

State Environmental Quality Review
POSITIVE DECLARATION
 Notice of Intent to Prepare a Draft EIS
 Determination of Significance

Project Number 394.041.012

Date November 2, 2011

This notice is issued pursuant to Part 617 of the implementing regulations pertaining to Article 8 (State Environmental Quality Review Act) of the Environmental Conservation Law.

The Development Authority of the North Country as lead agency, has determined that the proposed action described below may result in significant impacts on the environment and that a Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared.

Name of Action:

Proposed Southern Expansion of the Development Authority of the North Country Solid Waste Management Facility (SWMF)

SEQR Status: Type 1
 Unlisted

Scoping: No Yes If yes, indicate how scoping will be conducted:

The Authority will prepare a draft scoping document (DSD) and will make it available for review and comment to the other involved agencies and the public during a 45-day comment period. The Authority will hold a public scoping meeting during the comment period at 7:00 p.m. on November 16, 2011 at the Dulles State Office Building, 317 Washington Street, Watertown, Jefferson County. After considering the comments received, the Authority will issue a final scoping document (FSD).

Description of Action:

The Authority plans to expand its existing Solid Waste Management Facility (SWMF) in the Town of Rodman, Jefferson County, New York. The proposed project area, collectively termed the "Southern Expansion", encompasses approximately, (a) 146 acres to the south of the existing landfill footprint on Authority property, and (b) approximately 20 acres of borrow area on reforestation property owned by Jefferson County, if the County will agree to this use. The Southern Expansion will add approximately 19.4 million cubic yards of airspace to accommodate solid waste disposal for approximately 62 years at an average waste disposal rate of 260,000 tons per year. Mitigation measures are proposed both on- and off-site to avoid or minimize impacts to certain aquatic resources (wetlands and streams) within the project area. The off-site mitigation activities, involving wetland restoration and stream bank and channel restoration and enhancement, are proposed in an area along Skinner Road in the Town of Ellisburg, Jefferson County, which is part of the Lakeview Wildlife Management Area.

The Southern Expansion will be built in phases, with each new cell constructed as additional disposal capacity is needed. A total of eight (8) new landfill liner cells are planned, and each will be separately constructed and monitored. Construction of the first cell is anticipated to be completed by 2021. A potential upgrade to the power production capacity at the landfill's current gas-to-energy facility may be required due to the increase in waste disposal area.

Location: (Include street address and the name of the municipality/county. A location map of appropriate scale is also recommended.)

The Development Authority of the North County property and the adjacent Jefferson County owned reforestation parcel are located along NYS Route 177 in the Town of Rodman, Jefferson County, New York. Off-site mitigation activities are proposed at the Lakeview Wildlife Management Area located along Skinner Road in the Town of Ellisburg, Jefferson County, New York.

Reasons Supporting This Determination:

Two Full Environmental Assessment Forms (EAF) have been completed for the proposed Southern Expansion project to assist in determining whether the project will result in significant environmental impacts. One EAF describes the potential on-site environmental impacts of the project and the other EAF describes the off-site mitigation activities associated with on-site impacts to certain aquatic resources. As described in the EAFs, the Southern Expansion project would result in a substantial expansion of the existing SWMF and has the potential to affect the following environmental resources:

Land – The project will affect approximately 166 acres of land to be used as a sanitary landfill and entails the creation of an off-site mitigation area;

Water – The project will affect certain water bodies that are protected and will result in permanent impacts to wetland and stream resources that are not protected under State law, but are protected under federal regulations;

Air quality - There is a potential for an increase in methane gas production as a result of the landfill expansion;

Agricultural land resources - The off-site mitigation component of the project will affect lands that are currently farmed and will excavate or compact the soil profile of such lands;

Plants and animals – The project may have a small to moderate impact on resident or migratory wildlife species that currently inhabit the site;

Aesthetic resources – The proposed project differs in land use from surrounding areas, notably to the east, south, and west, but is consistent with land use to the north, which predominantly includes the existing SWMF;

Historic and archaeological resources - The project will occur in an area designated as sensitive for archaeological sites on the NYS Site inventory;

Open space and recreation – Off-site restoration will improve the quality and recreational opportunities associated with the Lakeview Wildlife Management Area;

Noise and odor – The project will result in construction and operating noise exceeding local ambient noise levels for noise outside of structures and in the generation of odors for more than one hour per day;

Public health - Construction will occur within 2,000 feet of the Authority's existing landfill and the construction has the potential to add dust to the immediate environment; and

Community growth and character - the project will create employment.

The Authority will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will identify and evaluate the project's potentially significant adverse environmental impacts, proposed mitigation measures, and project alternatives. Prior to preparing the EIS, the Authority will conduct scoping to focus the EIS on potentially significant adverse impacts and to eliminate consideration of any impacts that are irrelevant or non-significant.

For Further Information:

Contact Person: Mr. James W. Wright, Executive Director, Development Authority of the North Country

Address: Dulles State Office Building, 317 Washington Street, Watertown, New York 13601

Telephone Number: (315) 661-3200

A copy of this notice must be sent to:

Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12233-1750

Chief Executive Officer, Town/City/Village of Town of Rodman

Any person requesting a copy

All Involved agencies: Jefferson County Board of Legislators, NYSDEC Region 6

Applicant (If any)

Environmental Notice Bulletin, NYSDEC, 625 Broadway, 4th Floor, Albany, New York 12233-1750