

APPENDIX G EJ SCREENING REPORT

Appendix G-1: Environmental Justice Screening Form

Environmental Justice Screening Form

Recipients of this Environmental Justice Screening Form are receiving it in English, Spanish, European Portuguese, and Cape Verdean. This form may be translated into Haitian Creole, Brazilian Portuguese, or any other language upon request. Please contact the Project staff at 1-833-233-7277 or email us at info@southcoastreliabilityprojects.com to request further translations.

Project Name	N12/M13 Double Circuit Tower Separation Project
Anticipated Date of MEPA Filing	EENF Filed September 30, 2021; SEIR will be filed Q2 of 2023
Proponent Name	New England Power Company (NEP)
Contact Information (e.g., consultant)	Erin Whoriskey, (781) 907-3598 (Erin.Whoriskey@nationalgrid.com) or Jamie Durand, (774) 643-1820 (jamie.durand@powereng.com)
Public website for project or other physical location where project materials can be obtained (if available)	https://www.southcoastreliabilityprojects.com/N12M13-Upgrade/
Municipality and Zip Code for Project (if known)	Somerset (02726) and Fall River (02720), Massachusetts
Project Type* (list all that apply)	Energy Transmission
Is the project site within a mapped 100-year FEMA flood plain? Y/N/yes unknown	Yes
Estimated GHG emissions of conditioned spaces if known (click here for GHG Estimation tool)	N/A, Project is a transmission line

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

NEP is proposing to undertake the N12/M13 Double Circuit Tower (DCT) Transmission Line Separation Project to improve transmission system reliability in the Southern Massachusetts and Rhode Island (SEMA-RI) service area. The Project will be located within an existing 115 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line right-of-way (ROW) that extends from NEP's Pottersville Switching Station in Somerset, Massachusetts (MA) to Sykes Road Substation in Fall River, MA, a distance of approximately 1.85 miles. This ROW is currently occupied by two 115 kV overhead transmission lines—the N12 and the M13. Currently, a single set of structures are used to hold both of these lines. To address potential issues and concerns related to having two transmission lines on one structure, NEP is proposing to separate the lines so that they will be supported by two separate sets of structures. Through construction of this project, each existing lattice tower will be replaced with two steel monopoles. One set of monopoles will support the N12 line, and one set will carry the M13 line. The new set of structures will be constructed within NEP's ROW, parallel to the existing structures.

On September 30, 2021, NEP filed the EENF for the Project and on November 29, 2021, the Secretary issued the attached Certificate. This Project was already through the ENF stage of MEPA prior to the adoption of the current Environmental Justice Protocols. Consistent with those protocols, NEP is providing this notification to enhance public participation generally, and participation of Environmental Justice Populations in particular, in the review of the Single Environmental Impact Report that NEP plans to file by the end of June 2023.

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

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30, §§61- 62A-H, of MEPA and its implementing regulations at 301 CMR 11.00, NEP submitted an EENF to the MEPA office on September 30, 2021. The Project is subject to MEPA review as it requires one or more state permits and exceeds thresholds requiring the filing of an ENF and an EIR for Wetlands, Waterways, and Tidelands for the requirement of a permit and an expected alteration of one or more acres of bordering vegetated wetlands (301 CMR 11.03(a)(1)(a)). The Project requires state permits from the MassDEP, DPU, MHC and MassDOT.

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

Agency	Permit/Approval
<u>Federal</u>	
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	Authorization under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act; Consultations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act
United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction Storm Water General Permit
<u>State</u>	
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)	MEPA Review/Certificate of the Secretary
Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU)	Section 72 Petition for authority to construct, operate and maintain
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)	Section 401 Individual Water Quality Certificate, Waterways Program – Ch. 91 Water Dependent License or License Amendment
Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM)	Federal Consistency Review
Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC)	Project review under Massachusetts General Law [M.G.L.] c. 9 § 27C
Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT)	Highway Crossing Permit
<u>Local</u>	
Conservation Commissions in Fall River and Somerset	Order of Conditions

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

See Attachment A for a map of the EJ populations and characteristics within 5 miles of the Project.

