

# **Environmental Assessment Forms and the Environmental Mapper**

March 2015

## **New Environmental Assessment Forms**

- EAFs first adopted in 1978 version of SEQR
- Have remained relatively unchanged until 2012 even though the environmental assessment process has seen major changes
- Revised model EAF forms were adopted by the Commissioner on January 25, 2012
- Effective date of forms was established as October 7, 2013, so that workbooks and GIS platform could be prepared



## **New Tools Developed by DEC in 2013**

- Web based Full EAFs & Short EAFs were developed
- Companion workbooks for both EAF were written
- A software platform called "EAF Mapper" was also developed



## **Revised EAFs**

- Short and Full EAFs are easy to find on our web site
- EAFs are fill and save PDFs
- •Full EAF uses "Gate Keeper" questions that permit the user to skip irrelevant questions



## **Gate Keeper Question**

#### **From Full EAF**

• h. Does the proposed action include construction or other activities that will result in the impoundment of any liquids, such as creation of a water supply, reservoir, pond, lake, waste lagoon or other storage? NO YES

• If Yes,

i. Purpose of the impoundment: \_\_\_\_\_

ii. If a water impoundment, the principal source of the water:	Ground water	Surface water streams	Other	specify	*
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iii. If other than water, identify the type of impounded/contained liquids and their source.

iv. Approximate size of the proposed impoundment.

Volume: \_\_\_\_\_ million gallons; surface area: \_\_\_\_\_\_ acres

v. Dimensions of the proposed dam or impounding structure: \_\_\_\_\_ height; \_\_\_\_\_length

vi. Construction method/materials for the proposed dam or impounding structure (e.g., earth fill, rock, wood, concrete):



## **EAF Workbooks**

- Workbooks are intended to:
  - \*Guide sponsors in preparing Part 1;
  - \* Guide lead agency in reviewing Parts 2 & 3
- Workbooks provide links to spatial data (e.g., maps) and other sources of information
- Workbooks make generous use of examples
- Short EAF should not require consultant services to complete



## **Example of the Revised EAF**

#### SEAF, Part 1, Question 4

Check all land uses that occur, on, adjoining and near the proposed action?

Urban ? Rural (non-ag)? Industrial?

Commercial? Residential (Suburban)?

Forest? Agriculture? Aquatic?

Parkland? Other?

• Workbook help in answering the questions!



#### Soogle Earth



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### **New EAF Mapper**

The New EAF Mapper:

- Developed to fill in many spatial data questions on the Short and Full EAFs
- System will check over 50 spatial data sets and fill in select EAF questions
- EAFs can be saved and completed
- System was designed to grow



### **New EAF Mapper**

#### What You Should Expect to See



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	Services News Government		-	
	A+X Translate    🗗 🕒 Printer-friendly    A-Z Subject Index    🔍 Enter search w	vords Searc	h DEC	
	Home » Permit, License, Registration » SEQR			
outdoor Activities nimals, Plants, Aquatic Life	SEQR	Important Li	nks	
hemical and Pollution Control nergy and Climate ands and Waters ducation	Environmental Impact Assessment in New York State	Final Generic Environmental I Statement on tl Proposed Amendments tr	Impact he	
ermit, License, Registration SEQR Introduction to SEQR Stepping Through the SEQR	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	The New EAFs EAFs for the 21 Century - Full F Point Presental (PDF 7 04 MB)	- 1st Power tion	
SEQR Handbook State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) Forms Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) Workbooks	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.	For Fast Web Download - Par The New EAFs EAFs for the 2 <sup>+</sup> Century - Powe Presentation (F	t 1 of 1st Point PDF -	
SEQR Publications "EIS on the Web" Requirement SEQR Regulatory Documents	On completing an EAF, the lead agency determines the significance of an action's environmental impacts. The agency then decides whether to require (or prepare) an Environmental Impact Statement and whether to hold a public hearing on the proposed action. Who Enforces SEQR	For Fast Web Download - Par The New EAFs EAFS for The 2 Century - Powe Presentation (F	t 2 of - 21st Point 2DF -	
Commissioner Decisions on Lead Agency Disputes ublic Involvement and News	What agency enforces SEQR? The Legislature has made SEQR self-enforcing; that is, each agency of government is responsible to see that it meets its own obligations to comply	5.45 MB) Climate Change Guidance Docu	e iments	
egulations and Enforcement	While the Department of Environmental Conservation is charged with issuing regulations regarding the SEQR process, DEC has no authority to review the implementation of SEQR by other agencies. In other words, there are no "SEQR Police."	Contact for t Page NYS DEC	his	tment
bout DEC	What happens if an agency does not comply with SEQR?	Division of Environmental Permits		nment







