

MRC Answers to M. Robson Questions on Hampden Facility

I am very concerned with potential environmental impacts that the above project may inflict on the area behind my home. I have lived at 91 main Trail for the past 19.5 years and have hunted, snowshoed, hiked and cross country skied on the property in question. Could you provide me with answers to the following?

I appreciate your concern relative to the MRC project near or within an area that you have enjoyed access and recreation opportunities upon for nearly 20 years. I'm in no position to speak for other landowners between your home and the property that we have an interest in, but our attitude toward access and passive recreational activities would be for the activity to continue be allowed so long as no conflict or harm arose as a result.

1) Has an environmental impact study been undertaken at this time? If so, where can I review the findings?

These types of projects are strictly regulated at both the state level (by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection) and at the local level (by the Town of Hampden Planning Board). We are in the process of gathering all of the technical submissions that will be required to apply for the state and local permits. We hope to have all of the technical information together within 2 – 3 months.

2) Has the Maine EAP reviewed the watershed impacts of a facility?

The state and local permit processes require that the applicant not adversely impact water resources including wetlands, groundwater and surface waters (brooks, streams, rivers).

3) Why was this site selected (located within 3000 ft of a 30-35 unit residential neighborhood)? I am baffled that this facility is not being located in an area of our state with lower population density.

Our measurements of distance between the facility and the nearest residence look to be at least 3,500 feet of forested land. This site was selected after an extensive search for appropriate sites that included both developed and undeveloped areas in multiple locations. This particular site has many favorable attributes for this type of project including the area's long standing industrial zoning designation, compatibility with the town's long term economic development objectives in its comprehensive plan, proximity to I-95, central location for the MRC service area, proximity to a source of natural gas and its ability to tie into existing public utilities including water and sewer. This site has all the "urban attributes" necessary to support this type of development while still being well over one-half mile isolated from the nearest residence.

4) When will concerned citizens have an opportunity to ask questions, raise concerns and become better informed on this unique project?

There will be numerous opportunities for formal citizen participation in both the local and state permitting processes, but those activities may not begin for a few more months. In the meantime, we will do our best answering questions to that arise from you and others. We also plan to post all questions and answers on our website and the Town of Hampden's website for all to view.