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

Municipality	EJ and Vulnerable Health EJ Criteria	Vulnerable Health Topic EJ Criteria Met	State Rate Per 1,000
Fall River	Meets at least one Vulnerable Health EJ Criteria	Low birth weight rate per 1,000	216.8
		Lead poisoning per 1,000	16.5
		Heart attack per 10,000	26.4
		Pediatric asthma ED visits per 10,000	83.1
Somerset	None	None	N/A

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

Of the eight EJ census tracts within one mile of the existing right-of-way (ROW), only two census tracts are directly crossed by the ROW. These EJ populations are within the City of Fall River, Block Group 1, Census Tract 6421 and Block Group 1, Census Tract 6422. As summarized below, environmental impacts will be minimal and mitigated and are not anticipated to cause public health impacts.

Air Quality

Construction-period activities, such as grading, roadbuilding, vehicle travel, and other earth-disturbing work may result in a temporary increase in airborne dust. Impacts to air quality will be minimized by managing the control of dust movement or blowing into the air with practices such as spreading wood mulch or straw and using water trucks to spray dried soil to keep it moist. The potential for dust generation is only anticipated during the construction period. Post construction, soil will be stabilized and re-vegetated. In addition, diesel-powered equipment is required to use ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel. Any diesel-powered non-road construction equipment rated 50-horsepower or more that will be used on the Project for 30 days or more will be required to install emission control devices. The impacts from these emissions will be minimal and are not anticipated to cause or worsen public health impacts.

Water Quality

The project will incorporate protective and preventative measures to minimize and avoid impacts to water quality. The Right-of-Way crosses wetland areas, streams, and rivers. To protect water quality and these sensitive areas, temporary roads will be constructed using timber mats. Timber

mats are comprised of wooden beams, bolted together, and are typically 4 ft wide by 16 ft long. They are laid temporarily on top of the ground and vegetation. These mats allow heavy machines and vehicles to cross sensitive areas without damaging the soil or roots of vegetation and are also placed in a manner that do not affect the flow of water in streams. These mats will be removed when construction is completed, and the wetlands will be restored. In addition, Best Management Practices, such as the use of straw wattles, silt fencing, stormwater management features, and other control measures will be used to prevent soil and other material from being transported into wetlands and streams. Using these Best Management Practices, impacts to water quality will be minimized and avoided and are not anticipated to cause impacts to public health.

Noise

Noise impacts associated with construction-period activities are temporary in nature and expected to be minimal. Noise generated by construction equipment, such as generators or air compressors, will be temporary and generally intermittent. All construction equipment will be kept in good working condition with appropriate mufflers to minimize noise impacts. Where construction will occur adjacent to residences, NEP will notify landowners prior to the commencement of work. Noise-generating activities will be conducted in accordance with any local and state requirements and are not anticipated to cause impacts to public health.

Traffic

Impacts to traffic during the construction of the project will be minor and intermittent and are not anticipated to cause impacts to public health. The work areas will be accessed primarily from NEP-owned access routes or minor town roadways. NEP will obtain the necessary permits from MassDOT for access. Once on-site, vehicle traffic will be limited to within or in proximity to the Right-of-Way. Since the Right-of-Way is an un-manned facility, there will be no permanent impacts to traffic patterns or use of existing roadways.

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

Potential “Environmental Benefits” include the following:

- Increased resiliency of the overall transmission line. By eliminate the DCT configuration through separating the N12 and M13 transmission lines and relocating the lines onto separate sets of transmission structures, this infrastructure will be better suited to withstand strong winds and storm events.
- The new overhead line will be larger which will allow more electricity to flow during times of high usage, such as extreme heat events and weather events.
- This Project will increase the reliability of the transmission system thereby allowing for additional energy sources to connect to the network and support future interconnections from renewable energy projects and offshore wind.

