

**Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
Environment Division
Environmental Assessment Form**

Project Title: **Contract NO. XX-YYYY** Phase 2&3 Transfer Station Upgrades

Project Location/Address: 179 County Route 43, Fort Covington, NY 12937

Project Developer: Barton & Loguidice

Project Coordinator: Colleen Thomas/Brian Lanning

Email Address: colleen.thomas@srmt-nsn.gov / brian.lanning@srmt-nsn.gov

Phone Number: (518)358-4205 / (518) 358-4632

Project Approvals:

Anthony David
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Water Resources Program Manager

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Emergency Response On-scene Coordinator

Brian Lanning
Transfer Station Program Manager

Dylan Herne
EA Coordinator

Introduction

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's environmental review process allows developers and the Tribe to examine proposed projects during the planning phase in order to prevent or minimize potentially adverse impacts to the environment or health of the community. This process, when followed objectively and thoroughly, is not intended to hinder development but to ensure that decisions that are made benefit future seven generations as per Mohawk tradition.

The review process incorporates the Ohen:ton Kariwatehkwen, the Thanksgiving Address, to acknowledge and give consideration to the mutual respect and responsibility that exists between the Mohawk people and the natural world.

The Environmental Review Process:

1. The Environmental Assessment form is completed and submitted to the SRMT Environment Division.
2. The EA Coordinator distributes the completed form and supporting documents to the Environmental Assessment Review Team. An EA Review Meeting is scheduled, allowing the EA Review Team a minimum of one week to evaluate the proposed project prior to the meeting.
3. The EA Coordinator will arrange a site visit with the project developer and/or project coordinator if one is needed to gain additional information prior to the EA Review Meeting.
4. During the EA Review Meeting, the EA coordinator will facilitate a discussion on the proposed project and compile any questions or comments that arise.
5. Following the review of the project, the EA Review Team will issue one of the following decisions:
 - a. **Determine that the project is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion.** If a project is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion, the Categorical Exclusion Review Form and its process will apply.
 - b. **Approve the Environmental Assessment following a 30-day public comment period.** The 30-day public comment period will commence when the public notice and relevant project documents are made publicly available. Once all comments have been adequately addressed, the Environment Division will issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).
 - c. **Request Additional Information.** The EA Coordinator will contact the project developer and project coordinator to request additional information that is pertinent to the decision of the Review Team. Once sufficient information has been collected, the review team will reevaluate the project and issue a decision.

- d. **Disapprove the Project.** A project will be disapproved if it is found to have significant detriments to the environment and/or the community, and no efforts have been made to address the impacts. Disapproved projects may be reconsidered if significant changes are made to the proposed project.
6. Once a project has been approved, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be written and published. At this point the review is considered complete, and the project may proceed into the site preparation or construction phase so long as the development abides by any provisions included in the FONSI or the environmental review.
7. Any amendments to the scope of the project must be approved by the Environment Division. Major changes may be subject to a thirty-day public comment period.

Instructions

1. For construction within the existing footprint, and no additional development, complete a Categorical Exclusion Review form to the SRMT Environment Division. This form will be reviewed by the EA Coordination and Division Director to determine if a project is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion. If it does not meet the criteria for an exemption (as listed on the Categorical Exclusion Review Form), the SRMT Environment Division will request an Environmental Assessment Form.
2. For new construction, complete the Environmental Assessment Form when the project is at 50% design completion. It is recommended that the developer contact the Environment Division to request that the EA Coordinator facilitates the completion of the form and initiates the review process.
3. During the EA Preparation Meeting the Environmental Assessment form will be completed by the EA Coordinator, project developer, project coordinator, and any other parties that have information relevant to the review. (For SRMT projects, the project developer is the point of contact for the tribal department for whom the project is being completed, and the project coordinator will be the representative from SRMT Planning & Infrastructure.)
4. Please allow 8 weeks for the completion of the internal review and a 30-day public comment period. A site visit may be requested as part of the review process.
5. The project is prohibited from proceeding beyond the planning phase of development until the project has been approved, and a Finding of No Significant Impact has been issued.

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I. Project Information Summary

1. Location and activities of proposed project (construction, road-building, vehicles, etc.): Describe the location of the proposed project including maps, drawings and any engineering or architectural designs. Sketch maps are acceptable if others are not available and as long as they contain key reference points.

