

RYE NECK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT



2026 BOND REFERENDUM New Athletic Facility SEQRA INFORMATION



State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) Process

Goal

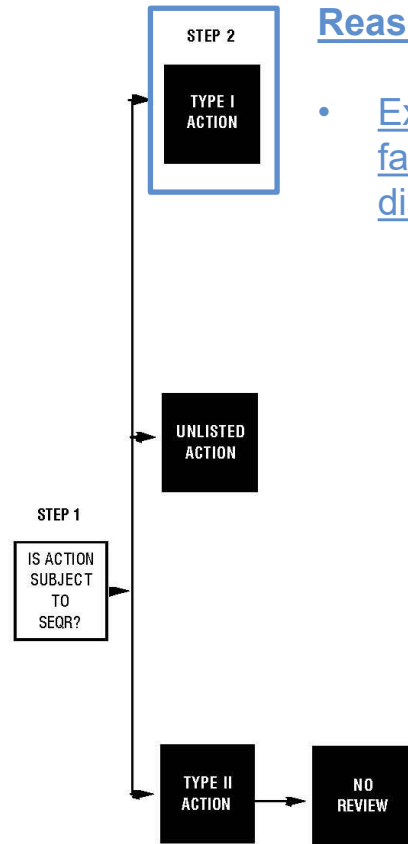
- Provide a thorough, transparent, and documented environmental review that supports informed decision-making and protects New York's environment.

STEP 1
IS ACTION
SUBJECT
TO
SEQR?



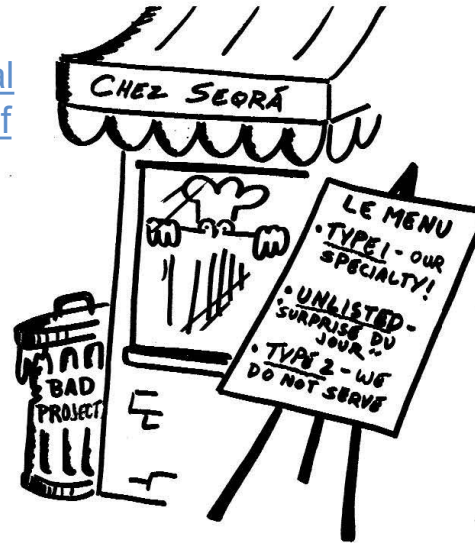
Step 1. Is the Action Subject to SEQR?

An action is subject to review under SEQR if any state or local agency has the authority to issue a discretionary permit, license or other type of approval for that action. SEQR also applies if an agency funds or directly undertakes a project, or adopts a resource management plan, rule or policy that affects the environment. If the proposed action does not require a discretionary decision, there is no requirement for review under SEQR. If the proposed action requires a discretionary approval, proceed to Step 2.



Reasoning

- Expansion of a non-residential facility that exceeds 5 acres of disturbance



Step 2. Classify the Action

The next step in the SEQR process is to classify the action.

a. Actions Requiring No Further Review Under SEQR

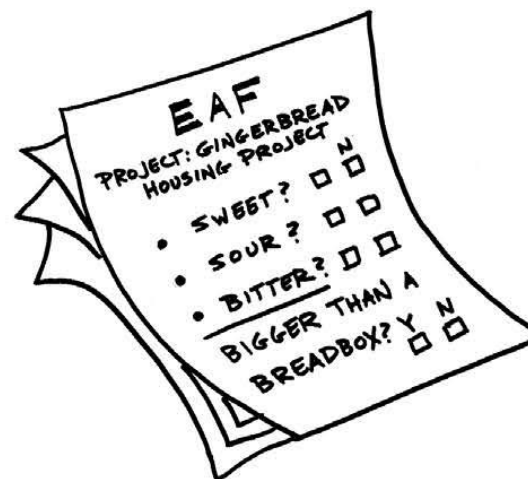
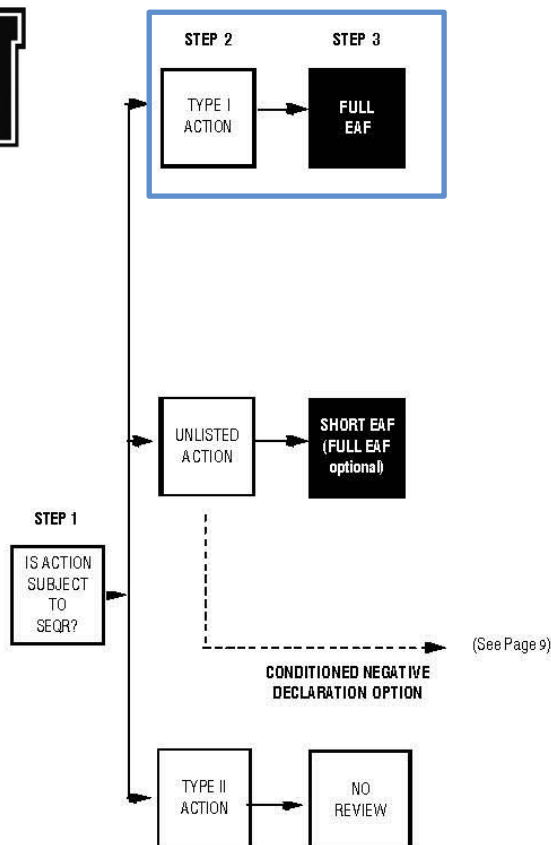
- Type II—An action contained on the list in section 617.5 or on an agency's locally adopted Type II list. Type II actions have been determined not to have a significant impact or are otherwise precluded from environmental review under SEQR. Type II actions never require the preparation of a determination of significance or a draft environmental impact statement (EIS).