Other benefits of this project that are not expressly included under the definition of “Environmental Benefits” consist of the following:

- Reduce overall disturbance to adjacent landowners and resource areas over time by planning for the future and reducing the likelihood of multiple repeat projects, thereby reducing environmental impacts, and reducing costs to NEP’s customers.

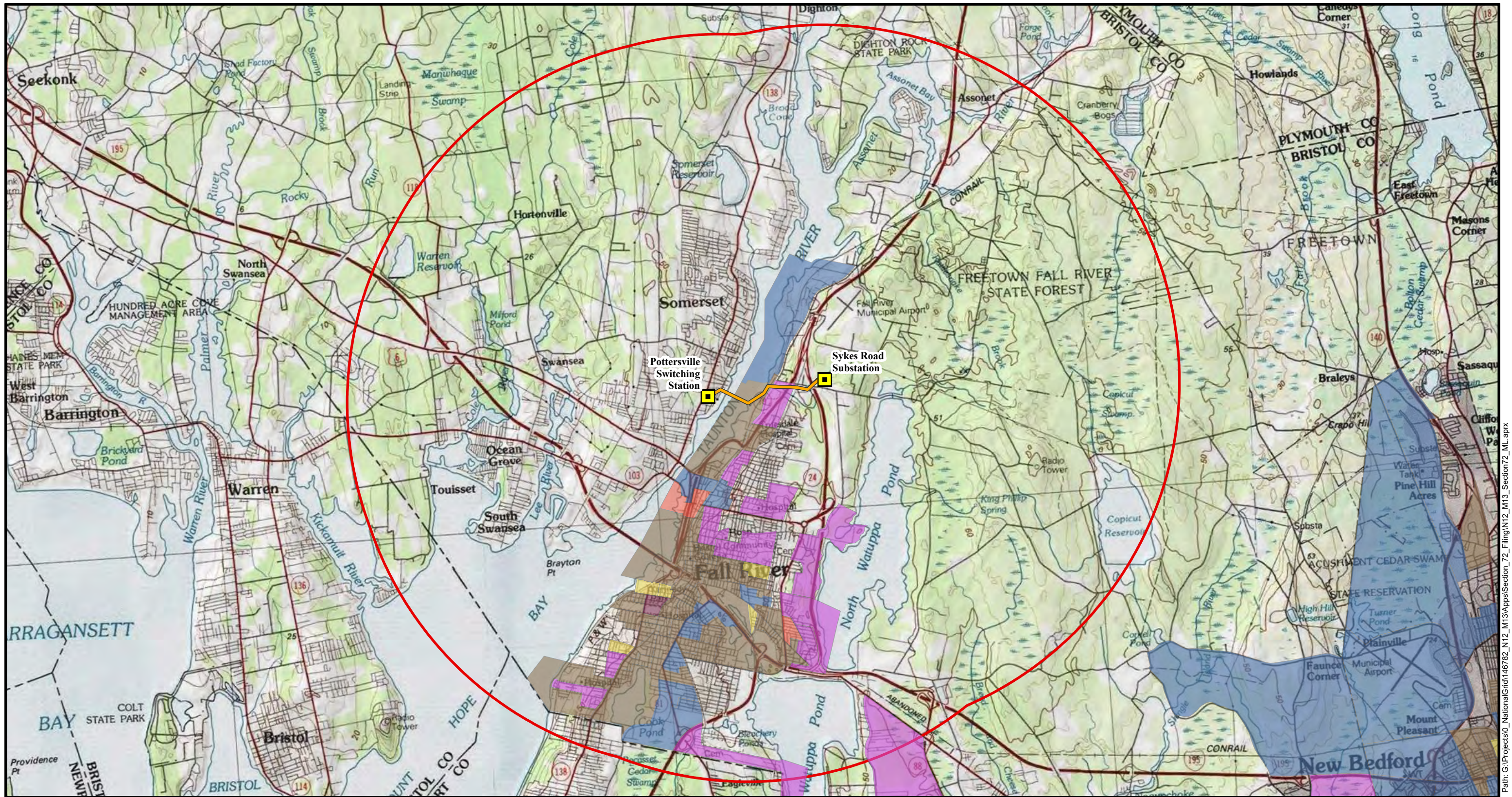
- Replacing the infrastructure will allow the lines to meet the increased electrical needs of Southern Massachusetts. Without this, the lines will not be able to support future growth and forecasted energy demands within in this region.