We have chosen a tax parcel by clicking on it. The EAF Mapper highlights the parcel.







Here's an aerial view of our site. We can switch between aerial and street level view by clicking on the two blue boxes at the top left of the page Now you click the "full form" or "short form" button in "Create Report (Step 3)". You will get this blue message box saying it will take a few moments for the program to create the EAF and fill in the project information from the EAF mapper database. You'll notice the map also turns a hazy gray color. It should take 2-3 minutes to complete the EAF.



This box requires you to identify if you want to either open the file or do you want to save it. Click "OK" to open the file if you want to review it before you save it.

As with any other application, you want to save the document frequently as you add data so that you do not lose your work should either the internet or your local system encounter a problem.



#### File Edit View

#### Please fill

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Start

A fill-able pdf will be the returned product. Notice that there is nothing filled out by the Mapper on page 1. We first start seeing Mapper generated responses on page 2. For a Full EAF, up to 20 questions will be completed by the Mapper software.

Notice that all of the links between the EAF questions and the EAF Workbooks will be active.

This allows the preparer of the Part 1 to bounce between the form and workbook if they need guidance in completing the form.

 			High	ingrit existing rields
Full Environmental Asse	ssment Form			
Part 1 - Project and	Setting			
Instructions for Completing Part 1				
Part 1 is to be completed by the applicant or project sponsor. Respons are subject to public review, and may be subject to further verification.	es become part of the application f	or approval or funding,		
Complete Part 1 based on information currently available. If additional re any item, please answer as thoroughly as possible based on current inform or is not reasonably available to the sponsor; and, when possible, generally update or fully develop that information.	search or investigation would be ne ation; indicate whether missing info describe work or studies which wo	eded to fully respond to ormation does not exist, ould be necessary to		
Applicants/sponsors must complete all items in Sections A & B. In Sectio must be answered either "Yes" or "No". If the answer to the initial question answer to the initial question is "No", proceed to the next question. Sectio additional information. Section G requires the name and signature of the p Part Its accurate and complete.	ns C, D & E, most items contain an on is "Yes", complete the sub-quest n F allows the project sponsor to id roject sponsor to verify that the inf	a initial question that tions that follow. If the lentify and attach any formation contained in		
A. Project and Sponsor Information.				
Name of Action or Project:				
Project Location (describe, and attach a general location map):				
Brief Description of Proposed Action (include numose or need):				
pres peschingi or roboler action (menne bullose or need).				
Sies Sectified of Lobole Action (menue bullote of need).				
Name of Applicant/Sponsor:	Telephone:			
Name of Applicant/Sponsor:	Telephone: E-Mail:			
Name of Applicant/Sponsor:	Telephone: E-Mail:			
Name of Applicant/Sponsor: Address: City/PO:	Telephone: E-Mail: State:	Zip Code:		
Name of Applicant/Sponsor: Address: City/PO: Project Contact (if not same as sponsor, give name and title/role):	Telephone: E-Mail: State: Telephone:	Zip Code:		
Name of Applicant/Sponsor: Address: City/PO: Project Contact (if not same as sponsor, give name and title/role):	Telephone: E-Mail: State: Telephone: E-Mail:	Zip Code:		
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Name of Applicant/Sponsor: Address: City/PO: Project Contact (if not same as sponsor; give name and title/role): Address: City/PO:	Telephone: E-Mail: State: Telephone: E-Mail: State:	Zip Code:		
Name of Applicant'Sponsor:         Address:         City/PO:         Project Contact (if not same as sponsor; give name and title/role):         Address:         City/PO:         Property Owner (if not same as sponsor):	Telephone: E-Mail: State: Telephone: E-Mail: State: Telephone: Telephone:	Zip Code: Zip Code:		
Name of Applicant/Sponsor: Address: City/PO: Project Contact (if not same as sponsor, give name and title/role): Address: City/PO: Property Owner (if not same as sponsor):	Telephone: E-Mail: State: Telephone: E-Mail: State: Telephone: E-Mail:	Zip Code: Zip Code:		
Name of Applicant/Sponsor: Address: City/PO: Project Contact (if not same as sponsor, give name and title/role): Address: City/PO: Property Owner (if not same as sponsor): Address:	Telephone: E-Mail: State: Telephone: E-Mail: State: Telephone: E-Mail:	Zip Code:		
Name of Applicant/Sponsor:         Address:         City/PO:         Property Owner (if not same as sponsor):         Address:         City/PO:         Property Owner (if not same as sponsor):         Address:         City/PO:	Telephone: E-Mail: State: Telephone: E-Mail: State: Telephone: E-Mail: State: State:	Zip Code: Zip Code: Zip Code:		
Name of Applicant/Sponsor:         Address:         City/PO:         Project Contact (if not same as sponsor; give name and title/role):         Address:         City/PO:         Property Owner (if not same as sponsor):         Address:         City/PO:         Property Owner (if not same as sponsor):         Address:         City/PO:	Telephone: E-Mail: Telephone: E-Mail: State: Telephone: E-Mail: State: State:	Zip Code:		

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EAF mapper tells us: 1.Site contains a significant natural community 2.Site contains an endangered or threatened species 3.Site is not in an agricultural district; nor is it in or next to a national natural landmark 4.Site is not in a critical environmental area

