



**State Environmental Quality Review  
Notice of Completion of  
Draft Supplemental  
Generic Environmental Impact Statement,  
Capital Project Plan**

**Date:** December 12, 2014

**Lead Agency:** University at Albany, SUNY  
**Address:** 1400 Washington Avenue  
Albany, NY 12222

This notice is issued pursuant to Part 617 of the implementing regulations pertaining to Article 8 (State Environmental Quality Review Act) of the Environmental Conservation Law.

A Draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DSGEIS) has been completed and accepted for the proposed action described below. Comments and questions are requested and will be accepted by the contact person until January 12, 2015. A public hearing on the DSGEIS is not anticipated for the following reasons:

- 1) The DSGEIS addresses one project that was evaluated pursuant to SEQRA as part of a GEIS process. That project has increased in size: it was previously described as a Multi-Discipline Science Surge Building, but is now planned as the Emerging Technology and Entrepreneurship Complex (ETEC). However, following an evaluation of the potential impacts of the increase in size, and other factors as described in the DSGEIS, it has been determined that significant environmental impacts will not occur.
- 2) A new project, a Storage Building, has been proposed to the Capital Project Plan that was not initially included and, therefore, was not evaluated pursuant to SEQRA as part of the GEIS process. Following an evaluation of the potential impacts of the project, the Storage Building, as described in the DSGEIS, it has been determined that significant environmental impacts will not occur.

Copies of the DSGEIS are available on the University at Albany, SUNY web site at: <http://www.albany.edu/facilities/dgeis/> and at hard copy repositories located at the University at Albany, SUNY Facilities Management Office and the Main Library on the Uptown Campus, the Guilderland Public Library, and the Hawley Library on the Downtown Campus.

**Name of Action:** University at Albany, SUNY Capital Project Plan

**Description of Action:**

As part of the continuing evolution of University at Albany, SUNY's Uptown Campus, a Capital Project Plan had been developed in 2010 that involved a holistic perspective and encompasses the foreseeable

capital needs of the Uptown campus over a five year planning horizon. The following list provides a summary of the projects that constitute this Capital Project Plan.

1. Student Housing Project: Construction of new student housing facilities with approximately 500 apartment-style beds
2. Campus Center Master Plan: Construction of student activity and surge space of approximately 50,000 sq ft under roof
3. Construct New Business School Building: Construct new 90,000 sq ft academic facility
4. Relocate Data Center: Relocate campus Data Center to another site on campus
5. Implement Various Athletics Improvements: Phase series of improvements to athletics facilities
6. Purple Path Continuation: Construction of the Purple Path to encircle and incorporate pedestrian and bicycle paths around the perimeter of the Uptown Campus
7. Northern Landscape Improvement Project: Perform activities consistent with Landscape Master Plan
8. State Quad Parking Lot Expansion: Add approximately 250 spaces to west side of State Quad parking Lot
9. Multi-Discipline Science Surge Building: Construction of academic building of approximately 150,000 sq ft to facilitate Podium renovations
10. Service Building Renovation: Add approximately 24,325 sq ft addition for vehicle operations, small engine and metal shops
11. Entry Improvements: Improve entrance aesthetics and safety at Washington and Western Avenues
12. Bus Rapid Transit: Based on recommendations in the Harriman – University at Albany, SUNY Linkage Study, locate Bus Rapid Transit stations on campus
13. Bicycle-Pedestrian Path: Develop a network of paths, improving connections between each quad, the Podium, and the Purple Path.

This DSGEIS modifies the 2010 list of projects as follows, which changes the programming and size of one building (Project 9) and adds a new building (Project 14):

9. Emerging Technology and Entrepreneurship Complex (ETEC)
14. Storage Facility.

**Location:** University at Albany, SUNY Uptown Campus  
1400 Washington Avenue  
Albany, NY 12222

### **Potential Environmental Impacts:**

Potential unavoidable adverse environmental impacts may result as a consequence of the revised Capital Project Plan.

