




**ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY**  
**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

August 5, 2024

To: Terrence D. McCracken, Secretary to the Authority

From: Michael J. Quinn, PE, Senior. Distribution Engineer 

Subject: Contract HE-001  
Sturgeon Point Residuals Drying Facility  
SEQRA Lead Agency Designation and Negative Declaration  
ECWA Project No. 202100242

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On November 10, 2021, the Erie County Water Authority (the Authority) executed an agreement with Hunt Engineers, Architects, Land Surveyors & Landscape Architects, DPC (Hunt) for the design of a new Line Maintenance Facility to be located at the Sturgeon Point Water Treatment Plant (the Project). As part of this project, the Authority requested assistance with siting of an expansion to the plant's residuals sludge drying facility. Attached find a figure showing the approximate location of the project.

Due to the scope of the Project, the Authority's Engineering and Legal Departments believe that the action is subject to review under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). The Authority Engineering Staff and Hunt have thoroughly reviewed the Project specifics, including the attached Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) prepared by Hunt and determined that the Project should be appropriately designated as an Unlisted Action, as defined under SEQRA. As an Unlisted Action, the Project is subject to further review under SEQRA.

Given the fact that the Project has been identified as an Unlisted Action under SEQRA and the fact that the project will be constructed on Authority Property, the Engineering and Legal Departments and Hunt are recommending that the Authority declare itself Lead Agency, as defined under SEQRA. Note that due to the scope of the project and the location of the approximately 0.98-acre residuals drying area expansion, the Engineering Department and Hunt do not believe that a coordinated review is warranted. As outlined in the attached EAF, the Engineering Department and Hunt believe that there will be no negative environmental impact associated with the project.

Therefore, it is recommended that the Board declare the Authority to be Lead Agency, review the attached EAF and make a determination of significance under SEQRA. This determination will render the Authority's decision relative to the environmental impact of the project. Following a thorough review of the Project and the EAF and considering all other information in connection with the Project, it is the Engineering Department's opinion that the SEQR process was thorough, and the assessment has not identified any significant adverse environmental impacts associated with the Project and that the Project will result in no significant adverse impacts on the

To: Terrence D. McCracken  
Secretary to the Authority

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environment and, therefore, an environmental impact statement need not be prepared. Therefore, based on the above, it is recommended that the Authority issue a Negative Declaration for the Project.

Finally, the Engineering Department requests that the Board also authorize Executive Engineer Leonard Kowalski to sign the attached EAF as well as any other pertinent documents related to the SEQR process.

MJQ:jmf  
Attachments  
cc: L.Kowalski  
M.Wymer  
D. Patton  
CONT-HE-001-A-2021

ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY  
AUTHORIZATION FORM  
For Approval/Execution of Documents  
(check which apply)

**Contract:** HE-001 **Project No.:** 202100242  
**Project Description:** Sturgeon Point Residuals Drying Facility

**Item Description:**

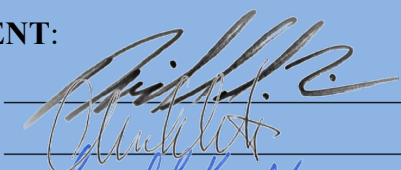

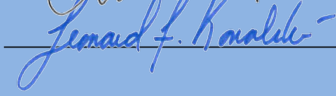
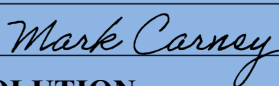
<input type="checkbox"/> Agreement	<input type="checkbox"/> Professional Service Contract	<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Change Order
<input type="checkbox"/> BCD	<input type="checkbox"/> NYSDOT Agreement	<input type="checkbox"/> Contract Documents	<input type="checkbox"/> Addendum
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommendation for Award of Contract	<input type="checkbox"/> Recommendation to Reject Bids		
<input type="checkbox"/> Request for Proposals			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>SEQRA Lead Agency Designation &amp; Negative Declaration</u>			

**Action Requested:**


<input type="checkbox"/> Board Authorization to Execute	<input type="checkbox"/> Legal Approval
<input type="checkbox"/> Board Authorization to Award	<input type="checkbox"/> Execution by the Chairman
<input type="checkbox"/> Board Authorization to Advertise for Bids	<input type="checkbox"/> Execution by the Secretary to the Authority
<input type="checkbox"/> Board Authorization to Solicit Request for Proposals	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Resolution for Adopting a SEQRA Negative Declaration</u>	

**Approvals Needed:**

**APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sr Distribution Engineer		Date: <u>8/5/2024</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chief Operating Officer		Date: <u>08/06/2024</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Executive Engineer		Date: <u>8/5/2024</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Director of Administration	_____	Date: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Risk Manager	_____	Date: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Chief Financial Officer	_____	Date: _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legal		Date: <u>8/5/2024</u>

**APPROVED FOR BOARD RESOLUTION:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Secretary to the Authority		Date: <u>8/6/2024</u>
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**Remarks:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Resolution Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Item No:** \_\_\_\_\_





STURGEON POINT

Approximate  
Location of  
Drying Bed  
Expansion



June 9, 2022



ERIE COUNTY WATER  
AUTHORITY  
BUFFALO, NEW YORK

# *Short Environmental Assessment Form*

## *Part 1 - Project Information*

### Instructions for Completing

**Part 1 – Project Information.** The applicant or project sponsor is responsible for the completion of Part 1. Responses become part of the application for approval or funding, are subject to public review, and may be subject to further verification. Complete Part 1 based on information currently available. If additional research or investigation would be needed to fully respond to any item, please answer as thoroughly as possible based on current information.

