

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT (SEQR)  
§ 617.7(c) Criteria for Determining Significance

- (1) To determine whether a proposed type I or unlisted action may have a significant adverse impact on the environment, the impacts that may be reasonably expected to result from the proposed action must be compared against the criteria in this subdivision. The following list is illustrative, not exhaustive. These criteria are considered indicators of significant adverse impacts on the environment:
  - (i) a substantial adverse change in existing air quality, ground or surface water quality or quantity, traffic or noise levels; a substantial increase in solid waste production; a substantial increase in potential for erosion, flooding, leaching or drainage problems;
  - (ii) the removal or destruction of large quantities of vegetation or fauna; substantial interference with the movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species; impacts on a significant habitat area; substantial adverse impacts on a threatened or endangered species of animal or plant, or the habitat of such a species; or other significant adverse impacts to natural resources;
  - (iii) the impairment of the environmental characteristics of a Critical Environmental Area as designated pursuant to subdivision 617.14(g) of this Part;
  - (iv) the creation of a material conflict with a community's current plans or goals as officially approved or adopted;
  - (v) the impairment of the character or quality of important historical, archaeological, architectural, or aesthetic resources or of existing community or neighborhood character;
  - (vi) a major change in the use of either the quantity or type of energy;
  - (vii) the creation of a hazard to human health;
  - (viii) a substantial change in the use, or intensity of use, of land including agricultural, open space or recreational resources, or in its capacity to support existing uses;
  - (ix) the encouraging or attracting of a large number of people to a place or places for more than a few days, compared to the number of people who would come to such place absent the attraction;
  - (x) the creation of a material demand for other actions which would result in one of the above consequences;
  - (xi) changes in two or more elements of the environment, no one of which has a significant impact on the environment, but when considered together result in a substantial adverse impact on the environment; or
  - (xii) two or more related actions undertaken, funded or approved by an agency, none of which has or would have a significant impact on the environment, but when considered cumulatively, would meet one or more of the criteria in this subdivision.
  
- (2) For the purpose of determining whether an action will cause one of the consequences listed in paragraph (1) of this subdivision, the lead agency must consider reasonably related long-term, short-term, direct, indirect and cumulative impacts, including other simultaneous or subsequent actions which are:
  - (i) included in any long-range plan of which the action under consideration is a part;
  - (ii) likely to be undertaken as a result thereof; or
  - (iii) dependent thereon.
  
- (3) The significance of a likely consequence, (i.e., whether it is material, substantial, large or important) should be assessed in connection with:
  - (i) its setting (e.g., urban or rural);
  - (ii) its probability of occurrence;
  - (iii) its duration;
  - (iv) its irreversibility;
  - (v) its geographic scope;
  - (vi) its magnitude; and
  - (vii) the number of people affected.