**Madison County Board of Supervisors**
**State Environmental Quality Review**
**Findings Statement**

**Agricultural and Renewable Energy Park**

This Findings Statement is based on information contained in the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) and Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement (FGEIS) prepared for the Agricultural and Renewable Energy Park ("ARE Park" or the "Project") (collectively, the "GEIS Documents"), and the record developed before the Board of Supervisors.

The Board of Supervisors has relied upon the advice and counsel of its outside environmental and engineering consultants, Barton & Loguidice, P.C., and of its outside environmental legal counsel, William M. Buchan, Esq. and Nixon Peabody LLP. Those consultants and counsel have reviewed the GEIS Documents and the entire record developed with respect to them, and have advised the Board of Supervisors with respect to the identification of environmental and other impacts of the Project, the potential significance of such impacts, and the availability and sufficiency of potential measures to avoid, mitigate, and minimize such impacts. The Board of Supervisors has conducted its own thorough review of the GEIS Documents, all public comments received on the GEIS Documents and the Permit Applications, the complete record created with respect to the GEIS Documents, and the results of consultants' and counsel's review of that record. These Findings are based upon the review of the entire record by the Board of Supervisors, its consultants and its counsel.

These Findings are made by the Madison County Board of Supervisors as lead agency pursuant to Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law, the State Environmental Quality Review Act, and 6 New York Code of Rules and Regulations ("NYCRR") Part 617.

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| Lead Agency: | Madison County |
| Address: | P.O. Box 635<br>County Office Building<br>Wampsville, NY 13163 |
| Name of Action: | Agricultural and Renewable Energy Park |
| Location: | Town of Lincoln, Madison County, NY |
| Description of Action: | Madison County (the "County") proposes to designate approximately 305 acres of County-owned land along Buyea Road and Tuttle Road for the development of an Agricultural and Renewable Energy Park in the Town of Lincoln, Madison County, New York. These lands are generally comprised of permitted or planned soil borrow areas and buffer properties for the County's active solid waste disposal facility. Sites 1A and 1B, which total approximately 65 acres in size, are located along Tuttle Road. Most of the acreage included in Sites 1A and 1B has been previously approved for use as soil borrow areas, as part of the County's permitted landfill operation. Site 2 consists of approximately 218 acres of land, located on the east side of Buyea Road, opposite the operating Madison County Landfill, and approximately 12 acres located on the west side of Buyea Road at the south entrance to the landfill.<br><br>Numerous studies and surveys have shown the need for locally based support industries for agricultural producers in Madison County. Efforts to attract tenants to the Project will be targeted toward attracting businesses that will coincide with the areas regional strengths and likely include those that |

produce, process, store, and ship a variety of meat, seafood and agricultural products, wood products, products manufactured from recycled materials, and specialty industries. Businesses in the Project will have access to reliable, locally generated sources of green energy, including electrical energy from the Landfill-Gas-To-Energy ("LFGTE") facility and a solar energy cap located at the Madison County Landfill.

The purpose of the proposed Project is to provide an economically stimulating, environmentally sound, and shovel ready development area that would be beneficial to the surrounding community and that would provide an opportunity for future industrial and commercial facilities to utilize green initiatives in their business plans.

Economic development is key to the future of Madison County. Between 2000 and 2009, Madison County suffered the loss of many manufacturing jobs that once formed the backbone of the regional economy. Many displaced workers have found it necessary to accept lower-wage jobs to stay in the area, or have had to leave the area to find better opportunities. The need for jobs is critical for the county and the region to retain its workforce, and provide employment opportunities for young people entering the workforce.

The Madison County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan (2005) identified marketing the County's agricultural products and services as a primary priority. Creation of market opportunities and encouragement of value-added enterprises were cited as the means to achieve this priority.

Madison County has taken the pro-active step of facilitating the development of a Landfill Gas to Energy Plant at the Madison County Landfill site on Buyea Road which can serve the Project.

The Project site is not currently served by either public water or municipal sewer. Extension of public water and sanitary sewer service or the development of a groundwater source of potable water and an on-site wastewater treatment facility will be required for development of the Project. Two alternatives are currently being evaluated to provide water service to the Project. These include (1) the extension of public water from the Onondaga County Water Authority (OCWA) Water Storage Tank south of the Village of Canastota and (2) the potential development of one or more groundwater wells located along Tuttle Road approximately one mile southwest of the Project site. The preferred alternative for the provision of sanitary sewer service involves the construction of a pump station along Buyea Road and construction of a 6 inch force main from the project site to an existing connection point along Genesee Street in the City of Oneida.

The Project will likely be developed in phases, with the timing for its development depending on tenants' specific location preferences and facility needs. Prior to the construction of buildings and appurtenant facilities required for tenants, the County will remove suitable borrow materials for use at the landfill. The Project is specifically intended to be developed as a community of industries and businesses, which may be symbiotically related, that will

maximize the use of green energy sources such as LFGTE, solar power and wind power, for the benefit of participating businesses.

The Madison County Industrial Development Agency and the Madison County Agricultural Economic Development organization have identified several target industries and businesses that would be compatible with the setting of the Project and the needs identified in the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan and other studies. These industries/businesses include: meat processing; food processing; warehouse storage; greenhouses; aquaculture; general manufacturing; general offices; biomass power production; vertical wind power turbine(s); and outdoor storage.

The site design for the Project will be compatible with the standards and criteria contained in the Town of Lincoln Land Management Law enacted in 2011. Some rezoning may potentially be required to accommodate full industrial use of the Project.

Agency Jurisdiction: The designation of approximately 305 acres of land for development of the Project, including but not limited to, approval of the transfer of the land to the Madison County Capital Resource Corporation

Contact: Kipp W. Hicks, Executive Director
Madison County Industrial Development Agency
Telephone Number: (315) 697-9817 (voice)
Email: director@madisoncountyida.com

Date FGEIS Filed: June 11, 2013

**PROCEDURAL SUMMARY**

On January 4, 2011, the County caused a letter and Part 1 of the Environmental Assessment Form ("EAF") to be sent to other potentially "involved agencies" and "interested agencies" (as these quoted terms are defined in the State Environmental Quality Review Act [SEQRA] Regulations found at 6 NYCRR Part 617), indicating the County's desire to serve as "lead agency" (as this quoted term is defined in the SEQRA Regulations) through the SEQRA coordinated review process for the Project. Each of the involved agencies agreed to or raised no objections to the County serving as lead agency for the Project.