The proposed project includes expanding the existing transfer station facility located at 179 County Route 43, Fort Covington, New York 12937 to the West with addition of a new building. The new building will be utilized for scale and office operations along with a garage area for equipment and storage. Once the new building is operational, the existing building will be renovated to provide more space for accommodation of expanded recycling programs at the site. The project will include new site access for the transfer station to improve the queueing available on site. Construction Drawings indicating locations and site layout are being prepared for the project.

2. Describe the size of the current project, in terms of building size, acreage and estimated schedule of construction. Also, describe any planned future additions and/or expansions to the site if any are planned.

Construction will include a new approximately 5,000 square foot pre-engineered metal building, 41,500 square feet of new/improved access roads and parking area, relocation of an existing septic system, installation of a new 40' truck scale, and new stormwater management areas. The project also includes expanding the residential drop-off retaining wall to further improve access to the existing transfer station building along with some incidental site improvements to support the new building.

There are no future planned additions/expansion to the facility at this time however a 2-acre parcel was subdivided off the main property adjacent to this project and provided to Mohawk Networks for potential development of a fiber distribution hub under separate project. That project is still currently in planning phase with no set details at this time.

3. Estimated construction schedule and planned completion date?

The estimate schedule is as follows:

- **Bidding and Contract Procurement:** Current – April 2026
- **Commence Construction:** May 2026
- **Substantial Completion:** December 2026

4. Why was this project proposed? (What improvements will it bring to the community?)

The objective of this project is to continue enhancing the overall solid waste management facilities provided by the tribe for the public along with improving the employee working environment at the facility. The new building will provide proper work and break areas for the employees along with improving the traffic flow and safety for customers using the facility. The new scale location will provide a much greater queuing lane for the scale along with adding site parking for both customers and employees.

II. Land Resources

1. Will tree removal be required?

No Yes. Please provide a map indicating where trees will be removed.

Clearing limits are provided in the Contract Drawings.

2. Are trees to be planted on the site?

No Yes.

a. If yes, have the tree species and replanting sites been selected?

No Yes. Please include a list of species, and a map of replanting locations.

b. If no, are recommendations needed for tree selection and planting locations?

No Yes

3. Please list any proposed landscaping, including ornamentals, windbreak, exotics, etc., that will occur at the proposed site. Indicate the types of plants that will be used and their purpose.

Proposed plants:	Purpose:
N/A	

Please note that the territory of Akwesasne is within the range of the endangered Northern Long-Eared Bat. Due to the possible impacts to this species, tree removal is prohibited June 1st through July 31st each year to prevent impacts during a critical life stage of this species. This requirement pertains to all Federally funded projects.

Consideration will also be given to migratory birds and their nesting sites. Impacts to birds will be determined on a case by case basis.

III. Water Resources

1. Will there be any fill and dredge activities at the proposed site?

Yes No

The project primarily includes fill up to proposed grades. There will be some minor excavation associated with setting the footing and foundations of building however it is anticipated that the excavated material will be used as backfill on site. It is understood that all fill brought onto site to bring up grades needs to be certified as clean fill. The Contract Drawings and Specifications for the project have clear requirements on the quality and type of fill that is allowed.

Please note: If off site fill is to be used, it needs to be certified as clean fill.

2. Will there be permanent or temporary discharges to surface water?

Yes (Permanent) Yes (Temporary) No

If yes, identify the type of discharge anticipated:

Raw Water Treated Process Water Diverted Other: Stormwater

Stormwater runoff will be collected on site and conveyed to a stormwater pond via culverts, swales, and shallow concentrated flows. The pond will provide water quality treatment and peak flow attenuation so that the water discharged from the pond to existing roadside drainage features will be equal or better than pre-construction conditions.

3. Describe the final use and condition of any water that may be used on the proposed site.

- Agricultural Watering or Consumption
 Human Consumption (Commercial)
 Human Consumption (Domestic)
 Industrial Uses
 None

X Other: Stormwater will be managed through the stormwater management systems onsite.

4. Will there be drilling and use of wells for the proposed project?

Yes **X** No

The existing water wells previously used on site will be abandoned given new water main to be installed.

5. Will the community water system/ waterline be utilized for the proposed project?

X Yes No

A water main extension is currently underway in this area. The proposed plan includes connecting the existing and new transfer station buildings to new water line.

6. Will the community wastewater system or septic tank be used?

Community Wastewater System **X**Septic Tank Neither Other:

The project includes decommissioning the existing septic leach field and lift station at existing building. the existing septic tank (size unknown) will be removed and replaced with a traffic rated 1,500 gal tank in its place. The discharge from this tank will be routed via gravity to another 1,500 septic tank adjacent to new building. This septic tank will accept flows from the existing tank along with new building sanitary flows and discharge as a single line to a new septic leach field area that is sized for both buildings. The floor drains from the maintenance bay of new building will be discharged into an oil water separated located just outside building before being tied back into the sanitary system.

