

# Draft Scope for Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement for the Suffolk County Sewer District Capacity Study for Bellport, Sayville, Ronkonkoma Hub, Middle Island Corridor, Mastic/Shirley, Yaphank and Southampton Suffolk County, New York

## Introduction

This document presents a detailed outline of the content and studies required to assess the sewerage needs of the following seven areas: Bellport, Sayville, Ronkonkoma Hub, Middle Island Corridor, Mastic/Shirley, Yaphank and Southampton. This scoping document is essentially the work plan for the preparation of the Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS); it identifies the information that will be compiled and the evaluations that will be documented in the GEIS. The Scoping Document will identify the issues to be addressed within the GEIS, the data to be collected and the evaluations and analyses required to assess potential impacts. After the scope of the GEIS is approved, data collection, evaluations and documentation will begin.

## Brief Description of the Proposed Action

The Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) is being prepared concurrently with a study to evaluate the feasibility of providing sanitary sewage collection and treatment systems for seven areas where the potential need for sanitary sewerage has been identified by the Suffolk County Sewer District/Wastewater Treatment Task Force. The objective of the concurrent Feasibility Study is to identify the costs to provide sanitary sewers for each of the seven study areas that are consistent with the needs of each community; to potentially provide economic benefits, development and affordable housing, while preserving water quality. The Feasibility Study will identify those areas where the benefits of sewerage outweigh the project costs.

The proposed action being addressed by the GEIS will be implementation of a sanitary sewage collection and treatment system in the seven areas identified by the Task Force. The objective of the GEIS will be to identify the potential environmental impacts (both adverse and beneficial) of a sanitary sewerage program for these areas, and the triggers for further area-specific evaluations that will be required if the sanitary sewerage program is to move forward.

The project area consists of seven distinct areas, the boundaries of which have been described by Suffolk County as follows:

**Bellport Study Area:** "The study area incorporates the Village of Bellport along with North Bellport along CR 80. The Village of Bellport study area will include the areas zoned as Business E and Professional Business which is in the vicinity of South Country Road and Station Road. The area includes the Bellport Village Golf Course along with the various parcels that extend north on Station Road to Kreamer Street and east and west of South Country Road between New Jersey Avenue and Academy Lane. The North Bellport Study area would encompass an area on CR 80 from Bourdois Avenue on the west to Bellport Avenue on the east and extend south on Station Road to incorporate the Transit Oriented Development to Association Road."

**Lake Ronkonkoma Hub Study Area:** “The service area proposed is consistent with the Town of Brookhaven’s Transit Oriented Land Use Implementation Plan Study and will encompass approximately 330 acres that is generally defined by the Long Island MacArthur Airport to the south, the LIE Express Drive South to the north, Bay Avenue to the west, and Babcock Avenue to the east.”

**Mastic/Shirley Study Area:** “This area has been evaluated in the past and would run from west of William Floyd Parkway (Smith Road) to the Forge River along CR 80 – Montauk Highway including the business district to surrounding the Mastic Long Island Railroad Station.”

**NY 25 Corridor Study Area:** “The area in question is along Middle County Road Route 25 from the easterly portion of SD #11 and incorporates the area which is under consideration by the Town of Brookhaven. The area under consideration is four proposed hamlet centers at Centereach, Selden, Coram and Middle Island. It is possible that the area would not be a continuous line from Centereach to Middle Island and would be determined by the consultant’s work. Areas adjacent to the service area would include the Spring Lake Golf Course, Cathedral Pines County Park, Artist Lake, and the Moose New York State Conservation area to the north.”

**Sayville Study Area:** “The service area that would be proposed would be from Hiddink Street going west along Montauk Highway until Sunset Drive. The service area would also proceed north 0.3 miles on Railroad Avenue.”

**Southampton Village Study Area:** “... the main street area in Southampton ... which is approximately ½ mile ...”

**Yaphank County Center Study Area:** “... County Center property ...”

The figures included in Attachment A depict the Study Area boundaries. SCDPW has met with the local municipalities to review and confirm the boundaries of each study area. Based on discussions with the Village of Southampton, the Southampton Study Area boundaries shown in Attachment A will be refined. The Yaphank Study Area boundaries may also be refined as additional input is provided.

## **Generic Environmental Impact Statement Outline**

The following outline of the Draft GEIS for the proposed action includes a brief description of the contents and studies that will be included in each GEIS section. The GEIS and its findings will establish specific conditions or criteria for future actions if sanitary sewerage is undertaken or approved. This includes the requirements for subsequent State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) compliance such as thresholds and criteria for supplemental EISs that will address those site-specific impacts that cannot be completely addressed in the GEIS. The elements of the document are specified in 6 NYCRR Part 617.10 and summarized below.

*Executive Summary* – A concise summary of the key project details and impact findings/mitigation recommendations and areas requiring further area-specific study and assessment prior to moving forward with implementation of sewerage.

