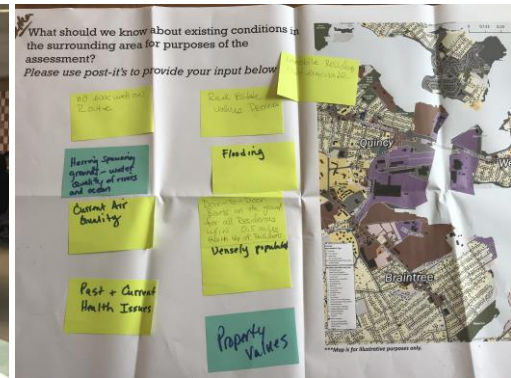


# HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT of the PROPOSED COMPRESSOR STATION, WEYMOUTH, MA

August 2018

**Interested in learning  
more about the HIA?**

**Please visit  
[www.foreriverHIA.com](http://www.foreriverHIA.com)**



## IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON PUBLIC HEALTH

The second step in the health impact assessment (HIA) process is **scoping**. The goal of scoping is to identify priority issues for the assessment and develop a work plan for assessing current health conditions and estimating possible future impacts on health.

In June 2018, the HIA team facilitated a series of meetings with residents and stakeholders to help shape the scope for the HIA of the proposed compressor station. Participants raised concerns on how the station might affect the health of the surrounding areas and shared stories about the history of the area and its residents. Participants also provided information that has been produced by ongoing municipal and community efforts related to the proposed station.

Concerns were raised that the proposed station could contribute to changes in: **air quality, noise, coastal flooding, public safety, natural resources, land uses and transportation**. Participants proposed that these changes could affect short- and long-term health conditions in the area, including types of cancers, chronic diseases and mental health, and have a more significant impact on specific populations such as older adults, children, and residents of environmental justice neighborhoods.

The HIA is now proceeding to focus on a prioritized set of the identified changes and to assess current conditions and potential impacts that could be associated with the proposed compressor station.

## Community Engagement

Community residents and stakeholders provide valuable input that reflect local perspectives, experiences and information. That is why engagement is an essential element of the health impact assessment (HIA) process.

If you are interested in following the HIA's progress or providing feedback, please visit the 'Participate' page on the project website at [www.foreriverhia.com](http://www.foreriverhia.com).



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## BACKGROUND

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) are collaborating to prepare a health impact assessment (HIA) of a proposed natural gas compressor station in the Town of Weymouth, MA. The station is proposed as part of a private-sector energy infrastructure investment plan and is subject to federal and state approvals, including an air quality permit.

**A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is a systematic process that uses available data, health expertise, and public input to identify the possible health effects of a proposed change.** HIAs are used to assess proposals, such as new development projects or legislative policies, and to produce recommendations that minimize health risks and maximize health benefits.

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), in coordination with MDPH and MassDEP, is facilitating the HIA and the community engagement process that is part of the assessment. The target completion date is November-December 2018 so that the HIA report is available for MassDEP to review in their permit decision, which is due January 2019.

## Air Quality Monitoring

Air quality monitoring by MassDEP is currently in progress and monitoring locations are noted in presentations available on the project website. Data collected from the monitoring will be used in the HIA to describe existing conditions and to assist in estimating potential health impacts.

*For more on HIAs:*

MAPC HIA

<https://www.mapc.org/our-work/expertise/public-health/health-impact-assessments/>

HEALTH IMPACT PROJECT

<http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/projects/health-impact-project>

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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