

NEW YORK STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT (SEQR)

**FINAL SCOPING DOCUMENT FOR
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

PROPOSED VALLEY INFILL PROJECT

**TO EXPAND THE
SENECA MEADOWS LANDFILL
in the TOWNS OF SENECA FALLS and WATERLOO,
SENECA COUNTY, NEW YORK**

April 10, 2024

PROJECT SPONSOR:

Seneca Meadows, Inc.
1786 Salcman Road
Waterloo, New York 13165

SEQR LEAD AGENCY:

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Region 8 Office, 6274 E. Avon-Lima Road
Avon, New York 14414

CONTENTS OF FINAL SCOPING DOCUMENT:

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I. BACKGROUND

Seneca Meadows Inc. (“SMI” or “project sponsor”) proposes a lateral and vertical expansion of the existing Seneca Meadows Landfill (“Landfill” or “Facility”) at 1786 Salcman Road in the Towns of Seneca Falls and Waterloo, Seneca County, New York. The proposed Valley Infill project (“Valley Infill” or “project”) would add about fifteen years to the life of the Landfill.

The Valley Infill would increase Landfill’s currently permitted maximum vertical height about 70 feet, from elevation 774 MSL [mean sea level] to elevation 842.5 feet MSL and add about 47 million cubic yards of air space for waste disposal. Waste disposal (“infill”) would occur over the top of the Tantalos Inactive Hazardous Waste Site #850004 (“Tantalos Site”) and in the space (“valley”) between existing higher areas of the Seneca Meadows Landfill, i.e., the Southeast Landfill and Stages 3 and 4 of the Western Expansion. Approximately 47 acres of newly lined disposal cells would be built, with additional disposal area constructed above approximately 126 acres of currently permitted Landfill disposal area.

The project would not change the types of waste disposed from those permitted currently, i.e., non-hazardous solid waste allowed under the State’s solid waste management regulations at 6 NYCRR Part 360 *et seq.*, including residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial wastes. Nor would there be any change to the approved design capacity of the Landfill, which is 6,000 tons per day (TPD). As a result, no increase (beyond existing traffic levels) is expected in truck traffic associated with the waste disposal operations of the Landfill. The project would also relocate or replace some SMI operations; for example, the Shop and Residential Dropoff Center will move to an area south of the Tantalos Site.

The project sponsor must obtain the following project approvals from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (“NYSDEC”) for the Valley Infill project: modification of the existing SMI Solid Waste Management Facility permit under ECL Article 27 and 6 NYCRR Parts 360 and 363 (“the Part 360 permit”); the existing SMI Air Title V permit under ECL Article 19 (“the ATV permit”); a Change-of-Use approval for the Tantalos Site; and coverage under the SPDES [State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System] Multi-Sector General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Industrial Activities (GP-0-17-004). If the Valley Infill project requires any DEC permit held by SMI (e.g., the ECL Article 23, Title 27 mining permit for the Meadow View Mine) to be modified to increase the amount or rate of excavation/production of construction material, the DEIS will include any potential significant environmental impacts (e.g., potential increased traffic) and measures to avoid and mitigate these impacts. SMI must also obtain Site Plan approval from the Town Boards of Seneca Falls and Waterloo (“Town Boards”); Site Plan Approval from each Town’s Planning Board; and Special Use Permits from the Town of Seneca Falls Zoning Board of Appeals and the Town of Waterloo. In addition, the project must also undergo an obstruction review by the U.S. Federal Aviation Authority (“FAA”).

II. SEQR AND THE SCOPING PROCESS:

This proposed project is being reviewed under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQR”) to identify and assess potentially significant adverse environmental impacts and to avoid, minimize, or lastly mitigate these impacts. As SEQR Lead Agency, NYSDEC coordinates the environmental review process in accordance with the SEQR regulations at 6 NYCRR Part 617.

In March of 2022, NYSDEC issued a positive declaration to require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Valley Infill. Subsequently, notice that a draft scoping document was available for public comment for thirty days was published in the NYSDEC Environmental Notice Bulletin (ENB) in December 2022. The public notice period ran from December 14, 2022 to January 13, 2023 and DEC authorized an additional 15 days to January 27, 2023.

A SEQR scoping document describes the content and format of a Draft EIS (DEIS). After NYSDEC reviews any public comment received, NYSDEC will revise the draft document as necessary and issue the final scoping document. The final scoping document is used by the Lead Agency to determine when a prepared DEIS is adequate for public review.

DEC reviewed the approximately 600 public comments received on the draft scoping document. DEC determined that, in many cases, the draft scope had the appropriate level of detail for the DEIS to evaluate the project in light of substantive comments. This Final Scoping Document for the Valley Infill project now includes more robust requirements for additional evaluation in the DEIS sections on odors, air quality, water quality, human health visual impacts, and other sections. DEC added a specific new Section related to human health.

Many comments related to odors, air quality, water quality, and traffic. The final written scope, however, does include more robust requirements for additional evaluation in the sections on odors, air quality, water quality, and visual assessment. Also, the final scope includes the addition of a new subsection under Air Quality for evaluation of human health, as well as additional human health evaluation under the Water Quality sections.

The next steps in the Valley Infill project SEQR process during which the public has an opportunity to participate are described briefly below.

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENT on the DEIS. Upon the NYSDEC determination to accept the DEIS as adequate with respect to its scope and content for the purpose of commencing public review, NYSDEC will provide a period of at least thirty days for the public to submit written comment on the DEIS. Notice that this period is starting will be published in the Environmental Notice Bulletin (ENB) on the NYSDEC website at [Environmental Notice Bulletin – NYDEC](#). Copies of the DEIS and supporting documents, including the 2006 DSEIS, 2007 FSEIS (July 2007 Final Supplemental EIS for Seneca Meadows Landfill Expansion) and 2007 NYSDEC Findings Statement prepared for the 2006 – 2007 Seneca Meadows Solid Waste Management Facility Landfill Expansion (in combination, subsequently referenced here as “the earlier SEQR record”), will be made available. To the extent the earlier SEQR record does not already address potential significant adverse environmental impacts from the proposed Valley Infill project, the DEIS prepared for this project will supplement and update impact evaluations provided in the 2006 DSEIS and 2007 FSEIS.

- **HEARING for ORAL PUBLIC COMMENT on the DEIS.** In addition to accepting written comments on the DEIS, it is NYSDEC’s usual practice to hold a public hearing to receive public comments orally during the same period that the DEIS is made available for public review and submission of written public comment. Notice of hearing will be published in an area newspaper at least fourteen days before the hearing is held. The hearing may be held remotely or in person and may be combined with any other public hearings to be held on the Valley Infill project.

III. DEIS OUTLINE

The outline of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is presented below in the form of a DEIS Table of Contents. Detailed descriptions of the analyses and information to be provided for each section of the DEIS are provided in Section IV.

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IV. DEIS SECTION DESCRIPTIONS

Each section below describes the information and analyses to be included in the DEIS. In addition, background information is included to provide some preliminary information about the project itself. The organization of these sections follow the DEIS outline above.

COVER SHEET

In accordance with 6 NYCRR § 617.9(b)(3), this will include a single-page cover sheet identifying the type of document (draft, final), title of project, location, name and address of SEQR Lead Agency contact person, name and address of document preparer, date of Lead Agency acceptance, and deadline for acceptance of public and agency comments.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

This will list the contents of the DEIS and page numbers for each section.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with 6 NYCRR § 617.9(b)(4), this introduction section will present an overview of the project and provide a brief description of the overall proposed project.

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

This section will summarize the history of the Landfill and describe the existing facility. It will include all or some of the following background information:

The project consists of a plan to build and operate approximately 47 acres of additional landfill area (referred to as the “SMI Valley Infill”, or “the Project”) within its existing solid waste landfill facility located in the M-2 Zoning District of the Town of Seneca Falls, Seneca County, New York. The project applicant is Seneca Meadows, Inc. (SMI), with offices at 1786 Salcman Road, Waterloo, New York 13165. The currently permitted landfill began operation in 1958, with permitted oversight of the Facility by the NYSDEC beginning in 1981. The currently permitted capacity will be filled by about 2025.

A description of the various parts of the existing Facility and a brief overview of the project intentions and main objectives will be provided.

A description of the various parts of the existing Facility, as well as some definitions related to the project, will also be provided.

