

Using the Updated Short Environmental Assessment Form and Workbook

Training Sponsored by the
Columbia Land Conservancy

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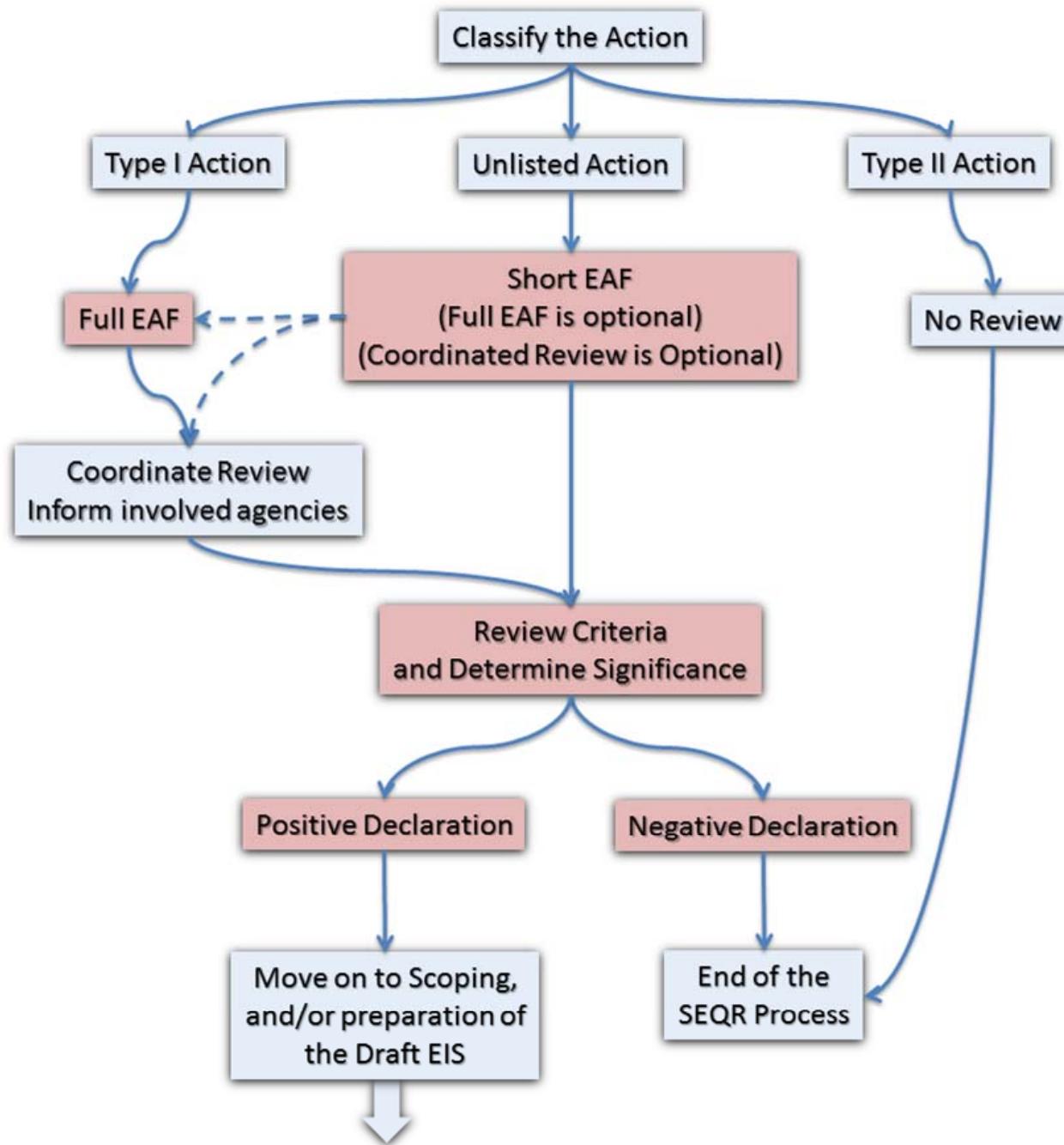
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Agenda

- About the New SEAF and Workbook
- Linking Spatial Data and the Workbook to Parts 1,2 and 3
- Using Part 1, Completing Parts 2 and 3
 - Explanation and concepts
 - Identifying small, moderate and large impacts
 - Determining significance
- Applying skills: An Example
- Questions/Answers
 - There will be one 10 minute break

SEQR Flowchart



Which EAF?

Read the List!