On February 10, 2011, the County determined that the Project is a Type I action under SEQRA. After reviewing the EAF and the criteria for determining significance set forth in the SEQRA regulations, the County found that the Project may have a significant impact on the environment requiring the preparation of a Generic Environmental Impact Statement ("GEIS") to fully evaluate potential effects on the environment pursuant to the SEQRA Regulations. The County directed that the public be provided an opportunity to comment on a Draft Scope of the GEIS, establishing a public comment period through the close of business on March 25, 2011, with a public meeting to be held on March 7, 2011 at 7PM, to receive public comments on the Draft Scope. The County accepted public comments on the Draft Scope through the close of the comment period and adopted a Final Scope for the GEIS by resolution dated April 12, 2011.

The County, with the support of its consultants, Barton & Loguidice, P.C., prepared a Draft GEIS ("DGEIS") for the Project which, by resolution dated January 23, 2012, the County determined met the requirements of 6 NYCRR §617.9(a)(2) and was adequate for public review. The County scheduled a public hearing on the DGEIS to be held on February 6, 2012 at 7PM, and established a public comment period for receipt of public comments through the close of

business on March 14, 2012. Upon acceptance of the DGEIS, copies of that document (along with a copy of the public notice) were distributed to all interested and involved agencies and made available to the public at the Madison County Planning Department located on the second floor of the Madison County Office Building at 138 North Court Street, Wampsville, New York 13163 and at the Madison County Landfill Offices on Buyea Road, Wampsville, New York 13163. The entire DGEIS was posted to the Project website (http://www.madisoncounty.ny.gov/planning/are-business-park) to facilitate public review and comment on the document. The County accepted comments on the DGEIS through the close of the public comment period, with the only comments received being prepared and submitted by the Oneida Indian Nation (the "Nation") on March 13, 2012.

The County carefully evaluated the comments submitted by the Nation in response to the Draft GEIS, including requesting that the County's consulting archaeologist, Alliance Archaeological Services, review and provide responses to the Nation's comments. A proposed FGEIS and response to the Nation's comments were prepared by the County, with the support of its consultants, Barton & Loguidice, P.C., and submitted to the Madison County Board of Supervisors for review on June 3, 2013. The FGEIS was accepted as complete by the Board of Supervisors on June 11, 2013, and thereafter noticed, filed, and distributed as required under 6 NYCRR section 617.12.

**FACTS AND CONCLUSIONS RELIED UPON TO SUPPORT DECISION**

The GEIS Documents fully describe the Project, its environmental setting, and its potential environmental impacts. The GEIS Documents also demonstrate the need for the Project and the social and economic benefits that it will provide, which benefits include, among others:

improved employment opportunities for County residents; improved business opportunities for entrepreneurs to develop green businesses; and tax revenues from the addition of more businesses and employee wages. The benefits to the County outweigh the identified environmental impacts associated with the Project, all of which have been minimized to the maximum extent practicable. The GEIS Documents contain details concerning the benefits that will be provided through the construction and the operation of the Project.

The GEIS Documents identify both significant and minor adverse environmental impacts resulting from the Project. They also comprehensively discuss alternatives to the Project and measures that could avoid, minimize, or mitigate all identified significant adverse environmental impacts. The Board of Supervisors has identified measures that will ensure that all environmental impacts of the Project are minimized to the maximum extent practicable. The measures are detailed in this Findings Statement, consistent with the requirements of Part 617.11.

The Board of Supervisors recognizes that the Nation has some conflicting opinions regarding the Project and has given careful consideration and spent many hours reviewing the Nation's comments and concerns. The Board of Supervisors has done so with an open mind and consistent with its obligations to assure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations and to protect the interests of all residents of the County and its broader responsibility as SEQRA lead agency.

The potential environmental impacts reviewed in the SEQR process are summarized by topic below. Each section presents a summary of potential significant environmental impacts, the required mitigation, and the Board of Supervisor's related findings.

1. **Geology and Soils**:

Information regarding topography, geology, and soils was obtained from onsite observations, hydrogeologic investigations by Barton and Loguidice, and existing published sources, including the Madison County Soil Survey, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic mapping, New York State surficial geology mapping, and statewide bedrock geology mapping.

General impacts to the Project site will include soil mining impacts, development impacts and water and sewer main impacts. It is not anticipated that development of the Project will have any adverse impacts on bedrock. Utilities will be bored through bedrock under area stream channels to avoid impacts to Limestone Creek, Cowaselon Creek and Clockville Creek. Utilities will be installed using the most recently approved version of "Ten State Standards for Water and Wastewater Systems."

**Site 1A**

This portion of the Project site has a developable area footprint of approximately 47 acres. This acreage excludes a wetland and a drainage swale. It is anticipated that all of the developable area will be affected by site grading related to reclamation and construction of interior roads and utilities.

**Site 1B**

This portion of the Project site has a developable footprint of approximately 15 acres. To minimize the potential for erosion and sedimentation, and to protect the steep slope, it is

recommended that a buffer zone be maintained along the east side of Site 1B. The width of this buffer zone will be determined at the time of site construction.

Following the completion of mining operations, this portion of the Project site will be reclaimed for open space use prior to Project development. Stockpiled topsoil will be re-distributed over the graded area, and the elevation at the exterior of the mine footprint will match the existing external ground contour. A maximum internal slope within the mined area will probably be 15% or less to comply with Town of Lincoln site development limitations.

**Site 2**

As with the previous two sites, topsoil will be removed and stockpiled in stages for use in site reclamation from this portion of the Project site. It is assumed that approximately 152 acres of the site could potentially be developed as part of the Project (excluding the portion that has been identified as being sensitive for cultural resources).

The soil mining activities will impact the Project site through the excavation of approximately ten feet of soil material from the 110 acres of agricultural land on the east side of Buyea Road with final grades of 15% or less within the excavation footprint. It is anticipated that site reclamation will proceed concurrently with soil mining operations. Once an area is mined out, that area will be re-graded, topsoiled, and seeded with forbs to reduce soil erosion.

No areas of steep slope, wooded areas, wetlands, stream channel or areas that are sensitive for cultural resources would be affected by the proposed soil mining operation or construction of the ARE Park.

Stormwater management facilities, such as detention/retention ponds, sediment basins and infiltration practices, will be developed in phases as mining proceeds with location to be determined by low points in the topography and by mining areas. Where feasible, stormwater management facilities will become a permanent part of the Project. Additional temporary erosion controls measures (temporary stormwater swales/diversions, silt fence, check dams, sediment traps, etc.) will be utilized throughout the course of construction.