1.2 DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AREA

The project will take place entirely within the property located at 1786 Salcman Road, operated by SMI. The project will take place within the extent of the previously active landfilling areas, including over the Tantalio Site. Some of the operational areas at the south end of the property will be changed or relocated to accommodate the project.

1.3 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROJECT

The project purpose is to extend landfill capacity at the SMI Landfill in the Town of Seneca Falls in a timely fashion to provide critically needed solid waste disposal services locally and for the State. As will be detailed further in Section 1.7, the DEIS will describe the need for the project related to state-wide waste disposal capacity and objectives, and how resource expenditure for out-of-state waste disposal or a new facility within the state can be saved. The DEIS will also discuss current remaining state disposal capacity and break down the critical need of the SMI Landfill to New York State. The project need is demonstrated by the public need for long-term environmentally-sound solid waste disposal capacity.

1.4 SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

As noted above, the Project is defined as a series of physical activities leading to and including the construction and operation of the SMI Valley Infill. The major activities include:

- Preparation of subgrade areas and utilities, including potential temporary removal of the Tantalio Site geosynthetic cap.
- The expansion of existing stormwater basins, if necessary.
- Relocation of operational buildings and areas including the maintenance shop areas, some fuel tanks, the wheel wash station, and the residential drop-off center.
- The construction and operation of the SMI Valley Infill waste disposal project.

The DEIS will include further details on the project, including specific areas to be lined and filled, and further details on project design and permitting requirements.

1.5 SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES

This section will summarize the results of the analysis of alternatives to be further discussed in Section 5.

1.6 IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THE PROJECT

This section will include a summary of the potential impacts of the project, to be further discussed in Section 6.

1.7 IDENTIFICATION OF MAJOR BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT

This section of the DEIS will summarize benefits that will arise from the project, to be further discussed in Section 6.

1.8 PERMITS AND APPROVALS

This section will provide an overview of the local, state and federal permits and approvals presently anticipated to be required for the proposed project, the agencies responsible for the approvals, and the applicable law or regulations associated with each approval.

1.9 CONCLUSIONS

This section of the DEIS will briefly revisit the conclusions drawn in each part of Section 1 and go over the needs for the project and why it was concluded to be the best option available to provide critically needed solid waste disposal capacity in an environmentally sound and cost-effective manner.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

2.1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

This section will describe the proposed action subject to review in the DEIS (i.e., the project), in accordance with 6 NYCRR § 617.9(b)(5)(i). It will be provided in narrative form, but also include reference to maps, drawings and technical reports that provide the reader sufficient detail to clearly understand the project

SMI proposes approximately 47-acres of new landfill liner area over the Tantalio Site and between the side slopes of the existing facility to the east, west, and north of the Tantalio Site. The project will be contiguous to and overlay approximately 144 acres of the existing landfill. The permitted cell elevation will increase by approximately 70 feet, from 774 feet MSL to 843.5 feet MSL.

The proposed Valley Infill will add approximately 47 million cubic yards of disposal capacity, which will extend the site life by approximately 15 years, depending on the rate of waste receipt.

The project will begin with the preparation of the new liner areas, including work within the Tantalio Site and on surrounding areas where the double composite liner system will be installed. Once the liner is installed, the Landfill will be developed in phases. Relocation of project related facilities will also be needed.

The DEIS will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Information on the lead agency and statutory authority for the DEIS and permitting reviews
- Information on the current project permit and landfill filling progress
- A summary of the project information and background

2.2 PROJECT LOCATION

This section of the DEIS will contain the following:

- Description of the site, including the area, boundaries, topography.
- Description of access route, and description of populated areas and zoning.
- Description of facilities proposed and components of the project, and amount of area to be impacted by the proposed facilities.

The Landfill site (the site) is located in the Towns of Seneca Falls and Waterloo, New York. The existing Landfill is just northeast of Village of Waterloo and approximately a mile northwest of the Hamlet of Seneca Falls. Site access is from NYS Route 414, with the entrance to the Landfill site on the west side of Route 414. Internal roadways have been developed on-site to provide access to various parts of the facility. Additional operational areas, such as the Landfill Gas to Energy Facility (LFGTE Facility), are located to the east of Route 414.

The proposed affected area is presently comprised of currently active landfill and landfill support facilities areas, including leachate storage and treatment facilities, stormwater basins, the current machine shop and vehicle fueling areas. It also includes the Tantalio Site which is a Class 4 Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Site. A Class 4 site is a site that has been properly closed but that requires continued site management consisting of operation, maintenance and/or monitoring. Compliance with 6 NYCRR Part 360.16(h) for facilities at or near sites undergoing a remedial program will be evaluated. The Tantalio Site has two Operational Units (OU-1 and OU-2). OUs are portions of a site that for technical or administrative reason can be addressed separately to investigate, eliminate or mitigate a release, threat of release or exposure pathway resulting from the site contamination. OU-1 is the soils and the area of the Tantalio Site that addresses the waste mass. OU-2 addresses the overburden and bedrock groundwater below and surrounding the Tantalio Site.

2.3 SITE HISTORY

The currently permitted landfill began operation in 1958, with permitted oversight of the Facility by the NYSDEC beginning in 1981. The currently permitted capacity will be filled by about 2025. The DEIS will contain information on the following project history:

- Waste disposal history and prior uses of the SMI Landfill site.
- Permitting and regulatory history for the Site, including a discussion on prior Part 360 permits and modifications.
- A breakdown of different historic areas of the Seneca Meadows property, including the Tantalio Site and relevant regulatory and waste disposal background information

2.4 PROJECT DESIGN

This section will present a thorough discussion of the different components of the actual Valley Infill area. The configuration, design, and necessary landfill construction areas will all be discussed. The DEIS will include, but not be limited to, the following information:

2.4.1 Preparation of Subgrade and Related Activities

This section of the DEIS will include the following:

- Discussion of the subgrade preparation and related activities required to prepare the Tantalio Site to be lined over and overfilled.
- A discussion of the necessary bedrock removal for preparation of site subgrades and methodology and removal needs for that work.

2.4.2 Relocation of Operational Buildings

This section will include, but not be limited to, a discussion of the buildings and operational areas which will need to be relocated for the project to be constructed and carried out. These include the maintenance shop, fueling area, wheel wash, Citizens Dropoff Area (CDA) and possibly others.

2.4.3 Construction and Operation of the Valley Infill Area

Background information:

Waste Types and Cell Design including Landfill Liner and Leachate Collection System

The Seneca Meadows facility disposes MSW, commercial, institutional, and industrial wastes, in accordance with its permit. Non-MSW streams are reviewed prior to acceptance. No hazardous wastes, as defined in the pertinent State regulations (6 NYCRR Parts 371), are permitted to be disposed at the Landfill.

As required for landfills receiving this type of waste in New York State, the currently used Landfill cells have been constructed with a double composite liner, a leachate collection system, and a leachate detection system. The proposed Valley Infill cells will be constructed in compliance with current 6 NYCRR Part 363-6 regulations. This type of liner system is currently being used for other landfills in New York State and provides an environmentally protective leachate barrier. This design of the proposed liner systems will be fully described and evaluated for efficacy for ability to monitor leachate and for protection of groundwater.

The liner system required by 6 NYCRR Part 363-6.6(b) and final cover system required by 6 NYCRR Part 363-6.6(d), will be described, and consistency with the lateral expansion criteria established by 6 NYCRR Part 363-6.1(e) will be demonstrated.

- Leachate management (collection and removal system, and storage facilities) will be described.
- A construction schedule will be presented and discussed. The anticipated Landfill progression (stages of construction) will be shown in a figure and described in the text.
- Landfill Gas management and conveyance will be described.

Site preparation efforts will include the installation of the liner system over the Tantalo Site. Installation of the liner and associated landfill infrastructure may involve partial removal of the existing geo-composite liner system and some waste from the Tantalo Site. Wastes will be sampled in accordance with Part 375, DER-10, and a work plan to determine how waste will be handled.

The Tantalo Site geocomposite liner disturbed during construction will be repaired prior to construction of the base liner for the proposed newly lined areas. The proposed double-liner system for the Valley Infill that will be constructed over the Tantalo Site will be discussed with respect to management of infiltration in the area.

Safety to workers and community related to the disturbance of the Tantalo Site will be discussed along with mitigation measures.