§617.4 Type I actions - - - FEAF

§617.5 Type II actions - - - No Review

§617.2 (ak) Definitions Unlisted Actions - SEAF

The Updated EAF's

- Why change them?
- How are they different?

APPENDIX C
State Environmental Quality Review
SHORT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FORM
For UNLISTED ACTIONS Only

PART I - PROJECT INFORMATION (To be completed by Applicant or Project Sponsor)

1. APPLICANT/SPONSOR 2. PROJECT NAME

3. PROJECT LOCATION
Municipality _____ County _____

4. PROPOSED LOCATION (Street address and road intersections, prominent landmarks, etc., or provide map)

5. PROPOSED ACTION: New Reuse Modification/alteration

6. DESCRIBE PROJECT BRIEFLY

7. AMOUNT OF LAND AFFECTED: _____

8. WILL PROPOSED ACTION COMPLY WITH EXISTING ZONING OR OTHER EXISTING LAND USE RESTRICTIONS? Yes No This action may

9. WHAT IS PRESENT (AS IS) IN VICINITY OF PROJECT? Residential Industrial Commercial Agriculture Public/Open Space Other
Detail:

10. DOES ACTION INVOLVE A PERMIT APPROVAL OR FLAGGING, NON-OR ULTIMATELY FROM ANOTHER GOVERNMENT/AGENCY (FEDERAL, STATE OR LOCAL)? Yes No It will be agency's name and permit/approval

11. DOES ACTION INVOLVE THE ACTION INVOLVES A CRITICAL USE PERMIT OR APPROVAL? Yes No It will be agency's name and permit/approval

12. AS A RESULT OF PROPOSED ACTION WILL EXISTING PERMIT/APPROVAL REQUIRE MODIFICATION? Yes No It will be agency's name and permit/approval

I CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.
Applicant/Responsible Officer _____ Date _____
Signature _____

If the action is in the Coastal Area, and you are a state agency, complete the Coastal Assessment Form below preceding with this assessment

OVER

Name of Lead Agency _____ Date _____
Print or Type Name of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency _____ Title of Responsible Officer _____
Signature of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency _____ Signature of Person or Office Different from Responsible Officer _____

Reset

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Signature _____

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OVER

If Yes, briefly describe _____ NO YES

Page 2 of 4

If public - private wastewater treatment utilities? No Yes
a. Will the proposed action impair the character or quality of important historic, archaeological, aesthetic, cultural, or recreational resources?
b. Will the proposed action result in an adverse change to natural resources (e.g., wetlands, waterbodies, groundwater, air quality, flora and fauna)?

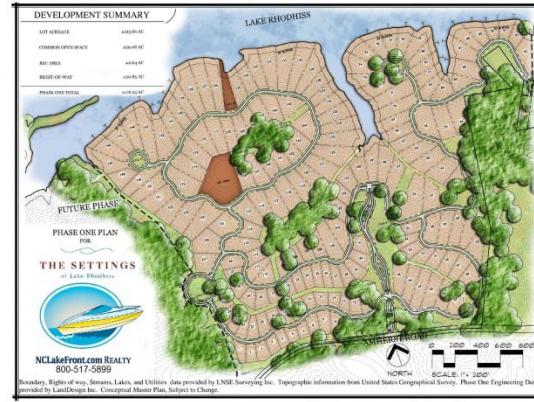
Page 3 of 4

Print or Type Name of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency _____ Title of Responsible Officer _____
Signature of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency _____ Signature of Person or Office Different from Responsible Officer _____

Page 4 of 4

The Full EAF goes from 21 pages to 26 pages

The Old (current) SEAF



Part 1:

- How much land is affected?
- Does it comply with zoning?
- What kind of land uses are nearby?

Part 2:

- Will there be an impact on a CEA?
- Will there be any controversy?

The New (updated) SEAF

Part 1 Additional Topics Covered:

- Consistency with character of the landscape
- Traffic, bike and pedestrian uses
- Energy code compliance
- Water supply and wastewater utilities
- State and National Register of Historic Places
- Archeological resources
- Regulated wetlands and water bodies
- Flood plains
- Habitats, (in addition to Land Uses)
- Threatened or endangered species
- Storm water discharges and other water impoundments
- Former waste management facilities
- Hazardous waste remediation activities

The EAF Workbooks

- The Workbooks are Web sites
- Lead you through filling out the EAF
- Lead you through reviewing the project
- Links to resources
- Glossary

The screenshot shows a Firefox browser window displaying the NYS DEC SEQR Environmental Assessment Forms Guidance Documents (Workbooks) website. The URL in the address bar is www.nysdec.net/shorteaf/shorteaf-part1-q13.html. The page title is "DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION". The main content area displays "SEQR Environmental Assessment Forms Guidance Documents (Workbooks)" and "Short EAF - Part 1". A sidebar on the left lists questions from 1 to 20 and a "Signature" section. Another sidebar on the right provides links to "Links", "Acknowledgements", "DRAFT Short EAF (PDF)", "Tools", "Printable PDF version of the SEAF Workbook", "How to submit comments on this draft workbook", "Contact" information for NYS DEC, and "This Page Covers" a map of New York State.