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.

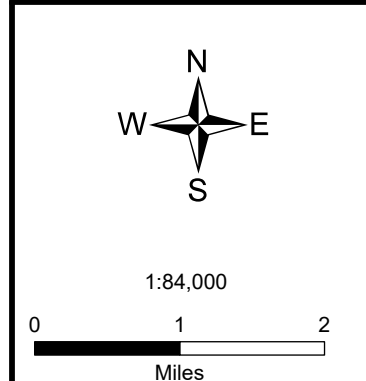
Communities and members of the public can access information related to the project in the following ways:











- A public website, hosted at the following web address is available for viewing in English, Spanish, and European Portuguese: www.southcoastreliabilityprojects.com
- Two virtual public meetings hosted by NEP were previously held on June 21, 2022 and July 14, 2022 from 6 P.M. to 8 P.M. Live translations in Spanish and European Portuguese were provided during these meetings. These meetings were recorded and may be viewed on the project webpage. Closed captioning in Spanish, European Portuguese, and Cape Verdean are available for viewing.
- ***Recipients of this Environmental Justice Screening Form may request a virtual meeting on the SEIR by sending a request to info@southcoastreliabilityprojects.com within one month of receiving this form.***
- Additional public meeting(s) hosted by NEP will be held in the late 2023, prior to the start of construction. Live translation services will be made available at these future meetings.
 - Recipients of this screening form will receive information related to these future meeting(s) via email.
 - Notifications of public meetings will be posted in local newspapers of each municipality prior to the meeting date. Notifications will be provided in Spanish, European Portuguese, and Cape Verdean.
- All Project mailings for the Project will be provided in European Portuguese, Spanish, and Cape Verdean.
- If you have additional questions, please contact 1-833-233-7277 or email us at info@southcoastreliabilityprojects.com. Upon request language interpretation services may be provided.

Recipients of this form include organizations on the EJ Reference List provided by Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs per the Public Involvement Protocol as well as additional organizations provided by the City of Fall River.



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 Existing Station	 Income and English isolation
 Existing N12/M13 ROW	 Minority
 5 Mile Project Buffer	 Minority and English isolation
Environmental Justice Criteria (MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs 2020)	
 Income	 Minority and income
 Income	 Minority, income and English isolation