Landfilling Sequence and Method

Landfill phasing with respect to necessary work on the Tantalo Site will be discussed.

The Landfilling operation is a phased operation, with Landfill cells to be constructed as needed, depending on market conditions for waste disposal. New cells would be developed within the Valley Infill area between existing cells.

Equipment used during the construction and operation of the facility is expected to include graders, crawler tractors, front-end loaders, hydraulic excavators, dump trucks, soil screens, water trucks, waste compactors, and soil compactors, all similar to the equipment used for construction and operation of the existing Landfill.

Within each phase of the landfilling operation, final cover construction and closure will proceed on a cell-by-cell basis, as soon as practicable (i.e., after settlement), and no more than five years after each cell reaches final elevation.

A construction schedule will be presented and discussed.

The anticipated Landfill progression (stages of construction) will be shown in a figure and described in the text.

Grading, Setbacks, and Other Site Features

Applicable NYSDEC regulations and guidance will be followed in the implementation of landfilling activities. The proposed new landfill disposal cells will be at least 100 feet from property lines. The cell caps will be designed with slopes no more than 33% and no less than 4%.

Operating Hours

The Facility hours of operations are as follows:

- Landfill:

- Landfill Operations – 5:00am to 8:00pm, Monday through Sunday
- Scale House Operations – 6:00am to 6:00pm, Monday through Sunday
- The Landfill Facility is prohibited from operating on New Year's Day, July 4th, Memorial Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The Facility may operate the remaining 359 days per year.
- Placement of daily cover shall be limited to the following: Monday through Sunday 6:00 am to 8:00 pm

- Tire Processing Facility

- Under normal operating conditions, the Tire Processing Facility (TPF) operates Monday through Friday 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Saturday 6:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- The TPF is closed on Sundays, New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, and Christmas Day.
- Upon receipt of approval from the NYSDEC, the Facility may expand operations to accommodate peak construction and production period demands. This approval would permit the Facility to operate Monday through Saturday 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

There are no hour restrictions on activities which do not require the operation of waste placement equipment, including equipment and facility maintenance, or office personnel. The operating hours for construction projects will be during daylight hours. The operating hours for the proposed expansion are the same as the existing operating hours.

Storage of Materials

Stripped overburden soils, along with the associated low-level vegetation (grasses, shrubs, etc.) will be stockpiled and used during site restoration. Waste petroleum products (from equipment maintenance) and other wastes generated at the facility which are not disposed of on-site, will be properly containerized and routinely transported to permitted off-site disposal or recycling facilities as required by NYSDEC pursuant to 6NYCRR Part 364.

Stormwater Management System

- Stormwater management facilities and practices will be discussed, including drainage ditches, swales, sedimentation ponds, and seeding of disturbed areas. The requirements of the SPDES Multi Sector General Permit (GP-0-17-004), and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be described. Technical design support information will be referenced as being part of the Engineering Report.

Transportation Systems

- On-site roadways, vehicle maneuvering areas, and related structures to the Valley Infill project will be discussed.

Environmental Monitoring Plan

- Environmental monitoring practices and procedures will be discussed, including the porewater monitoring system and landfill gas probes.

Operational Controls

- Operational controls and monitoring for the project and site will be discussed, including but not limited to: Controls for site access, unauthorized waste, and incoming waste quality control, as well as dust, litter, odor, vector, and noise controls.

2.4.4 Closure Plan

This section will discuss the plans for the closure of the SMI Facility once active filling is complete. This will include, but not be limited to, a discussion of:

- Final grades, design of the maximum slopes, and the plan to grade the landfill to prevent serious settling or stormwater issues.
- The different parts of the Facility's closure procedures and related installations.
- Components of the Final Cover system, including the different designs for sloped or plateau areas
- The Habitat Management planning made part of the existing Landscaping Plan and Closure/Post-Closure Plan will be discussed

2.4.5 Post-Closure Care

This section will discuss the relevant regulations for Post-Closure care at the Facility and plans to maintain the monitoring points and maintenance procedures required to safely maintain the site. In addition, this section will describe the Habitat Management maintenance including final closure surfaces including grassland bird habitat (mowing schedule and seed mix, etc.), solar proposals, etc.

2.5 PERMITS AND APPROVALS

2.5.1 DEC / State approvals

The DEIS will include a list of permits, approvals, and required submissions for the permitting process along with a description of each approval and the approving agency. These permits and approvals tentatively include:

Air Title V
Part 360 Series
Stormwater General Permit for Construction Change of Use
Approval
Possible Water Quality Certification

2.5.2 Local Approvals

Town of Seneca Falls Site Plan
Town of Seneca Falls Special Use Permit
Town of Seneca Falls approval for acceptance of leachate to Town's Wastewater
Collection and Treatment System
Town of Waterloo Site Plan Approval Town of Waterloo Special Use Permit

2.6 PROJECT NEED AND BENEFITS

The DEIS will include information on the needs and benefits for the project. This will include, but not be limited to, information on the service areas for the landfill, public waste disposal needs, and New York statewide disposal statistics and information; economic benefits and factors related to the project; benefits to the host communities; and information on the conformance of the Project with the objectives of the New York State Solid Waste Management Plan.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

This section presents a description of the existing regional and site-specific natural resources and the cultural/manmade features which may potentially be affected by the proposed Project.

The DEIS will describe the environmental setting (existing conditions), potentially significant environmental project impacts, and mitigation measures for those impacts within each of the topic areas identified below.

3.1 EARTH RESOURCES

3.1.1 Topography and Physiography

Background Information:

The proposed Project is in the north-central part of Seneca County, New York. The southern third of the County is in the northern New York section of the Appalachian Plateau, while the remaining portion of the County, including the SMI Property, is part of the Central Lowlands. Glacial activity has played a significant role in shaping the present landscape of the area.

The DEIS will include the following:

- Location of project within New York State and surrounding bodies of water
- Classify and define project physiographic provinces within New York State
- Describe impact of glaciers on the project's physiographic provinces
- Site Topography and Physiography

Background Information:

As a result of the glacial lake plain, the topography in the Project Area and surrounding area is generally flat. The most pronounced topographic relief on the Project Area itself is provided by the disposal areas.

The DEIS will include the following:

- Description of general project area topography
- Description of landfill disposal area topography

3.1.2 SOILS

Background Information:

The soils in the immediate vicinity of the Project Area are dominated by high-lime soils developed on glacial lake sediments. These soils were mapped in 1972.

The DEIS will include the following:

- Description of site soils as mapped prior to landfill activities at the SMI Property and presented for historical context.

3.1.3 GEOLOGY AND HYDROGEOLOGY

The DEIS will include the following:

- Information drawn from the Part 360 Site Investigation Report prepared for the Seneca Meadow Landfill Expansion last revised in December 2006
- A summary of the Hydrogeologic Report for the Project that has been prepared and submitted in connection with the Part 360 permit application for the SMI Valley Infill

Regional Geology

The DEIS will include the following:

- Timeline of regional geology
- Bedrock formations and composition within the County
- Local rock formations described in order from the oldest to the youngest
- A contour map of bedrock at the Site will be provided

Regional hydrology and Hydrogeology

Seneca County is regionally located in the center of the Western Oswego River Basin, which ultimately drains into Lake Ontario. The project Area does not occur on or adjacent to any primary or principal aquifers. The DEIS will include the following:

- Seneca County river basin description
- River basin drainage flow path
- Black Brook project area watershed description
- Seneca County groundwater description
- Central lowland unconsolidated aquifer description
- Project area unconsolidated aquifer description

- Erie-Ontario bedrock aquifer description
- Location of primary and principal aquifers near project area
- Regional groundwater flow

3.1.4 GEOTECHNICAL

Project area with respect to seismic impact zones will be discussed.

3.2 WATER RESOURCES

Existing groundwater and surface water resources and wetlands that are present at the site and in the vicinity are addressed in this section of the DEIS.

3.2.1 Groundwater

Background Information:

Groundwater flow at the site occurs in the overburden soils and fractured bedrock. In general, the vertical flow component in overburden units is much greater than the horizontal flow component. Once entering the bedrock, groundwater assumes a predominantly southerly flow direction, consistent with the regional flow field. No bedrock discharge areas occur on the Project Area. Water for various site operations is supplied to the Facility by the Town of Waterloo municipal system, which obtains its water from Seneca Lake.