The main development impacts involve the creation of impervious surfaces. It is anticipated that internal access roads and storm water management facilities will be constructed prior to any structural development of the sites. Development of the sites is likely to occur in phases, with sites closest to the road being developed first.

Although water and sewer mains will be installed using standard methods accepted by the New York State Department of Health and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, impacts will result in the form of ground disturbance from excavation. In areas where mains will be directionally bored, no ground surface restoration will be necessary except at entrance and exit points.

Mitigation measures for the Project include the use of silt fences, temporary siltation basins, check dams, infiltration galleries, vegetated swales, and rapid re-vegetation of exposed soil areas and topsoil stockpiles. Vegetated buffer strips will also be planted

around the perimeter of disturbed areas to provide additional filtration prior to discharge into area streams.

Mitigation measures associated with the installation of water and sewer mains include the use of directional boring to avoid impacts to stream channels. Areas affected by the water main and sewer main installation will be restored to match existing grade and seeded with an appropriate native seed mix to match existing vegetation.

Impacts of the Project on soils, geology, and topography, as mitigated in accordance with the measures set forth more fully above, will not be significant. The Board of Supervisors finds that those mitigation measures are practicable, and will avoid, mitigate, and minimize impacts to soils, geology, and topography to the maximum extent practicable.

2. **Water Resources**:

Due to the fact that development plans for the Project site avoid the wetlands and surface water resources, impacts to water resources are anticipated to be minor. Although installation of water and sanitary sewer utilities will cross various surface waters, it is not anticipated that these utility installations will have impacts on the bed or banks of these stream channels because the utilities will be directionally bored through bedrock beneath the bottom of the creek channels.

Soil erosion and sedimentation could occur as a result of earth moving activities associated with the development of the project if erosion and sediment controls are not properly installed or maintained. Erosion and sediment controls associated with the operation of the soil borrow areas will be maintained during the operational period. It is

anticipated that these erosion and sediment controls will also initially be utilized for the preliminary development of the Project.

The development of the Project could result in higher volumes of stormwater discharge, including higher peak runoff rates. These increased stormwater rates and volumes could lead to downstream flooding and erosion of receiving waterways. It is also possible that without appropriate erosion and sediment controls on site, stormwater discharges could carry an increased load of suspended solids and the resulting impacts related thereto.

It is also possible that without mitigation measures runoff from paved surfaces and building roofs could create high temperature thermal "slugs" that could raise the ambient temperature of the water in Limestone Creek during the summer, decreasing the dissolved oxygen and adversely affect populations of trout that may inhabit this reach of Limestone Creek.

Within Sites 1A and 1B, the perched groundwater table will be affected by soil mining activities. Depending upon the season, perched groundwater may flow into depressions created by mining operations to form temporary ponds.

All of these potential impacts can be mitigated through the implementation of standard stormwater management techniques and other methods. NYSDEC's SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity requires no net increase in peak flow discharge rates to receiving waters. This is typically accomplished by construction of extended detention/retention ponds, wetlands, infiltration practices or dry basins. These practices would protect downstream structures and receiving waters from increased flooding and erosion risks. Infiltration practices, utilized in areas with

hydrologic soil group B soils, would provide a further reduction in the volume of stormwater discharged from the Project site. Additional practices would be required to treat the NYSDEC's water quality and runoff reduction volumes in accordance with the SPDES permit requirements.

In addition to compliance with the general permit requirements, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will also be required. The permanent stormwater practices would be required to provide at least an 80% total suspended solids and 40% total phosphorus reduction in accordance with SPDES Permit requirements. Thermal impacts could be off-set by utilizing infiltration practices where practical and by maximizing detention holding times to twelve hours. Pond designs would be limited to micropool extended detention facilities to prevent thermal impacts.

Site planning practices and green infrastructure techniques can also be applied to minimize the impacts associated with new development. These practices include preservation of natural buffers, reducing clearing and grading limits, open space design, soil restoration and reducing impervious cover.

Mitigation measures for the prevention of water quality degradation may include but are not limited to: temporary practices utilized during construction (including but not limited to: silt fences; vegetated swales; and check dams); stormwater management practices (including but not limited to: stormwater management ponds with twelve hour detention times to avoid thermal impacts; infiltration practices; stormwater wetlands; and water quality swales); and alternatives measures (including but not limited to: vegetated riparian buffers along the edge of wooded areas; preservation of steep slopes, wetlands,

and other sensitive environmental features; rain gardens to filter runoff from roof areas; green roofs; and porous pavements for parking areas and internal roadways).

Further site-specific plans will be required for specific developments within the Projects.

Impacts of the Project on water resources, as mitigated in accordance with the measures set forth more fully above and as identified in the GEIS Documents, will not be significant. The Board of Supervisors finds that those measures are practicable, and will avoid, mitigate, and minimize impacts to water resources to the maximum extent practicable.

3. **Ecology**:

The predominant cover types within the Project areas consist of agricultural fields, meadow-brushland, and previously disturbed/unvegetated soil areas. The only anticipated impact from the Project relates to a reduction in the amount of land surface allotted to agricultural use as soil from portions of Project sites are mined for use as daily cover.

There are few anticipated impacts to any threatened or endangered species as a result of the Project. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service identified American hart's tongue fern (Asplenium scolopendrium var. americanum) and Chittenango amber ovate snail (Succinea chittenangoensis) as Federally listed Threatened species in Madison County. The Indiana Bat (Myotis sodalis) is a Federally listed Endangered species that is present in Madison County as a summer resident.

Although the wooded slopes and limestone/dolostone outcrops of Limestone Creek and Cowaselon Creek located on the Project site may provide habitat for American hart's tongue fern, these areas will not be disturbed by the proposed construction of the ARE Park, and thus there are no anticipated impacts. The Town of Lincoln also requires a permit for construction on slopes greater than 15%. Most of the known habitat for American hart's tongue fern occurs in steeply sloping environments. Based on the known habitat preferences of this plant and a detailed site walkover of the potential habitat area, the proposed development will not adversely affect this species. This habitat will also not be disturbed by the construction of water and sewer mains because these utilities will be directionally bored through bedrock in the locations where this species is likely to be found.