7. Describe select any measures that will be used to monitor and to control any erosion that may occur as a result of activities at the proposed site:

- None
- X** Silt Fencing
- X** Erosion Control Blanket
- Staked in Hay/Straw Bails
- Turbidity Curtain Assemblage, (In Water Work)
- X** Regularly Scheduled Site Inspections for Erosion Prevention Monitoring
- X Other: Check dams for swales and rip-rap stone outlet protection at culverts**

Additional requirements:

Any project that includes paving a previously un-paved surface will require a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).

Impacts to wetlands will be determined on a case-by-case basis. If more than ¼ acre of wetlands are disturbed, a wetland permit will be required. - N/A

Please contact the Environment Division Water Resources Program Manager if you have any questions related to these requirements.

IV. Air Quality

1. Please complete the following chart so that we can estimate emissions and the air quality impacts of the proposed project.

This project is not anticipated to add or increase sources of emissions beyond current operations. There will only be temporary increases associated with construction equipment required to construct the project.

Type	Number or # of Deliveries	Hours Per Day (Use)	Fuel Type
Non-Road Diesel			
Non-Road Equip			
Dump Trucks			
Fork Lifts			
Tractor Trailers			
Generators			

Dust pollution is possible during construction. If necessary, a water truck or hose may be used to control dust. Based on the size of the project, as well as the traffic density in the area it is not expected that dust pollution be of outstanding concern.

2. Describe any odors and the nature of the odor, its source, and any possible effects on human receptors that may be associated with activities at the proposed site. (e.g. acid washing, paving, welding, etc.)

There are odors associated with solid waste. As the proposed project is an upgrade to an existing solid waste transfer facility, it is not expected that odors will have any unforeseen or extreme effects at the site beyond current conditions.

3. For the purpose of noise pollution prevention, will there be any construction activities outside of normal business hours (Monday- Friday, 7am- 5pm)? If so, what are the anticipated hours of operation, and how long is this expected to last?

Noise will be elevated during construction. Construction schedule is tentative and work hours are weather dependent. It is likely that most construction will occur from 7 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday. Depending on weather and the nature of work, construction may occur earlier or later than the time frame mentioned above for select activities in an effort to minimize disruption to existing site traffic, however, these activities will require approval from the Tribe prior to them commencing. Upon completion of construction, noise pollution will return to levels similar to before construction.

V. Logistics

1. Are any sources of light (non-construction) being planned in areas where there were not previously lights? This includes street lights, overhead lights, light-up billboards, etc.

No Yes. What times of day are planned sources of light expected to be used for the proposed site?

Dusk- dawn

24- hours

Other: **The proposed new office/garage building will have external flood lights around the building to provide security lighting for the site. These will typically be operated dusk – dawn however they could be modified or reduced at the Tribes desire.**

2. Describe any anticipated changes to traffic (this includes detours, increased traffic during construction, or any other changes to the traffic pattern). Please address temporary changes during construction as well as any long-term changes as a result of the development.

The project includes installation of a new driveway that will be primary access control for the facility going forward for customers. The existing driveways will remain for use by employee for operation of truck and trailers however all customer site traffic will be routed to new driveway which provides a much greater queueing lane off the road during busy times. This will greatly reduce the possibility of traffic staging back onto the county road and make site traffic flow much safer and streamlined.

3. Is there a demolition component to this project?

No Yes. Please explain:

The project includes demolition and decommissioning of existing septic system and water wells. In addition, once operations are moved to new building, the existing building interior offices will be selectively demolished and removed to provide more floor space for recycling operations. The existing bathroom, office, scale room, and IT Network room on the South side of building will remain. The remaining rooms on the eastern side of room will be removed.

4. Will you require a roll-off container on site?

No Yes. How many: _____ Dates needed:

The Contractor will be directed to coordinate with the transfer station staff for coordination of any C&D debris disposal.

5. Will the completed development require dumpsters and service from the SRMT Transfer Station?

N/A Yes. How many: _____

6. Do you have a hauler under contract?

N/A Yes [A copy of the hauler's permit is required]

If yes, please provide the following information:

Hauler's name: _____

Hauler's phone number: _____

Please note that you can self-haul directly to the SRMT Transfer Station, though larger projects that use a contracted hauler will require a hauler permit from the SRMT Compliance Office as per the SRMT Solid Waste Code.

