

Air Regulation Update

MCTA Annual Meeting

February 12, 2026

Proposed Air Regulations

- Operating Permits – removes Emergency Affirmative Defense to align with EPA regulations (comment closed 10/10/25; on hold)
- CIA Program Review – delays Cumulative Impact Analysis (CIA) program review by two years until December 2027 (comment due by 3/13/26)
- Clean Trucks – adopts May 2025 California amendments to Advanced Clean Trucks and delays Heavy-duty Omnibus start date to model year 2027 (comment due by 3/26/26)

1990 Noise Policy

- Commission on Clean Energy Infrastructure Siting and Permitting

“MassDEP should be directed to update its noise pollution policy to address the disparity of treatment of projects proposed in rural versus urban areas. The current policy makes it easier to site certain infrastructure in areas with higher levels of ambient noise, which are often more urban and densely developed communities. In contrast, the standard makes it very difficult to site projects, even those with minimal incremental noise impacts, in areas with lower levels of ambient noise.”

Cumulative Impact Analysis Applicability

- New facility that requires a comprehensive plan application (CPA) in or near Environmental Justice (EJ) Populations
 - Non-major CPAs in or within 1 mile of EJ population
 - Major CPAs in or within 5 miles of EJ population
- Existing facility with a CPA that requires new or modified CPA if emissions would increase ≥ 1 ton/year
- Does not apply to CPA that would temporarily increase emissions to facilitate an emissions decrease

CIA Steps

1. Public notice and involvement
2. Assessment of community conditions
3. Air quality dispersion modeling
4. Air toxics risk characterization
5. Evaluation of project cumulative impacts
6. MassDEP review and proposed decision
7. MassDEP final decision

CIA Projects Underway

Applications

The facilities below are conducting a Cumulative Impact Analysis (CIA). Factsheets, reports, and applications submitted by the applicants are below.

Commonwealth Fusion Systems

 [Commonwealth Fusion Systems Cumulative Impact Analysis Fact Sheet \(English-from proponent\) July 2025](#) (English, PDF 2.43 MB)

[Application and Cumulative Impact Analysis Report available at EEA ePlace Public Access Portal \(search site name "Commonwealth Fusion Systems"\)](#) →

Cirtec Medical

 [Cirtec Medical, Lowell Air Quality Cumulative Impact Analysis Fact Sheet \(English, from proponent\) January 2026](#) (English, PDF 440.23 KB)

 [Cirtec Medical, Lowell Air Quality Cumulative Impact Analysis Fact Sheet \(Spanish, from proponent\) January 2026](#) (English, PDF 508.2 KB)

 [Cirtec Medical, Lowell Air Quality Cumulative Impact Analysis Fact Sheet \(Portuguese, from proponent\) January 2026](#) (English, PDF 510.54 KB)

Jessica's Brick Oven Bakery

 [Jessica's Brick Oven Bakery, Methuen Cumulative Impact Analysis Fact Sheet \(English, from proponent\) December 2025](#) (English, PDF 700.07 KB)

 [Panaderia de Jessica, Methuen Análisis de Impacto Acumulativo Hoja Informativa \(Spanish, from proponent\) December 2025](#) (English, PDF 698.62 KB)

 [Jessica's Brick Oven Bakery, Methuen-Cumulative Impact Analysis Fact Sheet \(English, from proponent\) September 2025](#) (English, PDF 869.75 KB)