**N12/M13 Double Circuit
Tower Separation Project**



Attachment A
Environmental Justice Map

Date: 3/23/2023 Author: ML



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Bristol County

NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N USFT

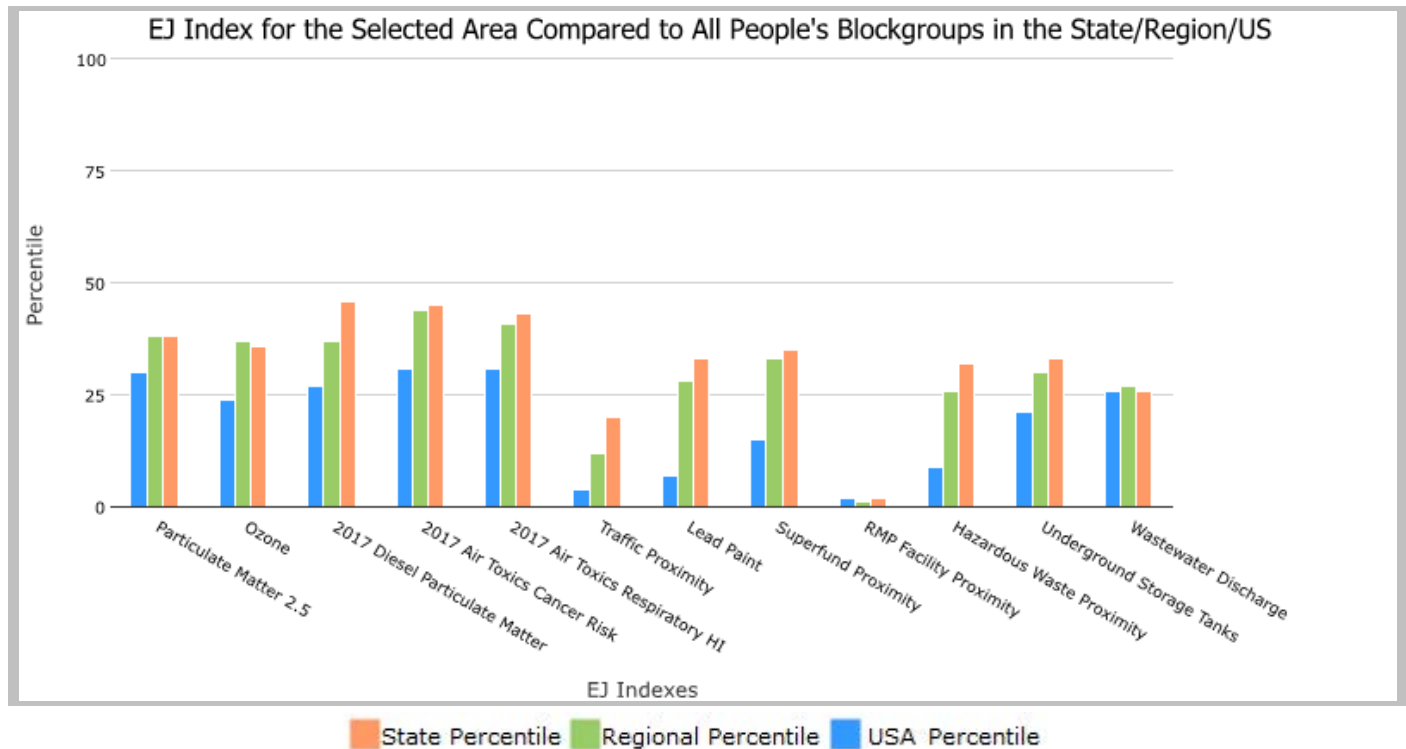
Appendix G-2: Environmental Protection Agency EJScreen Report

1 mile Ring around the Area, MASSACHUSETTS, EPA Region 1

Approximate Population: 16,524

Input Area (sq. miles): 7.37

Selected Variables	State Percentile	EPA Region Percentile	USA Percentile
Environmental Justice Indexes			
EJ Index for Particulate Matter 2.5	38	38	30
EJ Index for Ozone	36	37	24
EJ Index for 2017 Diesel Particulate Matter*	46	37	27
EJ Index for 2017 Air Toxics Cancer Risk*	45	44	31
EJ Index for 2017 Air Toxics Respiratory HI*	43	41	31
EJ Index for Traffic Proximity	20	12	4
EJ Index for Lead Paint	33	28	7
EJ Index for Superfund Proximity	35	33	15
EJ Index for RMP Facility Proximity	2	1	2
EJ Index for Hazardous Waste Proximity	32	26	9
EJ Index for Underground Storage Tanks	33	30	21
EJ Index for Wastewater Discharge	26	27	26