The developer/ contractor will also need to be or become an established customer with the SRMT Transfer Station in order to dispose of solid waste at this facility.

Contact the Transfer Station at 518-358-4632 if you require roll off bins or other services.

VI. Environmental Health

1. How will the site be heated? None/ Unheated

Fuel oil. Tank size: _____

Propane. Tank size: **1,000 Gal**

Electric. – **Heat Pump with supplemental Propane Heater**

Natural gas. Tank size: _____

Kerosene. Tank size: _____

Wood/ wood pellets

Other: _____

2. Is there any potential for exposure, by anyone, to toxic chemicals? (Includes the use or sale of pesticides, herbicides, industrial cleaning products, etc.)

No Yes. Please include SDS for materials that will be on site.

3. Are there any hazards (chemical, biological, physical, electrical, etc.) that may result from proposed construction activities at the site?

No Yes. Please explain:

- Physical hazards from construction are present due to the Transfer Station remaining open and operational during the project. Additional safety considerations are needed for construction crews, Transfer Station personnel and the public using the Transfer Station.
- Potential for spills associated with construction equipment. Contractors are required to have spill prevention measures on site (spill kit, spill plan, etc.).

If YES: To minimize the impacts of accidental releases of petroleum, chemical and biological products during construction activities, how will these releases be managed? A plan to describe how releases will be managed is referred to as a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) plan. A SPCC plan contains the following information:

- a. List potential sources of an accidental release (spill from refueling construction equipment, vehicles, etc.)
- b. Describe how you plan to prevent accidental releases.
- c. Describe how you plan to contain an accidental release.

4. Are there any hazards (chemical, biological, physical, electrical, etc.) that may result from the changed use of this area?

No Yes. Please explain:

Heavy equipment during construction (solid waste collection vehicles, front end loaders) presents a danger to those in the immediate vicinity. This danger is lowered by vigilance and use of personal protective equipment (high vis vests, hardhats). Solid waste presents danger to its handlers in the form of, heavy objects, sharps, combustibles, and vermin. If handled properly, these dangers are minimized.

5. Is there a risk for fire and/or explosion as a result of the changed use of this area?

No Yes. Please explain:

6. Is there a potential for the generation of fumes as a result of activities at the proposed site?

No Yes. Please explain:

VII. Historical preservation

1. Are there any known or suspected previous uses of the proposed site? (This may include houses, out-buildings/ farms, outhouses, wells, dumps/disposal sites- cars, tractors, etc., burials (pets, people, other), foundations, etc.)

No Yes. Please explain: _____

2. Is there a presence of, known or suspected, buildings that may be considered historical feature that would indicate previous use (any man-made structure)?

No Yes. Please explain: _____

3. Is the proposed site known for traditional and/or ceremonial uses, or other community activities, historic or current?

No Yes. Please explain: _____

A letter is needed from the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) stating a finding of “No Effect” for the proposed site. Once received, attach the letter to this Environmental Assessment form. Please contact the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribes THPO:

**Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
Darren Bonaparte
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
71 Margaret Terrance Memorial Way
Akwesasne, NY 13655 darren.bonaparte@srmt-
nsn.gov
518.358.2272**

A letter is needed from SRMT Traditional Medicines, stating a finding of “No Effect” for the proposed site. Once received, attach the letter to this Environmental Assessment form. Please contact SRMT Traditional Medicines:

**Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
Everett Cook
Traditional Medicine
71 Margaret Terrance Memorial Way
Akwesasne, NY 13655 everett.cook@srmt-nsn.gov
518.358.3141**

Status of Environmental Form

Date Filed:

Project Number:

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, Environment Division met on _____ to discuss the contents of the filed environmental assessment and has determined that:

The responses to the environmental assessment have indicated the proposed project qualifies for a CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION. Please follow up with the EA Coordinator to complete an Environmental Review form. A public-comment period will not be necessary.

The responses to environmental assessment have addressed the concerns of the Environment Division, and the project has been APPROVED. All comments raised during the thirty-day public comment period have been adequately addressed. A Finding of No Significant Impact will be issued for this project.

The responses to the environmental assessment have not adequately addressed the concerns of the Environment Division, and ADDITIONAL INFORMATION is being requested before a determination can be made on this project.

The responses to the environmental assessment indicate a significant negative impact(s) to the environment and/or the health of the community. The Environment Division has DISAPPROVED the proposed project. This decision can be reevaluated if significant changes are made to the proposed project.