Firefox

www.nysdec.net/shorteaf/shorteaf-part1-q13.html

New York State State Agencies

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

EAF Workbooks - Home

How to use this website

Short EAF

Part 1

Project/Sponsor Info

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4

Question 5

Question 6

Question 7

Question 8

Question 9

Question 10

Question 11

Question 12

Question 13

Question 14

Question 15

Question 16

Question 17

Question 18

Question 19

Question 20

Signature

Part 2

Part 3

Glossary

Links

AZ Subject Index | Search all of NY.gov

Enter search words

Search DEC

Home » Permits and Licenses » SEQR » SEQR Forms - Guidance Documents

SEQR Environmental Assessment Forms Guidance Documents (Workbooks)

Short EAF - Part 1

Question 13

a. Does any portion of the site of the proposed action, or lands adjoining the proposed action, contain wetlands or other waterbodies regulated by a federal, State or local agency?

b. Would the proposed action physically alter, or encroach into, any existing wetland or waterbody? If Yes, identify the wetland or waterbody and extent of alterations in square feet or acres:

Background Information

Wetlands, streams, lakes, and reservoirs, are all examples of waterbodies that may be regulated by a federal, state, or local agency. Some local communities may have their own wetland regulations. Certain streams, and lakes also are regulated.

Wetlands are known by many names such as swamps, marshes, bogs, and wet meadows. One thing all have in common is that they are areas saturated by surface or ground water. Wetlands also support distinctive vegetation that is adapted for life in wet soil conditions.

Standing water is only one clue that a wetland may be present. Many wetlands only have visible water during certain seasons of the year, but are still considered wetlands. In New York State, two main types of wetlands are found: tidal wetlands around Long Island, New York City, and up the Hudson River all the way to Troy Dam; and freshwater wetlands found along rivers and lake floodplains and in low laying areas