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	Please fill out the following form.		Highlight Existing Fields
			<b>_</b>
		m. Identify the production to mildlife energies that ecourse or use the project site.	_
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		n. Does the project site contain a designated significant natural community?	-
14		If Yes: <i>i</i> . Describe the habitat/community (composition, function, and basis for designation):	
		ii. Source(s) of description or evaluation:	
		iii. Extent of community/habitat: • Currently: 210.0 acres	
		Following completion of project as proposed:     acres	
		Gam or loss (indicate + or -):	
		o. Does project site contain any species of plant or animal that is listed by the federal government or NYS as endangered or threatened, or does it contain any areas identified as habitat for an endangered or threatened species?	
		p. Does the project site contain any species of plant or animal that is listed by NYS as rare, or as a species of Yes No	
		special concern:	
		q. Is the project site or adjoining area currently used for hunting, trapping, fishing or shell fishing? Yes No If yes give a brief description of how the proposed action may affect that use:	
		E.3. Designated Public Resources On or Near Project Site	ransient
		a. Is the project site, or any portion of it, located in a designated agricultural district cd <sup>1</sup> under or minimum residence, because, or Agriculture and Markets Law, Article 25-AA, Section 303 and 304? If Yes, provide county plus district name/number.	
		b. Are agricultural lands consisting of highly productive soils present?	
		i. If Yes: acreage(s) on project site?	
		c. Does the project site contain all or part of, or is it substantially contiguous to, a registered National □Yes☑No Natural Landmark?	
		If Yes: i. Nature of the natural landmark: Biological Community Geological Feature	L
		ii. Provide brief description of landmark, including values behind designation and approximate size/extent:	
		d. Is the project site located in or does it adjoin a state listed Critical Environmental Area? □Yes☑No If Yes:	
		1. CLA name: 11. Basis for designation:	
		iii. Designating agency and date:	
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EAF Mapper tells us:	Please fill out the following form.		Highlight Existing			
1.Site is not in an archeological sensitive area 2.It's not in a wild, scenic or recreational river corridor		• Does the project site contain, or is it substantially configuous to, a building, archaeological site, or district which is lated on, or has been nominated by the NYS Board of Historic Preservation for inclusion on, the Weight and the inclusion of the inclusion on the NYS Board of Historic Preservation for inclusion on, the NYS Board of Historic Preservation for inclusion on, the NYS Board of Historic Preservation for inclusion on, the NYS Board of Historic Preservation for inclusion on, the NYS Board of Historic Preservation for inclusion on, the NYS Board of Historic Building or District	No       Do       Do			