The Chittenango amber ovate snail exists in only one location near Chittenango Falls, Madison County, New York. The species requires a substrate rich in calcium carbonate and appears to prefer green vegetation such as the various mosses, liverworts, and other low herbaceous vegetation found within the spray zone adjacent to the falls. Although the project site includes two streams with dolomitic carbonate type bedrock, neither stream includes a waterfall spray zone within the project footprint, which appears to be a habitat requirement. Based upon a review of the habitat preferences of the Chittenango Amber Ovate Snail, and a site walkover of the Project area, neither the Project nor the water and sewer mains will adversely affect the Chittenango Amber Ovate Snail.

Based upon reported habitat preferences and the location of the proposed Project footprint within existing agricultural fields or soil borrow areas (not within existing wooded areas or wetlands), it is unlikely that the summer roosting habitat of Indiana bats

would be affected by the development as no potential roost trees are located within the proposed development footprint. In addition, utility construction will be largely within existing, cleared road rights of way. This type of habitat is not utilized by Indiana bats because it does not contain trees needed for summer roosting.

The only area of potential impact to Indiana bat habitat is the utility crossing proposed for Limestone Creek. This area is wooded with silver and red maple, willow and other wetland/flood plain species. The utility crossings will likely be directionally bored under the creek channel to avoid adverse impacts to the creek and wetlands associated with the channel. Based upon this assessment, it is unlikely that Indiana bat habitat will be adversely affected by construction of Project utilities.

Consultation with the New York Natural Heritage Program and the Region 7 office of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation indicated that one State listed endangered species, the bent sedge (Carex styloflexa), was reported near the hamlet of Clockville in 1935. Based upon a review of the habitat requirements of this species, and a site walkover of the proposed Project area, it is unlikely that bent sedge will be directly or indirectly affected. Areas proposed for disturbance in this Project have been previously cleared of vegetation, and are presently used as either soil borrow areas or agricultural fields. Although the habitat preferred by this species may be found within the Project site, it is not within the Project development footprint. No disturbance of any exposed limestone ledge areas or forested riparian corridors is proposed as part of this development. Therefore, no taking of the plant species will occur as a result of this Project.

Mitigation measures include the use of directional boring methods for the installation of water and sanitary sewer mains to avoid adverse impacts to potential endangered species habitat along Limestone Creek.

The Board of Supervisors finds that the mitigation measures listed above will avoid, mitigate, or minimize impacts to ecological resources to the maximum extent practicable.

4. **Air Quality**:

The Project site is located in an attainment area for criteria air pollutants. Level 1 Ambient Air Quality Standards apply to this site per NYSDEC regulation 6 NYCRR Part 284.3. Level 1 air quality standards apply to areas dominated by timber, agricultural crops, dairy farming, or recreation, and residences and sparsely scattered industries.

Permitted air emission sources located adjacent to the Project site include the Madison County Landfill, (a Title V Air Facility), and the Waste Management Renewable Energy Facility (a State Air Facility). Based upon a review of potential business park occupants and uses, it is likely that emissions resulting from the operation of the Project could include combustion emissions from facility heating systems and minor, industrial, process-specific emissions associated with each agricultural or food industry.

NYSDEC requires that sources operating in New York State obtain air permits prior to constructing and operating the source of air emissions, unless the activity or air source is specifically exempt from regulation. Based on potential project industries reviewed, emissions are anticipated to be less than major source thresholds. All non-exempt air emission sources are regulated under one of the following permitting structures:

- Title V Facility Permit
- State Facility Permit
- Air Facility Registration

For any new industry there will also be minor particulate emissions from mobile sources (employee cars, truck traffic, site vehicles), which are not subject to NYSDEC permitting, as well as minor particulate emissions from industrial process operations. Minor emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from the contemplated agricultural and food production processes could also occur.

It is anticipated that industrial process particulate emissions will be mitigated through operational practice, equipment installations and designed air pollution control strategies as required to prevent significant air quality impacts.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions associated with the contemplated industries for this Project will consist predominately of carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from the combustion of fossil fuels from stationary sources such as heating systems and emergency generators. Minor emissions of refrigerant utilized in cold storage facilities and office air conditioning and refrigeration units may also emit very small amounts of hydrofluorocarbons ("HFCs") and chlorofluorocarbons ("CFCs"). The efficiency and proper maintenance of such units will be evaluated to ensure that they are operating to minimize GHG emissions. Emissions of GHGs alone are not anticipated to require permitting.

Looking at the Project as a whole, there may be an increase in GHG emissions from the increase in the number of vehicles traveling to and from the site. Because the relative

number of vehicles expected for the proposed Project site is relatively small (on the order of hundreds) and emissions from mobile sources are not subject to GHG permitting, the resulting GHG emissions from commuter vehicles and industrial trucks are expected to be minimal with no significant environmental impact. A reduction in greenhouse gases will be achieved by the elimination of trucking leachate from the Madison County Landfill to the wastewater treatment plant in the City of Oneida through installation of a new sewer line allowing for direct discharge of leachate.

Temporary air quality impacts may occur during the construction phases of the Project. The impacts will primarily be the result of particulate matter (PM) emissions and dust generation from construction equipment and vehicles. These activities will be limited in duration, and will be controlled with engineering controls as necessary such as wetting of surfaces and construction roads with water trucks to minimize dust.

Mitigation measures for air pollutant emissions will be industry- and process-specific. It is anticipated that best available or maximum achievable control technologies will be required as part of the individual site review process.

The Board of Supervisors finds that the mitigation measures listed above will avoid, mitigate, or minimize impacts to air quality to the maximum extent practicable.

5. **Visual Resources**:

The visual impacts of the Project were examined through the use of a Visual Impact Analysis (VIA) consistent with methodologies developed by the NYSDEC and the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT). Viewshed mapping was completed using United States Geological Survey (USGS) 10-meter digital elevation model (DEM) data

with ESRI's ArcInfo 10.0 desktop Geographic Information System (GIS) software in conjunction with ESRI's Spatial Analyst extension. Two viewshed analyses were completed for the Project area using these techniques, one using topography only and the second accounting for vegetation. For both analyses, a maximum building height of 50 feet was assumed throughout each of the sites. The Board of Supervisors finds that the VIA use for the Project is a thorough, accurate and objective way to analyze the visual impacts of the Project.

The existing landscape of the project site is predominantly rural. Aesthetic resources within a 5 mile radius of the project site include: Lenox No. 4 School House (96NR00926) in the hamlet of Clockville (1.5 miles distant), and DeFerriere House (06NR05598), City of Oneida (3.0 miles distant).