Precipitation falling on the site that infiltrates into the ground flows vertically through overburden deposits.

Hydrogeological investigations of the Landfill site were conducted during previous permitting processes. Additionally, as part of current Landfill monitoring activities, groundwater monitoring wells have been installed around the facility.

Numerous test borings, groundwater monitoring wells, and test pits have been logged, sampled and tested over the site area.

Water level and water quality data are collected quarterly from monitoring wells to obtain representative groundwater samples from the various soil units underlying the Landfill site.

USGS aquifer mapping shows the Seneca Meadows Landfill Facility is primarily not located over any groundwater features. The Site is not located over a primary or principal aquifer. The overburden units are considered collectively as an aquitard — a low permeability unit that can store and slowly transmit groundwater. Additionally, monitoring under the Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring Plan is required at the Tantalio Site which is a Class 4 site under 6 NYCRR Part 375 regulations.

The DEIS will include a description of the following:

- Groundwater flow within the Project
- Area Water use at the Facility
- Tantalio Waste Disposal Area Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions
- Movement of precipitation within the Project Area
- Groundwater overburden and bedrock direction of flow

- Area drinking water supply
- Fracturing of bedrock and its impact on groundwater flow in the Project Area
- Depth of water supply wells in the vicinity of the Project Area
- Project area groundwater monitoring and groundwater quality
- Summary of areas around the Facility where there are localized contaminated groundwater impacts

3.2.2 SURFACE WATER

Background Information:

Surface water runoff on the site drains to either the East, West, or South Pond Management systems. Stormwater is generally stored in one of the pond systems until samples can be obtained and it is verified that discharges will meet the permit requirements. Surface water drainage from the East and West Pond systems is routed into Black Brook.

Surface water from the south pond system is discharged in a southerly direction to the Seneca-Cayuga Canal.

Both Black Brook and the Seneca-Cayuga Canal have Class C water quality classifications.

The DEIS will include a description of the following:

- Project Area river basin description and drainage.
- Description of the existing floodplain mapping within the proposed project areas, as well as updates regarding floodplain mapping for the re-routed Black Brook.
- Existing site drainage will be described, including stormwater control features, expected quantities and holding capacity, stormwater sampling procedures, and erosion containment efforts.
- On-site and nearby off-site surface water features will be described, including historic water quality results and quantity where available.
- Classifications of on-site and nearby off-site surface water will be identified and discussed.
- Description of existing stormwater ponds and associated monitoring and discharge
- Documentation of existing facility performance with respect to protection of water resources.
- Description of what makes a proven system to efficiently manage the leachate generated during the life of a waste disposal facility including leachate treatment and disposal See Section 3.7 for more detail.
- Description of leachate collection system.
- Sampling leachate at secondary liner system, various sump locations, and porewater sump and parameters tested.
- Sampling for Emerging Contaminants including per – and poly- fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and 1,4-dioxane, as well as radionuclides
- A description of recent leachate test results
- Consideration of future climate risks pursuant to the Community Risk and Resilience Act (CRRRA) with respect to stormwater and floodplains

3.2.3 Wetlands

The DEIS will include a discussion of the wetlands on the Facility and nearby areas. There are no wetlands or conservation areas within the Project Area, and the Project will not affect nearby wetlands as it is entirely contained within the footprint of areas that have already been used for waste landfilling or landfill facility operations.

3.3 AIR RESOURCES

Background Information:

The site and surrounding area are primarily a rural environment with interspersed commercial establishments. The area has a demonstrated history of compliance with State and Federal air quality standards. In addition to point source and fugitive emissions, nuisance emissions (particularly odor) have been investigated in detail.

The DEIS will include the following:

- Summary and description of existing air quality conditions at the Facility and the surrounding area.
- A description of the existing surface emissions monitoring program intended to satisfy the requirements of the USEPA's New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for municipal solid waste landfills
- Compilation of the emissions from the Facility
- Quantitative analysis of the emissions from the Existing Landfill
- Existing GHG emissions in preparation of CLCPA analysis

3.3.1 Climate and Meteorology

The DEIS will include a discussion of the following:

- Summary of Seneca County climate.
- Fumigation definition and site analysis
- Closest National Weather Service meteorological stations to the Facility
- Facility typical wind direction
- Dispersion description and site analysis

3.3.2 Ambient Air Quality Monitoring

The DEIS will include a discussion of the following:

- The regional air quality.
- Applicable air quality monitoring standard
- Ambient air quality monitoring data and results, including but not limited to the Ambient Air monitoring for Hydrogen Sulfide, previous ambient air monitoring study for methane and any other testing or studies done on this facility

- Summary of ambient air samples obtained by Central Office and study that was completed for the Seneca Falls Environmental Action Committee via the DEC's Community Air Screen Program in 2019 (report March 27, 2019, in a letter to Valerie Sandlas). (Include report as appendix, also.) Include summary of SMI Ambient Air Monitoring study. Previous modeling showed compliance with all AGCs and SGCs for HTACs and non-HTACs. Variability in the gas for concentration of H₂S will be discussed along with the further investigations proposed to be conducted and incorporated into the DEIS and ATV permit application and refined modelling report.

3.3.3 Air Emissions from the Seneca Meadows Landfill

Air Emissions:

The DEIS will include a discussion of the following:

- Estimate of emissions associated with the Seneca Meadows Landfill operations and discussion of compliance with National Ambient Air Quality Standards and ambient air quality standards
- Projections and measurements of the resulting air quality impact in surrounding areas
- Landfill gas generation summary and list of control equipment with associated capacities
- Facility gas collection system description
- Analysis of the collection efficiency of the landfill including description and area of cover type
- Part 212 analysis of HTACs and non-HTACs as applicable
- Landfill gas composition including a current lab analysis of the landfill gas
- Other emission sources for the Existing Landfill besides LFG and LFG combustion
- Emissions associated with construction and operation of the existing landfill operations
- Ambient Air Monitoring for H₂S GHG Emissions

3.4 ECOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Background Information:

The Project Area consists exclusively of land that has been previously disturbed by the construction and operation of the Facility and by the operation and remediation of the Tantalito Site. Potential impacts to endangered Indiana Bat roosting habitat can be avoided through seasonal restrictions on project-related tree removal. The project is not likely to adversely affect Indiana bats and no trees exist to remove in waste disposal areas.

The DEIS will include a description of the following:

- The Project Area footprint description
- Limited vegetative communities located in the Project Area
- Little wildlife and no endangered species in the Project Area
- No wetlands in Project Area

- Project Area impact on Indiana bats, bald eagles, and osprey
- Habitat management planning made part of the existing Landscaping Plan and Closure/Post-Closure Plan

3.5 EXISTING LANDFILL CONDITIONS AND OPERATIONAL SETTING

3.5.1 Grading and Other Site Features

Background Information:

The highest portions of the active SMI Landfill have reached an elevation of approximately 726 feet above mean sea level (MSL). At its current elevation, the SMI Landfill is approximately 245 feet above the surrounding average land grade of 480 feet.

The DEIS will include a discussion of the following:

- Existing grades and other site features (Referencing Sheets 3 and 5 of the Engineering Drawings)
- The tire processing facility and other ancillary structures located on the Facility Site

3.5.2 Existing Landfill Liner and Leachate Collection

System Background Information:

The Facility has liner types consisting of a natural soil containment, an engineered in-situ liner, an engineered recompacted soil liner, and an engineered soil liner with a blanket drain. In 2013 SMI completed the construction and start-up of a treatment system which consists of a reverse osmosis facility and the biological treatment system to provide for the treatment of leachate. One alternative for treatment of the concentrate from the reverse osmosis treatment unit, that has been put into place, is a leachate/concentrate evaporator system. SMI has not recirculated leachate at the landfill since 2016, and a special condition was added to the 2017 Part 360 permit renewal that restricts SMI from recirculating leachate without DEC approval. The DEIS will include a discussion of the following:

- Description of variety of different liner types used at the Facility and how they collect and treat leachate and condensate
- Leachate storage capacity and disposal methodology
- Methods to reduce leachate tanker trucks with the leachate treatment and evaporator system
- Leachate/concentrate evaporator system description
- Historic leachate generation rates
- Emerging Contaminants discussion
- Dynatec Biological Leachate Treatment System, Reverse Osmosis System, and Evaporator
- Permeate and Concentrate disposal
- Historic leachate recirculation procedures

3.5.3 Landfill Gas Management

System Background Information:

The gas collection system is routinely upgraded to collect additional LFG and to ensure NSPS compliance which requires a system capable of handling all of the LFG generated from the facility. The existing and proposed landfill gas control devices at SMI provide sufficient capacity to combust the expected quantity of gas to be collected by the existing landfill operations.

