

**DRAFT SCOPING DOCUMENT
BALLSTON SPA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
DRAFT GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
OCTOBER 21, 2009**

NAME OF ACTION: Cramer Road Land Acquisition and
Development Alternatives Analysis

LEAD AGENCY: Ballston Spa Central School District

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LOCATION OF ACTION: The action is located on Cramer Road in the Town of Malta,
Saratoga County.

SEQR STATUS: Type 1

**DEADLINE FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS
ON DRAFT SCOPING DOCUMENT NOVEMBER 9, 2009**

INTRODUCTION - This Scoping Document has been prepared pursuant to Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law and 6 NYCRR Part 617, which are together known as the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). Under SEQRA, the primary goals of the scoping process are to focus the Environmental Impact Statement on potentially significant adverse impacts and eliminate consideration of those impacts that are irrelevant or non-significant.

Because there are no specific development plans for the site, and the timeline for future development is unknown, the Board has chosen to prepare a Generic Environmental Impact Statement. The Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement ("DGEIS") will address the issues identified in the Final Scoping Document.

The DGEIS will provide a means for Ballston Spa Central School District, State and local agencies, and the public to systematically consider significant adverse environmental impacts, alternatives and measures to mitigate environmental impacts. The DGEIS will facilitate the

weighing of social, economic, and environmental factors early in the planning and decision-making process.

To allow for public input, the Board has made the Draft Scoping Document available for public review. Scoping provides the Board with guidance on matters that must be considered in the DGEIS and provides an opportunity for early participation by State and local agencies and the public in the review of the project. This Draft Scoping Document provides a summary of the Board's initial consideration of the scope of the DGEIS. **All comments on the Draft Scoping Document should be submitted to contact listed above.**

Description of Action– The Ballston Spa Central School Board of Education is considering (i) the acquisition of approximately 80 acres located at the intersection of Cramer Road and Route 9 in the Town of Malta, County of Saratoga, New York, and (ii) the evaluation of various alternative options for the development of the property for educational purposes, including the construction of new building and facilities, athletic fields, and/or similar site improvements.

DRAFT GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT - Part I of the Full Environmental Assessment Form (FEAF) was prepared to determine the potential significant project impacts. The following defines the scope of the DGEIS:

A. INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT SUMMARY

These sections will include information on the site's existing conditions, environmental concerns and potential mitigation measures.

B. TRANSPORTATION

Potential Impact: The Action may cause a change in traffic patterns on Route 9 and the surrounding road network. Site frontage on Route 9 is located along a curve, which may result in a site distance and safety issue. The western portion of Cramer Road is narrow and may need to be upgraded to accommodate future district related traffic.

Anticipated Information Necessary to Address the Impact:

- (i) Existing Information- Traffic or other transportation related studies available from the Town of Malta, NYSDOT or the Capital District Transportation Commission.
- (ii) Required New Information and Methodology for Obtaining Same – Complete a field assessment of existing driveways, road layouts, and pedestrian features along Route 9 and the adjacent road network. Compare current conditions to accepted State and/or Town standards. Conduct interview with the District's Transportation Director.

Initial Identification of Mitigation Measures:

Identify key intersections that will require further study if a specific plan for the site is pursued in the future. Provide recommendations on site, driveway, and parking improvements to enhance vehicle circulation and access. Identify pedestrian improvements including improved sidewalks, bike racks and lanes, and crosswalks to minimize conflicts between vehicle and students and satisfy ADA compliance.

C. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Potential Impact: The site contains at least two areas that are considerable eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. If these areas are disturbed by future construction sensitive archaeological resources would be impacted.

Anticipated Information Necessary to Address the Impact:

- (i) Existing Information - Phase I and II Archaeological Field Investigation and Phase II Evaluation: Esmond Site 1-4 Cramer Road residential Development, prepared by Hartgen Archeological Associates, January 2007.
- (ii) Required New Information and Methodology for Obtaining Same: none.

Initial Identification of Mitigation Measures: Mitigation measures could include completion of a Phase III Data Recovery Plan to remove important archeological features. Provide a 50 foot buffer around sensitive areas and avoid them during future construction.

D. INFRASTRUCTURE

Potential Impact: New facilities would generate additional sanitary wastewater and increase water consumption. Nearby infrastructure may not be sufficient to accommodate new development on the site.

Site improvements could also increase the amount of impervious surface, which would increase stormwater runoff. Unmitigated, the increase in stormwater runoff could impact existing stormwater systems and on site wetlands.

Anticipated Information Necessary to Address the Impact:

- (i) Existing Information- Record mapping from the Town of Malta, Saratoga Water Services and the Saratoga County Sewer District No. 1 (SCSD); Feasibility Study for Sanitary Sewer Trunk Main, prepared by Northeast Consultants, September 2005; Sanitary Sewer Report: Cramer Road Residential Cluster Subdivision, prepared by Lansing Engineering, January 24, 2007; Water Supply Report, Cramer Road Residential Cluster Subdivision, prepared by Lansing Engineering, January 3, 2007.

- (ii) Required New Information and Methodology for Obtaining Same – Interview representatives of the above referenced agencies. Document existing conditions and utility deficiencies.

Initial Identification of Mitigation Measures: Working with the Town of Malta and the SCSO, to determine timeline for future improvements to the sanitary sewer system that would provide additional capacity. Extend the existing 10” water line approximately 900 feet from the west side Route 9 to Cramer Road.

To mitigate impacts associated with the increase in stormwater runoff, it is expected that recommendation and standards will be provided for future development activities in conformance with NYSDEC Stormwater Management Design Manual (April 2008). Recommendations will also be provided to incorporate green and/or Low Impact Development (LID) techniques where applicable.

E. NATURAL RESOURCES

Potential Impact: The site contains approximately 28 acres of state and federally regulated wetlands. Depending on the location of future facilities, wetlands could be directly or indirectly impacted. Development could also impact wildlife and associated habitats.

Information Needed to Address the Impact

- (i) Existing Information – Wetland Delineation Report for the property.
- (ii) Required New Information and Methodology for Obtaining Same – Complete field reconnaissance of site to review environmental conditions.

Initial Identification of Mitigation Measures: Identify methods to avoid and minimize impacts to wetlands and wildlife habitats. Establish standards for future construction to preserve natural areas and incorporate them into future development plans.

F. ALTERNATIVES

- (i) No Action – the “no action” alternative will evaluate the impacts on the District if the site is not used for future development.
- (ii) Alternate Designs – evaluate alternate sizes or designs for the site

G. UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A summary of impacts that would occur even with application of all mitigation measures.

**H. INFORMATION & DATA TO BE INCLUDED IN APPENDICES
RATHER THAN BODY OF THE DGEIS**

1. Final Scoping Document
2. Correspondence
3. Archaeological Study
4. Wetland Delineation report
5. Engineering Reports