The VIA indicates that the Project will be visible to approximately 5% more of the 5 mile radius viewshed area than under current conditions, not taking into account the screening effects of vegetation, which is not considered to be significant. The Lenox No. 4 School House property may have a partial view of the Project; however, a diminution of the public use or appreciation of the School House will not result because it is over a mile distant from the proposed Project. The DeFerriere House will not have a view of the Project and, therefore, will not experience a visual impact.

Properties adjacent to proposed utility corridors will not be adversely affected visually due to the installation of underground utilities. Some ground surface disruption will occur during project construction, but these impacts will be temporary and will not be

significant. The existing ground surface condition will be restored once construction is completed.

Placement of visual screens and maintenance of existing vegetative features such as hedgerows and forested areas will naturally reduce the visibility of the proposed ARE Park buildings. The viewshed analysis that incorporated the presence of vegetation screening showed that the visibility of the ARE Park would be reduced from 5% (with no vegetation) to 3% more than the undeveloped condition.

Visual impact mitigation strategies may include:

a) Screening (berms, vegetation)

b) Relocation (placement of buildings on site to minimize external visibility)

c) Camouflage/Disguise (use of natural materials to reduce visual impacts)

d) Low Profile Buildings (single story or partially earth covered)

e) Use of non-reflective surfaces in building materials to prevent excess glare from windows, solar or thermal surfaces, etc.

f) Use of down-lighting, and other methods to prevent off-site spillover of lighting from parking lots and buildings at night.

The VIA demonstrates that the Project will not have a significant impact on visual resources, and that in any event, mitigation measures can be employed to minimize any impacts that may result in the future to the maximum extent practicable. The Board of Supervisor's determination also takes into consideration the social and economic benefits of the project to the County and its residents. In reaching this conclusion, the Board of Supervisors finds that the VIA is a rigorous, reasonable and effective way to reach

objective conclusions about potential impacts that many observers may react to in a subjective manner.

6. **Noise Impacts**:

A Noise Assessment for the Project was conducted using the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation "Assessing and Mitigating Noise Impacts" policy document (NYSDEC, 2001). The noise impact assessment included (1) determination of existing "background" noise levels at locations surrounding the Project site; and (2) the assessment of potential noise impacts from the development of the Project. Under existing conditions, background noise levels around the Project site are predominately influenced by noise generated from traffic on surrounding roadways and minor contributions from the Madison County Landfill. Background data were collected during landfill operating hours as well as non-operating hours to separate the level of background noise generated by landfill activities from normal, non-operational background noise levels. The data illustrate that the landfill activities had little effect on the background sound levels, which are largely attributed to traffic noise. Existing noise levels when the landfill is not in operation at the three receptor points evaluated ranged between 52.9 dBA and 62.1 dBA. When the landfill is in operation the noise levels similarly ranged between 49.8 dBA and 63.8 dBA.

Additional operations at the Project site will increase the ambient noise levels surrounding the site. Three categories of potential noise sources associated with the Project:

- Fixed equipment operations

- Mobile equipment or process operations
- Transport movements of products, raw materials or waste

The major noise sources from the Project are expected to be fixed noise sources such as heating, ventilating and air conditioning equipment (fans, motors, blowers, exhaust vents), and traffic noise associated with vehicles traveling in and out of the site, and loading/unloading operations from mobile sources. Noise generated within the buildings by process operations and associated equipment will be attenuated by the building structure to a level that it will not contribute to an increase in exterior noise levels at surrounding properties. Mobile equipment and transport related noise will be limited in duration and is not likely to generate a significant increase in ambient noise levels.

The NYSDEC *Assessing and Mitigating Noise Impacts* policy document states that an increase of 6 decibels (dBA) from ambient levels may be significant, and requires further evaluation. The procedure for predicting future noise levels using existing, ambient noise levels and predicted noise levels from proposed development is outlined in the policy document.

Based upon predicted noise levels, the only significant noise impacts would be experienced with a sound level of 66 dBA along Buyea Road and a sound level of 58 dBA on Tuttle Road.

Noise generated from construction activities for the proposed Project will be unavoidable, but limited in duration. Noise sources associated with construction will primarily consist of construction equipment and vehicles, and noise from site work and construction of

access roads, utilities, parking lots, and buildings. These impacts are considered acceptable by the Board of Supervisors.

Should noise levels from Project operations exceed acceptable predicted noise impact thresholds, based on analysis of actual noise sources to be installed, noise mitigation measures will likely be required. Potential noise mitigation measures (for operations and construction) include:

- Use of sound barriers
- Use of mufflers
- Use of building enclosures
- Limiting construction to daylight hours
- Use of mufflers for heavy equipment

The Board of Supervisors finds that the Project will avoid or minimize sound impacts to adjacent and nearby receptors through the implementation of mitigation measures as projects are constructed on the site.

7. **Traffic Impacts**:

The Project site will be accessed through driveway entrances on Buyea Road (County Route 54) and Tuttle Road. Buyea Road (County Route 54) is owned and maintained by Madison County and is classified as a Minor Collector Road. Buyea Road has a north/south orientation through the ARE Park site, and includes a tangent and horizontal curve at the north end of the site. Land uses along Buyea Road in the vicinity of the Project include the Madison County Landfill, scattered residential development and agriculture. The existing roadway consists of one, eleven foot wide travel lane in each

direction with 2 foot paved shoulders. Terrain on Buyea Road is rolling, with limited sight distances, and includes a no-passing zone in the vicinity of the Project. The pavement on Buyea Road is in good condition.

Tuttle Road is owned and maintained by the Town of Lincoln and is classified as a Local Rural Road. The section of Tuttle Road adjacent to the Project site has a north-south orientation and consists of a horizontal tangent. Land use along Tuttle Road near the Project is predominantly agricultural, except for the Town of Lincoln Highway Garage. The Town of Lincoln highway garage is located immediately south of the proposed entrance point for the Project, approximately 660 feet south of the intersection of Timmerman Road.

Existing traffic data, including vehicle count, vehicle classification, and speed data, were collected on Buyea Road and Tuttle Road with traffic tubes in 2011. Traffic on Buyea Road (County Route 54) consists of local traffic, commercial trucks, and agricultural vehicles. Future traffic volumes were estimated based on an analysis of the existing population growth trends for the Town of Lincoln and Madison County. These volumes represent future background traffic that would exist without construction of the Project. Based on historical population growth in this area, a traffic growth rate of 0.5% per year was applied to the 2011 existing traffic volumes to determine background growth.