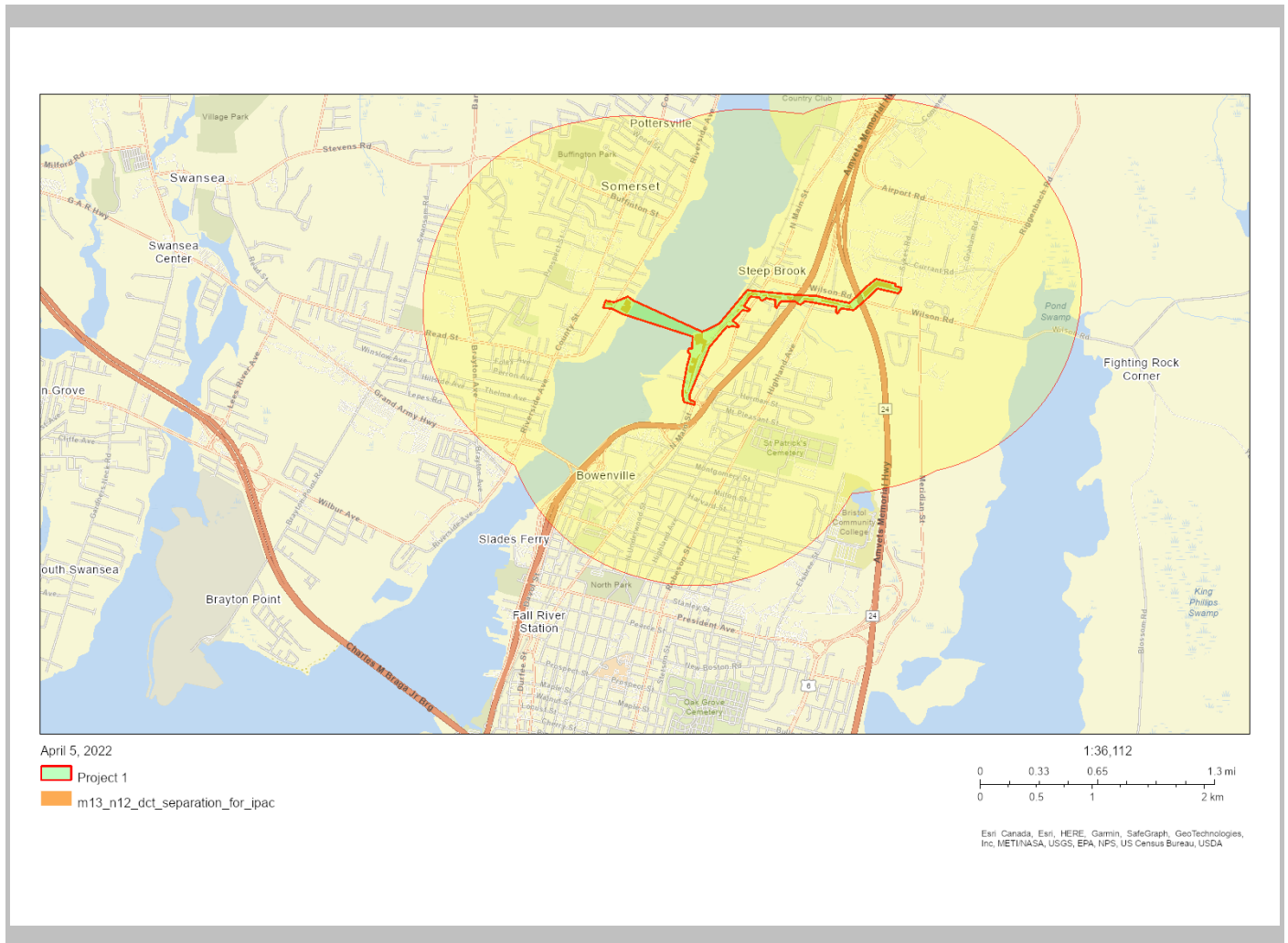


This report shows the values for environmental and demographic indicators and EJSCREEN indexes. It shows environmental and demographic raw data (e.g., the estimated concentration of ozone in the air), and also shows what percentile each raw data value represents. These percentiles provide perspective on how the selected block group or buffer area compares to the entire state, EPA region, or nation. For example, if a given location is at the 95th percentile nationwide, this means that only 5 percent of the US population has a higher block group value than the average person in the location being analyzed. The years for which the data are available, and the methods used, vary across these indicators. Important caveats and uncertainties apply to this screening-level information, so it is essential to understand the limitations on appropriate interpretations and applications of these indicators. Please see EJSCREEN documentation for discussion of these issues before using reports.