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	Please fill out the following form.			Highlight Existing Fields		
		Full Environmental Assessment Form - EA	AF Mapper Summary Report	1		
		E.2.h.iv [Surface Water Features - DEC Wetlands Number]	BAL-4, BAL-3			
		E.2.h.v [Impaired Water Bodies]	No			
Ø		E.2.i. [Floodway]	Digital mapping data are not available or are incomplete. Refer to EAR Workbook.	-		
Ley_		E.2.j. [100 Year Floodplain]	Digital mapping data are not available or are incomplete. Refer to EAF Workbook.	-		
		E.2.k. [500 Year Floodplain]	Digital mapping data are not available or are incomplete. Refer to EAR Workbook.			
		E.2.I. [Aquifers]	No			
		E.2.n. [Natural Communities]	Yes			
		E.2.n.i [Natural Communities - Name]	Silver Maple-Ash Swamp			
		E.2.n.i [Natural Communities - Acres]	210.0			
		E.2.o. [Endangered or Threatened Species]	Yes			
		E.2.p. [Rare Plants or Animals]	No			
		E.3.a. [Agricultural District]	No			
		E.3.c. [National Natural Landmark]	No			
		E.3.d [Critical Environmental Area]	No			
		E.3.e. [National Register of Historic Places]	Digital mapping data are not available or are incomplete. Refer to EAR Workbook.	-		
		E.3.f. [Archeological Sites]	No			
		E.3.i. [Designated River Corridor]	No			
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## **SEQRA Determination**

- Key feature of the new EAFs- serve as the determination of significance.
- If the form is adequately completed according to the instructions it serves as the determination of significance.
- There is no need to fill out a separate negative or positive declaration form.
- The key is to make sure that you adequately complete the EAF consistent with the instructions for its use.



## **User Tips**

- Recommended Browsers
  - \* IE 9 and above
  - \* Firefox, Safari or Chrome
- Allow "Pop-ups" on Browser
- Run EAF Mapper first, don't complete EAF first!
- Save EAF to local drive



## User Tips (Cont.)

• Map icon in workbooks = EAF Mapper completed questions



- EAF Mapper is not designed for municipal-wide projects
- Expect 3 Minutes or less to run



# User Tips (Cont.)

EAF Mapper results are "Locked"

- Resource locations are buffered
- "No" response does not require additional review
- "Yes" response means that you need further review
- Refer to workbooks for more information



## **DEC Web Pages: SEQRA**

Main SEQRA page : <u>http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/357.html</u> SEQRA Forms: <u>http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6191.html</u> Frequently Asked Questions:

http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/93240.html

EAF Workbooks- http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/90125.html



## Questions

- Play with the Mapper, <a href="http://www.dec.ny.gov/eafmapper/">http://www.dec.ny.gov/eafmapper/</a>
- Visit the FAQ page
- Use the help button on EAF Mapper
- Further questions: Diane Carlton

Public Outreach and Education DEC, Syracuse 315-426-7403