The number of trips generated by the Project was estimated using the methodology of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) Trip Generation Manual, 8th edition. The study used land use code 130 (Industrial Park) to estimate the number of trips generated by the Project. The number of employees expected to travel to and from the Project is

based upon buildout assumptions that account for 582 employees. This number was used as the independent variable to estimate the number of trip ends during the AM and PM peak hours of traffic. The number of trips generated by the full build out of the Project is summarized in the following Table:

| Trips Generated by ARE Park Businesses at Build Out (2031) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Entering** | **Exiting** | **Total** |
| AM Peak Hour | 248 | 40 | 288 |
| PM Peak Hour | 57 | 228 | 285 |

A Level of Service (LOS) analysis was completed for future no-build conditions and a future build out condition based on trip generation estimates. Level of service is a qualitative measure describing operational conditions within a traffic stream. It is based on service measures such as speed, travel time, freedom to maneuver, traffic interruptions, comfort and convenience. Letters designate each level of service, with LOS "A" representing the best operating conditions and LOS "F" the worst. Each level of service represents a range of operating conditions and a driver's perception of those conditions. The level of service evaluation was performed using Highway Capacity Software (HCS+, version 5.3) which automates the procedures contained in the 2000 Highway Capacity Manual."

Tuttle Road currently has a Level of Service designation of "A," and is expected to remain an "A" under both future "no build" and "build" scenarios, indicating that there will be no impact from the Project. Buyea Road currently has a Level of Service designation of "B," and would be expected to remain at a "B" under the "no build"

scenario. Under the "build" scenario, Buyea Road is expected to have a Level of Service designation of "C."

Although Buyea Road could incur a small reduction in its Level of Service designation, this is not considered a significant environmental impact as the New York State Department of Transportation does not require mitigation unless the Level of Service falls to a D according to the NYSDOT Highway Design Manual – Chapter 5 Basic Design, Section 5.2.2 – Level of Service and Capacity Analysis.

The Board of Supervisors finds that, based upon the traffic analysis undertaken, the Project will not create significant adverse traffic impacts.

8. **Land Use and Community Character**:

The Board of Supervisors finds that the descriptions of the applicable land use and community character in the Project area in the GEIS Documents are comprehensive. Based upon those descriptions, the Board also accepts and agrees with the impact analyses presented in the GEIS Documents.

Based upon the GEIS Documents, the Board of Supervisors finds that the Project will be compatible with the agricultural land use that dominates the Project area and the Madison County Landfill which is immediately adjacent. However, there will be impacts related to the reduction in agricultural land and installation of sewer and water facilities.

A total of 197.48 acres of land were removed from the Madison County Agricultural District No. 2 when Madison County purchased several properties. The acres removed

from the Agricultural District have remained in agricultural use, as the County has been leasing them to local farmers. With the construction of the Project, this land will cease being utilized for agricultural production. This total reduction represents approximately 0.5 percent of the total acreage contained in Agricultural District No. 2. The Board of Supervisors finds this impact acceptable.

The County IDA filed a Notice of Intent to fund the construction of the water and sewer mains through the existing Agricultural District with the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets and certified that the requirements of §305(4)(g) had bee met. The Department of Agriculture and Markets concurred with that determination in May, 2011. No other impacts to agricultural land are anticipated from the construction of the Project.

The sanitary sewer force main is expected to take wastewater from the Project and leachate from the landfill to the City of Oneida's Wastewater Treatment System. No residential hook-ups are proposed for the force main. It is intended that the force main be used exclusively to carry wastewater from the Project and to transport leachate from the landfill site. Because no additional demand is anticipated from the construction of the force main, no impact on the surrounding community character or land use will result. Wastewater pretreatment will be required as a mitigation measure for industries in the Project that generate effluent with a waste strength in excess of the City of Oneida WWTP pre-treatment permit requirements. Industrial process wastes will be treated to match the characteristics of typical domestic sanitary waste for biological oxygen

demand, pH, and suspended solids. Additional mitigation measures may include, but not be limited to:

- Re-use of industrial process water by other compatible industries (e.g., potential re-use of aquaculture wastewater by greenhouse operations, provided that waste strength and nutrient characteristics are compatible with greenhouse crops).
- Reduction of industrial process water volumes through the use of low-volume equipment
- Minimization of processes that require the use of water
- Use of low-volume toilets and flow restrictors on sinks and showers.

The construction of the preferred alternative for the water main will be capable of providing water service to 50-60 residences located along the alignment, and thus will have a positive impact on the surrounding community. Within the Project, water usage and disposal of domestic and process waste water are inexorably linked due to the capacity limits of the sewer line. Water usage within the Project will therefore be limited to about 180,000 gallons per day. Mitigation measures to reduce demand include:

- Use of automatic shut off valves on restroom faucets
- Incentivized rates for water conservation
- Use of green/sustainable design principles for equipment and processes
- Use of master meters and individual building/use meters to identify sources of water leakage

- Use of native plants and low impact development measures in landscaping on site to reduce or avoid the need for landscape watering.

The Board of Supervisors finds that the proposed mitigation measures avoid, minimize, and mitigate any potential impacts to land use and community character in the areas surrounding the Project.

9. **Historic and Archeological Resources**:

Phase I Cultural Resource Investigations were conducted on Sites 1A, 1B and 2 by Alliance Archaeological Services in several stages in compliance with applicable professional and regulatory standards. A Phase I Cultural Resource Investigation of the preferred alignments of the water and sewer mains for the Project was conducted by Archaeological Services of the Rochester Museum and Science Center also in compliance with applicable professional and regulatory standards. Those assessments have been reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Office within the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP).

The possible impact of the Project on historic and cultural resources was extensively addressed in the GEIS Documents and received specific public comments. Because of the focus on the issue in the public comments, the Board of Supervisors has paid special attention to the issue in its evaluation of the GEIS Documents and potential impacts.

**Current Conditions**

The Phase IA background and literature reviews conducted for the Project site indicated that Sites 1A, 1B and 2 were "highly suitable" to contain previously undocumented pre-

contact archaeological resources and/or additional data related to two pre-recorded Late Woodland archaeological sites. A project review for Sites 1A and 1B in early 2010 indicated that at least four additional Late Woodland sites have been recorded within one mile, one of which is located beneath the closed landfill grounds east of Buyea Road. All three sites have a long history of human occupation and agricultural use.

**Sites 1A and 1B**

Surface inspection and supplemental shovel testing of these two sites was undertaken in 2004 and 2005. Three concentration areas of Historic Euro-American artifacts were reported by the Alliance Archaeological Services Phase I investigation.