All of New York State

The Workbook Websites

EAF Workbooks - Home

How to use this website

Short EAF

Part 1

Part 2

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4

Question 5

Question 6

Question 7

Question 8

Question 9

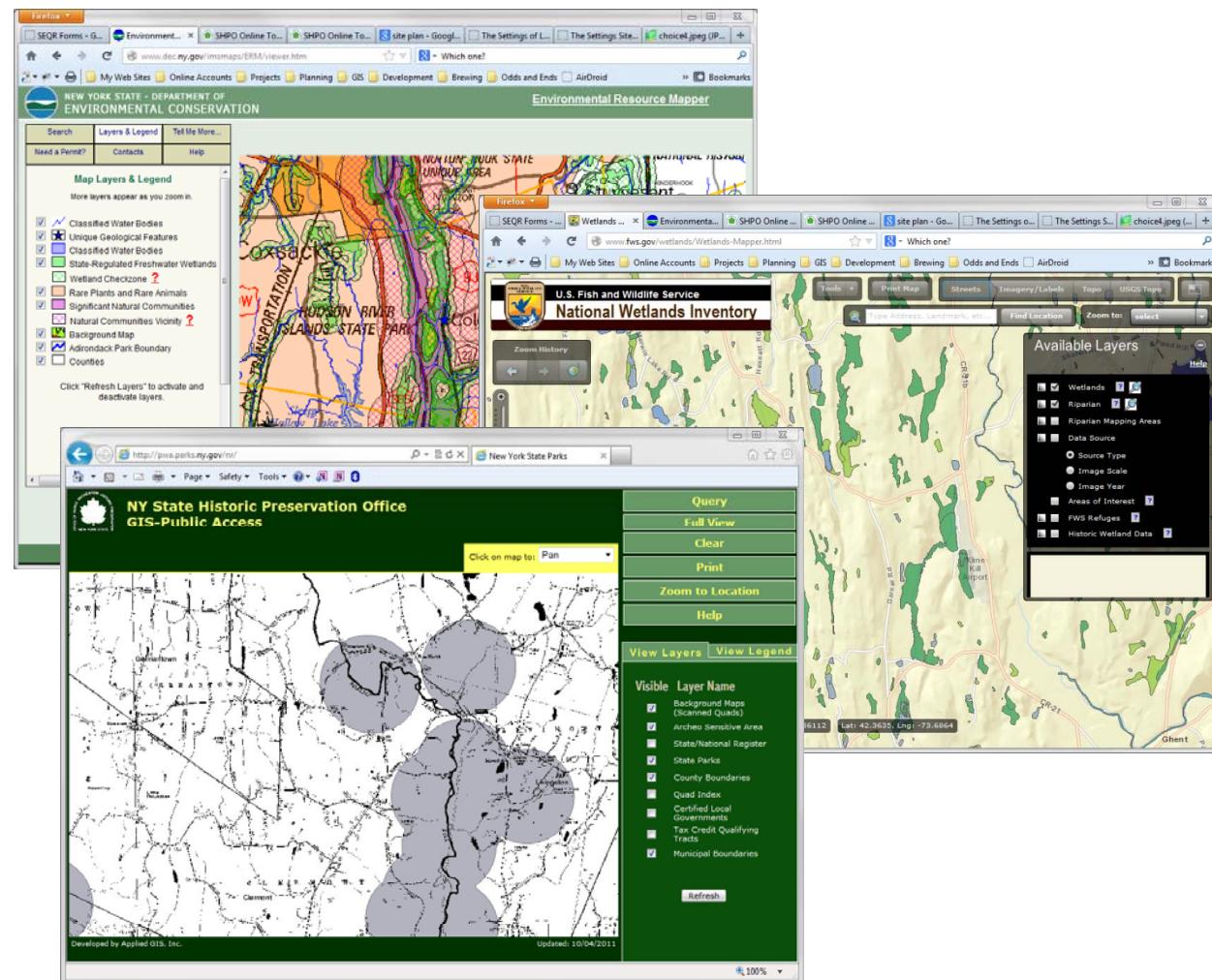
Question 10

Question 11

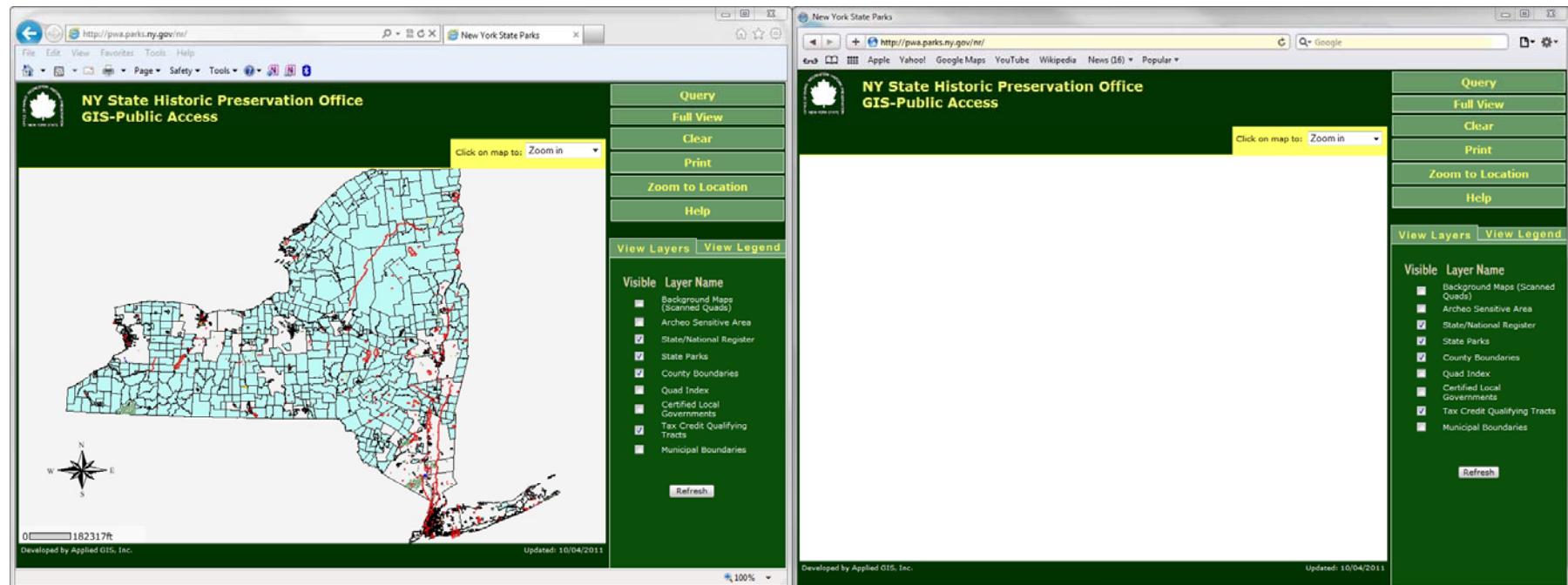
Part 3

Glossary

Links

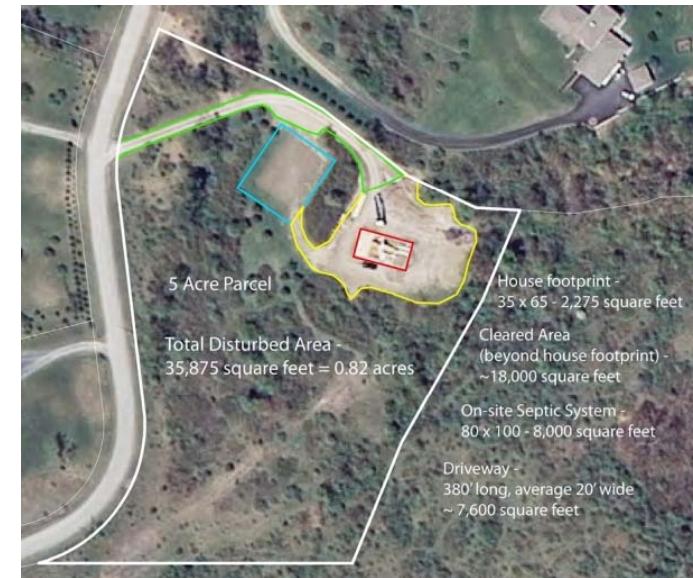


The SEQRA Workbooks



Introducing SEAF, Part 1

- Applicants responsibility to obtain data and fill out
- Part 1's purpose: gather site specific data
- Spatial data and links in the Workbook
 - Understanding data sources
- Main environmental concepts
 - What other permits needed
 - Acreage/size of project
 - Land uses on or near site: type, permit status, consistent with plans
 - Consistency with character of built or natural landscape
 - Is a **CEA** present, and if so, what is it



Introducing SEAF, Part 1

- Peak Traffic levels
- Energy code requirements
- Water and wastewater facilities and supplies
- **Historic and archaeological** resources
- **Wetlands, waterbodies, floodplains** information
- Habitat types
- **Threatened or endangered species** or their habitats
- Status of point or nonpoint pollution that may be generated
- Drainage, stormwater, impoundments
- Presence of **solid waste, hazardous wastes**