*Description of the Proposed Action, Purpose and Need* – A description of the proposed project and the underlying goals of, and need for, the improvements proposed by the County. The ‘Action’ includes the potential construction of sanitary sewers in seven distinct areas in the County. The flow from these

seven areas would then need to be directed to either an existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) or to a newly designed/constructed WWTP. The 'Action' also includes the creation of new sewer districts, or the expansion of existing districts to accept the added flow from each study area. The cost of these improvements to those who connect to the sewer system will be developed as part of the Feasibility Study; the cost/benefit for each study area will be assessed in the Draft GEIS.

*Existing Environmental Setting* – This section of the GEIS will include location maps, and definition of each of the seven study areas included in the evaluation. The description of the baseline environmental setting will identify known environmental resources as well as existing and planned land uses in the study areas. For purposes of this GEIS, the study areas will be limited to a radius extending 500 feet from the sewer area boundaries as defined above. The Feasibility Study will identify upgrades/expansion required at existing WWTPs or the need for a new WWTP. The specifics associated with these potential sites will be the subject of a site-specific Supplemental EIS or DEIS. The parameters used to describe the environmental setting will mirror those examined in the impact section. Data sources include:

- U. S. Census Data and Suffolk County Planning Department reports
- Town Land Use maps and Zoning maps
- Town/County comprehensive plans and planning documents
- Natural Resource Conservation Service Web Soil Survey
- USGS Maps and available topographic surveys
- Suffolk County Groundwater Model
- NYSDEC Natural Heritage Program consultation
- NYSDEC Wetland Maps & National Wetland Inventory Maps (online)
- FEMA floodplain mapping (online)
- State and National Registers of Historic Places (online)
- NYS OPRHP database (online)
- Aerial imagery

The draft GEIS will present the minimum land requirements for a new WWTP and siting requirements/restrictions as described in the Feasibility Study. The discussion concerning siting requirements will be included in the Alternatives section of the document.

*Potential Environmental Impacts:* Based on a preliminary review of the proposed action, the potential for impact to the following environmental parameters has been identified. As required under SEQRA, both the potential for impacts associated with the construction (short-term impacts) and the operation (long-term impacts) of the proposed sewer system will be evaluated in the GEIS where sufficient project-specific or area-specific information is available. This section will identify the potential significant impacts and/or the thresholds that will trigger the need for additional area-specific evaluations.

- Land Use, Zoning, and Public Policy: This section will include a description of land use within the potential sewerage areas. Existing plans for development or changes in zoning will be noted. Consistency with Town/County planning documents and policies will be evaluated. Zoning changes required for project implementation will be noted. Conformance with the relevant County's Smart Growth policies will be assessed. The need for consistency with area-specific plans such as the Carmans River Watershed Protection and Management Plan, the Forge River Watershed Management Plan, etc., will also be identified.

- **Demographics and Economics:** This discussion will address the potential impact to those who connect to a new sanitary sewer system. The cost to create a new sewer district or to expand an existing sewer district, and maintenance of the infrastructure and operation of the treatment system will be included in the cost to those within the study areas.
- **Air quality:** No significant long-term impacts to air quality are expected within the individual study areas. Potential odors from changes in operation at WWTPs will be addressed generically. Construction-related impacts as they relate to air quality, such as fugitive dust and construction vehicle exhaust emissions, will be assessed.
- **Visual/Aesthetic Character:** As the sewer mains will be below ground, the greatest potential for long-term visual impact will result from the construction of new WWTPs or expansion of existing treatment works.
- **Groundwater and Surface Water Quality and Quantity:** This section will evaluate the potential for sewerage impacts on the current use of groundwater resources to supply drinking water to Suffolk County residents, and will include potential impacts to groundwater quantity and quality. Potential groundwater impacts will be assessed based on existing data and published maps and reports. The potential benefits resulting from sanitary sewerage (including the regional impacts if sewerage was to advance in any or all of the seven study areas), such as reduced nitrate loading will also be presented. Potential impacts to surface water resources within the project study areas will be documented based on New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) classifications and water quality data available from the Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS). Surface water impacts will include potential impacts from direct discharge of treated effluent, and will also consider impacts on baseflow and nitrogen loading. Potential construction-related impacts will be analyzed, including stream bank erosion (if piping crosses a stream or other surface water body), sedimentation/runoff, and the potential for petroleum product spills/leaks. Finally, the potential for sewerage to induce growth, and the associated increased demand for potable supply will be discussed.
- **Traffic and Transportation:** Construction-related impacts within the proposed sewer corridors will be short-term. Industry standards or measures to reduce the potential disruption to local streets and emergency vehicles/school buses from detours along the route will be discussed. As businesses and residents may rely on these affected roads daily, it may be important to include project staging within the project to reduce potential impacts on local traffic. Potential construction-related impacts associated with the construction of a new WWTP or WWTP expansion will be identified should that sewerage option be advanced. The potential for sewerage to induce growth, and the associated impacts on traffic and transportation requirements will be discussed.
- **Historic, Architectural, and Archaeological (Cultural) Resources:** The GEIS will contain a desktop assessment of potential impacts on historic and archaeological resources. Potential for impact will be assessed based on known resources. The GEIS will include the results of an online search for documented historic use of the sites under consideration. Specific assessments of WWTP sites conducted by a professional archaeologist in accordance with the procedures of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) will

be required as part of a site-specific DEIS or Supplemental EIS if the sewerage project were to advance.

