

Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) Process

Most projects or activities in New York State proposed by a state agency or local government that might have significant environmental impacts require an environmental review in accordance with 6 NYCRR Part 617.10(a) of New York's State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) regulations. SEQRA requires all state and local government agencies to consider environmental impacts equally with social and economic factors during discretionary decision-making. A draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) for the Nassau County Mosquito Control and Surveillance Program will be developed to assess and disclose the potential environmental, social, and economic impacts of the Program.

SEQRA defines a GEIS as "an entire program or plan having wide application or restricting the range of future alternative policies or projects." The GEIS process begins by assigning a lead agency that is responsible for determining whether a GEIS will be required, and if so, for its preparation and filing. The lead agency for the Mosquito Program is the Nassau County Department of Public Works (NCDPW).

After assigning the lead agency, the next step of the GEIS process is for the lead agency to make its determination of significance. If the lead agency has determined that the proposed action will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment, then a negative declaration must be prepared. A negative declaration explains why the environmental concerns that were identified and analyzed will not be significant. If the lead agency determines that the proposed action may result in a significant adverse impact, it must prepare and file a notice of that determination known as a positive declaration. The positive declaration must identify the potential significant adverse environmental impacts that require the preparation of an EIS and state whether scoping will be conducted. NCDPW has determined that the Mosquito Program may result in a significant adverse impact on the environment and therefore has prepared a positive declaration.

The next step in the GEIS process is scoping. SEQRA defines scoping as the process by which the lead agency identifies the potentially significant adverse impacts related to the proposed action that are to be addressed in the draft GEIS, including the content and level of detail of the analysis, the range of alternatives, the mitigation measures needed, and the identification of non-relevant issues. Scoping provides the preparers of the GEIS with guidance on matters that must be considered and provides an opportunity for early participation by involved agencies and the public in the review of the proposed action.

Scoping for the Mosquito Control Program will include public participation. There will be an opportunity for the public to review the draft scoping document and provide written or verbal comments at a meeting before the scope is finalized.

The next step is to write a Draft GEIS. The format of a Draft GEIS includes a concise description of the project and environmental setting, and a statement and evaluation of the potential significant adverse environmental impacts, cumulative impacts, alternatives, and mitigation methods.

A public comment period is available immediately following the completion of the Draft GEIS. This gives the public an opportunity to review the Draft GEIS and provide comments via email, mail, and/or verbally at public outreach meetings.

The Final GEIS includes responses to comments and any changes in the Draft based on the response to comments or other new information. When the final GEIS is completed, a notice of completion must be prepared, filed and published. Following issuance of the final GEIS, all involved agencies submit their Findings and final decision on the action.

All SEQRA documents and notices, including but not limited to, EAFs, negative declarations, positive declarations, scopes, notices of completion of an EIS, EISs, notices of hearing and findings are readily accessible to the public through this website and made available on request.

To learn more about the SEQRA and GEIS process, please go to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYSDEC) website by clicking on the link: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/357.html>