Construction Phase: The presence of construction activities is a common element of daily life on the UAlbany Uptown Campus. As noted in the DGEIS and the DSGEIS, the Uptown Campus was constructed largely in the 1960s. In recent years, there has been the construction of capital projects, including new buildings that have been elements of the Capital Project Plan, such as Liberty Terrace residence hall and the Business School building, as well as a constant program of rehabilitation of facilities and infrastructure. The University prepares and modifies as necessary a construction plan for the campus; it presented an estimate of the number of construction and personal vehicles of construction workers that would be expected on campus for the respective projects in this Capital Project Plan as of the SEQRA review as documented in the DGEIS, sequenced over the planning period, assuming project schedules with various levels of certainty that remain, at this time, speculative. The busiest point in the schedule at that time was expected to be the 2011 calendar year, when over 300 vehicles, approximately

72% of which were to be personal vehicles of construction workers, would be entering and leaving campus daily. The numbers of construction vehicles reflected the number of daily trips over the daily construction work day, while the personal vehicles of the workers largely would enter and leave the campus at the beginning and end of the work day. Coordination over that period was successfully completed. The University's construction plan will be modified to address the two projects that are the subject of this DSGEIS, as well as for the routine rehabilitation and maintenance of facilities and infrastructure that may be necessary on the Uptown Campus.

Potential unavoidable adverse environmental impacts as a result of construction phase activities associated with these two projects of the Capital Project Plan include:

- short-term disruption and exposure of soils as a result of excavation, grading, and restoration activities
- increased potential for sedimentation and erosion as a result of disruption and exposure of soils
- consumption of petroleum hydrocarbon fuels during construction phase activities and the subsequent release of air pollutants and GHGs, including carbon monoxide, particulate matter, carbon dioxide, and nitrous oxide
- potential short-term and localized increases in dust and vehicle/equipment emissions due to construction activities
- temporary construction-related noise
- increased traffic on campus due to the personal vehicles of construction workers; this will occur concurrent with traffic peaks on campus at the beginning and end of the work day.

The potential unavoidable adverse environmental impacts identified above will be temporary in nature and limited in scope. UAlbany has a staging plan to mitigate to an extent the impacts of construction, and will utilize a routing plan presently in preparation to minimize on campus traffic impacts.

Operational Phase: Potential unavoidable adverse environmental impacts as a result of operational phase activities associated with these two projects of the Capital Project Plan include:

- commitment of previously undeveloped land on the Uptown Campus for implementation of components of the Capital Project Plan
- modification or loss of existing terrestrial and forested habitats, vegetative cover, and landscaped open space
- displacement of wildlife associated with existing urban habitats
- potential for increased surface runoff as a result of an increase in impervious surfaces
- consumption of petroleum hydrocarbon fuels and the subsequent release of air pollutants and GHGs, including carbon monoxide, particulate matter, carbon dioxide, and nitrous oxide
- an instrument tower may be constructed in association with the ETEC Building; portions of this tower, if constructed, may be visible from off campus locations
- localized and short-term increase in traffic levels along roadways in the vicinity of the Uptown Campus during normal campus hours.

The potential unavoidable adverse environmental impacts identified above are not anticipated to be significant. Appropriately designed and implemented mitigation measures, as detailed in Section 3 of the DSGEIS, will minimize the potentially unavoidable adverse environmental impacts associated with the implementation of these two projects of the Capital Project Plan, as presented herein and summarized in the table in Appendix A of this DSGEIS.

Contact Person: Errol Millington, Director  
Address: Office of Campus Planning  
University at Albany, SUNY  
1400 Washington Avenue, Service Building A  
Albany, NY 12222  
[EMillington@uamail.albany.edu](mailto:EMillington@uamail.albany.edu)  
518-442-3400

**A copy of this notice must be sent to:**

Department of Environmental Conservation, Albany, NY 12233-1750

Chief Executive Officer, Town/City/Village of: Mayor of Albany

Any person who has requested a copy of the Draft/Final DGEIS

Any other involved agency

Environmental Notice Bulletin, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-1750

**Copies of the DGEIS must be distributed according to 6 NYCRR 617.12(b).**