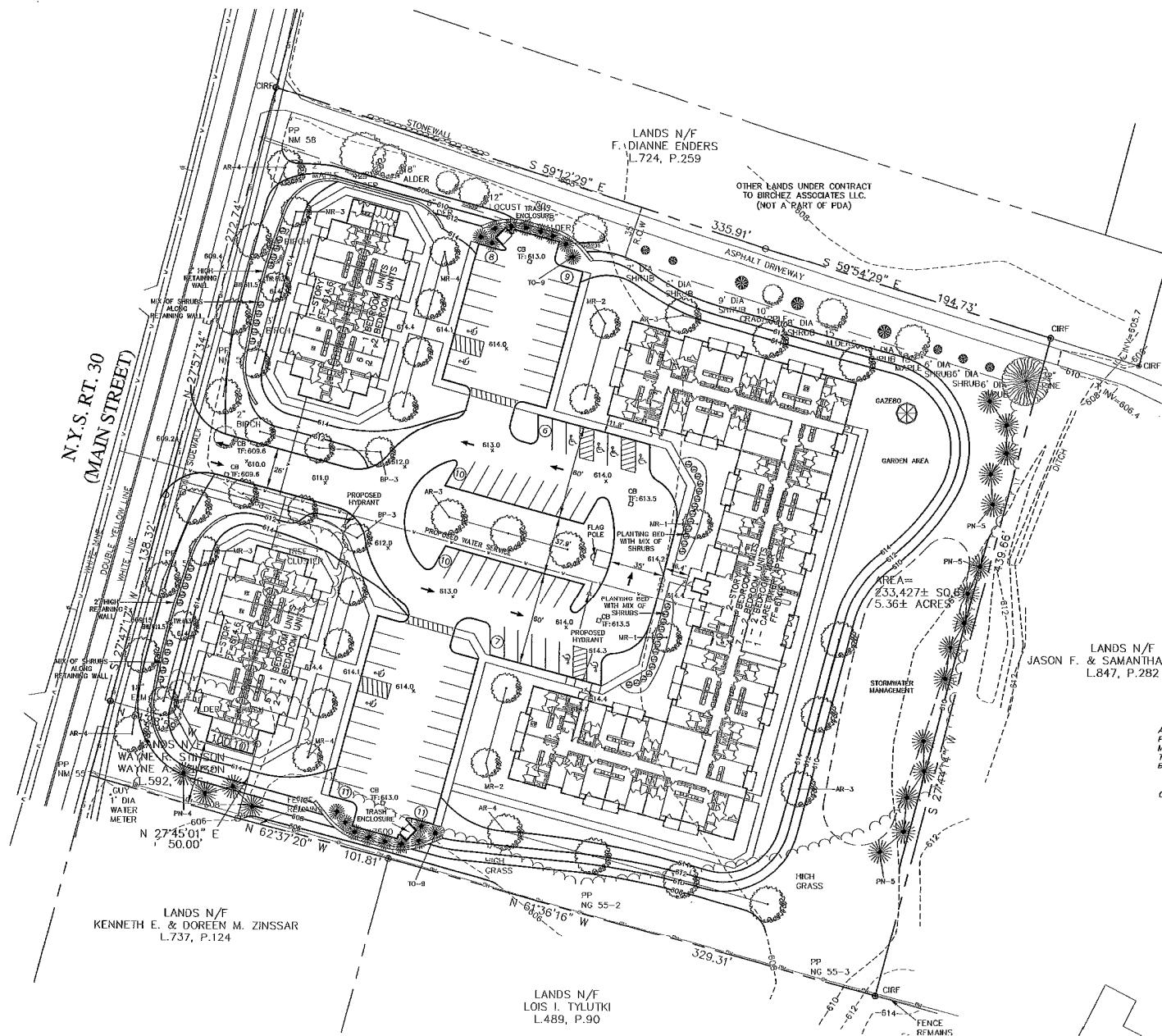
Part 1 Considerations...

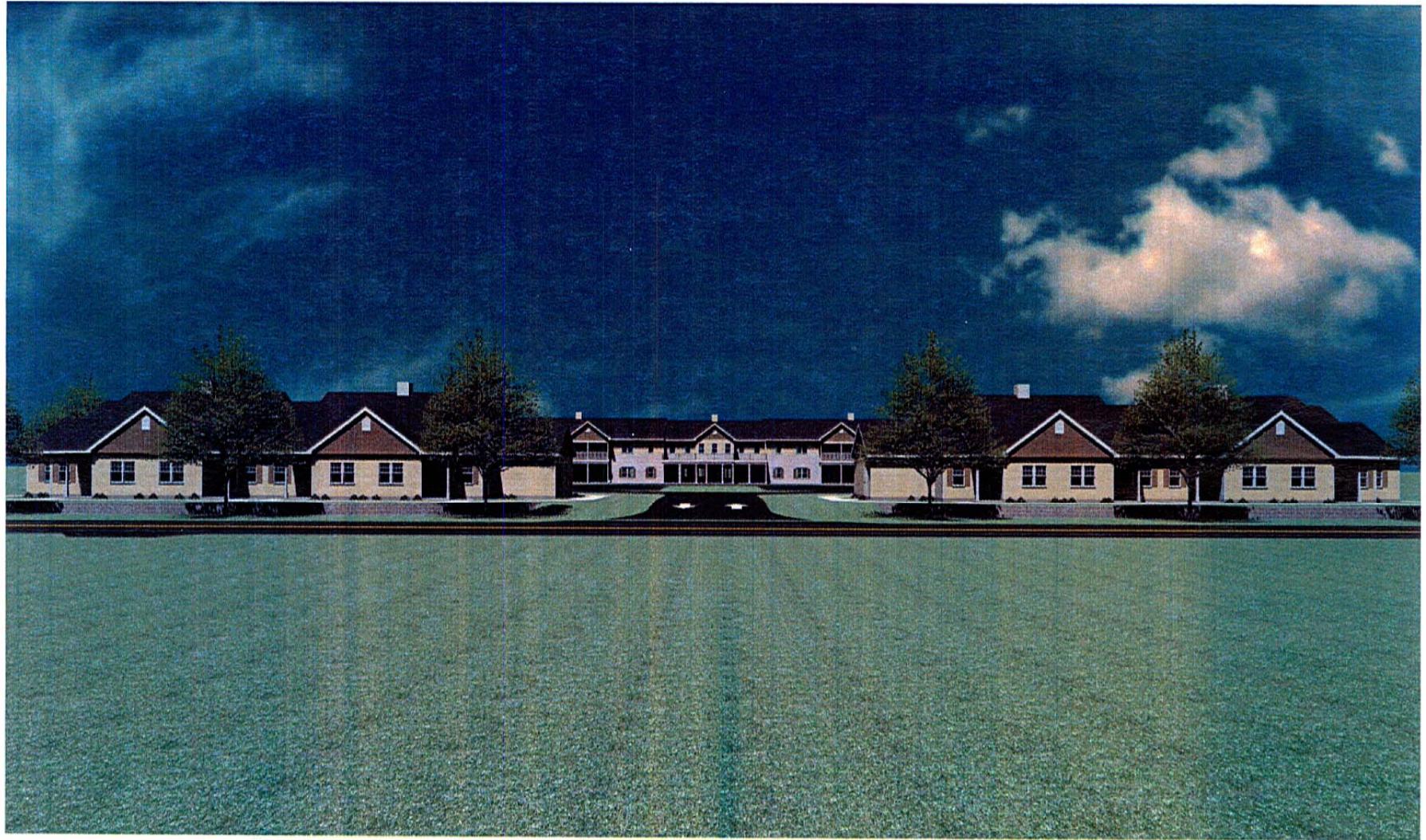
- #1: Adds more functionality for laws, plans, administrative rules
- #4: What is the difference between ‘near’ and ‘adjacent’ (or ‘adjoining’)?
- #5: How do you know if something is ‘consistent with the adopted comprehensive plan’?
- #6: “predominant character”...what is it?
- #7: What is a ‘critical environmental area’?
- #8: How is ‘substantial increase’ defined?
- #13: What is a regulated wetland or waterbody?
- #17: Difference between ‘point’ and ‘nonpoint’ pollution?