**Concentration Area 1**

The report concluded that although the artifacts recovered from Concentration Area 1 are most likely related to the former William Tuttle north homestead, the potential for this specific site to provide additional information that is significant and unique to the understanding of this occupation is considered to be extremely low. The report also concluded that Concentration Area 1 does not appear to be eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places and no further archaeological investigations were recommended.

**Concentration Area 2**

Concentration Area 2 is located south of the existing homestead along the north slope of a low ridge. All of the extant structures associated with this

homestead are located outside of the Project area of potential effect ("APE"). A total of 20 artifacts were recovered from this site. This collection is consistent with a low density of tableware materials that were discarded by the residents of the adjacent homestead into the field where they were fragmented and spread about by agricultural activities. The report concluded that the materials recovered were mostly likely related to the historic occupation of the William Tuttle north homestead, and that the potential for this site to yield additional information that is significant and unique to the understanding of this occupation is considered to be extremely low. The report concluded that this area does not meet the criteria for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, and does not recommend further investigation of this area of concentration.

**Concentration Area 3**

Concentration Area 3 is located in the south central portion of Site 1B. A total of 21 artifacts were recovered from this site. The mean ceramic date of the artifacts was 1861, suggesting that the site was associated with the B. Buyea occupation of the homestead to the south, as documented on historic maps from 1853, 1859, and 1875. The report concludes that the potential for this specific site to provide additional information significant and unique to the understanding of this occupation is considered to be extremely low. The site does not appear to be eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places and no further archaeological investigation is recommended.

Based upon a review of the limits of potential excavation, it appears that all three areas of concentration will be affected by the approved soil borrow areas. While these areas will be affected by the development of the soil borrow area, they do not represent significant or unique resources and the Board of Supervisors finds these impacts to not be significant.

**Site 2**

A detailed investigation of a 130 acre APE was conducted in 2010 by Alliance Archaeological Services. This area is bounded by Buyea Road on the west, a line of shrubs and trees on the east, a large agricultural field and property line on the north and the closed portion of the Madison County Landfill on the south. Nearly all of this land is in active agricultural use. An archaeological investigation was also conducted of this area in 2004. The 2004 study revealed the presence of numerous glass shards, ceramics, milk glass, a metal button, and other artifacts dating from the 1800's and 1900's. The 2010 study revealed the presence of 35 artifacts dating from the 1800's and 1900's, similar to those found in the 2004 study. All of these materials are consistent with an occupation of the site from the mid-19th century onward.

All of the cultural materials associated with this 130 acre APE were recovered from a plow zone which had formed within moderately to severely eroded soils, and no indications of subplowzone cultural materials or features were identified. The study concluded that all cultural materials were most likely recovered from their current locations as a result of natural processes such as erosion. The report states: "[g]iven the shallow nature of the identified Ap horizon..., the integrity of this site appears to have

been compromised beyond the limits acceptable for a National Register nomination." Further, "[t]he low density and diversity of the recovered cultural materials verses [sic] the high ground surface visibility also suggests that additional archaeological investigations are unlikely to produce either a variant artifact pattern/assemblage or a significant change in the suggested dates of occupation." No further archaeological investigations were recommended for the 130 acre APE in Site 2.

In 2011, a Phase 1A and 1B investigation of lands located along Cowaselon Creek and within its flood plain east of the wooded area was completed. One pre-contact and three historic archaeological sites were identified within the floodplain area east of the wooded steep slope. All four of these sites were determined to be potentially eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D. Sites or properties that are National Register eligible under Criterion D are sites that "have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history." National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation: p. 21. In addition, this active agricultural area was mapped within a moderately well drained alluvial soil with the potential to contain buried topsoil horizons. It was concluded that this floodplain area has the potential to contain deeply buried archaeological deposits.

Given the presence of four potentially National Register Eligible archaeological sites and the potential for deeply buried archaeological deposits within the moderately well drained alluvial floodplain of Site 2, further archaeological investigations of this area have been recommended. However, this area is outside of the Project development footprint; therefore no earth-moving or ground disturbing activities are proposed for this area. As a

result, the significant information within these and/or any more deeply buried archaeological sites will be preserved for the future and all impacts will be avoided. If additional investigations are necessary, they will be designed in consultation with the OPRHP and the Nation. Further these areas will be protected and preserved by means of a permanent Conservation Easement in accordance with the provisions of Article 49 of the New York Environmental Conservation Law.

The County has prepared a draft Conservation Easement which details the protection provided. A copy of the draft Conservation Easement has been provided in the GEIS Documents. In accordance with New York State law the proposed Conservation Easement must be reviewed and approved as to form by the offices of the Attorney General of the State of New York and also Counsel to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and therefore the form may change in the future.

**Water and Sewer Mains**

The preferred alignments for the proposed water and sewer main extensions to serve the Project were investigated in 2010 by Archaeological Services of the Rochester Museum and Science Center. The investigation included 20,000 linear feet of 10 inch water main alignment, one pumping station site, 18,000 linear feet of 6-inch sewer force main alignment, two wet wells and two wastewater storage tank sites. The road areas investigated include Oxbow Road, Old County Road, Timmerman Road, Tuttle Road, Buyea Road, Furnace Hill Road, Clockville Road, Upper Lenox Avenue and Lenox Avenue. The maximum width of the investigation alignment was approximately 40 feet. The study included 585 shovel tests at 25 foot, 50 foot and 100 foot intervals along each

alignment. The majority of the area investigated is road frontage. Land uses included driveways, mowed and unmowed road sides, and parking areas.

Artifacts that were encountered during the 2010 investigation included bits of rusted iron, modern bottle glass, window glass, various plastics, food wrappers, cigarette packs, and a few pieces of plain, undecorated whiteware fragments. No Native American artifacts were recovered from any of the soil test pits within the APE. No significant Historic Euro-American artifacts were recovered within the route tested.

The water main alignment is located in the Timmerman Road right of way, crossing the frontage of a National Historic Register Site, the former Lenox District No. 4 Schoolhouse (96NR00926). The installation of the proposed watermain will not affect the historic schoolhouse building located on the Town Hall property. It may be installed within a parking lot area that serves the Town Hall property, which will be restored to its original appearance and function. It is anticipated that this impact will be temporary.

The sewer force main alignment may cross the rear property line of a National Register Historic Site, the DeFerriere House (06NR05598), located at 2098 Genesee Street in the City of Oneida. Installation of the sewer force main will not adversely affect the DeFerriere House building because it will be located within the road right of way of Upper Lenox Avenue. Project construction will not affect any access points, structures, signage, historic landscape plantings or other functional aspects of this property.

