

## State Environmental Quality Review

### NEGATIVE DECLARATION

#### Narrative addendum to EAF Part 3

**DEC Project No. 7-0346-00225**

**Date: July 20, 2021**

A description of the action and the reasons supporting this amended negative declaration are provided below.

**Description of Action:** The proposed facility, Imperium 3 New York, Inc. (IM3NY), is a lithium ion battery (LIB) business proposing to construct and operate a manufacturing facility to manufacture high performing lithium ion batteries. IM3NY intends to negotiate a lease agreement with Huron for use of two buildings (#48 and #53) on the Huron Endicott, NY campus. Facility emissions quantified in the permit application are low enough to qualify for an air facility registration, however DEC required the facility apply for an Air State Facility (ASF) permit to conduct a more thorough review and implement permit conditions. IM3NY will function as a lithium ion battery manufacturing facility and be equipped to manufacture various sizes of rechargeable batteries. The facility will have raw material mixing rooms controlled by dust collectors which exhaust inside the building. The coating line is exhausted through thermal oxidizers or condensers for control of volatile organic compounds. Electrolyte filling operations are vented through a condenser. Once the facility is operational, they will be required to perform emissions testing to confirm control device efficiency and permit application emissions. IM3NY will submit an operations and maintenance plan for all control devices at the facility to ensure they remain within the operating parameters for which the testing was conducted and ensure optimal performance. As part of the permit application process, the facility conducted a DAR-1 review of their emissions inventory and confirmed there are no adverse off-site impacts exceeding DAR guideline concentrations through dispersion modeling which has been approved by DEC. Some renovations will be necessary to existing buildings to accommodate IM3NY operations and building code requirements.

**Reasons Supporting This Determination:** After review of the submitted application documents, including a Full Environmental Assessment Form (EAF), the DEC evaluation and completion of the EAF Part 2 did not identify any potential impacts as moderate or large. DEC, however, provides a discussion on its evaluation as follows:

#### **1. Impact on air**

The action will not result in a substantial adverse change in existing air quality. While the facility is eligible for an air registration because it would be below applicable emission levels requiring a permit, the DEC is requiring the facility to obtain an Air State Facility permit so 1) a higher level of review could be performed and 2) enforceable operational conditions could be imposed through the permit. As part of the permit application, the proposed air emissions were characterized by a professional consultant and modeled for ambient impacts on the community. DEC reviewed the application and determined that the proposed air emissions will be controlled through appropriate pollution control devices resulting in air emissions that do not exceed air quality standards established to protect human health and safety, and the environment. As a result, there will be no significant adverse impacts on air quality from operation of the facility.

## **2. Impact on ground and surface water**

The action will not result in a substantial adverse change in ground or surface water quality or quantity. The project site is a former industrial facility. The operations are not water use intensive. While sanitary wastewater will be discharged to the Village of Endicott sewersystem already serving the facility, approximately 700 GPD of process wastewater will be hauled to a permitted wastewater treatment plant until a later date when characterized and accepted by the Village WWTP.

## **3. Impact on traffic and noise**

The facility is located within the industrial park and within buildings previously utilized by industrial activities. The applicant has indicated that there will not be an increase in traffic above the present levels or generate substantial new demand for transportation facilities.

## **4. Impact on solid waste production**

DEC does not expect the facility to cause a significant increase in solid waste production. Construction of the facility within an existing building will generate some construction and demolition debris which will be disposed of or recycled at an approved facility. During operations the facility is expected to generate 20 tons per week that will be placed into multiple dumpsters to separate corrugated boxes, scrap metals and normal trash.

## **5. Impact on erosion, flooding, or drainage**

The action will not result in a significant increase in potential for erosion, flooding, or drainage problems as the site is currently developed. Most of the construction is limited to within or is essentially a reuse of the existing building with some minor exterior electrical supply feeders and sewer line connections on-site.

## **6. Impact on plants and animals**

There will be no removal or destruction of large quantities of vegetation or fauna. There will be no adverse impacts on fish or wildlife species, nor any adverse impacts on protected plant or animal habitat because the project is located within an existing industrial site that does not contain habitat that supports state-protected plants or animals.

## **7. Impact on a Critical Environmental Area**

The project area is not located within a designated critical environmental area pursuant to 617.14(g). As a result, there will be no adverse impacts on a Critical Environmental Area.

## **8. Impact on community plans/character**

There is no identified material conflict with local land use plans or community character. The proposed facility is to be located within existing buildings on the Huron Campus, which is zoned for industrial use and previously used for industrial activity. The facility will need to comply with all local requirements, including any applicable zoning and or special permits requirements.

## **9. Impact on historic, archeological and aesthetic resources**

Implementation of the Imperium project (construction and operations) will neither result in any direct or indirect impacts on the identified “eligible” campus buildings, nor will they impact the ability for those buildings to be listed in the future in conjunction with the creation of an historic district, or from being reused or revitalized in a historically-sensitive manner. This conclusion is supported by the following facts:

- No Imperium-related project activities will take place on the identified parcels
- The project is an industrial use located within an industrial-zoned district on an existing industrial campus; the proposed use is consistent with past and current operations on the campus
- Imperium will operate within existing buildings, which have not been identified as eligible for listing on the SR/NR
- No substantial site construction is proposed on the site; site improvements will be predominantly limited to building interiors (to support code compliance and operational needs)
- External site improvements are limited to the following ancillary elements:
  - Concrete pads for emergency generators and bulk gases; silos for bulk gases
  - Bulk chemical tanks and supporting infrastructure within an outbuilding (pre-engineered metal building)
  - Truck unload /containment pad
  - Relocation of sanitary sewer connection
  - Potential storm manhole relocation
  - Process air handling units and supporting infrastructure
  - Utility rack
- The above site improvements will not impact the listed eligible sites nor significantly change the character of the campus and surrounding areas.
- The site has undergone significant prior disturbance from past construction and operations.

## **10. Impact on energy**

The future build-out of Building 53 will require upgrades to the existing electrical supply feeders coming from Building 39 and the addition of a substation to Building 48. The estimated electrical demand is +/- 6,500 mwh per year.

## **11. Impact on human health**

There is no identified creation of a hazard to human health. Both the cathode and anode raw material handling and mixing units are equipped with dust collectors which exhaust inside the building. The cathode coating line exhausts through either a condenser or thermal oxidizer for VOC controls depending on the solvent employed. 98% of the anode coating line is recirculated while the remaining 2% is exhausted as water vapor. The water/NMP condensate from the cathode coating line is recovered through the use of a distillation column. The blanking area, where various shapes are cut, is controlled by a dust collector and exhausts indoors. The installation and use of these air pollution control measures will ensure that emissions meet applicable air standards and ambient guideline concentrations. Any hazardous wastes will be disposed of by a contracted hazardous waste supplier. Batteries will be transported in compliance with Department of Transportation guidelines. The facility will be equipped with fire avoidance and suppression systems and conform to all fire codes.

## **12. Environmental Justice (EJ)**

Although the project is not located within an EJ area it is directly across the street from one as well as others within the Impact Study Area. The previously vacant campus being converted to a manufacturing plant for batteries will likely have a limited impact on the environmental justice areas adjacent to the facility. For the reasons noted above, impacts will not be significant. The communities to be affected have a right to know what the proposed project is and how it could possibly affect them. The Department is requiring an enhance public participation plan (EPPP) to meet the requirements established in Commissioner's Policy CP-29 for permits located in or near a Potential Environmental Justice Area.