Rockland County, New York Draft Scoping Document

For a Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement For the Rockland County Comprehensive Plan

This document identifies the issues to be addressed in the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) for the Draft Rockland County Comprehensive Plan proposed for adoption by the Rockland County Legislature. This Draft Scoping Document contains the items described in 6 NYCRR Part 617.8 (f) (1) through (5).

Name of Action:	Adoption of the Rockland County Comprehensive Plan (Draft)
Location:	Rockland County, New York
Lead Agency:	Rockland County Legislature Allison-Parris County Office Building 11 New Hempstead Road New City, NY 10956
Lead Agency Contact:	Hon. Harriet D. Cornell Chairwoman of the Rockland County Legislature Allison-Parris County Office Building 11 New Hempstead Rd New City, NY 10956 T. 845.638.5269
Classification of Action:	Type 1 (see NYCRR 617.4(b)(1)): "the adoption of a municipality's land use plan"
Scoping Meeting:	May 24, 2010 3 pm to 5 pm and 7 pm to 9 pm
	Rockland County Legislature Allison-Parris County Office Building 11 New Hempstead Road New City, NY 10956
Written Scoping Comments:	Written public comments on the draft scoping document will be accepted by the Lead Agency until

June 7, 2010.

Description of Proposed Action:

Pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR), the proposed action is the adoption of the Rockland County Comprehensive Plan. The Rockland County Comprehensive Plan is a blueprint for the County's future that will provide guidance for future planning and zoning municipal actions and serve as the basis for all County government planning and development issues for the next 30 years. The plan will create a framework for future capital expenditure decisions by County government. It will also provide general recommendations on future County land use issues and policies to implement these strategies, address key matters under direct County jurisdiction, and identify specific land use and zoning conflicts among municipalities that should be resolved to allow for better functioning of zoning regulations. The draft Plan presents the County's vision though a set of policies and recommendations for the entire County (approximately 176 square miles) rather than directly undertake any specific development program or project.

As stated in the SEQR regulations, 6 NYCRR Section 617.10(a), a Generic EIS may be used to assess the environmental impacts of "an entire program or plan having area wide application..." In addition, this section says that "Generic EISs may be broader and more general than site or project specific EISs." The broad focus of a GEIS aids in the identification and analysis of area-wide and cumulative effects of the action. Thus, the DGEIS will address the Plan's area-wide impacts potentially resulting from the Plan's recommendations, and not localized, site-specific impacts.

The Rockland County Legislature declared its intent to act as Lead Agency, for purposes of SEQR review, on April 20, 2010.

The DGEIS will contain the elements required in 617.9(b) and the following information:

COVER SHEET identifying:

- (1) The report as a Draft GEIS
- (2) The proposed action and its location
- (3) The name, address and telephone number of the Lead Agency and contact person
- (4) The name, address and telephone number of the preparer of the DGEIS; the date of DGEIS submission and acceptance
- (5) Public hearing date and DGEIS comment period
- (6) Website where DGEIS and FGEIS will be posted, as required under state law

Following the cover sheet, a list (name, address and telephone numbers) of all sub-consultants involved in the project and a list of all interested and involved parties will be provided.

TABLE OF CONTENTS, indicating the chapters of the DGEIS and page numbers, as well as lists of exhibits, tables and appendices (if any).

ii

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Introduction
- 1.2 Proposed Action
- 1.3 Alternatives
- 1.4 Significant Impacts and Mitigation Measures
- 1.5 Interested/Involved Agencies
- 1.6 Required Reviews and Approvals

2.0 PROPOSED ACTION: COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ADOPTION

- 2.1 Project History
- 2.2 Public Needs and Benefits
- 2.3 Goals of the Plan
- 2.4 Recommendations
- 2.5 Involved Agencies
- 2.6 Required Reviews and Approvals

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING, IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION

3.1 **Demographics**

- 3.1.1 Existing Conditions
- 3.1.2 Potential Impacts
- 3.1.3 Mitigation Measures

3.2 Land Use and Zoning

- 3.2.1 Existing Conditions
- 3.2.2 Potential Impacts
- 3.2.3 Mitigation Measures

3.3 Transportation

- 3.3.1 Existing Conditions
- 3.3.2 Potential Impacts
- 3.3.3 Mitigation Measures

3.4 Natural Resources

- 3.4.1 Land Resources (topography, soils, habitat)
 - 3.4.1.A. Existing Conditions
 - 3.4.1.B. Potential Impacts
 - 3.4.1.C. Mitigation Measures
- 3.4.2 Water Resources (floodplains, wetlands)
 - 3.4.2.A. Existing Conditions
 - 3.4.2.B. Potential Impacts
 - 3.4.3.C. Mitigation Measures
- 3.4.3 Air Quality and Noise
 - 3.4.3.A. Existing Conditions
 - 3.4.3.B. Potential Impacts
 - 3.4.3.C. Mitigation Measures

3.5 Open Space and Recreation

- 3.5.1 Existing Conditions
- 3.5.2 Potential Impacts
- 3.5.3 Mitigation Measures

3.6 Historic and Cultural Resources

- 3.6.1 Existing Conditions
- 3.6.2 Potential Impacts
- 3.6.3 Mitigation Measures

3.7 Housing

- 3.7.1 Existing Conditions
- 3.7.2 Potential Impacts
- 3.7.3 Mitigation Measures

3.8 **Economic Development**

- 3.8.1 Existing Conditions
- 3.8.2 Potential Impacts
- 3.8.3 Mitigation Measures

3.9 Infrastructure

- 3.9.1 Existing Conditions
- 3.9.2 Potential Impacts
- 3.9.3 Mitigation Measures

3.10 Public Services

- 3.10.1 Existing Conditions
- 3.10.2 Potential Impacts
- 3.10.3 Mitigation Measures

4.0 OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- 4.1 Unavoidable Adverse Environmental Impacts
- 4.2 Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources
- 4.3 Growth-Inducing, Cumulative and Secondary Impacts
- 4.4 Effects on the Use and Conservation of Energy

5.0 ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES

5.1 No-Action Alternative

6.0 SUBSEQUENT SEQR ACTIONS

6.1 Recommendations Proposed by the Comprehensive Plan Potentially Requiring Future Site-Specific SEQR Review