

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF FEDERAL PREVENTION OF SIGNIFICANT
DETERIORATION PERMIT APPROVAL PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND
PUBLIC HEARING**

Pioneer Valley Energy Center

**431 MW Combustion Turbine
Combined Cycle Generating Unit**

EPA Region I Draft PSD Permit Number 052-042-MA14

**United States Environmental Protection Agency - Region I
5 Post Office Square-Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109-3912**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency-New England Office (EPA-New England) proposes to issue a Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) permit to Pioneer Valley Energy Center (Pioneer). Pioneer proposes to construct and operate a new 431 MW combined cycle gas turbine on Ampad Road in Westfield, Massachusetts (facility). The facility will primarily burn natural gas with ultra low sulfur diesel oil as a backup fuel. This action is authorized pursuant to the Clean Air Act and Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, section 52.21 (40 CFR § 52.21), and is being conducted according to EPA's permitting regulations at 40 CFR part 124. This new Draft Permit completely replaces and supersedes the previous draft permit that EPA submitted for public comment by a public notice dated November 5, 2010.

PSD Program Requirements:

EPA-New England determined the new facility proposed by Pioneer would result in significant emission increases of particulate matter less than 10 microns and 2.5 microns in diameter, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, sulfuric acid mist, and greenhouse gases. Therefore, the PSD program applies to these pollutants. The PSD program requires the following:

- best available control technology (BACT) to reduce emissions; and
- an air quality analysis to ensure that the emission increase would not cause or contribute to a violation of applicable National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) or PSD increments.

BACT for the turbine: The draft permit requires Pioneer to operate an oxidization catalyst to control carbon monoxide and selective catalytic reduction to control nitrogen oxides. Particulate matter and sulfuric acid mist will be controlled using clean burning fuels and proper combustion techniques. Greenhouse gases will be controlled through energy efficiency.

Air Quality Impacts:

The air quality analysis showed that the impact from the proposed project will remain below the applicable NAAQS and PSD increments. The NAAQS are health-based standards that EPA sets to protect public health with an adequate margin of safety. They are maximum concentration “ceilings” measured in terms of total concentration of a pollutant in the atmosphere. A PSD increment is designed to ensure that air quality in areas that are meeting the NAAQS does not significantly deteriorate. It is a maximum allowable emission increase on a concentration basis that is allowed to occur above a baseline concentration for a pollutant. In addition, the air modeling analysis demonstrated that the projects will not adversely affect air quality related values in any Class I area (national parks and wilderness areas).

Public Comment Process:

The public comment period for this proposed action will open on December 5, 2011. Any interested person may submit written comments on the proposed permit during the public comment period. EPA is also soliciting public comment on the methodology employed to determine ambient air quality impacts. EPA will consider all submitted comments in its final decision making process.

Persons who submit comments to EPA should state:

1. The action you wish EPA to take, including specific references to the portions of the draft permit you believe should be changed, if any; and
2. The reasons supporting your position, stated with sufficient specificity as to allow EPA to evaluate the merits of your position.

All comments received during the comment period will be included in the administrative record and will be available to the public. The public comment period for the draft PSD permit ends on January 24, 2012. To be considered, written comments should be postmarked no later than January 24, 2012. Even if you commented on the November 2010 draft permit, if you wish EPA to consider your comment, you must, during the comment period, submit a comment raising all available issues.

Comments should be submitted to:

**Donald Dahl, Environmental Engineer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - New England
5 Post Office Square
Suite 100, Attn: OEP05-2
Boston, MA 02109-3912**

In addition, EPA will hold a combined public meeting and public hearing at the following time, date, and location:

**Thursday, January 12, 2012 – 6:00 PM
North Middle School
350 Southampton Road
Westfield, Massachusetts**

The public meeting is an informal opportunity for you to learn about the draft PSD permit. There will be no tape or transcript of the informal public meeting, and statements made or questions asked at the public meeting will not be considered as comments on the draft permit. The public hearing is a formal opportunity for you to submit oral or written statements and data concerning the draft PSD permit. The Presiding Officer may set reasonable limits on the time allowed for oral statements. A written transcript of the public hearing will be made available afterwards. The public hearing will be conducted according to the rules and procedures of 40 CFR § 124.12.

The public meeting will be held from 6:00-7:00 PM, immediately followed by the public hearing from 7:00-9:00 PM. EPA may start the public hearing before 7:00 PM based on attendance and interest. If school is cancelled that day in the Westfield Public School District due to inclement weather, or if weather conditions reduce the speed limit on the Massachusetts Turnpike (please call the State Police Road and Weather Conditions Report: 1-800-828-9104 for this information), the public meeting and public hearing will be postponed to the following Thursday (January 19, 2012) at the same time and location as the January 12th meeting. If both the January 12th and January 19th public meeting and public hearing must be postponed due to inclement weather, then EPA will schedule a new date and publish a new public notice. If you are not sure whether the public meeting and public hearing are being postponed due to weather, contact Donald Dahl at (617) 918-1657.

Within 30 days after the permit has been issued, any person who filed comments on the draft permit or participated in a public hearing may submit a petition to the Environmental Appeals Board (EAB) to review any condition of the permit decision. The petition shall include a statement of the reasons supporting review, including a demonstration that any issues raised were raised during the public comment period including any public hearing. Where appropriate, the petition should include a showing that the condition in question is based on:

- (1) A finding of fact or conclusion of law which is clearly erroneous, or
- (2) An exercise of discretion or an important policy consideration which the EAB should, in its discretion, review.

All data submitted by the applicant is available as part of the administrative record. The administrative record, including copies of the draft PSD permit, original and supplemental PSD applications, fact sheet, and other supporting documents may be viewed between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, at EPA New England, 5 Post Office Square, Suite 100 Boston, MA. Most documents in the administrative

record may also be obtained on-line at EPA New England's website at <http://www.epa.gov/NE/communities/nsemissions.html>.

For more information, contact Donald Dahl at (617) 918-1657 or by e-mail at Dahl.Donald@EPA.GOV.