If an action is classified as Type II, review under SEQR is completed. Although not required, an agency may choose to provide documentation in the project file that the action has been classified as Type II.

b. Actions Which Require Further Review Under SEQR

- Type I—An action that meets or exceeds a threshold contained on the list in section 617.4 or one that is on an agency's locally adopted Type I list. Type I actions are more likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment than Unlisted actions and may require the preparation of a draft EIS.
- Unlisted—An action that does not meet or exceed the thresholds contained on the Type I list and is not contained on the Type II list. An Unlisted action requires a determination of significance and may require the preparation of a draft EIS.

If the action is classified as a Type I action, proceed to Step 3a. If the action is classified as an Unlisted action, proceed to Step 3b.



Step 3. Complete Environmental Assessment Forms (EAF)

a. Type I Actions

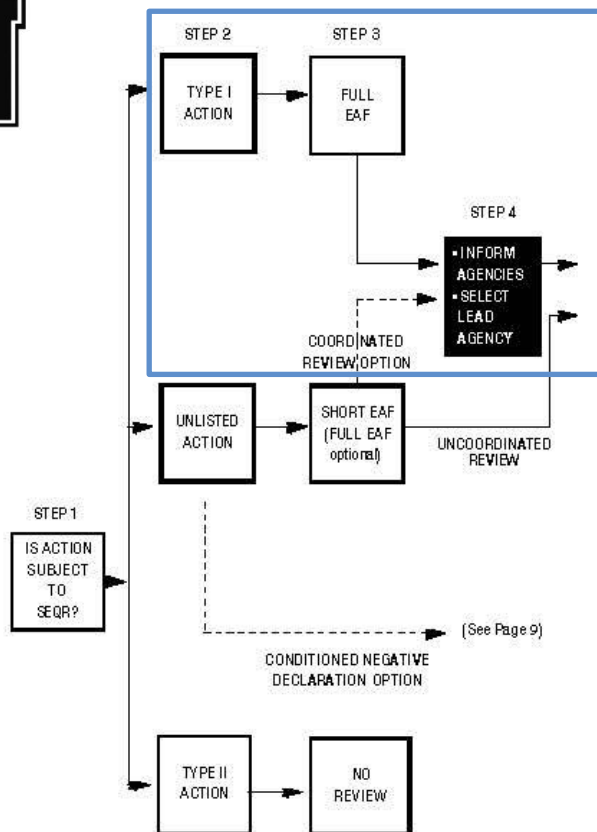
A full Environmental Assessment Form (full EAF) must be prepared for all Type I actions (617.20 Appendix A). The project sponsor/applicant completes Part I of the form and submits it to an involved agency together with any other applications that are required. When the lead agency is established (see step 4), that agency is responsible for completing Parts 2 and 3 of the EAF. Proceed to Step 4a.

b. Unlisted Actions

A short Environmental Assessment Form (short EAF) must, at a minimum, be completed for all Unlisted actions (617.20 Appendix B). The project sponsor/applicant completes Part 1 of the form and submits it to an involved agency together with any other applications that are required. When the lead agency is established (see Step 4), that agency is responsible for completing Part 2 and Part 3.

An agency may require a full EAF if the short EAF will not provide sufficient information.

Unlisted actions range from very minor activities to actions falling just below Type I thresholds. Coordinated review is not required for Unlisted actions. Proceed to step 4b.