Example site plan- Senior Citizen Complex

- Brief background on the example
- Site plan
- Elevation drawing







SHPO Archeo-Sensitive Area

http://pwa.parks.ny.gov/nr/ New York State Parks

NY State Historic Preservation Office
GIS-Public Access

Click on map to: Pan

Schoharie, Village of Schoharie

9901 Schoharie

544

1A

30

SPRING ST

WARNER

WARD

95NR00839
01NR01837
00NR02887

Background Maps (Scanned Quads)
Archeo Sensitive Area
State/National Register
State Parks
County Boundaries
Quad Index
Certified Local Governments
Tax Credit Qualifying Tracts
Municipal Boundaries

Query
Full View
Clear
Print
Zoom to Location
Help
View Layers View Legend

Refresh

0 548ft

Updated: 10/04/2011

Developed by Applied GIS, Inc.

100%

100 Year Flood



Introducing SEAF, Part 2

- Lead Agency's responsibility: Review Part 1 and complete Part 2
- Part 2's role and purpose:
 - Is there an impact?
 - If so, how large is it within the scale and context of the action?
- Analysis needed
 - scale and context
 - measuring impact
- Use the information from Part 1 to answer Part 2

Impact Assessment

- Scale
 - Size and intensity
- Context
 - Conditions on the project site and its relation to adjacent parcels and broader area
- Measuring impacts
 - No impact
 - Small impact
 - Moderate impact
 - Large impact

Part 2 Includes...

- Is there a conflict with plans or regulations?
- Will there be a change in use or intensity?
- Will it impair character or quality of community?
- Will it impact a CEA?
- Will it change existing traffic or traffic infrastructure?
- Will it increase use of energy?
- Will it impact existing public/private water supplies or wastewater treatment?
- Will it impair character or quality of historic, archaeological, architectural or aesthetic resources?

Part 2 Includes...

- Will it result in change to natural resources?
- Will it result in or increase erosion, flooding, drainage?
- Will it create hazard to environmental or human health?

Example: Senior Citizen Complex

- What do we know from Part 1?
- What impacts could occur?
- How large are those impacts?
 - Which topics will move into Part 3?