- Natural environment:
  - Threatened and endangered species – The potential impact to threatened and endangered species will be based on the results of an official request to the NYSDEC Natural Heritage Program and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of recorded sightings of rare, threatened and endangered species within the study areas and at the potential new WWTP locations that are identified. Known sightings of special concern species and natural communities, and/or significant wildlife habitats within the study areas will also be requested and evaluated for potential impact as a result of project implementation. Impact to habitats and vegetation within each study area will be assessed based on published data documenting existing conditions.
  - Wetlands – Potential impacts to freshwater and tidal wetlands will be assessed within the sewerage corridors using available online mapping to document existing site conditions. The potential for construction-related and operational impacts will be assessed.
  - Streams – Stream crossings are not anticipated within the sewerage corridors themselves. The construction of the infrastructure required to convey the flow to a WWTP may require stream crossings. Typical construction measures to avoid potential impacts will be listed.
  - Floodplains – Based on available floodplain mapping, the potential for construction and operational impacts will be assessed. Specific construction-related techniques or measures will be developed to reduce the potential for impact to floodplains.
  - Noise: Noise impacts will result primarily from construction-related activities. Town noise codes will be compared to standard construction equipment noise levels. Industry standard noise-reduction measures typically included in projects of this type will be noted and assumed in the assessment of potential impacts. Increased noise from sewage treatment plant operation will be identified.
  - Geology and Soils: The potential impact to geology and soils will be determined based on the use of existing USGS reports and Natural Resources Conservation Service information for Suffolk County. The potential for impact during construction will be determined from evaluating the major soil types within each study area.
- Utilities and Community Services: In areas where the potential for additional development/economic growth is identified, an increased need for electric and gas supply, and potable water supply may result. Available utility data will be used to assess the potential for impact on these services. The need for additional WWTP capacity will be noted.

- **Construction Impacts:** Construction-related impacts will be analyzed within each of the seven potential sewerage areas. Typically, the assessment of construction impacts for a linear project focuses on traffic, noise, air quality (stationary sources), erosion potential and effects to the natural environment. This section will assume that the standard industry standard measures to reduce potential impacts from projects of this type are included.
- **Hazardous Materials:** The potential impacts associated with the use of petroleum products during construction will be evaluated in addition to the use and delivery of chemicals that may be required at the WWTP. The potential for sewer main construction to occur within areas of known hazardous contamination will be assessed.

*Mitigation Measures* – Where significant project related impacts are identified based on the analysis conducted in the draft GEIS, measures to mitigate these potential impacts to the extent practicable will be identified. This will include potential short-term construction as well as long-term operational impacts. For example, measures to reduce the potential for soil erosion during construction and traffic control measures (signage, flag persons, etc.) to avoid impacts on motorists and emergency vehicles will be identified. Impacts that cannot be mitigated will be described as unavoidable adverse impacts.

*Description and Evaluation of Alternatives* – This section of the document will include a description and evaluation of reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, considering the goals and objectives of the County. The following alternatives will be evaluated in the Draft GEIS:

- **No Action Alternative:** Continued use of septic systems and existing sanitary sewage collection and treatment systems within each of the seven study areas.
- **Treatment Options:**
  - Use of area-specific WWTP. This will require the creation of up to seven new sewer districts. Potential sites (or criteria for potential sites) for a new WWTP will be listed based on existing information sources, primarily the Feasibility Study.
  - Connection to an existing WWTP (expand existing sewer district boundaries).

*Growth Inducing Aspects, Secondary and Cumulative Impacts of the Proposed Project* – The potential growth of the seven areas that are being evaluated is determined by the current zoning and the policies and plans of the Towns and Villages in which they are located. The potential for growth will be addressed in this DGEIS in a general manner. A project-specific EIS will address this parameter in greater detail.

Other Draft GEIS chapters will include the following:

- **Environmental Justice Assessment** – U.S. Census data will be used to determine the economic and demographic make-up of the proposed study areas. The need for this assessment will be discussed as it relates to the population within each study area.
- **Green House Gas Impact** – This assessment will estimate the potential green house gas impact based on the additional energy needs to treat the added flow from each of the study areas.

- Unavoidable Adverse Effects - This section will summarize those impacts that will be unavoidable as a result of implementing the proposed sewerage projects.
- Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments and Resources – This section will discuss those nonrenewable natural resources that will be used in the implementation of the proposed sewerage projects.
- List of References
- Technical Appendices:
  - SEQRA documentation including Positive Declaration and Final Scoping Document
  - Engineering Feasibility Studies
  - Correspondence with Regulatory Agencies
  - Economic Analysis
  - GIS Figures

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