

PUBLIC NOTICE OF FEDERAL PREVENTION OF SIGNIFICANT DETERIORATION PERMIT AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

**Northeast Energy Associates
92B Depot Street
Bellingham, MA**

EPA New England Draft PSD Permit Number CR-88-PSD-R-001

**United States Environmental Protection Agency – New England
1 Congress Street, Suite 1100
Mail Code - CAP
Boston, MA 02114-2023**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency-New England Office (EPA-New England) administers the Federal Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) program in Massachusetts. EPA-New England proposes to issue a modified PSD permit to Northeast Energy Associates (NEA). The proposed permit modifies an existing construction permit that authorizes NEA to operate two gas turbines to generate electricity at its facility in Bellingham, Massachusetts. This action is authorized pursuant to the Clean Air Act (CAA) and Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, section 52.21 (40 CFR § 52.21).

Description of the Project:

NEA currently operates an electric generating facility with two gas turbines that are capable of generating 304 MW of electricity. When NEA's current permit was issued in 1989, the company anticipated using natural gas as its primary combustion fuel and oil as a secondary fuel. The 1989 permit allowed NEA to use oil with a sulfur content of 3000 parts per million for 720 hours per year. NEA has submitted an application to EPA to remove that restriction on oil usage. In order to avoid a new PSD permit due to this operational change, NEA has agreed to use ultra low sulfur diesel (ULSD) when using oil as a fuel. ULSD has a maximum sulfur content of 15 ppm, resulting in a decrease in sulfur dioxide and particulate matter emissions when compared to the original permitted fuel oil. The proposed permit also clarifies several conditions from the 1989 PSD permit, including emissions during startup, shutdown, and fuel switching operations.

The projected increase in emissions due to this change in the method of operation will not result in a significant emission increase of any of the criteria pollutants [Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x), Particulate Matter (PM_{10/2.5}), Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂), Carbon Monoxide (CO), and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) as precursors to ground level ozone (O₃)]. Therefore, a new analysis of Best Available Control Technology (BACT) and air quality impact were not required.

Public Comment Process:

The public comment period for this proposed action will open on November 6, 2008. Any interested person may submit written comments on the proposed permit during the public comment period. EPA will consider all submitted comments in its final decision making process.

Persons who submit comments to EPA should state:

1. Their interest in the draft modified PSD permit;
2. The action they wish EPA to take, including specific references to the portions of the draft modified permit they believe should be changed, if any; and
3. The reasons supporting their position, stated with sufficient specificity as to allow EPA to evaluate the merits of the 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 December 8, 2008. To be considered, written comments should be postmarked no later than December 8, 2008. EPA will, however, consider requests for extending the public comment period for good cause. EPA will also conduct a public hearing if the Agency receives a request for such a hearing during the public comment period. If requested, the date and location of the hearing will be provided in another public notice at least 30 days in advance of such a hearing. Comments or requests for a public hearing should be submitted to:

Donald Dahl, Environmental Engineer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - New England
1 Congress Street
Suite 1100, Attn. CAP
Boston, MA 02114-2023

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 or 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, PSD application, Statement of Basis and other supporting documentation may be viewed between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, at EPA New England, 1 Congress Street,

Suite 1100, Boston, MA 02114-2023 or may 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.