

Acronym Glossary of Federal and State Agencies

Massachusetts Agencies

CZM: Office of Coastal Zone Management Works with other state agencies, federal agencies, local governments, academic institutions, nonprofit groups, and the general public to promote sound management of the Massachusetts coast. A division of EOEEA

DAR: Department of Agricultural Resources Works to support, promote and enhance the long-term viability of Massachusetts agriculture with the aim of helping this state's agricultural businesses become as economically and environmentally sound as possible. A division of EOEEA

DCR: Department of Conservation and Recreation Steward of the Massachusetts state park system. A division of EOEEA.

DCS: Division of Conservation Services Provides technical assistance and land preservation programs to landowners, municipalities and land trusts. A division of EOEEA.

DEP: Department of Environmental Protection Responsible for ensuring clean air and water, the safe management of toxics and hazards, the recycling of solid and hazardous wastes, the timely cleanup of hazardous waste sites and spills, and the preservation of wetlands and coastal resources. A division of EOEEA.

DFG: Department of Fish and Game Exercises responsibility over the Commonwealth's marine and freshwater fisheries, wildlife species, plants, and natural communities, as well as the habitats that support them

DFW: MassWildlife Department of Fisheries and Wildlife responsible for the conservation - including restoration, protection and management - of fish and wildlife resources for the benefit and enjoyment of the public

DHCD: Department of Housing and Community Development Provides leadership, professional assistance and financial resources to promote safe, decent affordable housing opportunities, economic vitality of communities and sound municipal management. A division of EOHEd.

DOR: Department of Revenue Responsible for the tax, child support and municipal finance laws of the Commonwealth. Also responsible for ensuring the fairness and equity of local property taxation, the accuracy and quality of local accounting and treasury management, and interpreting state laws that affect local governance.

EOEEA: Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Responsible for safeguarding public health from environmental threats and to preserve, protect, and enhance the natural resources of the Commonwealth.

EOHEd: Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development Agency responsible for creating housing and employment opportunities

MassGIS: Office of Geographic and Environmental Maintains a statewide database of spatial information for environmental planning and management. A division of EOEEA.

MDAR: *See DAR*

MEMA: Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency Agency responsible for coordinating federal, state, local, voluntary and private resources during emergencies and disasters in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

MEPA: Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act Office Responsible for enforcing the Environmental Policy Act. Reviews the environmental impacts of proposed projects that meet certain thresholds, such as traffic created, or amount of land altered and involve state permitting or funding, to ensure that permit grantors and funding agencies know the environmental consequences of their actions. A division of EOEEA.

MHD: Massachusetts Highway Department Responsible for the design, construction and maintenance of the Commonwealth's state highways and bridges

NHESP: Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program responsible for the conservation and protection of hundreds of species that are not hunted, fished, trapped, or commercially harvested in the state. The Program's highest priority is protecting the animals and native plants that are officially listed as Endangered, Threatened or of Special Concern in Massachusetts.

OTA: Office of Technical Assistance and Technology: helps manufacturers and other toxic chemical users reduce or eliminate their use of toxics and generation of hazardous byproducts. A division of EOEEA.

RPA: Regional Planning Agency Region-wide planning agency in with comprehensive planning responsibilities which include land use, transportation, economic development, and environmental management. The Berkshire RPA is the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

Federal Agencies

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency The chief federal office for enforcing environmental law

FEMA: Federal Emergency Management Agency Charged with reducing the loss of life and property and protect the Nation from all hazards, including natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters. A division of the Department of Homeland Security

FHWA: Federal Highway Administration Provide financial and technical support to state and local governments for constructing, improving, and preserving America's highway system

HUD: Department of Housing and Urban Development Agency charged with increasing homeownership, supporting community development and increasing access to affordable housing.

USACE: Army Corps of Engineers Provides Planning, designing, building and operating water resources and other civil works projects (Navigation, Flood Control, Environmental Protection, Disaster Response. Also responsible for permitting of alteration of 'waters of the United States.'

USDA: United States Department of Agriculture provides leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, and related issues based on sound public policy, the best available science, and efficient management