Step 4. Coordinate Review

a. Type I Actions

Coordinated review is required for all Type I actions. The involved agency that initially receives an application for approval circulates to the other involved agencies the completed Part 1 of the full EAF and any other information supplied by the applicant. The involved agencies should be identified by the applicant in the full EAF (Part 1.B).

If there is only one agency approving, funding or directly undertaking an action, that agency is automatically the lead agency. If there are two or more involved agencies, a lead agency must be established by agreement of the agencies within 30 calendar days. If any involved agency desires to be lead agency, it can indicate in the coordination request its willingness to act as lead agency and state that, if no response is received within 30 calendar days, it will assume the role of lead agency. If the lead agency cannot be agreed on within 30 calendar days, any of the involved agencies or the applicant can ask the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation to resolve the dispute and designate the lead agency [see 617.6(b)(5)]. When the lead agency has been established/designated, proceed to Step 5.

b. Unlisted Actions

• Coordinated Review Option

If any involved agency decides to coordinate the review, or intends to require a draft EIS, that agency must contact the other involved agencies informing them of the decision to coordinate. The involved agencies should be identified by the applicant in either the short EAF, (Part 1, question 2) or the full EAF (Part 1.B).

Coordination then occurs using the procedures for coordinating a Type I action (return to Step 4a). The only difference in coordinating review for an Unlisted action is that either a short EAF or a full EAF may be used.

For Unlisted actions only, there is an option to not coordinate review.

• Uncoordinated Review Option

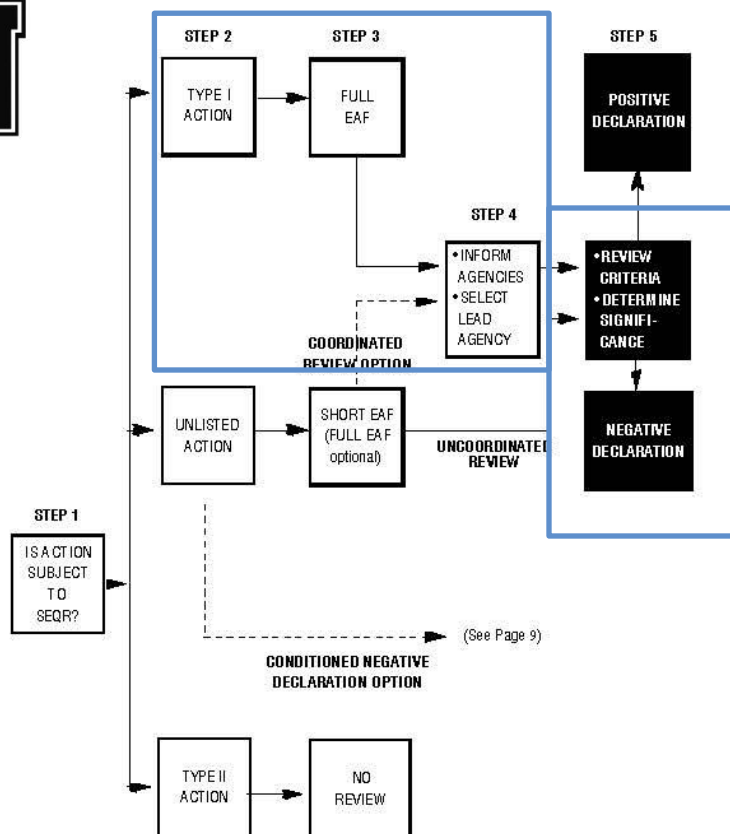
Each involved agency acts as a lead agency and independently conducts an environmental review and determines the significance of the action (go to Step 5). If all involved agencies issue negative declarations, the project may go forward. If any of the involved agencies issues a positive declaration, requiring an EIS, all the other determinations of non-significance are superseded and a coordinated review must commence.

• Conditioned Negative Declaration Option

If, during the review of an application and the EAF submitted by an applicant on an Unlisted action, an involved agency determines that the potentially significant impact(s) could be eliminated or reduced to a non-significant level through imposed conditions, the agency may consider using the Conditioned Negative Declaration (CND) process. The use of the CND process requires a full EAF and coordinated review. For a brief discussion of the CND process, see Step 5b.

Steps

- BOE declares intent to be lead agent.
- Circulation of EAF to involved agencies.
- BOE resolution declaring lead agency.



