

City of Boston BERDO Review Board  
Public Meeting Minutes  
Zoom Virtual Meeting  
April 28, 2025, at 4:30 pm  
[View recording here](#)

**Board Members in Attendance:** Jessica Boatright, Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata, Gail Latimore, Jack Nelson, and Reginald “Reggie” Stovell Jr.

**Board Members not in Attendance:** Rashida Boyd, Stephen Ellis, Hessann Farooqi, and Lori Ferriss.

**Staff Present:** Hannah Payne, Diana Vasquez, Zengel “Ziggy” Chin, and Dr. Claudia Diezmartinez.

**Others:** Approximately fifty (50) members of the public attended this meeting.

---

### Call Meeting to Order

**4:40 pm:** A meeting of the Building Emissions Reduction and Disclosure Ordinance, hereafter referred to as (BERDO), within the Air Pollution Control Commission, was called to order on April 28 at 4:40 pm. This meeting was held virtually.

---

### Roll Call

**4:41 pm:** The following BERDO Review Board members were in attendance: Chair Jessica Boatright, Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata, Gail Latimore, Jack Nelson, and Reginald “Reggie” Stovell Jr.

The following Environment Department staff were in attendance: Hannah Payne, Diana Vasquez, Zengel “Ziggy” Chin, and Dr. Claudia Diezmartinez.

**Others:** Approximately fifty (50) members of the public attended this meeting.

---

### First Agenda Item: Building Portfolio Hearing

**4:45 pm:** Boston University presented information and details about their Pathway 3 Building Portfolio application.

**4:49 pm:** City staff presented staff comments.

**4:50 pm:** Board Q&A Session

- J. Boatright asked how updating to using ISO New England emissions factors has changed BU’s plans for complying with BERDO.

- D. Carlberg answered that BU will update their Climate Action Plan to reflect using ISO New England emission factors and how BU reports its emissions to third parties.
- G. Latimore asked if there have been changes to complete work that relied on federal funding, given the uncertainty with federal funds.
  - D. Carlberg explained that BU has already taken advantage of the IRA for solar installations on campus and plans to continue while the policy is in effect. As BU updates its Climate Action Plan, it approaches the IRA as a potential economic benefit. It will improve project economics if it's still available when applications are submitted, but BU is not relying on it as guaranteed funding.

**4:55 pm:** Chair J. Boatright opened a public comment period.

**4:56 pm:** Chair J. Boatright closed a public comment period.

**4:56 pm:** Board Member G. Latimore made a motion to approve Boston University's Building Portfolio and Individual Compliance Plan application with standard conditions. Board Member J. Nelson seconded the motion. All Board members in attendance (5) voted in favor. The motion carried at 4:57 pm.

**4:58 pm:** Boston Medical Center presented information and details about their Pathway 2 Building Portfolio application.

**5:20 pm:** Board Q&A Session

- J. Boatright asked if BMC has had its VPPA approved by the BERDO staff
  - M. Keith answered that BMC has not yet submitted their VPPA for approval, but BMC plans to submit it soon.
- J. Boatright asked if there have been any changes to BMC's federal funding.
  - C. Pouliot answered that BMC is planning for alternative funding and is, in the meantime, closely working with the Departments of Energy and the Treasury.
- Councilor G. Coletta Zapata asked how BMC is measuring and reporting the local health benefits of its decarbonization efforts in the surrounding community.
  - C. Pouliot answered that BMC internally tracks metrics related to its sustainability programs, including the Power Prescription Program, which BMC's medical sustainability officer developed. While BMC does not have

the data immediately on hand, it can provide those metrics upon request. Some of this tracking is tied to external reporting requirements, such as those from the Department of Energy, which is recognizing the program in an upcoming award ceremony.

- G. Latimore expressed her support for the different programs at BMC and requested information about BMC's MWBE utilization policy in their Emissions Standard Compliance Plan.

**5:27 pm:** Chair J. Boatright opened a public comment period.

**5:28 pm:** Chair J. Boatright closed a public comment period.

**5:28 pm:** Board Member G. Latimore made a motion to approve Boston Medical's Building Portfolio application with standard conditions and a request for an update on their MWBE utilization on work related to decarbonization in their Emissions Standard Compliance Plan. Councilor G. Coletta Zapata seconded the motion. All Board members in attendance (5) voted in favor. The motion carried at 5:30 pm.

