



Department of
Environmental
Conservation



State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) - Overview

**DEC Environmental Information Conference
October 25, 2019**

SEQR – What is it?

Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) Article 8

- passed by NYS Legislature in 1975

Implemented by 6 NYCRR Part 617

- Recent amendments effective January 1, 2019
(<http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/83389.html>)

Mandates government agencies to consider impacts on “environmental factors” when making decisions



When Does SEQR Apply?

When an “agency” has a discretionary decision to :

- Approve,
- Fund, or
- Directly undertake,

any “action” which may affect the environment.



What Are “Environmental Factors”?

SEQR defines environment very broadly:

- Resources or characteristics that could be affected by an action, including:
 - Biological resources - - plants, wildlife
 - Physical resources - - land, water, air
 - Historic or archaeological resources
 - Human populations and patterns
 - Traffic, Noise, Aesthetics
 - Community character



How SEQR Works

Agency Proposes Action or Receives Application

- ▶ Action Classified *
- ▶ Lead Agency Established
- ▶ Significance of Action Determined *
 - ▶ Environmental Impact Statement,
If Needed
 - ▶ Findings and Agency Decision *

SEQR Process Can Conclude At Any of These Points *



DEC's SEQR Website

www.dec.ny.gov/permits/357.html

Department of Environmental Conservation

[Recreation](#) [Nature](#) [Prevent & Control Pollution](#) [Regulatory](#) [News & Learning](#) [Search](#)

SEQR

- Introduction to SEQR
- Stepping Through the SEQR Process
- SEQR Handbook
- State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) Forms
- Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) Workbooks
- SEQR Publications
- "EIS on the Web" Requirement
- SEQR Regulatory Documents
- Critical Environmental Areas
- Commissioner Decisions on Lead Agency Disputes

[Home](#) » [Permits, Licenses, and Registrations](#) » SEQR

SEQR

2018 SEQR Amendments - Adopted June 27, 2018. Effective on January 1, 2019. Amendments to the regulations that implement the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) Title 6 NYCRR Part 617 to streamline the SEQR process.

Environmental Impact Assessment in New York State

In New York State, most projects or activities proposed by a state agency or unit of local government, and all discretionary approvals (permits) from a NYS agency or unit of local government, require an environmental impact assessment as prescribed by [6 NYCRR Part 617 State Environmental Quality Review \(SEQR\)](#) (link leaves DEC website.) [Statutory authority: Environmental Conservation Law Sections 3-0301(1)(b), 3-0301(2)(m) and 8-0113]. SEQR requires the sponsoring or approving governmental body to identify and mitigate the significant environmental impacts of the activity it is proposing or permitting.

Environmental assessments are standardized through use of the Environmental Assessment Form (EAF). [The Environmental Assessment Forms](#) are in a pdf format that can be filled and saved. To assist applicants in preparing the Part 1 of either the Short or Full EAF, we have developed EAF Workbooks and a GIS mapping program (the EAF Mapper) that searches spatial data bases and provides answers to location-based questions which are automatically filled onto a pdf copy of an EAF and provided to the user. The spatial data used by the EAF mapping program to complete the new EAFs is based on the GIS data sets used and maintained by DEC, or actively maintained by various agencies and shared with DEC.

Important Links

- [2018 Adopted SEQR Amendments](#)
- [Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement on the Proposed Amendments to SEQR \(PDF 310 kb\)](#)
- [The New EAF's - EAFs for the 21st Century - Full Power Point Presentation \(PDF 2.52 MB\)](#)
- [Climate Change Guidance Documents](#)

Contact for this Page

NYS DEC
Division of Environmental Permits
4th Floor
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-1750
518-402-9167
[Send us an email](#)

This Page Covers



DEC's SEQR EAF Mapper

www.dec.ny.gov/EAFMapper

NEW YORK STATE

Services News Government Local Q Search Location Translate

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Streets Aerials

Navigate To Area (Step 1)

Go To

Select County: [SELECT]

Select Town: [SELECT]

Go

Define Project Site (Step 2)

Draw Project Site Or Select Tax Parcel

Area: Acres Clear Site / Cancel

Create Report (Step 3)

Full Form, Part 1 Short Form, Part 1

Initial Extent Zoom In Zoom Out Show Overview Map

Feedback | Help 1:577,791

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY

Department of Environmental Conservation

DEC's SEQR EAF Workbooks

www.dec.ny.gov/permits/90125.html

Department of Environmental Conservation

[Recreation](#) [Nature](#) [Prevent & Control Pollution](#) [Regulatory](#) [News & Learning](#) [Search](#)