Step 5. Determine Significance

The lead agency has 20 calendar days to make its determination of significance. If the lead agency finds that it does not have sufficient information to make this determination, it may request that the applicant provide it. The lead agency must make its determination within 20 days of receipt of all the information it reasonably needs. In determining significance, the lead agency must consider:

- the whole action and the criteria [see 617.7(c)];
- the EAF and any other information provided by the applicant;
- involved agency input, where applicable; and
- public input, if any.

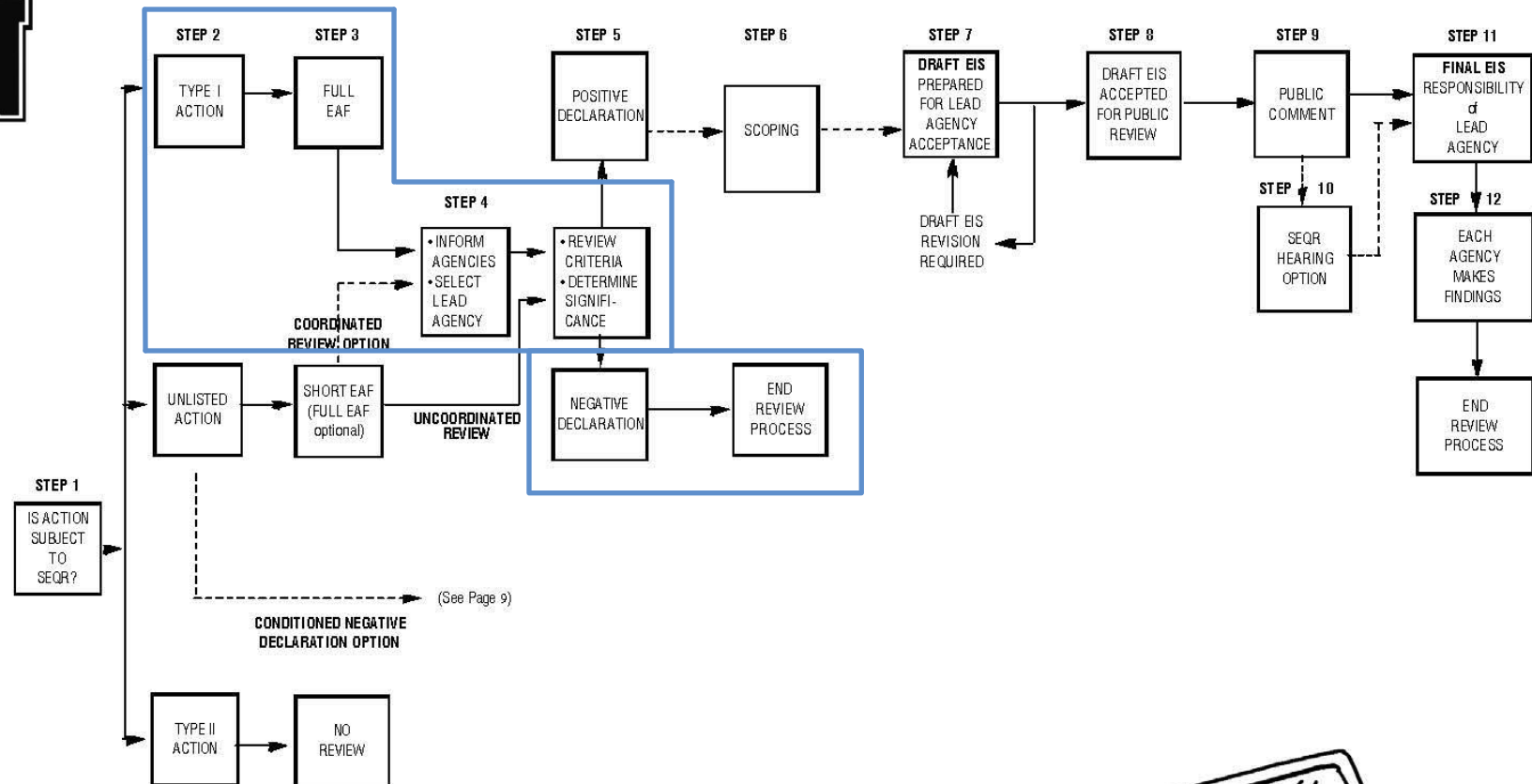
If the lead agency has determined that the proposed action will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment (Negative Declaration), proceed to Step 5a. If the proposed action is an Unlisted action involving an applicant and it will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment due to imposed conditions, proceed to Step 5b. If the proposed action may have a significant adverse impact on the environment (Positive Declaration), proceed to Step 5c.

a. Type I Action and Unlisted Action Negative Declarations

Every negative declaration must:

- identify the relevant areas of environmental concern;
- thoroughly analyze the relevant concerns; and
- document the determination, in writing, showing the reasons why the environmental concerns that were identified and analyzed will not be significant.