**5:31 pm:** Mass General Brigham presented information and details about their Pathway 2 Building Portfolio application.

**5:41 pm:** City staff presented staff comments.

**5:42 pm:** Board Q&A Session

- J. Boatright asked if MGB has a uniform strategy for community engagement for the portfolio, or if it is based on the location of buildings.
  - D. Hanitchak answered that the community engagement strategy is based on campus instead of a portfolio-level approach.
- Councilor G. Coletta Zapata asked how MGB is prioritizing early investment and emission reductions in EJ neighborhoods.
  - D. Villanueva explained that the decarbonization master plan for MGB is still being finalized, with completion expected later this year. While specific details are not yet available, the plan will first focus on a comprehensive strategy before breaking it down into specific plans for each institution. Most of the square footage, particularly at Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham and Women's Hospital, are located in EJ communities, so nearly all planned work will benefit these populations. Although prioritization within the plan is still to be determined, any action taken is expected to impact the surrounding EJ communities positively.

- G. Latimore requested an update on plans for MWBE utilization related to decarbonization work in their Emissions Standard Compliance plan.
- R. Stovell agreed with Board Member G. Latimore's request.

**5:51 pm:** Chair J. Boatright opened a public comment period.

- A. Krasner expressed concern about the MATEP plant and air pollution. She urged Longwood medical institutions to pressure MATEP to transition to clean energy, aligning their operations with public health goals.
- S. Huckleberry commented that as a resident living near the MATEP plant, she raised concerns about the area's poor air quality and impact on communities.
- J. Huckleberry commented on concerns regarding how emissions from the MATEP plant have worsened his asthma symptoms.
- L. Canty urged the Review Board to ensure that Boston hospitals, including MGB, comply fully with BERDO. L. Canty stated that MGB and its energy provider, MATEP, should decarbonize.
- E. Tamton expressed concern about living near the MATEP plant. She highlighted the health risks and urged MGB, as a healthcare leader, to invest in clean energy to protect the community's health.
- A. Ramanan commented and urged the Review Board to require MGB to explore decarbonizing the diesel units at the MATEP plant in collaboration with the Longwood Medical Energy Collaborative.
- Dr. M. Peterson emphasized that the fight for fair wages and worker protections also extends to fighting for climate justice, pointing out that MGB is a major polluter in Boston and should settle union contract negotiations.
- D. J. Sullivan expressed his concerns about MGB's environmental impact. J. Sullivan emphasized the connection between pollution and health issues and called for immediate action to address ongoing environmental and public health concerns.
- Dr. T. Walker commented about the connection between labor justice and environmental justice, advocating for workers' and communities' health and well-being.
- L. Johnson expressed concern about MATEP's emissions and their impact on public health. She highlighted the troubling levels of particulate matter from the plant and emphasized the importance of transitioning to clean, renewable energy.

- M. Nelson criticized the hospital system for its lack of action on energy efficiency. M. Nelson expressed that MATEP should be closed and that MGB should pursue clean energy.
- Dr. G. Kneese commented that MGB provides executives with pay raises but underinvests in community. He commented on a need for MGB to act on behalf of workers and communities near the MATEP plant.
- Submitted via email, V. Marcotte expressed appreciation for the healthcare and research provided by the Longwood Medical Area institutions, but is increasingly worried about MATEP and how its pollution affects elderly health.

**6:32 pm:** Chair J. Boatright closed a public comment period.

**6:33 pm:** The Review Board discussed MGB's Building Portfolio application.

**6:45 pm:** Board Member G. Latimore made a motion to approve with standard conditions and a request that in the Emissions Standard Compliance Plan, which is submitted in two years, an update be provided on decarbonization strategies, including plans regarding connections to district energy systems, and an update on an MWBE utilization policy for work related to decarbonization. Chair J. Boatright seconded the motion. Four (4) Board members voted in favor. One (1) Board Member voted against. The motion carried at 5:47 pm.

---

### **Second Item: Approval of Meeting Minutes.**

Approval of the meeting minutes from the April 14 Review Board meeting was continued to the next meeting on May 12.

---

### **Third Agenda Item: Administrative Updates**

Administrative updates were continued to the next Review Board meeting on May 12.

---

### **Meeting Adjournment**

**6:47 pm:** Chair J. Boatright made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Board Member G. Latimore seconded. All board members in attendance (5) voted in favor. The motion carried at 6:48 pm.