

September 4, 2008

Mr. Robert Prendergast SBA University at Albany 1400 Washington Avenue Albany, NY 12222

Re: SEQR Lead Agency

Notification/Positive Declaration, Implementation of the UAlbany

Capital Project Plan

File: 2069/42606

Dear Potential Involved Agency:

This letter is being forwarded to you on behalf of The University at Albany, State University of New York (UAlbany). UAlbany is in the process of evaluation, prioritization, design, and construction of a series of projects for its Uptown Campus. Collectively, these projects constitute the campus' Capital Project Plan. As an integral element of the planning process, UAlbany has initiated the environmental review process for the implementation of the Capital Project Plan in accordance with the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) [statutory authority: Environmental Conservation Law Sections 3-0301(1)(b), 3-0301(2)(m) and 8-0113; implementing regulations in 6 NYCRR Part 617]. This letter constitutes and combines two steps in the SEQR process: assumption of lead agency responsibilities and determination of significance, and notes the intention of UAlbany to prepare a draft generic environmental impact statement (DGEIS) for this action.

The Project is defined as UAlbany's "Capital Project Plan". The components of the Capital Project Plan are the following:

Project Name		Project Description	Approximate Construction Start
1.	Student Housing Project	Construction of new student housing facilities with approximately 500 apartment-style beds.	October 2009
2.	Campus Center Addition	Construction of student activity and surge space of approximately 75,000 square feet (SF) under roof	January 2011
3.	Campus Center Alterations	Perform renovations within the existing campus center	July 2010
4.	Business School Building	Construct new academic facility	March 2010
5.	Data Center Building	Construct new campus data center of approximately 30,000 SF under roof with associated parking	June 2010
6.	Multi-use Stadium	Construct a new 12,000 capacity stadium	March 2011
7.	Purple Path Continuation	Construction of the Purple Path to encircle and incorporate paths the Uptown Campus	Summer 2009
8.	Renovate Student Health Building (Building 25)	Construction to change room size and function	January 2011
9.	Northern Landscape Improvement Project – Phase 2	Perform activities consistent with Landscape Master Plan	2012

Project Name	Project Description	Approximate Construction Start
Southern Landscape Improvement Project	Perform activities consistent with Landscape Master Plan	2012
Renovation & Addition to Service Building A	Add 800 SF addition and renovate 20,000 SF, including infill of existing shops for office.	2010
State Quad Parking Lot Expansion	Add approximately 250 spaces to west side of State Quad parking Lot	September 2009
13. Surge Building	Construction of building to contain faculty offices and research labs of approximately 40,000 SF under roof	March 2012
14. Library Renovations	Renovate Library to repair building systems and add condensed or remote book storage systems.	May 2011
15. Construct Addition to Grounds Building	Add 8,000 SF addition for shops and ambulance services	August 2009
16. Fine Arts Studio	Construct new building of offices and studios	2013
17. Rehab Water Tower & Fountains	Repair corrosion to interior and exterior of water tower, repair mechanical systems in water tower and fountains.	May 2010

These elements of the Capital Project Plan are in various stages of planning with details for some projects considerably less mature than others. Locations and project parameters may not as yet have been selected and/or may be incomplete.

UAlbany has determined that:

- 1. The Capital Project Plan is subject to SEQR.
- 2. The action, Implementation of the Capital Project Plan, will involve multiple agencies for funding, permits, and approvals.
- 3. The action constitutes a Type I action (6 NYCRR Part 617.4) with respect to SEQR.

For purposes of coordinated review of this Capital Project Plan, UAlbany is declaring its intent to assume the role and responsibilities of Lead Agency pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617.6(b). As the New York State entity that is funding and undertaking the subject action, UAlbany is in the best position with respect to resources and technical capabilities to assume this role.

Based on the number of projects that are included in the Capital Project Plan, and the magnitude of several of these projects as described in the table above and from planning activities performed by UAlbany, UAlbany has sufficient information in lieu of an environmental assessment form (EAF) to determine that implementation of the Capital Project Plan may have a significant adverse impact on the environment (6 NYCRR 617.7). Therefore, UAlbany has determined that a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) will be prepared. UAlbany has determined to prepare a draft generic environmental impact statement (DGEIS) consistent with 6 NYCRR Part 617.10 ("Generic environmental impact statements") because the implementation of the Capital Project Plan fulfills one or more of the following criteria:

(1) "a number of separate actions in a given geographic area which, if considered singly, may have minor impacts, but if considered together may have significant impacts; or

