

Q&A on the Location and Operation of an Air Quality Monitoring Station in Eliot, Maine

U.S. EPA | UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

At the request of the town of Eliot, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (ME DEP), and the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NH DES) are cooperatively proposing to site an air quality monitor in Eliot, Maine. The monitor will help facilitate a better understanding of local air quality influences associated with emissions from the Schiller Station power plant in Portsmouth, NH relative to the recently revised national ambient air quality standard for sulfur dioxide.

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What type of data will the air quality monitoring station be collecting?

The air quality monitoring station will measure concentrations of sulfur dioxide that may be in the air. The monitoring station will also be equipped with a 30-foot meteorological tower that will collect wind speed, wind direction, and outside temperature data.

How long will the air quality monitoring study be conducted?

The air quality monitoring study would be conducted for no more than one year. This would allow for air quality measurements during both the summer and winter, which is typically when Schiller Station is operating at its highest capacity.

Will the data be available to the public?

Yes. NH DES and ME DEP have the capability of obtaining monitoring data on an hourly basis. Upon request, each state agency can send compiled data to interested parties via email. The Town of Eliot intends to regularly post updated monitoring data on its website (www.eliot-maine.org). Monitoring data will also be available through EPA's Air Quality System Data Mart (www.epa.gov/ttn/airs/aqsdatamart).

What does the air quality monitoring station look like?

The air quality monitoring station is a 20-foot tow-behind trailer owned by the NH DES. The trailer would be located in the center of the cul-de-sac on Sawgrass Lane and connected to a nearby power supply. A 30-foot telescopic tower connected to the trailer will collect meteo-

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rological data. The monitoring station will have negligible noise or traffic impacts on nearby residents. Air quality monitors operate with a slight hum, which should only be heard within a few feet of the trailer. State agency staff will visit the site routinely, but no more than once weekly between 8 am and 5 pm.

Where will the air quality monitoring station be located?

The air quality monitoring station would be located in the middle of the cul-de-sac on Sawgrass Lane in Eliot, Maine. The middle of the cul-de-sac is town-owned property with access to a power supply.

Why is the Sawgrass Lane location being proposed as the site to locate the air quality monitoring station?

The Sawgrass Lane location was chosen as the proposed site because of its proximity to Schiller Station, about 1.2 miles northeast of the power plant. EPA, ME DEP, NH DES, and Eliot town officials agree that based on the air quality modeling analysis provided by the Town of Eliot the proposed Sawgrass Lane site will be a good location for capturing the potential influences from Schiller Station when it is operating. Additionally, the area surrounding the proposed location is free of tall trees and structures, which is critical for any air quality monitoring site.

Who do I contact about the proposed location and operation of the air quality monitoring station in Eliot?

If you have additional questions about the proposed location and operation of the air quality monitoring station in Eliot, please contact Dana Lee, Town Manager of Eliot, Maine at 207-439-1813 or townmanager@eliotme.org, or Patrick Bird of EPA New England at 617-918-1287 or bird.patrick@epa.gov.