The DEIS will include a discussion of the following:

- LFG collection system components
- Horizontal collector description
- Vertical gas wells description
- Leachate treatment process description and associated emissions. The condensate/leachate evaporator description
- Historic leachate recirculation procedures
- Existing and future landfill gas production estimations condensate collection and disposal description

3.5.4 Existing Odor Management

System Background Information:

Existing air emission information related to Landfill Gas is found in Section 3.5.3. Seneca Meadows routinely monitors landfill gas emissions by performing quarterly surface emissions monitoring. Based on the 1997 odor investigation findings and results from the completion of the sampling, analysis, and dispersion modeling, no exceedances of published health-based guidance values or guidelines have been identified with landfill gas emissions from the Facility. The results of the 2016 odor assessment showed several areas of improvement to reduce odor. Furthermore, since 2016, the site has enacted several mitigation measures including implementing an odor neutralizing system, suspending leachate recirculation, eliminating the use of C&D fines as cover, installation of enhanced capping, and installation of more horizontal collectors.

The DEIS will include the following:

- A description of the existing surface emissions monitoring program intended to satisfy the requirements of the USEPA's New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for municipal solid waste landfills.
- 1997 Facility odor investigation summarized
- Information on historic odor and odor complaints, and actions taken to address odor issues at the existing Facility
- Odor Response System: The results of a 2016 odor investigation and enacted mitigation measures to date
- The results of the Ambient Monitoring Work Plan approved on 07/11/2018 and the subsequent Assessment of Odor report on 09/08/2020
- A description of the H₂S Monitoring study that the facility is doing as part of this expansion (both the flux chamber study as well as the ambient air monitoring of hydrogen sulfide with Acrologs), as well as a discussion of the results.

3.5.5 Existing Stormwater Management System

Stormwater management will be discussed in Section 3.4.2 Stormwater Quality. A brief summary of stormwater capacity, infrastructure, discharge events, and quality control will be included in this section of the DEIS. Changes to the Stormwater infrastructure will be discussed under Section 2.0.

3.5.6 Existing Sound Levels

Background Information:

The sound level monitoring at the SMI Landfill indicates that the Facility is currently in compliance with part 360 regulations.

The DEIS will include a description of the following:

- Annually performed sound level monitoring at various approved representative receptor locations surrounding the Facility
- Applicable standards for the Site

3.5.7 Existing Groundwater Monitoring System

DEIS to include:

- Description of monitoring well program in Operations, Maintenance, and Monitoring Plan
- Location of wells
- Applicable parameters to be monitored

3.6 COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND CHARACTERISTICS

3.6.1 Land Use, Zoning, and Planning

3.6.1.1 Land Use Background Information:

SMI Landfill is located on approximately 900 acres of land, with the overall Seneca Meadows property encompassing around 2,400 acres. Much of the land surrounding the Facility is in agricultural use.

The DEIS will include a description of the following:

- Facility land size, access, and characteristics
- Land use in surrounding properties
- Significant traffic routes and notable nearby facilities

3.6.1.2 Zoning and Planning

3.6.1.3 Background

Information:

Current zoning of the proposed project area is M-2, Refuse Disposal and Reclamation.

The DEIS will include the following:

- Facility zoning information in both Waterloo and Seneca Falls
Compliance of the Site with zoning laws or ordinances
- Consistency of the proposed expansion with adopted county and town
comprehensive plans (Seneca County and Towns of Seneca Falls
Waterloo).

3.6.2 Transportation

Existing Traffic Conditions

Background Information:

Access to the Facility for waste vehicles is via one entry located on Salcman Road, at its intersection with NYS Route 414. Additional traffic volumes are generated from the importation of cover soils (also truck traffic), and from employee and visitor traffic (primarily passenger vehicles).

The DEIS will include of the following:

- Summary of the traffic study was performed for the 2006 DEIS for the Expansion Project
- Traffic conditions at the Facility including any changes since 2006 study
- Evaluation of changes to traffic outside of the landfill since the 2006 study due to area growth
- Routes used by short-haul and long-haul trucks.

3.6.3 Utilities and Services

The DEIS will include the following:

- List of public services provided to Facility and related providers
- Description of utilities used by the Facility

3.6.4 Ambient Sound Level Conditions Background Information:

The existing sound levels at the Facility comply with requirements of 6 NYCRR Part 360 Section 360.19(j).

The DEIS will include the following:

- Prior sound level surveys performed to identify levels of environmental noise received along boundaries of the Facility
- Description of 10 testing locations
- Tested sound levels during day and night
- Description of construction activity occurring during testing and relevance to the Project construction areas

3.6.5 Public Parks and Recreation Facilities

The DEIS will include the following:

- Description of public parks and recreation areas around Project Area

- Parks and recreation development goals
- Description of the Seneca Meadows Wetlands Preserve

3.6.6 Demographics

3.6.6.1 Local and Regional Economy Background Information:

Seneca County is a primarily rural, agricultural community with an industrial and manufacturing-based economy and a population in 2010 of 35,251, according to the US Census.

The DEIS will include the following:

- Seneca County US Census information
- Seneca County employment information and major employers
- Draft Disadvantaged Community and Environmental Justice Communities

3.6.6.2 Existing Jobs and Economic Contributions of Landfill Operations

Background Information:

SMI contributes significantly to the local economy through direct payroll, payments to local vendors, tax payments and other contributions to local government units.

The DEIS will include the following:

- Facility local economy contributions
- Facility seasonal employment information
- Free waste disposal program economic information Facility charity donations
- Facility secondary economic activity Facility tax payments
- Direct cash payments to the Towns of Seneca Falls and Waterloo

3.6.6.3 Population and Housing Background

Information:

Housing unit type is primarily single-family homes, with an owner occupancy rate of 58 percent in 2010 (Town of Seneca Falls).

The DEIS will include the following:

- Seneca County population and housing US Census information

3.6.7 Archaeological and Historical Resources

Background Information:

The Seneca Meadows site is not within an archeologically sensitive area, based on New York State Historic Preservation Act records. There are no structures, ruins, or archeological resources on the site or structures listed on the State or National Registers of Historic Places.

The DEIS will include the background information above and the following:

- Summarize previous archaeological and historical investigations.

3.6.8 Visual and Aesthetic Conditions:

In addition to describing the visual setting for the project and area, the DEIS will summarize a Visual Resource Assessment performed for the project. The purpose of the Visual Assessment will be to identify potential visual and aesthetic impacts and to provide an objective assessment of the visual character of the project, using standard accepted methodologies of visual assessment, from which agency decision-makers can render a determination of visual significance.

The DEIS will include the following:

- Description of visual character of the regional setting of Project Area
- Visibility of existing landfill from vantage points and scenic areas

3.7 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) and Community Risk and Resiliency Act (CRRRA)

3.7.1 CLCPA

3.7.1.1 Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)

The DEIS will describe each of the three DACs in the vicinity of the landfill (GEOIDs: 36099950200, 36099950300, and 36099950400) including:

- Relevant baseline data on existing burdens, including from relevant criteria used to designate the DAC potentially impacted by the project
- Identification of any environmental or public health stressors already borne by the DAC because of existing GHG and co-pollutant burdens in the community

3.7.1.2 Greenhouse Gases

Existing measures used by the landfill to control GHGs as baseline for CLCPA.

3.7.1.3 HAP/PM

The DEIS will include discussion of existing measures taken to control HAPs and PM. Additionally, the DEIS will include an assessment of whether the proposed landfill expansion would disproportionately impact CLCPA Disadvantaged Communities (DACs).

3.7.2 CRRRA

The DEIS will characterize the area with respect to the existing Climate Change Risk, including extreme weather events, food risk, availability of water, and other natural resources needed by the community.

4.0 POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This section presents and evaluates the environmental impacts that could potentially occur if the proposed Project is implemented, in conjunction with Section 8 of the DEIS, which presents a summary of the measures that will be utilized to mitigate and/or avoid these impacts.