The 2010 study did not identify any prehistoric or historic sites and did not recommend any sites for Phase II investigation or avoidance. Soils within the APE exhibited a higher than average amount of disturbance, including grading adjacent to the road, cutting and

filling associated with road building and adjacent construction projects, and installation of existing utilities (water, gas and storm sewers). Significant sections of the proposed sewer and water alignment (both gravity and directionally drilled components) are located between the edge of pavement and the edge of existing drainage ditches.

**Consultation on Cultural Resource Issues**

The Board of Supervisors finds that significant consultation activities between SHPO, the Nation, NYSDEC and the County on the cultural resources surveys conducted at the site over the last 20+ year period have occurred, and demonstrate a thorough review of all the methods and findings contained with those surveys. Every study conducted was submitted to, reviewed by, and is on file with SHPO. Furthermore, the Nation's input is evidenced in several of the studies and, upon formal initiation of NYSDEC's CP-42 consultation policy by NYSDEC in 2010, all additional cultural resource activities included direct participation and approval of survey and sampling protocols by Nation representatives.

Although the Nation expressed concerns regarding the adequacy of the archaeological surveys conducted of the Project site, and suggested additional survey activities, the Board of Supervisors find that the surveys used were comprehensive and of the highest professional standards. The Board of Supervisors bases this determination on both the fact that the Nation repeatedly concurred with the methodologies used to survey the Project site and DEC and SHPO's agreement with all methods. Further, Alliance Archeological Services' response to the Nation's Comments on the DGEIS, contained in

Appendix DD of the FGEIS, fully addresses each of the Nation's concerns on the adequacy of the survey methods.

Further, the County responded to all requests of both SHPO and the Nation for information, including creating and providing additional mapping, figures, design drawings, copies of previously submitted reports, and other data. In making its findings, the Board of Supervisors also has reviewed the September 19, 2012 letter issued by SHPO which states that "OPRHP has no further cultural resource concerns."

Although the Board of Supervisors understands the concerns regarding the possible impacts to cultural resources that could result from development of the Project, the Board of Supervisors finds that any potential adverse impacts to cultural resources has been avoided through the adoption of a Conservation Easement in accordance with the provisions of Article 49 of the New York Environmental Conservation Law, preventing development in any of the areas in which cultural resources have been identified and the existing specific special conditions included in the NYSDEC Landfill Operating Permit (including a provision that if during construction, any archaeological resources or remains are uncovered all construction must immediately stop and specified parties must be contacted). The Board of Supervisors finds that the extensive analyses of the potential impact of the Project on cultural resources discussed in the GEIS Documents are thorough and credible, and therefore all of the evidence indicates that adverse impacts to cultural resources will not occur within the area of the Project to be developed.

**UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS**

The Project, its construction and operation will necessarily result in certain unavoidable adverse impacts to the amount of agriculture land within the County. The level of impact to each of these resources has been described in the DGEIS.

The construction of the Project and associated utilities will not result in the removal of any additional lands from Madison County's Agricultural District No. 2. The purchase of the Cordell properties by Madison County in 2006 resulted in the removal of 197.48 acres of land (0.5 percent) from the Madison County Agricultural District No. 2 although the land has continued to be utilized for agricultural production through leases with the County. Construction of the Project will permanently remove these acres from agricultural use. This impact cannot be mitigated feasibly by the County. It is possible that additional lands may be added to the Agricultural District as they are brought back into production by private parties, but these actions would occur independently as a result of private enterprise, and are not under the County's control.

In addition, approximately145 acres of Site 2 are currently in agricultural use. It is estimated that approximately 110 acres of land (0.6 percent of the total agricultural land in the County) will be taken out of production as a result of the Project. This reduction in usable agricultural land is expected to occur over a period of 20 years or more, and will not occur immediately. This impact is unavoidable and cannot be mitigated by the County. The Board of Supervisors finds these minor impacts to the amount of agricultural land in the County, and the Agricultural District, acceptable. Further, the impact to the County's agricultural inventory has been deemed acceptable by the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets as well.

The Board of Supervisors, in accepting these unavoidable impacts resulting from the Project, also took into account and evaluated the fact that the Project is expected to result in positive, long-term overall economic impacts for the County through the generation of additional revenue and employment for County residents.

**ALTERNATIVES**

The GEIS Documents described and evaluated a range of alternatives to the proposed Project. The Board of Supervisors finds that all practicable alternatives have been reviewed and analyzed to the degree required by SEQRA. No other practicable or reasonable alternatives were identified by any party during the comment period.

**CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

The GEIS Documents evaluated the cumulative impacts of construction and operation of the Project and other projects that are being considered or undertaken and fully approved independently of the Project, including: the potential extension of public water from the Onondaga County Water Authority to the hamlet of Clockville by the Town of Lincoln; the potential rezoning of properties along proposed routes of water main extension from AR-2 to AR-1 by the Town of Lincoln; soil mining from designated areas of Sites 1A and 1B; construction and operation of the JBL Kiln Facility; and the build out of Madison County Landfill as to which public information was available. The evaluation focused on the projects for which sufficient location, layout, and design information was available to carry out a more detailed analysis.

The Board of Supervisors finds that the GEIS Documents thoroughly analyzed the degree to which the impacts of the Project would have cumulative impacts with such other projects. Further, the Board of Supervisors agrees with, and adopts the cumulative impact conclusions reached in those analyses that any cumulative impact are not significant.

**CERTIFICATION OF FINDINGS TO APPROVE**

The Board of Supervisors has considered the relevant environmental impacts, facts and conclusions disclosed in the DGEIS and FGEIS, and other pertinent information and has weighed and balanced relevant environmental impacts with social, economic and other considerations.

Having considered the information and the facts and conclusions relied upon to meet the requirements of 6 NYCRR 617.11, the Board of Supervisors certifies that:

1) the requirements of 6 NYCRR Part 617 have been met; and

2) consistent with social, economic, and other essential considerations from among the reasonable alternatives available, the action is one that avoids or minimizes adverse environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable, and that adverse environmental impacts will be avoided or minimized to the maximum extent practicable by incorporating those mitigative measures that were identified as practicable.

**THIS STATEMENT IS NOT COMPLETE UNTIL AUTHORIZED AS FOLLOWS:**

**ADOPTED BY RESOLUTION:** _____

**CHAIRMAN:** _____

John M. Becker, Chairman

Madison County Board of Supervisors