	No, or small impact may occur	Moderate to large impact may occur
1. Will the proposed action create a material conflict with an adopted land use plan or zoning regulations?		
2. Will the proposed action result in a change in the use or intensity of use of land?		
3. Will the proposed action impair the character or quality of the existing community?		
4. Will the proposed action have an impact on the environmental characteristics that caused the establishment of a Critical Environmental Area (CEA)?		
5. Will the proposed action result in an adverse change in the existing level of traffic or affect existing infrastructure for mass transit, biking or walkway?		
6. Will the proposed action cause an increase in the use of energy and it fails to incorporate reasonably available energy conservation or renewable energy opportunities?		
7. Will the proposed action impact existing: a. public / private water supplies? b. public / private wastewater treatment utilities?		
8. Will the proposed action impair the character or quality of important historic, archaeological, architectural or aesthetic resources?		
9. Will the proposed action result in an adverse change to natural resources (e.g., wetlands, waterbodies, groundwater, air quality, flora and fauna)?		

	No, or small impact may occur	Moderate to large impact may occur
10. Will the proposed action result in an increase in the potential for erosion, flooding or drainage problems?		
11. Will the proposed action create a hazard to environmental resources or human health?		

Example: Senior Citizen Complex

No Impact

- Is consistent with Comp Plan
- Will not impair character of community
- No CEA
- No significant traffic change
- Will include energy conservation measures
- Can use existing water/sewer
- No change to natural resources
- No hazardous materials

May Have Some Impact

- Will be a more intense use
- Will use electricity
- Will be a change in aesthetic character
- May have archaeological resources on parcel
- May change flooding patterns

Example: Senior Citizen Complex

How large of an Impact?

- Will be a more intense use
- Will use electricity
- Will be a change in aesthetic character
- May have archaeological resources on parcel
- May change flooding patterns

Small

Medium

Large

SEAF, Part 3

- Lead Agency's responsibility: Complete Part 3
- Part 3's role and purpose: Determining Significance
- Main environmental concepts and background
 - Magnitude
 - Duration
 - Likelihood

Organizing Your Part 3 Decisions

Chart 1	Significance			
	Duration	Likelihood	Magnitude	Importance
Question 1: Proposed activity could conflict with existing plans or zoning	Short-term Medium-term Long-term	Probably will occur Possibly will occur Unlikely to occur	Severe/Large Moderate (localized)	Not important Fairly important Very important
Question 2: Proposed activity may change use or intensity	Short-term Medium-term Long-term	Probably will occur Possibly will occur Unlikely to occur	Severe/Large Moderate (localized)	Not important Fairly important Very important
Question 3: Proposed activity may impact community character	Short-term Medium-term Long-term	Probably will occur Possibly will occur Unlikely to occur	Severe/Large Moderate (localized)	Not important Fairly important Very important

Determining Significance

Example: Senior Citizen Complex

- Use Chart 1 and 2 in decision making
- Apply to Senior Citizen Example
 - Work with your neighbor
- Decide if it this example project should be:
 - Negative Declaration – No significant adverse impacts
 - Positive Declaration – Will have a significant adverse impact
- Discussion about Example: Is it a Neg Dec – why?
- Discussion on Example: Is it a Pos Dec – why?
 - What might the scope for an EIS be?

Statement of Significance

- See sample statements in Workbook
- Lead Agency says Neg Dec, now what?
 - Write Statement
 - Check and sign box
- Lead Agency says Pos Dec, now what?
 - Write Statement
 - Use the EAF as scope for EIS
 - Check and sign box
- Example: Possible Scope for an EIS?

Q and A

≡ Log In

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A-Z Subject Index || Enter search words

EAF Workbooks - Home

How to use this website

Short EAF

Part 1

Part 2

Part 3

Glossary

Links

Home » Permits and Licenses » SEQR » SEQR Forms - Guidance Documents

SEQR Environmental Assessment Form

www.nysseaf.net

EAF Workbooks - Home

On January 25, 2012, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) adopted revised model environmental assessment forms (EAFs). This was the first major update to the Full EAF (FEAF) since 1978 and to the Short EAF (SEAF) since its last revision in 1987. These revised model EAFs are set out in Appendices A and B of 6 NYCRR 617.20.

The new forms are designed to reflect changes in environmental concerns that have occurred since the previous forms were last published. In addition to changes in their content, the structure of the forms was also updated to make them easier to use. During development of the new Short and Full EAFs, some concerns were raised about the level of detail needed to complete the new forms.

(PDF)

Word

Printable PDF version
of the SEAF
Workbook

How to submit
comments on this
draft workbook

Print EAF

NYS DEC
Division of
Environmental
Permits
4th Floor
625 Broadway