

TOWN OF SOUTHEAST TOWN BOARD
Crossroads 312 SEQR Process

What is SEQRA? What is SEQR?

The State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) is Article 8 of the NYS Environmental Conservation Law. The SEQR process is used to identify any potential environmental impacts of a project. Before any project is approved, the Lead Agency must conduct a SEQR review.

What is Scoping?

As stated in SEQRA's implementing regulations (6 NYCRR 617), "the primary goals of scoping are to focus the EIS on potentially significant adverse impacts and to eliminate consideration of those impacts that are irrelevant or nonsignificant." Scoping is an optional process, but is commonly performed, especially on large projects. When scoping is done, it must include "an opportunity for public participation."

Who prepares the Scope?

SEQRA states that the project sponsor, or applicant, must submit a draft scope that the Lead Agency (in this case the Town of Southeast Town Board) must circulate to other involved agencies for comment. The final scope is prepared by the Lead Agency and must be approved within 60 days of receipt of the draft scope.

Does adopting a scope commit the Town Board to approve the project?

No. Adopting a scope is one of the initial steps in the SEQR process. It merely sets the outline for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) that will be prepared by the project sponsor. The Town Board can not take any action to approve the project until after all the requirements of SEQRA have been met.

How long is the SEQR process?

While the SEQR process has certain minimum and maximum time frames, it is hard to provide a specific duration. It is not uncommon for large projects to have the SEQR process take 12 to 18 months.

What is completeness review?

Prior to making a DEIS available to the public for comment, the Lead Agency must determine that the DEIS is "adequate with respect to its scope and content for the purpose of commencing public review" (6 NYCRR 617.9(a)(2)). A determination of adequacy (or "completeness"), once granted, does not express, either implicitly or explicitly, any agreement by the Lead Agency as to the interpretations or conclusions drawn by Crossroads 312 and its consultants, or resolution of any issues presented in the DEIS.

When may I provide my comments on this project?

Once the DEIS is accepted as complete, a formal public hearing will be held to allow the public to comment on the information presented in the DEIS. Written comments will also be accepted.

How will I know when there will be opportunities for public comment?

Once the Town Board determines that a DEIS is ready for public review, it will publish a notice for a public hearing. That notice will also tell you where you can find a copy of the DEIS. Typically, the DEIS is made available at the Town Clerk's office, the public Library, and on the Town web-site.

Recommended Resources:

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation SEQR Resources:

State Environmental Quality Review Act: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/regs/4490.html>

SEQR Cookbook (and other publications): <http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/36860.html>

SEQR Handbook: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6188.html>