

Full Environmental Assessment Form
Part 3 - Evaluation of the Magnitude and Importance of Project Impacts
and
Determination of Significance

Part 3 provides the reasons in support of the determination of significance. The lead agency must complete Part 3 for every question in Part 2 where the impact has been identified as potentially moderate to large or where there is a need to explain why a particular element of the proposed action will not, or may, result in a significant adverse environmental impact.

Based on the analysis in Part 3, the lead agency must decide whether to require an environmental impact statement to further assess the proposed action or whether available information is sufficient for the lead agency to conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant adverse environmental impact. By completing the certification on the next page, the lead agency can complete its determination of significance.

Reasons Supporting This Determination:

To complete this section:

- Identify the impact based on the Part 2 responses and describe its magnitude. Magnitude considers factors such as severity, size or extent of an impact.
- Assess the importance of the impact. Importance relates to the geographic scope, duration, probability of the impact occurring, number of people affected by the impact and any additional environmental consequences if the impact were to occur.
- The assessment should take into consideration any design element or project changes.
- Repeat this process for each Part 2 question where the impact has been identified as potentially moderate to large or where there is a need to explain why a particular element of the proposed action will not, or may, result in a significant adverse environmental impact.
- Provide the reason(s) why the impact may, or will not, result in a significant adverse environmental impact
- For Conditional Negative Declarations identify the specific condition(s) imposed that will modify the proposed action so that no significant adverse environmental impacts will result.
- Attach additional sheets, as needed.

See the Attachment

Determination of Significance - Type 1 and Unlisted Actions

SEQR Status: Type 1 Unlisted

Identify portions of EAF completed for this Project: Part 1 Part 2 Part 3

Upon review of the information recorded on this EAF, as noted, plus this additional support information included herein

and considering both the magnitude and importance of each identified potential impact, it is the conclusion of the Town of Brookhaven Town Board _____ as lead agency that:

A. This project will result in no significant adverse impacts on the environment, and, therefore, an environmental impact statement need not be prepared. Accordingly, this negative declaration is issued.

B. Although this project could have a significant adverse impact on the environment, that impact will be avoided or substantially mitigated because of the following conditions which will be required by the lead agency:

There will, therefore, be no significant adverse impacts from the project as conditioned, and, therefore, this conditioned negative declaration is issued. A conditioned negative declaration may be used only for UNLISTED actions (see 6 NYCRR 617.7(d)).

C. This Project may result in one or more significant adverse impacts on the environment, and an environmental impact statement must be prepared to further assess the impact(s) and possible mitigation and to explore alternatives to avoid or reduce those impacts. Accordingly, this positive declaration is issued.

Name of Action: Proposed Regional Recovery and Recycling Residue Facility (RRRF) at the Town of Brookhaven Solid Waste Management Facility (SWMF)

Name of Lead Agency: Town of Brookhaven Town Board

Name of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency: Matt Miner

Title of Responsible Officer:

Signature of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency:

Date:

Signature of Preparer (if different from Responsible Officer)

Date:

For Further Information:

Contact Person: Christopher Andrade, Commissioner, Department of Recycling & Sustainable Materials Management

Address: 1 Independence Hill Farmingville, NY 11738

Telephone Number: (631) 451-8696

E-mail: WasteManagement@brookhavenny.gov

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

Chief Executive Officer of the political subdivision in which the action will be principally located (e.g., Town / City / Village of)
Other involved agencies (if any)

Applicant (if any)

Environmental Notice Bulletin: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/enb/enb.html>

Part 3 – Environmental Assessment Form

Proposed Recovery and Recycling Residue Facility (RRRF) at the Town of Brookhaven Solid Waste

Management Facility (SWMF)

350 Horseblock Road

Yaphank, Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk County

Attachment

Introduction – The Proposed Action

This Attachment to the Part 3 – Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) has been prepared to assess the magnitude of potential impacts that may result from implementation of the proposed action, which includes the construction of a Regional Recovery and Recycling Residue Facility (“RRRF”) and associated infrastructure (the “Proposed Action” or “Project”) on the site of the existing Brookhaven Solid Waste Management Facility (the “Existing SWMF”), and to support a Determination of Significance. The Proposed Action, which has been designed to be in compliance with the regulations promulgated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) in 6 NYCRR Parts 360-366, Solid Waste Management, will be constructed on approximately 121 acres (the “Project Site”) that is distinct and separate from the existing 270±-acre Town Landfill within the Existing SWMF. Overall, implementation of the proposed action would allow the Town of Brookhaven (Town) to provide a long term, sustainable, resilient source of Waste-to-Energy (WTE) ash management for Long Island, which is necessary to allow the Region to continue converting its waste to clean, renewable energy, to reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and to contribute to solving the regional solid waste challenges facing Long Island.

Impacts to Land

The proposed Regional RRRF development represents one continuous construction project from initial groundbreaking for construction of the containment system (e.g., liner, leachate piping system and berm/wall) through the completion of filling and construction of final closure. The containment system for the proposed project will be constructed in multiple phases with some of the construction phases extending at least one year.

