

State Environmental Quality Review Notice of Completion of Final EIS

Project Number: 4-0101-00171/00011

Date: May 28, 2009

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

A Final Environmental Impact Statement has been completed and accepted by the Department of Environmental Conservation, as lead agency for the proposed action described below.

Title of Action: City of Albany, Rapp Road Landfill Expansion

Description of Action: The proposed project involves the expansion of the existing City of Albany landfill, located on Rapp Road, onto City-owned lands located east of the existing landfill. The proposed expansion, commonly referred to as the Eastern Expansion, will allow the City to continue to meet the solid waste disposal needs of City residents and businesses as well as the communities that make up the Capital Region Solid Waste Management Partnership (CRSWMP) and the Capital Region as a whole.

The main components of the landfill expansion include a landfill liner system, leachate collection and removal system and a landfill gas control system. The expansion of the landfill involves an overfill of approximately 23 acres of the existing landfill, and a lateral expansion of approximately 15 acres that includes 7 acres within the existing landfill operations area (disturbed/developed lands) and 8 acres within undeveloped City-owned property directly to the northeast. The City proposes to relocate existing landfill infrastructure including offices, the recycling building, and other accessory uses to several privately-owned parcels totaling approximately 3.5 acres located directly east of the landfill entrance road. The proposed expansion would provide a capacity of approximately two million tons and is projected to extend the life of the current landfill for approximately 6.5 years.

Wetland impacts associated with the expansion would involve filling of approximately 5 acres of wetlands and re-grading of approximately additional 4 acres.

An Ecosystem Mitigation, Restoration & Enhancement Plan has been prepared which involves more than 250 acres of land which, when implemented, will provide critical habitat for rare ecological communities and threatened and endangered species.

The plan will reestablish habitat linkages from west to east in the Albany Pine Bush Preserve through the existing mobile home park property, (which will be vacated), and over portions of the closed landfill, as well as surrounding areas of currently degraded habitat. The mitigation plan involves the creation of approximately 20 acres of new wetlands in areas that are currently uplands and enhancing the quality and function of approximately 30 acres of additional existing degraded wetlands. Approximately 207 acres of Pine Bush uplands grasslands, barrens and forest community will also be restored and enhanced as part of the overall plan. The plan also proposes to blend the closed landfill into the surrounding landscape.

Location: West side of Rapp Road, north of Interstate 90 (NYS Thruway), City of Albany, Albany County, NY.

Potential Environmental Impacts: The potential impacts associated with this action and addressed in the EIS/FEIS involve loss of existing pine bush lands and freshwater wetlands and the relocation of a stream/drainage corridor. Additional impacts considered in the documents involve storm water control; air emissions from landfill operations; truck traffic; visual impacts; wildlife impacts, noise; and odors.

The Final EIS and project related documents may be reviewed at the following locations during normal business hours:

City of Albany, Office of General Services, 1 Connors Blvd., Albany, NY 12205
City of Albany, Main Library, 161 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12210
Town of Colonie - William K. Sanford Library, 629 Albany-Shaker Road, Loudonville, NY 12211
NYS DEC Region 4 Office, 1130 North Westcott Road, Schenectady, NY 12306

In addition, the FEIS documents are posted on the world wide web for accessibility by interested parties on the Capital Region Solid Waste Management Partnership website at: <http://www.capitalregionlandfill.com>

This notice is being published in accordance with the provisions of Part 617.11 (a) of SEQR (Decision-Making and Findings Requirements)

NYS DEC Contact person:

Angelo Marcuccio, Environmental Analyst
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Region 4 Headquarters
1130 North Westcott Road
Schenectady, New York 12306
(518) 357-2069

Copies of this Notice Sent to:

Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12233
Office of the Mayor, City of Albany
City of Albany, Department of General Services
Involved/Interested Agencies
Environmental Notice Bulletin, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-1750