- (2) a sequence of actions contemplated by a single agency or individual; or
- (3) separate actions having generic or common impacts; or
- (4) an entire program or plan having wide application or restricting the range of future alternative policies or projects, including new or significant changes to existing land use plans, development plans, zoning regulations or agency comprehensive resource management plans."- 6 NYCRR Part 617.10(a)

Potentially involved agencies (those agencies that may have funding, permit or approval jurisdiction with respect to the proposed action) have 30 days from the date above to indicate objections to the assumption of Lead Agency status by UAlbany. Such objections must be received by October 6, 2008 and must be addressed to:

Errol Millington UAlbany SBA Suite 107 1400 Washington Avenue Albany, NY 12222

Very truly yours,

O'BRIEN & GERE ENGINEERS, INC.

Shuard Joseph Stuart J. Spiegel Vice President

SEQR Involved / Interested Agencies

University at Albany - August 2008

Lead Agency: University at Albany, State University of New York

Hon. Gerald Jennings, Mayor City Hall, Room 102 Albany, NY 12110

Mr. Gene Kelly, Regional Director NYS Department of Environmental Conservation-Region 4 1130 North Westcott Road Schenectady, NY 12306-2014

Mr. Michael V. Franchini, Commissioner Albany County Department of Public Works 449 New Salem Road Voorheesville, NY 12186-4826

Hon. Michael Breslin Albany County Executive 112 State Street, Room 200 Albany, NY 12207

Dr. James B. Crucetti, MD, MPH, Commissioner Albany County Department of Health 175 Green Street Albany, New York 12202

Mr. Robert Cross, Commissioner City of Albany Water Department 35 Erie Boulevard Albany, NY 12204

Ms. Ruth Pierpont NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation Peebles Island Resource Center P.O. Box 189 Waterford, NY 12188-0189

Mr. Christopher Hawver, Executive Director Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission 195 New Karner Road Albany NY 12205

Mr. Michael Yevoli, Commissioner Department of Development and Planning 21 Lodge Street Albany, NY 12207

Mr. Brian O. Rowback, Regional Director NYS Department of Transportation 328 State Street Schenectady, NY 12305

SEQR Involved / Interested Agencies

University at Albany - August 2008

Lead Agency: University at Albany, State University of New York

Kathryn K. Lowery VP Finance and Business University at Albany 1400 Washington Avenue Albany, NY 12222

Mr. Jay Pollard State University Construction Fund State University Plaza 353 Broadway Albany, NY 12246

Leo Neveu, Executive Director Fuller Road Management Corp. P.O. Box 9 Albany, NY 12201

Environmental Notice Bulletin 625 Broadway Albany, NY 12233-1750

Kenneth Runion, Supervisor Guilderland Town Hall – 2nd Floor Box 339 Guilderland, NY 12084

Paul T. Williams, Jr., Executive Director New York State Dormitory Authority 515 Broadway Albany, NY 12207

Mr. John C. Egan, Commissioner New York State Office of General Services 41st Floor, Corning Tower Empire State Plaza Albany, NY 12242

Stuart J. Spiegel, Vice President O'Brien & Gere 5000 Brittonfield Parkway East Syracuse, NY 13057

Bridget Morey, Senior Sanitary Engineer New York State Office of General Services 31st Floor, Corning Tower Empire State Plaza Albany, NY 12242

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University at Albany - August 2008

Lead Agency: University at Albany, State University of New York

Tom Haley, Environmental Analyst NYS Department of Environmental Conservation – Region 4 1150 N Westcott Road Schenectady, NY 12306-2014

Carol Ash, Commissioner NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Empire State Plaza Agency Building 1 Albany NY 12238

Mary Ellen C Mallia, Director Environmental Sustainability University at Albany, SUNY University Hall 212E 1400 Washington Avenue Albany NY 12222

Hon. Shawn Morris, President City of Albany Common Council 24 Marinello Terrace Albany NY 12209

Hon. Sandra Fox City of Albany Common Councilor – Ward 15 42 Moreland Avenue Albany NY 12203

Jan Weston, Town Planner
Town of Guilderland Planning Department
Guilderland Town Hall – 2nd Floor
P.O. Box 339
Guilderland, NY 12084

Frank J. Commisso Albany County Legislator – District 12 130 Cottage Avenue Albany, NY 12203

William M. Clay Albany County Legislator – District 13 4 Highland Court Albany, NY 12203

Mary Lou B. Connolly Albany County Legislator – District 32 110 McKown Road West Albany, NY 12203