4.1 EARTH RESOURCES

4.1.1 Topography

The DEIS will include an evaluation of the following potential impacts:

- Operation of the Facility has resulted in modification of the topography of the Project Area
- FAA obstruction standards
- Compliance with the FAA guidance

4.1.2 Geology

The DEIS will include an evaluation of the following potential impacts:

- How the subsurface geological integrity of the Project Area will not be adversely impacted during either the construction or operational phases of the Project
- Minor impacts due to the alteration of the site topography will result in the movement of surficial soils during construction of the lateral portion of the SMI Valley Infill Area and the relocated facilities
- Some bedrock alterations will be made to higher bedrock area at the south end of the project as described in Section 2.4.1.
- Additional bedrock data, if needed, to identify and describe major fractures in the bedrock
- Discuss recent seismic activity regionally and the potential for impacts due to any future seismic activity at the facility

4.1.3 Soils

The DEIS will include an evaluation of the following potential impacts:

- Disturbance of surficial soils in the Project Area
- Soil excavation and movements will be conducted to minimize offsite impacts due to dust and erosion to the maximum extent possible.
- Further description of controls will be provided.
- Potential traffic impacts from these soil deliveries
- How soils/excavated materials for construction (e.g., liner component) and operation (e.g., operating cover) of the Valley Infill project will be obtained – SMI mining and other operations

4.1.4 Geotechnical Impacts

The DEIS will include an evaluation of the following potential impacts:

- Project Area is not located within a seismic impact zone but will be discussed in the DSEIS
- Interface shear strengths will be taken into account in the landfill design and

construction for landfill slope stability. The DEIS will refer to the Engineering Report for the Project

4.2 Water Resources

4.2.1 Surface Water Resources

The DEIS will include an evaluation of the following potential impacts:

- Potential impacts to floodplains
- Mitigation for Climate Change and criteria for meeting CRRA
- Sedimentation and erosion
- Leachate generation and management, including analytical results and semi-annual monitoring for new Part 363 expanded parameters: PFAS, 1,4-dioxane, and radionuclides
- Discuss proposed leachate recirculation and pilot PFAS treatment and possible impacts to WWTFs
- A brief discussion of the related controls and sampling of surface water will also be included
- Stormwater management and measures to protect surface water will be described
- Stormwater monitoring prior to batch release and surface water monitoring.
- Discuss potential impact to human health from leachate transferred off-site via the sewer line to the Seneca Falls WWTF or by truck to other WWTFs, which discharge to surface waters.

4.2.2 Groundwater Resources

The DEIS will include an evaluation of the following potential impacts:

- Stormwater and leachate control features which will prevent the release of contaminants and will minimize the potential for adverse impacts to groundwater resources
- Continuation of existing monitoring of the amount of liquid removed from the secondary containment system to ensure the integrity of the liner system
- Groundwater monitoring, including new Part 363 expanded parameters: PFAS, 1,4-dioxane, and radionuclides, which will be required by the new 360 permit
- Address concerns about potential impact to drinking water wells and concerns about potable water in the community and neighboring communities
- Assess potential regional hydrogeological impacts
- Summary of 360.16(h) report which assesses the potential impacts of the facility on a remedial program which includes the following:
 - Describe the existing cover system of the Tantalito Site
 - Assess the potential impact of adding the weight of the waste mass from the expansion on top of the Tantalito Site and the potential for plume migration.

- Assess how the double composite liner system proposed to be constructed over the Tantalio Site may further limit precipitation infiltration into/through the Tantalio Site waste mass, possibly resulting in a reduction of leachate generation
- Summary of how the Project will relate to the potential, ongoing, or completed remedial programs at the Tantalio Site or the original Seneca Meadows Landfill Inactive Hazardous Waste Site including evaluation of groundwater monitoring wells to be removed over the course of the expansion over the Tantalio Site and surrounding areas
- Evaluate monitoring well replacements and additions.
- Evaluate bedrock blasting on groundwater and potential plume movements.
- Discuss ground water monitoring well reports to inform possible changes that occur to plume and associated determinations regarding additional measures needed.
- Assess the potential for impacts if the plume migrates with respect to groundwater and vapor intrusion.
- Evaluate residences and businesses downgradient of the proposed Valley Infill project to determine if all are connected to a public water supply system and whether private wells are used for drinking water within the study area of the related Hydrogeologic Report
- Assess preventative measures/systems related to potential movement of the plume
- Assess need for preventative or containment groundwater systems to be installed prior to monitoring well closures and project construction.

4.3 AIR RESOURCES and ODORS

This section will evaluate potential air impacts resulting from both the construction and operation of the proposed SMI Valley Infill. Potential impacts to air quality from the SMI Valley Infill include fugitive dust, vehicular emissions, and landfill gas emissions.

4.3.1 Estimated Air Pollutant Emissions

4.3.1.1 Construction Emissions

The DEIS will include an evaluation of the following potential impacts:

- DEIS will discuss dust mitigation procedures that may be undertaken at the site, including application of water and other dust controls
- Quick establishment of vegetative cover on completed landfill work areas, and the protection of stockpiled soils with vegetative cover, crusting agents, water and other coatings will also reduce dust problems
- Combined emissions from vehicle exhausts and other equipment used during the construction of the SMI Valley Infill will occur and will be evaluated for potentially significant adverse impacts
- Other controls such as minimization of active areas will be discussed
- Emissions related to opening a portion of the Tantalio Site and removing waste prior to liner construction will be evaluated

4.3.1.2 Operational Emissions

The DEIS will include an evaluation of the following potential impacts:

- Emissions from the proposed SMI Valley Infill will be generated in the same manner as for the currently permitted landfill operations, which will be described
- SMI Valley Infill will begin to produce LFG shortly after it begins accepting waste and will continue to produce LFG for several years after they stop accepting waste. The facility will provide the gas curve expected as part of the project, as well as the overall gas curve for the entire facility
- Information on expected landfill gas generation will be discussed, as well as control measures and the expected impacts
- The facility will discuss the potential impact of fugitive dust emissions as well as the mitigation to be implemented
- Truck emissions
- GHG emissions will also be discussed in Section 4.6
- H₂S emissions

4.3.2 Air Quality Impact Analysis

The DEIS will include an evaluation of the following potential impacts:

- Impacts associated with air emissions from the proposed SMI Valley Infill will be fully evaluated in the Title V permit application review and summarized in the DEIS. The expansion will be evaluated against relevant guidelines for air quality standards including state and federal air regulations and CLCPA to be protective of human health and the environment. The facility will discuss impacts associated with oxides of nitrogen, sulfur dioxide, particulate matter including PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}, hydrogen sulfide, volatile organic compounds (VOC), and Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs), PFAS and other contaminants that have the potential to exceed federal and state standards and guidelines (e.g., DAR 1).
- A discussion of the peak emissions year modeling for Landfill Gas will be included and compared to the relevant air quality standards. The estimated gas curve for the project, as well as for the entire facility, will be provided
- A discussion of air quality guideline concentrations and health-based standards applicable to the landfill emissions, including landfill gas, working face, and other emissions.
- The ingredients in the deodorizers/neutralizers, resulting emissions, and associated characteristics from the Safety Data Sheets (SDS), including health criteria, such as toxicity, with respect to protecting human health, will be discussed.

4.3.3 Compliance with Standards and Guidelines

The DEIS will include an evaluation of the following potential impacts:

- Relevant regulations will be listed. Compliance with the applicable requirements will be required to be demonstrated during and beyond the active life of the SMI Valley Infill

4.3.4 Odors

- Assess potential odor impacts from the project attributable to the increase in height and size of the landfill and any operational changes
- Assess potential for odor impacts due to the landfill stack emissions and fugitives due to waste decomposition, deodorizers/neutralizers, and other emissions including, but not limited to, the leachate treatment system, the evaporator, and, if developed, compost piles.
- Assess potential changes to emission rates and odors from potential recirculation of biologically treated leachate concentrate, should it be approved by NYSDEC.
- Please summarize the history of odor complaints from the commencement of the last expansion. Please discuss the time period that had the increase in odor complaints and the assessment of the cause(s) of that time period. Also, discuss the remedies/corrective action that was taken to remedy the source of those complaints.
- Describe and evaluate the outcome(s) of the existing Odor Investigation Program and describe changes (if any) that are being proposed with respect to the project (including, but not limited to, the use of a non-biased third party responder, advanced techniques that are viable, etc.). Describe and evaluate the outcome of the ambient air monitoring program that was performed per the 2017 Part 360 permit condition.
- Evaluate viability of use of advanced technologies for determining methane emissions, such as by aerial drones, automatic well balancing, and/or other advanced technologies.
- Evaluate other locations where use of the H₂S monitoring stations would give additional feedback on odors and/or use of the Jerome instrument to verify whether the H₂S standard is being exceeded in locations other than at the Acrulog stations (such as at the Thruway). Discuss weather patterns, wind direction, or other factors (such as farm activities) in assessing observations taken during odor events.
- Note: proposed mitigation measures for air emissions and odors will be described in Section 5.

