Authority is voluntarily complying with these updates to the greatest extent practicable and is conducting appropriate and comprehensive outreach and analysis

of EJ populations near the proposed sites. To closely align with MEPA's EJ Protocols and amended regulations, the EJ Study Area was defined as EJ populations in a 1-mile radius using an approximate center-point, or a 1-mile buffer zone from the limits of disturbance (LODs) for areas with unevenly distributed or separated LODs, for each of the proposed sites, to assess impacts.

Please refer to the attached figures illustrating EJ populations within 1 mile of the proposed sites.

5. Identify any municipality or census tract meeting the definition of "vulnerable health EJ criteria" in the [DPH EJ Tool](#) located in whole or in part within a 1-mile radius of the project site

The EJ census blocks within 1 mile of the American Legion site in Boston, School Street site in Waltham, and Cedarwood Pumping Station site in Waltham are within census tracts that have rates of Elevated Blood Lead Prevalence per 1,000 that are significantly higher than the state rate.

Vulnerable health criteria at the community level in Boston were identified as significantly higher compared to the state rate, which pertains to the American Legion, Newton Street Pumping Station (Brookline), and Southern Spine Mains sites.

6. Identify potential short-term and long-term environmental and public health impacts that may affect EJ Populations and any anticipated mitigation

Existing environmental and health burdens identified by the DPH EJ Tool would not be exacerbated by Program activities.

There are no long-term environmental or public health impacts that may affect EJ populations. There are short-term construction impacts anticipated from increased truck traffic, construction noise levels, and potential contaminants found in excavated sediment. With planned mitigation, no disproportionate adverse effects or impacts that may affect EJ populations would be anticipated.

Detailed information on potential impacts and planned mitigation will be provided in the DEIR.

7. Identify project benefits, including "Environmental Benefits" as defined in 301 CMR 11.02, that may improve environmental conditions or public health of the EJ population

The purpose of the Metropolitan Water Tunnel Program is to enhance the reliability of the Metropolitan Tunnel System that serves the metropolitan Boston area, allowing for system maintenance and repair without disrupting service in a way that maintains the system's ability to provide water needed to support public health and safety.

The primary goal of the Program is to protect public health, provide sanitation, and provide fire protection, in line with the mission of the Authority.

8. Describe how the community can request a meeting to discuss the project, and how the community can request oral language interpretation services at the meeting. Specify how to request other accommodations, including meetings after business hours and at locations near public transportation.

Communities can request a public information session by contacting:
Carmine De Maria
Community Relations Manager

Carmine.Demaria@mwra.com
617-963-9876