**Sample Letter to MassDEP**

We hope to have as many emails as possible sent to the following people at MassDEP. Feel free to use the letter below, or you can write your own. Thank you!

**You can email your letter to**: Millie.Garcia-Serrano@state.ma.us, Gary.Moran@state.ma.us, thomas.cushing@state.ma.us, christine.kirby@state.ma.us **and cc Governor Baker at** constituent.services@state.ma.us

You can also send it to Governor Baker online using [this form](http://www.mass.gov/governor/constituent-services/contact-governor-office/). It might be helpful to send it to him both ways (cc'ing constituent.services@state.ma.us and filling out the [online form](http://www.mass.gov/governor/constituent-services/contact-governor-office/)).

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To:

Gary Moran (MassDEP), Gary.Moran@state.ma.us

Christine Kirby (MassDEP), christine.kirby@state.ma.us

Millie Garcia-Serrano (MassDEP Southeast Regional Office), Millie.Garcia-Serrano@state.ma.us

Thomas Cushing (MassDEP Southeast Regional Office), thomas.cushing@state.ma.us

I write to you today to express my concern regarding the lack of response that community members have received from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) regarding the proposed Weymouth compressor station. As a state agency whose mission “is to protect and enhance the Commonwealth’s natural resources – air, water, land – and to provide for the health, safety, welfare and enjoyment of the people,” it is upsetting that MassDEP continues to disregard public inquiries regarding multiple health and safety issues in the Fore River Basin.

Community members have taken it upon themselves to measure and analyze health and safety risks in and around the Fore River Basin. This includes the current levels of VOCs in the Fore River Basin, as well as the risk of flammable conditions in the Basin, based on EPA air pollution modelling. Multiple requests for comments regarding this important information have gone unanswered.

Dr. Curt Nordgaard, a concerned MA resident and local pediatrician, sent a letter to MassDEP outlining several outstanding issues related to the draft Air Quality Plan for the proposed Weymouth compressor station. I hope you have taken the time to read his letter, as well as the supporting documentation and data. I applaud Dr. Nordgaard and the many individuals who have continued to raise awareness about the health and safety risks present in the Fore River Basin, but I am disappointed to know that MassDEP has chosen to take the route of silence in response.

Community air quality testing continues to show levels of pollutants in the Basin that exceed MassDEP guidelines. This is very concerning. In addition to the existing levels of pollution, Fore River Energy Center (FREC) is seeking its own non-major Comprehensive Air Plan for the installation of two black start diesel generators, less than 1000 feet from the proposed compressor site. As I understand it, this information has not been factored into Enbridge's Air Quality Plan. If you add up the 1-hour NO2 NAAQS from the new generators (46.16 mcg/cubic meter), the proposed compressor station (57.85 mcg/cubic meter), and the background levels (94.63 mcg/cubic meter), the total results in a violation of the 1-hour federal air quality standard for NO2 (198.64 mcg/cubic meter vs. 188 mcg/cubic meter). This analysis is available in more detail in Dr. Nordgaard’s email. Neither FREC’s nor Enbridge’s draft air plans address this issue. Given the absence of this data from Enbridge’s Air Quality Plan, new emissions modeling needs to be completed before the Plan can be reviewed. All potential emissions need to be included in the analysis.

Governor Baker sent a letter to Mayor Hedlund in July stating, “the administration has heard members of the public express concerns regarding the potential impact of the proposed project on air quality and public health in the neighboring community. I am therefore directing the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Public Health to jointly prepare a public health impacts assessment.” I am curious to know what your agency has done so far to prepare this health assessment and where the information about the health assessment can be found. It has been more than four months since the Governor made this announcement, and I am concerned that community members and public officials have not been informed on the assessment. Multiple requests for information from MassDEP and other agencies have gone unanswered. I kindly ask that you send me more information regarding the agencies efforts to prepare a public health impacts assessment.

I would also like to touch on one other issue pertaining to the proposed compressor station and its related safety risks. Specific EPA modelling, known as Areal Localization of Hazardous Atmospheres (ALOHA), shows that under a variety of atmospheric conditions, blowdowns (natural gas releases) from the proposed Weymouth compressor station could create flammable conditions on the new Fore River Bridge. The ALOHA model can incorporate a number of pipeline blowdown parameters including conditions of the pipeline at the time of release, flow of gas as it exits the pipeline, and changes in gas flow as the pipeline loses pressure. It also incorporates the spread of gas due to weather conditions (atmospheric stability, wind, etc). It is my understanding that Dr. Nordgaard has shared this modelling analysis with your agency (multiple times). I hope that you have taken the time to read the analysis, and have made the efforts to further investigate this issue. In response to this modelling, I ask that:

1. MassDEP (in consultation with PHMSA) should update the draft Air Quality Plan to formally restrict any operation of the facility that would jeopardize public safety, with an adequate margin of safety.
2. MassDEP should install and operate permanent natural gas monitoring equipment at the facility

fenceline and the Fore River Bridge.

I feel it is imperative for the DEP to be transparent and communicative with the public. As communication seems to have shut down over the past months, I am requesting a response from you as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

NAME

TOWN/CITY