Complete all items in Part 1. You may also provide any additional information which you believe will be needed by or useful to the lead agency; attach additional pages as necessary to supplement any item.

<b>Part 1 – Project and Sponsor Information</b>			
Name of Action or Project:			
Project Location (describe, and attach a location map):			
Brief Description of Proposed Action:			
Name of Applicant or Sponsor:		Telephone:	
		E-Mail:	
Address:			
City/PO:		State:	Zip Code:
1. Does the proposed action only involve the legislative adoption of a plan, local law, ordinance, administrative rule, or regulation? If Yes, attach a narrative description of the intent of the proposed action and the environmental resources that may be affected in the municipality and proceed to Part 2. If no, continue to question 2.			NO <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Does the proposed action require a permit, approval or funding from any other government Agency? If Yes, list agency(s) name and permit or approval:			YES <input type="checkbox"/>
3. a. Total acreage of the site of the proposed action? _____ acres			
b. Total acreage to be physically disturbed? _____ acres			
c. Total acreage (project site and any contiguous properties) owned or controlled by the applicant or project sponsor? _____ acres			
4. Check all land uses that occur on, are adjoining or near the proposed action:			
5.     Urban           Rural (non-agriculture)           Industrial           Commercial           Residential (suburban)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Forest           Agriculture                           Aquatic           Other(Specify):			
<input type="checkbox"/> Parkland			

5. Is the proposed action,	NO	YES	N/A
a. A permitted use under the zoning regulations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Consistent with the adopted comprehensive plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Is the proposed action consistent with the predominant character of the existing built or natural landscape?	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	
7. Is the site of the proposed action located in, or does it adjoin, a state listed Critical Environmental Area? If Yes, identify: _____	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	
8. a. Will the proposed action result in a substantial increase in traffic above present levels? b. Are public transportation services available at or near the site of the proposed action? c. Are any pedestrian accommodations or bicycle routes available on or near the site of the proposed action?	NO <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
9. Does the proposed action meet or exceed the state energy code requirements? If the proposed action will exceed requirements, describe design features and technologies: _____ _____	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	
10. Will the proposed action connect to an existing public/private water supply? If No, describe method for providing potable water: _____ _____	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	
11. Will the proposed action connect to existing wastewater utilities? If No, describe method for providing wastewater treatment: _____ _____	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	
12. a. Does the project site contain, or is it substantially contiguous to, a building, archaeological site, or district which is listed on the National or State Register of Historic Places, or that has been determined by the Commissioner of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to be eligible for listing on the State Register of Historic Places?  b. Is the project site, or any portion of it, located in or adjacent to an area designated as sensitive for archaeological sites on the NY State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) archaeological site inventory?	NO <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
13. a. Does any portion of the site of the proposed action, or lands adjoining the proposed action, contain wetlands or other waterbodies regulated by a federal, state or local agency?  b. Would the proposed action physically alter, or encroach into, any existing wetland or waterbody? If Yes, identify the wetland or waterbody and extent of alterations in square feet or acres: _____ _____ _____	NO <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	



14. Identify the typical habitat types that occur on, or are likely to be found on the project site. Check all that apply: <input type="checkbox"/> Shoreline <input type="checkbox"/> Forest    Agricultural/grasslands    Early mid-successional <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland <input type="checkbox"/> Urban    Suburban		
15. Does the site of the proposed action contain any species of animal, or associated habitats, listed by the State or Federal government as threatened or endangered?	NO	YES
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Is the project site located in the 100-year flood plan?	NO	YES
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Will the proposed action create storm water discharge, either from point or non-point sources? If Yes, a. Will storm water discharges flow to adjacent properties? b. Will storm water discharges be directed to established conveyance systems (runoff and storm drains)? If Yes, briefly describe: _____ _____	NO	YES
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. Does the proposed action include construction or other activities that would result in the impoundment of water or other liquids (e.g., retention pond, waste lagoon, dam)? If Yes, explain the purpose and size of the impoundment: _____ _____	NO	YES
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. Has the site of the proposed action or an adjoining property been the location of an active or closed solid waste management facility? If Yes, describe: _____ _____	NO	YES
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. Has the site of the proposed action or an adjoining property been the subject of remediation (ongoing or completed) for hazardous waste? If Yes, describe: _____ _____	NO	YES
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>I CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED ABOVE IS TRUE AND ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE</b>  Applicant/sponsor/name: _____ Date: _____  Signature: _____ Title: _____		



**Disclaimer:** The EAF Mapper is a screening tool intended to assist project sponsors and reviewing agencies in preparing an environmental assessment form (EAF). Not all questions asked in the EAF are answered by the EAF Mapper. Additional information on any EAF question can be obtained by consulting the EAF Workbooks. Although the EAF Mapper provides the most up-to-date digital data available to DEC, you may also need to contact local or other data sources in order to obtain data not provided by the Mapper. Digital data is not a substitute for agency determinations.