[Home](#) » [Permits, Licenses, and Registrations](#) » [SEQR](#) » [Environmental Assessment Form \(EAF\) Workbooks](#) » [Part 3 - Determination of Significance \(SEAF\)](#) » [Part 3 - How to Determine Significance](#)

Part 3 - How to Determine Significance

Short Environmental Assessment Form (SEAF)

In this section, you will revisit several pieces of Part 2 such as the scale and context of a project. The task of Part 3 is to determine the significance of an impact. However, the term 'significant' is somewhat subjective. That is because the significance of an impact is dependent on the context of the project, and the magnitude, duration, importance, irreversibility, and likelihood of that impact occurring. Each impact must be judged and weighed by these different characteristics. Similar projects may have different decisions on significance because of that.

The following steps will help you determine the environmental significance of the impacts identified in Part 2.

Understand What Makes an Impact Significant:

The significance of an impact is decided by evaluating the **magnitude**, **duration**, and **likelihood** of an impact occurring within the context (geographic scope, setting, and scale) of the project and project area. Each of these is described as follows:

- **Magnitude:**

Part 3 only addresses moderate to large impacts. For each potential impact being evaluated in Part 3, decide if it will be moderate or large. Magnitude reflects both the area of land as well as the amount of a particular resource or the number of people being impacted.

 - **Moderate Impact:** These are impacts that are of a size that will likely result in more impacts on one or more environmental resources but are more localized. Moderate impacts can occur when the project affects a portion of a parcel or even a larger area extending to a small area just beyond the parcel. Moderate environmental impacts


PDF Help

For help with PDFs on this page, please call 518-402-9167.

Contact for this Page

NYSDEC
Division of Environmental Permits
4th Floor
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-1750
518-402-9167
[Send us an email](#)

This Page Covers



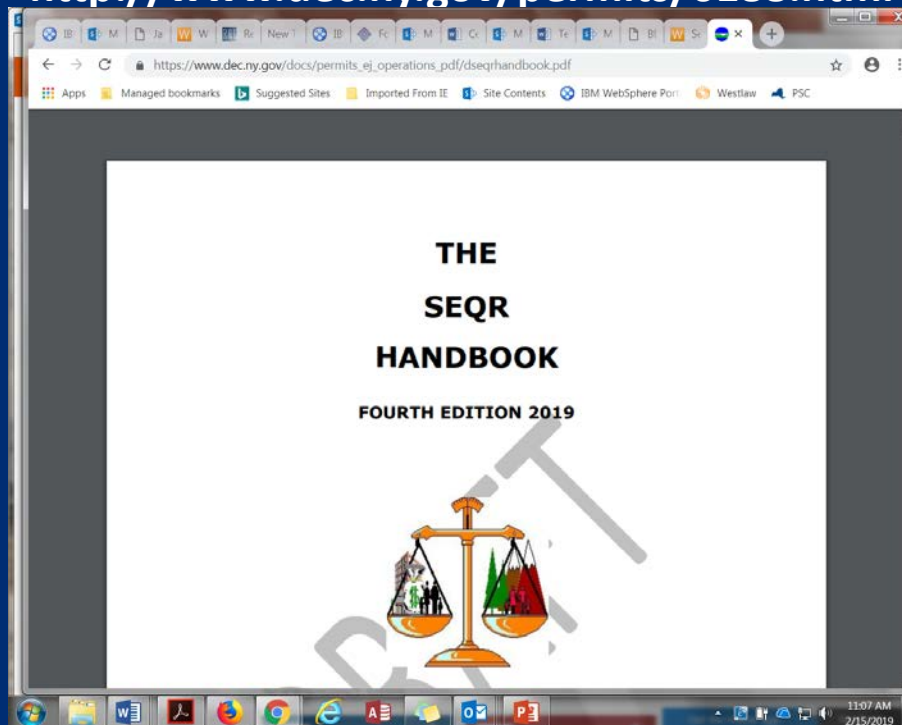
All of New York State



Department of Environmental Conservation

DEC's SEQR Handbook

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6188.html>



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

DEC's SEQR Cookbook

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/57228.html>

The SEQR Cookbook

A Step-by-Step Discussion of the Basic SEQR Process



Contact Information

DEC, Division of Environmental Permits

625 Broadway, Albany NY 12233-1750

james.eldred@dec.ny.gov

(518) 402-9167

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/357.html>

(SEQR home page)