4.4 ECOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The DEIS will include and evaluation of the following potential impacts:

- Because the project is to be located over the existing landfill and the Tantalio Site, no significant vegetative or wildlife resources are expected to be impacted by the Project
- Project impacts to areas surrounding the proposed Project Area due to noise, air emissions, and human activities at the expansion site, similar to those at the Existing Landfill and in similar or less proximity will be discussed
- The Habitat Management planning made part of the existing Landscaping Plan and Closure/Post-Closure Plan will be described. It will include temporary and permanent (final closure) habitat including seeding, mowing schedule, etc., with respect to grassland birds.

4.4.1 Rare, Endangered, or Threatened Species

Because the project is to be located over the existing landfill and the Tantalo Site, which are areas with no existing suitable habitat, no significant, rare, threatened, or endangered species are expected to be impacted by the Project.

Results of web searches for these species will be included, as will a summary of the 2006 study findings be briefly described

4.4.2 Wetlands

The SMI Valley Infill will not result in the disturbance of federal and/or New York State jurisdictional wetlands; therefore, this review will not be included in the DEIS.

4.5 COMMUNITY and HUMAN RESOURCES

4.5.1 Land Use, Zoning and Planning

The DEIS will include an evaluation of the following potential impacts:

- Potential impacts to local land use, consistency with comprehensive plans, and zoning will be summarized. Consistency of the project with local planning, zoning, and local laws, related to landfilling, mining, and other operations of landfilling, including Local Law #3, will be discussed as they relate to the existing and proposed landfill

4.5.2 Services and Utilities

The DEIS will include an evaluation of the following potential impacts:

- There are no changes proposed for community services or utilities. The Proposed Project will be evaluated with respect to potential for adverse impacts on community services, including water, sewer, roads, etc.
- A discussion of facility fire controls will be included. This will include an evaluation of the adequacy of on and off site fire hydrants and other water sources, local fire departments, and applicant capabilities.

4.5.3 Transportation

The DEIS will include a description of the following:

- Updated traffic information (from SMI and outside of the facility)
- Assessment of proposed expansion on the existing level of service and the continuation of landfill traffic for the life of the proposed expansion
- The potential for landfill trucks to spread mud or debris on local highways
- A revised roadway debris and track out mitigation plan for State Route 414 will be included in Section 5.
- Assess potential for road damage as a result of truck traffic.
- Assess the routes of traffic and associated impacts in the DAC areas in and adjacent to Seneca Meadows Landfill, respectively

- Map of traffic routes and mechanisms to encourage/require landfill and mining truck traffic on major highways – Conduct and include a complete update of the 2007 Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) on Traffic, including tractor trailer traffic in the Finger Lakes, based on current conditions, regulations, and policies

4.5.4 Sound Level / Noise Impacts

The DEIS will include an evaluation of the following potential impacts:

- Sources of potential sound impacts and the impacts of Facility scheduling on noise levels will be discussed.
- The sound levels associated with the construction and development of the Project will be thoroughly described as to how they will be consistent with existing sources of Facility operations.
- The DEIS will include an assessment of noise impacts pursuant to the Department's Program Policy, "Assessing and Mitigating Noise Impacts."
- The DEIS will include a summary of a noise evaluation to be prepared to verify noise levels will be in compliance with Part 360 series regulatory standards.
- This will include updated background noise levels and estimated noise levels resulting from the proposed Project

4.5.5 Demographics

Local Economy:

The Project economic impacts to both the local community and the local economy will be discussed, including positive and negative impacts.

Positive impacts to be discussed include continued employment and job creation, fiscal impact to the Town of Seneca Falls and Town of Waterloo, as well as other impacts on the area economy. The Town's host community benefit plans will be discussed

Population and Housing

The DEIS will include an evaluation of the following potential impacts:

- The Project will not restrict development of adjacent properties and is not anticipated to have any adverse impact on current population or housing trends.
- The Host Benefit between the Town of Seneca Falls and Town of Waterloo will be discussed as it relates to supporting Town finances, services, and property value protection.

4.5.6 Archeological and Historical Resources

The DEIS will include an evaluation of the following potential impacts:

- The 2006 DEIS reported no archaeological or historical resource concerns, and as such, the SMI Valley Infill will not impact archaeological or historical resources.
- An updated review by OPRHP will be described.

- Assess the potential impacts of the landfill expansion on the consideration of the National Heritage Study Feasibility Study – Finger Lakes Heritage Area. designation for the region.

4.5.7 Visual and Aesthetic Impact

Based on the results of the Visual Assessment, the DEIS will include an evaluation of the following potential impacts:

- Comparison of the areas from which the currently permitted facility can be seen and additional areas from which the proposed project will be seen using viewshed mapping and field investigation.
- An evaluation of the project pursuant to the Department's Program Policy, "DEP-00-2 / Assessing and Mitigating Visual and Aesthetic Impact" including an Inventory of Aesthetic Resources, visual character and aesthetic value, visual assessment, and significance.
- Other locations in the surrounding areas from which the proposed project will be visible.
- Identify sensitive aesthetic and scenic resources.
- The visual assessment report will be included to identify potential visual an aesthetic change of visual character and identify impacts related to the Project.
- Proposed temporary and final closure of the landfill slopes with respect to visual impacts (use of different final cover materials, etc.).

4.5.8 Potential Impacts to Human Health

The DEIS will include the following:

- Discussion of how emissions from the proposed project, as calculated and modelled, compare to the applicable regulatory standards and guidelines developed by DEC and EPA to protect human health. Each contaminant will be discussed in relation to each applicable health based standard and guideline. Each standard and guideline will be described in terms of the agency that developed it and basic background on the standard or guideline and how it protects human health. This section may reference other sections of the EIS that demonstrate how the air emissions data generated by SMI demonstrates compliance with the Air Title V permit.
- Discussion of available EPA ambient Geospatial Monitoring for Air Pollution (GMAP) data in relation to any existing landfill or project impacts on ambient air quality in the surrounding areas.

- Discussion of the March 27, 2019 NYSDEC Community Air Screen Program- Ambient Air Quality Screening Report for Seneca Falls, Seneca County, produced upon the application of Seneca Falls Environmental Action Committee in relation to any existing landfill and project impacts on ambient air quality in the surrounding areas.
- Reference and summary of the mobile emission estimates included in the CLCPA Section 7(3) analysis and discussion of how these emissions may impact human health in the three DACs and beyond.
- Discussion of existing landfill and project impacts as potential factors in relation to reported lung cancer incidence in the surrounding areas. Description of an evaluation of the most up-to-date lung cancer incidence data, to be developed and implemented by NYSDOH, of an appropriate geographic area surrounding the landfill as compared to the appropriate reference population within New York State.
- Discussion of potential emissions from SMI leachate within public sewers in the surrounding areas.

4.6 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) and Community Risk and Resiliency Act (CRRA)

The DEIS will include a summary of the CLCPA Analysis for the project in Appendix J. It will cover the following topics:

4.6.1 Greenhouse Gas Impacts (CLCPA Section 7(2))

Discuss impacts of GHG emissions from the proposed expansion on Climate Change. Include summary of CLCPA evaluation on GHG emissions from the expansion.