Part 1 / Question 7 [Critical Environmental Area]	No
Part 1 / Question 12a [National or State Register of Historic Places or State Eligible Sites]	No
Part 1 / Question 12b [Archeological Sites]	No
Part 1 / Question 13a [Wetlands or Other Regulated Waterbodies]	Yes - Digital mapping information on local and federal wetlands and waterbodies is known to be incomplete. Refer to EAF Workbook.
Part 1 / Question 15 [Threatened or Endangered Animal]	No
Part 1 / Question 16 [100 Year Flood Plain]	No
Part 1 / Question 20 [Remediation Site]	No



Project:

Date:

***Short Environmental Assessment Form  
Part 2 - Impact Assessment***

**Part 2 is to be completed by the Lead Agency.**

Answer all of the following questions in Part 2 using the information contained in Part 1 and other materials submitted by the project sponsor or otherwise available to the reviewer. When answering the questions the reviewer should be guided by the concept “Have my responses been reasonable considering the scale and context of the proposed action?”

	<b>No, or small impact may occur</b>	<b>Moderate to large impact may occur</b>
1. Will the proposed action create a material conflict with an adopted land use plan or zoning regulations?		
2. Will the proposed action result in a change in the use or intensity of use of land?		
3. Will the proposed action impair the character or quality of the existing community?		
4. Will the proposed action have an impact on the environmental characteristics that caused the establishment of a Critical Environmental Area (CEA)?		
5. Will the proposed action result in an adverse change in the existing level of traffic or affect existing infrastructure for mass transit, biking or walkway?		
6. Will the proposed action cause an increase in the use of energy and it fails to incorporate reasonably available energy conservation or renewable energy opportunities?		
7. Will the proposed action impact existing:		
a. public / private water supplies?		
b. public / private wastewater treatment utilities?		
8. Will the proposed action impair the character or quality of important historic, archaeological, architectural or aesthetic resources?		
9. Will the proposed action result in an adverse change to natural resources (e.g., wetlands, waterbodies, groundwater, air quality, flora and fauna)?		
10. Will the proposed action result in an increase in the potential for erosion, flooding or drainage problems?		
11. Will the proposed action create a hazard to environmental resources or human health?		

Project:

Date:

### ***Short Environmental Assessment Form Part 3 Determination of Significance***

For every question in Part 2 that was answered “moderate to large impact may occur”, or if there is a need to explain why a particular element of the proposed action may or will not result in a significant adverse environmental impact, please complete Part 3. Part 3 should, in sufficient detail, identify the impact, including any measures or design elements that have been included by the project sponsor to avoid or reduce impacts. Part 3 should also explain how the lead agency determined that the impact may or will not be significant. Each potential impact should be assessed considering its setting, probability of occurring, duration, irreversibility, geographic scope and magnitude. Also consider the potential for short-term, long-term and cumulative impacts.

Check this box if you have determined, based on the information and analysis above, and any supporting documentation, that the proposed action may result in one or more potentially large or significant adverse impacts and an environmental impact statement is required.

Check this box if you have determined, based on the information and analysis above, and any supporting documentation, that the proposed action will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Lead Agency

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print or Type Name of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title of Responsible Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Preparer (if different from Responsible Officer)

State Environmental Quality Review  
**NEGATIVE DECLARATION**  
Notice of Determination of Non-Significance

Project Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_ as lead agency, has determined that the proposed action described below will not have a significant environmental impact and a Draft Impact Statement will not be prepared.

**Name of Action:**

**SEQR Status:**     Type 1     **G**  
                         Unlisted     **G**

**Conditioned Negative Declaration:**     **G** Yes  
   **G** No

**Description of Action:**

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

**Reasons Supporting This Determination:**

(See 617.7(a)-(c) for requirements of this determination ; see 617.7(d) for Conditioned Negative Declaration)

**If Conditioned Negative Declaration**, provide on attachment the specific mitigation measures imposed, and identify comment period (not less than 30 days from date of publication in the ENB)

**For Further Information:**

Contact Person:

Address:

Telephone Number:

**For Type 1 Actions and Conditioned Negative Declarations, a Copy of this Notice is sent to:**

Chief Executive Officer , Town / City / Village of

Other involved agencies (If any)

Applicant (If any)

Environmental Notice Bulletin, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-1750 (Type One Actions only)