The proposed action will result in vegetation removal for portions of the site within the limits of disturbance where existing trees, brush and grasses exist. During the excavation and construction phases of the project, soils may be temporarily exposed while the site is brought to proposed grade and while temporary or permanent stabilization is occurring. During these times, if large rainstorms occur there is an increased potential for erosion as compared to existing conditions. Best management practices will be employed to minimize the potential for this occurring.

Given the scale of the proposed project and the duration of the overall construction period, potential impacts associated with on-going land disturbance and construction of the Regional RRRF must be assessed and mitigation measures for those impacts must be identified, where necessary.

Impacts to Water Resources

The proposed Regional RRRF will generate both stormwater runoff and leachate. The stormwater management system is designed for collection, treatment and dispersion of stormwater for all activities including pre-construction, during construction, operation and post-closure of the Regional RRRF cells. The potential impacts associated with stormwater runoff to groundwater resources must be evaluated. Furthermore, over the life of the development, as stormwater runoff quantities increase due to capping and closing of cells, the leachate generated decreases. The proposed Regional RRRF will incorporate a state-of-the-art liner in the waste footprint area and will include a state-of-the-art leachate collection system to control the release of contaminants to groundwater.

However, there is the potential for leachate constituents to be released to groundwater, and the potential impacts associated with this must be analyzed.

In order to adequately provide temporary and permanent stormwater management of runoff within the Project Site for the purpose of mitigating offsite impacts, existing drainage patterns within the Project Site may be modified. Runoff that sheet flows offsite at the south and southwest ends of the site under existing conditions will instead be collected and routed to stormwater management facilities in the proposed condition. Runoff directed to these facilities will leave the site through infiltration. Offsite drainage patterns will not be modified from existing conditions.

The Proposed Action will mitigate stormwater impacts through the use of proposed permanent stormwater management facilities. These facilities will be designed in accordance with NYSDEC standards. A component of these standards for the treatment of runoff is the requirement that these facilities retain a permanent pool of water. The permanent pools of water associated with the stormwater facilities are the only new waterbodies being created. The construction of these facilities, along with construction of the proposed project, will result in periods of time where soils may be temporarily exposed or where vegetative cover is still developing. During this time, runoff collected from the project that would be conveyed to stormwater facilities may contain more sediment than under normal conditions. Therefore, stormwater runoff and its collection, including the potential for erosion and sediment control, must be evaluated.

Potential impacts to water resources must be assessed due to stormwater generation and leachate associated with the proposed Regional RRRF.

Impacts to Air

Due to the nature of the proposed operations at the Project Site, there is the potential for dust release from wind erosion fill placement, and the operation of heavy equipment and traffic. Therefore, the potential for dust must be analyzed and a discussion of measures to minimize such impacts must be developed where needed.

Impacts to Plants and Animals

The New York Natural Heritage Program database currently includes within one mile of the Project Site a record of a summer roost tree for the New York State and federally threatened northern long-eared bat. The Proposed Action may involve removal of vegetation that has the potential to be suitable for summer roost habitat. Additionally, the Proposed Action may involve the removal of vegetation that has the potential to be suitable habitat for the eastern box turtle, a New York State special concern species. Accordingly, habitat assessments must be performed, and the potential impacts evaluated.

Impacts to Aesthetic Resources

The proposed Regional RRRF could extend to a height of up to 270 feet and include an associated mechanically stabilized earth berm/wall up to 50 feet in height. Over time, the Regional RRRF would become visible year-round by residents of the Town, travelers on local roadways and other nearby locations. Additionally, either concrete block or vegetative walls would be constructed around the waste footprint, which may be visible from publicly-accessible facilities. Therefore, potential visual impacts must be evaluated.

Impacts to Archaeological Resources

A small area in the southwestern portion of the Project Site is located in an area designated as sensitive for archaeological sites on the New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) archaeological site inventory. Due to this and because NYSDEC approval will be needed for the stormwater pollution prevention plan, a Project

Notification must be submitted to the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) to initiate review of the impacts to potential archaeological resources (if present) in accordance with Section 14.09 of the State Historic Preservation Act. Potential impacts to archaeological resources must be examined in accordance with OPRHP requirements.

Impacts to Transportation

The operations of the proposed Regional RRRF involve the transport of materials to and from the facility. Accordingly, transportation impacts must be evaluated.

Impacts to Noise and Odor

The Proposed Action has the potential to generate noise during operations. There is existing noise generated by current landfilling operations occurring at the Existing SWMF, which will diminish and then cease upon closure of the existing landfill. Noise levels from the proposed operations are expected to be similar to or lower than the existing landfill. However, to understand the potential noise level, operational noise from the proposed project operations must be examined to ensure they are within levels set forth in local and NYSDEC standards and guidelines.

While odor impacts from the proposed operations of the Regional RRRF are expected to be minimal due to the nature of the materials proposed to be handled at the Project Site and operational protocols are designed to limit odors releases, the potential for odors must be examined.

Impacts to Human Health

Day-to-day operations of the proposed Regional RRRF, including the emissions from transportation activities, treatment and disposal of leachate, and the generation of stormwater runoff have the potential to impact human health, which must be evaluated.

Consistency with Community Character

While the Proposed Action is consistent with the pattern of existing development in the surrounding community, it is not consistent with the character of the existing natural landscape, which must be evaluated in the DEIS. In addition, the Project Site's proximity to a Potential Environmental Justice Area must be examined.