# PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT (SEQR) REGULATIONS



## **FACT SHEET**

#### **Description of Action**

The principal purpose of the amendments is to streamline the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) process without sacrificing meaningful environmental review. The changes being proposed are modest in nature, not intended to change the basic structure of an environmental review, and build on the changes made to the environmental assessment forms.

These changes include:

- expanding the number of actions not subject to further review (known as Type II actions);
- modifying certain thresholds for actions deemed more likely to require the preparation of an environmental impact statement (known as Type I actions);
- making scoping of draft environmental impact statements (DEISs) mandatory;
- making the acceptance procedures for DEISs more predictable

## **How to View Project Documents**

The Express Terms (actual text of the proposed amendments), draft generic environmental impact statement and other impact statements required by the State Administrative Procedure Act to support this rulemaking are available for review online at the following web page: http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/83389.html

A paper copy or electronic copies on compact disc may be requested from the NYS DEC contact person below or by phone at (518) 402-9167.

# **Ways to Comment**

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will accept comments on the proposed amendments through **5:00 p.m.** on **May 19, 2017.** Comments can be provided using one of the following methods:

1. **Speak** or provide written comments at one of the public hearings listed below:

**Date:** Friday, March 31, 2017 - **Time:** 1:00 p.m.

Location: NYS DEC, 625 Broadway, Room 129, Albany, NY

Date: Thursday, April 6, 2017 – Time: 6:00 PM

Location: NYS DEC Region 3 Headquarters, 21 South Putt Corners Road, New Paltz, NY

Date: Thursday, April 13, 2017 - Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Suffolk County Water Authority, 260 Motor Parkway, Hauppauge, NY

Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2017 - Time: 6:00 PM

Location: RIT Inn and Conference Center, 5257 West Henrietta Road, Rochester, NY

In addition, DEC will conduct public information sessions immediately prior to the start of the hearings scheduled for April 6, 13, and 18. The public information sessions will begin at 3:30 pm and end at 5:00 pm at the hearing locations listed for April 6, 13 and 18. The purpose of the public information sessions will be for DEC staff to answer questions regarding the amendments.

2. Written Comments – Provide written comments to the DEC at hearing locations above or mailed to the Contact person and address below:

James J. Eldred Environmental Analyst NYS DEC - Division of Environmental Permits 625 Broadway Albany, NY 12233-1750

3. Electronically received via e-mail: <a href="mailto:SEQRA617@dec.ny.gov">SEQRA617@dec.ny.gov</a>

DEC will give equal weight to all comments whether they are received orally or in writing or through e-mail.