4.6.2 Impacts on Disadvantaged Community (CLCPA Section 7(3))

4.6.2.1 Co-pollutant Emissions

4.6.2.2 Other Impacts such as traffic and odors

4.6.3 CRRA

4.6.3.1 Extreme Weather Events

4.6.3.2 Flood Risk

5.0 DESCRIPTION OF MITIGATION MEASURES

This section discusses the measures to mitigate, minimize, and avoid adverse environmental impacts that are to be incorporated into design elements and operational and closure plans for the Project

5.1 EARTH RESOURCES

Evaluation of existing and future mitigation measures to avoid soil loss, turbidity, and other impacts. And measures to ensure landfill stability. The DSEIS will discuss design requirements for construction of the landfill expansion related to soils and subsurface geology. This will include bedrock separation, placement of intermediate and final cover materials, re-vegetation of the site, and erosion and sedimentation control during construction and operation.

5.2 WATER RESOURCES

5.2.1 Groundwater

- The assessment of leachate management systems
- A discussion of the double composite liner system and leak detection measures
- The assessment of existing and future mitigation measures to monitor surface and ground water. Also, the assessment of existing and future measures to monitor and prevent plume migration from Tantalito to offsite.

5.2.2 Surface Water

Leachate management system will be described, including:

- Collection
- Removal
- Storage
- Transport

PFAS management including proposed pilot PFAS removal project will be described.

- Site drainage and stormwater management systems will be described.
- The proposed environmental monitoring will be described including locations, parameters, and frequency of surface water monitoring. Monitoring to ensure protection of downstream resources will be identified.
- Describe stormwater management measures for management of increased runoff volumes and patterns for protection of water resources, including Black Brook.

5.3 AIR RESOURCES AND ODORS

- Evaluation of existing and proposed mitigation measures for monitoring and controls for air emissions.
- Evaluation of measures to mitigate odors, including, but not limited to, alternative neutralizing agents; alternative cover materials including material, methods, and frequency to manage gas and solid waste; revisions to the odor monitoring plan, etc.

5.4 ECOLOGICAL RESOURCES

If identified, any measures to mitigate ecological resources.

5.5 COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Evaluation of Mitigations to identified community resources, unless covered under Section 5.6 below.

Visual impact avoidance and mitigation will be based on “DEP-00-2 Assessing and Mitigating Visual and Aesthetic Impact”

5.6 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) and Community Risk and Resiliency Act (CRRA)

Provide a summary of the CLCPA Mitigation Measures including air-related, waste-related, consideration of organics and recycling technologies to supplement/offset landfill operations and other mitigations. Mitigation measures proposed for GHGs will be discussed with respect to Climate Change Mitigation measures under Section 7(2) of CLCPA. Mitigation measures under Section 7(3) of CLCPA related to the DACs will also be discussed including proposed measures for co-pollutants, noise, odors, and traffic. Assess the potential for alternative technologies and other mitigation measures. Many mitigation measures have been proposed to meet 7(2) and 7(3) including, but not limited to, additional gas well monitoring, more frequent cover inspections, installation of gas well dewatering systems, utilization of drone technology for fugitive emissions, installation of synthetic cover over parts of the landfill, monitoring of cover penetrations during quarterly surface scans before required by regulation, installation and operation of gas collection infrastructure before required by regulation, conversion of a portion of operational support vehicles to EV, installation of charging stations for the general public use, and feasibility studies for several options and technologies.

CRRA requires that climate impacts be a part of the planning, permitting and funding process in all counties of New York State to strengthen New York State’s preparedness for the effects of climate change, and help protect communities against severe weather and sea level rise. The DEIS must consider the project with respect to impacts of extreme weather such as storm surge, sea level rise and flooding.

6.0 UNAVOIDABLE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

This section of the DEIS will identify and discuss environmental impacts that cannot be avoided or mitigated if the proposed project is implemented, in accordance with 6NYCRR 617.9(b)(5)(iii)(b).

7.0 IRREVERSABLE AND IRRETREVALE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES

This section of the DEIS will identify and discuss the irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources associated with the proposed action, in accordance with 6 NYCRR 617.9(b)(iii)(c).

8.0 ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

This section of the DEIS will include an evaluation of project alternatives in accordance with 6 NYCRR 617.9(b)(v). It will include the following subsections, summary of existing studies, and supporting data as needed, to summarize the evaluations.

- 8.1** OBJECTIVES AND CAPABILITIES OF SMI
- 8.2** NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE
- 8.3** ALTERNATIVE LANDFILL SITES
- 8.4** ALTERNATIVE SITE LAYOUTS ON THE FACILITY SITE
- 8.5** ALTERNATIVE DESIGN CONCEPTS FOR THE SMI VALLEY INFILL
 - 8.5.1** The Tantalito Inactive Hazardous Waste Site: minimizing impacts to its existing cover and monitoring wells, including phased approaches
 - 8.5.2** Alternatives to overfilling Tantalito Inactive Hazardous Waste site including complete waste removal
 - 8.5.3** Overlay areas and associated liners
 - 8.5.4** Other site designs such as forgoing the height increase
- 8.6** CONCLUSION

This section will provide a description of how the Project will include a number of design, construction, and operating practices that will mitigate, minimize, or avoid significant adverse impacts.

9.0 GROWTH INDUCING IMPACTS

This section of the DEIS will identify and discuss growth inducing impacts associated with the proposed action, in accordance with 6 NYCRR 617.9(b)(iii)(d).

10.0 EFFECTS OF THE USE AND CONSERVATION OF ENERGY

Background information:

The proposed Project will involve the phased construction of the SMI Valley Infill in accordance with the engineering design. As such, energy consumption in the form of fuel use will be required for baseliner preparation and construction of the expanded landfill areas. However, on an annual basis, no significant increase in fuel use or energy consumption is anticipated to occur as a result of the Project. Although similar equipment used to carry out the construction, operations and maintenance activities at the SMI Valley Infill, an increase of approximately 15 years in the duration of operational energy (i.e., fuel and electricity) consumption will occur.

There will be no increase in the waste acceptance rate at the SMI Valley Infill. Therefore, there will be no increase in the number of vehicles traveling to and from the facility or in the number or type landfill equipment at the working face to deposit, compact and cover the waste.

The DEIS will discuss the ramifications on fuel use if the Project were not developed and waste haulers were required to travel longer distances to remaining available solid waste disposal sites.

In addition, Seneca Meadows will continue to utilize landfill gas as a source of renewable energy including, but not limited to renewable natural gas (RNG, or High Btu) and other technologies as they become available. While the preferred use of landfill gas is renewable energy, the flares will continue to be utilized for operational purposes as required (by air permit).

Furthermore, the High BTU plant has infrastructure in place to generate renewable natural gas by utilizing landfill gases produced from the waste being disposed at the landfill and sending it to the natural gas pipeline. This offsets some fuel consumed by consumers.

The DEIS will include the background information above and additional detail on the following:

- Anticipated short-term and long-term level of consumption
- Indirect effects on energy consumption
- Energy conservation measures
- CLCPA goals for energy

11.0 REFERENCES

The reference list will include the 2006 DEIS and subsequent DEIS documentation, the SMI Valley Infill Part 360/363 Permit Application Package, as well as all other applicable references.

12.0 TABLES AND FIGURES

13.0 APPENDICES

Appendices will include materials not suitable for insertion in the main body of the DSEIS, and shall include key SEQR documents, technical reports.

They are anticipated to include:

Appendix A – Current Part 360 Permit and SEQR Documentation

Appendix B – Part 360 Water Quality Parameters (including Part 375 Extended Parameters)

Appendix C – New York State Air Quality Monitoring Locations & Data (may be a part of the Title V application)

Appendix D – Emissions Inventory & Air Quality Monitoring Protocol (may be a part of the Title V application)

Appendix E – 2018 Annual Noise Survey and 2022 New Noise Assessment for Proposed Project

Appendix F – Seneca Meadows Visual Resource Assessment

Appendix G – FAA Determination Correspondence

Appendix H – Air Studies (Including: Community Air Screen Program in 2019 (report March 27, 2019); SMI Ambient Air Monitoring study and new air study and modelling for H₂S.)

Appendix I - Correspondence from NYSOPRHP

Appendix J – CLCPA Analysis

14.0 ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS NOT PROPOSED FOR INCLUSION IN THE DEIS

In accordance with 6NYCRR 617.8(f)(7), this section of the scoping document is reserved for those prominent issues that are raised during the public scoping and determined to be not relevant or not environmentally significant, or that have been adequately addressed in a prior environmental review.

There are no prominent issues that were raised during the public scoping that were determined to be not relevant or environmentally significant for purposes of this final scope and the DEIS. All relevant issues are being addressed in the DEIS.