

DEIS

Sediment Management Facility & Maintenance Dredging

*Public Hearing
December 12, 2011*

*Funding Provided by NY Department of State Division of Coastal Resources
under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund
NYS Comptroller Contract #C006737*



Topics

- SEQR Process and Public Comments –
deadline extended to Friday, Jan 6, 2012
- Dredging Project Status
 - Project need and benefit
 - Siting a sediment management facility
 - Timeline for implementation
- Draft Environmental Impact Statement
 - Prime alternative
 - Alternatives to the proposed action
 - Summary of impacts and mitigation
- Comments on Draft Environmental Impact Statement

SEQR and Public Hearing





SEQR Designations

- City of Ithaca- Project Sponsor
- NYSDEC- Lead Agency
- Involved Agencies
 - Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)
 - NYS Canal Corporation
 - Dormitory Authority (DASNY)- funding
 - Department of State (DOS) - Coastal Consistency Review

Multiple Permits and Approvals

Agency	Permit/Approval
NYSDEC	Joint application, SPDES, stormwater, endangered species, environmental justice , water quality certification
ACOE	Joint application, construction in navigable waters, wetland jurisdictional determination at Southwest, approval SMF
DOS	Coastal consistency form
Norfolk Southern	Railway right-of-way



Interested Parties for SEQR

Tompkins County Planning Dept.
Norfolk Southern Railroad
NYS Office of General Services
Tompkins County Health Dept.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NYS Dept. of Transportation
Town of Ithaca
Environmental Management Council

Tompkins County Soil & Water Conservation District
City of Ithaca Conservation Advisory Council
Tompkins County Water Resources Council
Government & Community Relations, Cornell University
Cayuga Lake Watershed Network
Cayuga Lake Cruises
Friends of Newman Golf Course

Dredging Project Status





Reasons to develop SMF

- Lack of sediment management facility has prevented maintenance dredging
- Diminished recreational and navigational access
- Diminished capacity to handle storms and snowmelt events
- Need to maintain flood control works to remain eligible for federal emergency assistance

Site Selection Summary

Site	Size	Why Not Selected
Cass Park	87 ac	Existing uses, alienation
Newman Golf Course	77 ac	Existing uses, alienation
Festival Lands	15.3 ac	Size and alienation
Treman Park	Variable	Parkland conversion
NYSDOT Facility	5.7 ac	Size and timetable for availability
Constructed Wetland	Variable	Against current NYSDEC and DOS policies, cost and risk of failure; hydrilla
In-water disposal	Variable	Against current NYSDEC and DOS policies; hydrilla
Upland in Inlet Valley	Variable	Distance and fuel for pumping
Southwest Site	65 ac	Recommended alternative



Recommendation: Southwest

- Utilize approximately 23 acres of the City-owned Southwest Site for sediment management facility
- Compatible with neighborhood character
- Extensive site characterization work and wetland delineation completed



Implementation

- Completing SEQR allows access to funds for final design and construction
- Develop sediment management facility
 - Immediate use by NYS Canal Corporation to dewater sediments removed for navigational dredging (already permitted)
 - Dewatering site for Cascadilla Creek sediments
 - Ultimate dewatering site for dredging for flood control by state and/or federal agencies (under separate environmental review)
- Most dewatered sediment will be removed from SMF for beneficial re-use or ultimate disposal

DEIS Summary





Definition of the Project

- Develop sediment management facility at Southwest Site
 - Cut and fill to construct basins
 - Piping to convey slurry to site
 - Booster pumps
 - Return flow to waterways
 - Site layout and access roadways
- Remove sediment deposited within lower Cascadilla Creek
- Remove dewatered sediments from site



Alternatives Considered

- No action
- Deep water disposal of sediment in Cayuga Lake
- Alienation of existing parkland
- Deposition of sediment to create islands, wetlands or extend shoreline
- Multiple smaller disposal sites

Impacts on Land

Potential Impact	Mitigation	Impacts that Cannot be Mitigated
Grading to construct basin	Stormwater pollution prevention plan	Removal of vegetation, altered topography Dedication of 23 acres of City-owned land

Impacts on Water

Potential Impact	Mitigation	Impacts that Cannot be Mitigated
Removal of sediment and associated aquatic biota	Permit conditions for limiting turbidity and/or suspended sediment in return flow	Temporary loss of macrophytes and macroinvertebrates during dredging
Return flow from SMF to relief channel	Seasonal limits to minimize impact on fish spawning and migration	Return flow may increase turbidity in relief channel

Impacts on Water

Potential Impact	Mitigation	Impacts that Cannot be Mitigated
Spread of hydrilla to uninfested areas	Restrictions on ultimate disposal of dewatered sediment to minimize risk of spreading hydrilla Coordination between dredging and hydrilla control measures	Increased risk of transfer of hydrilla

Impacts on Air

Potential Impact	Mitigation	Impacts that Cannot be Mitigated
Short-term release of vehicle exhaust during construction	Misting or fog-spraying site to minimize dust;	Construction and operation of the SMF will increase fossil fuel consumption and the associated exhaust
Increased fugitive dust from dried sediment	Maintaining crushed stone tracking pads at entrances to the construction site;	
Emissions from pumps used in hydraulic dredging	Reseeding disturbed areas to minimize exposed soils;	
Vehicle emissions during transport of dried sediment	Requiring trucks to be covered.	



Impacts on Recreation

Potential Impact	Mitigation	Impacts that Cannot be Mitigated
Temporary restrictions on using streams for recreation	As possible, schedule work to minimize disruption to recreational uses	Temporary restrictions on using streams for recreation

Impacts on Transportation

Potential Impact	Mitigation	Impacts that Cannot be Mitigated
Truck traffic to removed dewatered sediment from SMF	Removal of dried material by rail; adjust frequency and schedule of truck traffic	Minor increase in truck traffic , not projected to cause a discernible change to existing traffic levels and level of service at intersections

Impacts on Energy

Potential Impact	Mitigation	Impacts that Cannot be Mitigated
Use of fuels (gasoline, diesel) during SMF construction, dredging, SMF operation, and removal of dried material for ultimate disposal	Use of biofuels, energy efficient vehicles and equipment	Consumption of fuels (gasoline, diesel) during construction of SMF, dredging, operation of SMF, and removal of dried material for ultimate disposal

Impacts on Public Health & Safety

Potential Impact	Mitigation	Impacts that Cannot be Mitigated
Possible disturbance of a legacy solid waste disposal area; Creation of large basin	Develop site health & safety plan prior to construction; Train site workers in responding to encountering waste material; Restrict access to site	Project will improve overall public safety; a dedicated SMF eliminates a barrier to maintaining waterways, overall impact is to reduce the risk of damaging floods

Impacts on Noise & Odor

Potential Impact	Mitigation	Impacts that Cannot be Mitigated
Noise from construction, dredging and removal of sediments from basin Odors anticipated to be insignificant, based on nature of material and SMF setting	Requiring mufflers on equipment; shielding booster pumps; restrict hours of operation	Minor noise impacts overall, most notable during construction. Temporary, minimal increase in noise at nearest receptor



Environmental Impacts Considered Not Significant or Fully Mitigated

- Impacts on
 - Plants and animals
 - Aesthetic resources
 - Historic and archaeological resources
 - Open space
 - Community character and land use

Comments on DEIS: *extended to 01/06/12*

NYSDEC Region 7
Joseph Dlugolenski

jmdlugol@gw.dec.state.ny.us

1285 Fisher Ave
Cortland NY 13045-1090



<http://ecologicllc.com/ithacadredging.html>

info@ecologicllc.com

planning@cityofithaca.com