

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
IN
SITE ASSIGNMENT HEARING**

The ability to participate in site assignment hearings before a board of health on proposed solid waste activities is regulated by the MassDEP Site Assignment Regulations at 310 CMR 16.00.

- The public has a right to review and submit written comments on site assignment applications under 310 CMR 16.20(7)(c).
- Persons who have petitioned for leave to intervene and are “specifically and substantively affected by the hearing” may be allowed to intervene by the Hearing Officer. Abutters or ten citizen groups are eligible to register as a Party. 310 CMR 16.20(9)(a)(1) and (2). Such persons must file a Registration Statement under 310 CMR 16.20(9)(b).
- Persons who are specifically affected by the proceeding may register and be permitted to present testimony as a Participant, but shall not be a party in interest, under 310 CMR 16.20(9)(d).

Participation in site assignment hearings is limited to recognized Party Intervenors or Participants. They may present relevant evidence on compliance with regulatory siting criteria, and impacts to public health and safety, and damage to the environment. General participation from a Zoom or in-person audience is not allowed. Site assignment public hearings are formal, unlike most hearings and meetings before local boards in which residents and others can participate by raising a hand and being recognized by the chairperson. The Hearing Officer may relax the restrictions on Participants, under special circumstances, and at the request of or with the assent of the Board.