Unsupported statements such as “the action will not have a significant impact” or “no significant impacts were identified in the EAF” are assertions that are not legally sufficient for a negative declaration. Such statements must be supported with adequate detail to explain why there will be no significant impacts. For a Type I action, the agency must, in addition to maintaining a file that is readily accessible to the public, prepare, file, publish and distribute the Negative Declaration as described in section 617.12. For an Unlisted action, the reviewing agency must maintain a file readily accessible to the public containing the Negative Declaration.



The SEQR Process





SEQRA ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FORM (EAF) PROCESS

Understanding Parts 1, 2 & 3 of the Environmental Review

1

PART 1 Project & Setting



Completed by:
Applicant or Consultant/Sponsor



PURPOSE

- Establish existing site conditions
- Document project characteristics
- Gather baseline environmental information



INFORMATION SOURCES

- ✓ Online databases and mapping
- ✓ Existing reports and studies
- ✓ Field investigations
- ✓ Site observations



OUTCOME

A complete description of the project and surrounding environmental setting.

2

PART 2 Identification of Potential Project Impacts



Completed by:
Lead Agency with Consultant and
Legal Counsel Guidance



PURPOSE

- Identify environmental resources that may be affected
- Evaluate potential project impacts
- Guide reviewers through the assessment process



Is designed to help the lead agency inventory all potential resources that could be affected by a proposed project or action. The state recognizes that the lead agency's reviewer(s) will not necessarily be environmental professionals. So, the questions are designed to walk a reviewer through the assessment process by providing a series of questions that can be answered using the information found in Part 1. When Part 2 is completed, the lead agency will have identified the relevant environmental areas that may be impacted by the proposed activity.



ASSESSMENT AREAS

- ✓ Land and Water Resources
- ✓ Wetlands and Habitat
- ✓ Historic and Cultural Resources
- ✓ Community Character
- ✓ Traffic and Infrastructure
- ✓ Noise, Visual, and Other Environmental Factors



OUTCOME

Identification of environmental areas potentially affected by the proposed action.

3

PART 3 Evaluation of Impact Magnitude & Importance and Determination of Significance



Completed by:
Lead Agency with Consultant and
Legal Counsel Guidance



PURPOSE

- Evaluate impacts identified in Part 2
- Determine their magnitude and importance
- Provide reasons in support of the determination of significance



REQUIRED FOR

- ✓ Impacts identified as **Moderate to Large**, however, to be as thorough as possible explanations for **No to Small** impacts are provided
- ✓ Situations requiring additional explanation of potential impacts
- ✓ Documentation supporting environmental findings



OUTCOME

Written rationale supporting the determination of significance and environmental findings.

THE PROCESS



Project
Information

PART 1
(Project & Setting)



PART 2
(Identify Potential
Impacts)



Are
Moderate-to-Large
Impacts
Identified?

NO

Impacts are Minor or Less –
Proceed to SEQRA Determination

YES

PART 3
(Evaluate Significance &
Document Findings)



SEQRA
Determination



SEQRA PROCESS & REFERENDUM TIMELINE





EAF Review Summary

Potential Impacts Identified

1. Action will involve construction within a wetland adjacent area.
2. Action may cause erosion which could degrade water quality in receiving water bodies.
3. Action involves development within the 100 and 500 year floodplain
4. Action may produce noise and/or light levels exceed local regulations





Updated Concept Design



KEYED NOTES

- 1** Track and Multipurpose Syn. Turf Field
 - 6 Lane Track
 - Throwing Events
 - Grandstand and Pressbox
 - Field Lighting
- 2** Baseball Field Improvements
 - Dugouts, Backstop and Bleachers
 - Bullpen and Batting Cage
 - Outfield Fencing
- 3** Softball Field Improvements
 - Dugouts, Backstop and Bleachers
 - Bullpen and Batting Cage
 - Outfield Fencing
- 4** Multisport Synthetic Turf Field
 - Bleachers
 - Field Lighting
- 5** Existing Multisport Natural Turf Field
- 6** Reconstructed Tennis Courts
 - With Drainage Improvements
- 7** Concessions Stand and Storage Building
- 8** Accessible Parking Lot and Drop Off Loop
- 9** Stormwater Pond
- 10** Retaining Wall

Questions?