1 mile Ring around the Area, MASSACHUSETTS, EPA Region 1

Approximate Population: 16,524

Input Area (sq. miles): 7.37



Sites reporting to EPA	
Superfund NPL	0
Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities (TSDF)	2

EJScreen Report (Version 2.0)

1 mile Ring around the Area, MASSACHUSETTS, EPA Region 1

Approximate Population: 16,524

Input Area (sq. miles): 7.37

Selected Variables	Value	State Avg.	%ile in State	EPA Region Avg.	%ile in EPA Region	USA Avg.	%ile in USA
Pollution and Sources							
Particulate Matter 2.5 ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	6.8	6.78	51	6.68	52	8.74	10
Ozone (ppb)	42.2	39.5	97	39.8	81	42.6	49
2017 Diesel Particulate Matter* ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	0.197	0.295	35	0.227	50-60th	0.295	<50th
2017 Air Toxics Cancer Risk* (lifetime risk per million)	20	24	56	23	60-70th	29	<50th
2017 Air Toxics Respiratory HI*	0.27	0.3	63	0.28	70-80th	0.36	<50th
Traffic Proximity (daily traffic count/distance to road)	1300	2100	65	1300	78	710	87
Lead Paint (% Pre-1960 Housing)	0.58	0.49	58	0.44	67	0.28	82
Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)	0.1	0.17	59	0.15	60	0.13	67
RMP Facility Proximity (facility count/km distance)	2.2	0.7	93	0.6	95	0.75	91
Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	2	5.2	43	3.8	51	2.2	71
Underground Storage Tanks (count/km ²)	0.97	3.1	41	3	47	3.9	45
Wastewater Discharge (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance)	0.0014	0.21	59	0.4	60	12	52
Socioeconomic Indicators							
Demographic Index	20%	25%	54	24%	57	36%	31
People of Color	11%	28%	32	25%	41	40%	22
Low Income	29%	22%	72	23%	69	31%	52
Unemployment Rate	5%	5%	64	5%	64	5%	60
Linguistically Isolated	4%	6%	63	5%	70	5%	69
Less Than High School Education	16%	9%	81	9%	83	12%	72
Under Age 5	4%	5%	44	5%	46	6%	34
Over Age 64	22%	16%	79	17%	76	16%	80

*Diesel particulate matter, air toxics cancer risk, and air toxics respiratory hazard index are from the EPA's 2017 Air Toxics Data Update, which is the Agency's ongoing, comprehensive evaluation of air toxics in the United States. This effort aims to prioritize air toxics, emission sources, and locations of interest for further study. It is important to remember that the air toxics data presented here provide broad estimates of health risks over geographic areas of the country, not definitive risks to specific individuals or locations. Cancer risks and hazard indices from the Air Toxics Data Update are reported to one significant figure and any additional significant figures here are due to rounding. More information on the Air Toxics Data Update can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/haps/air-toxics-data-update>.

For additional information, see: www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice

EJScreen is a screening tool for pre-decisional use only. It can help identify areas that may warrant additional consideration, analysis, or outreach. It does not provide a basis for decision-making, but it may help identify potential areas of EJ concern. Users should keep in mind that screening tools are subject to substantial uncertainty in their demographic and environmental data, particularly when looking at small geographic areas. Important caveats and uncertainties apply to this screening-level information, so it is essential to understand the limitations on appropriate interpretations and applications of these indicators. Please see EJScreen documentation for discussion of these issues before using reports. This screening tool does not provide data on every environmental impact and demographic factor that may be relevant to a particular location. EJScreen outputs should be supplemented with additional information and local knowledge before taking any action to address potential EJ concerns.