
Subject:

SEQRA PUBLIC HEARING/ANNEXATION PUBLIC HEARING

From: Beemer, Stefanie [<mailto:Beemer@pbworld.com>]**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2015 2:07 PM**To:** tmiller@timmlerassociates.com**Subject:** SEQRA PUBLIC HEARING/ANNEXATION PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Miller et al:

I have attached my comments to the Draft Generic EIS for the Annexation of the 507 and 164 acres to the village of Kiryas Joel from the town of Monroe. I found several items of concern and I feel that a complete EIS needs to be conducted due to community and environmental concerns not addressed in the DGEIS. Among several items that were not complete or too generic to make a final assumptions, a few have come to concern.

1. With the majority of the annexation in environmentally sensitive areas, there is a need of clarification to the DGEIS in the statement:

“Prior to any decision-making the lead agency for this action must complete the requisite SEQRA review. Since there is no development project associated with the Annexation Petitions, the only actions required under Article 17 of the New York State General Municipal Law are the resolutions by the Village of Kiryas Joel Board of Trustees and the Town Board of the Town of Monroe to approve or deny the annexation.”

While at the time, there is no “official developments” tied to this annexation, there are future planned developments after approval of this annexation. The annexation area includes areas within the freshwater wetland buffer zone (south of Coronet Lake and West of Forrest Road Lake) as per Figure 3.6-4 of the DGEIS and will require permits. Since work would take place within regulated areas, permits from the NYSDEC per NYSDEC Article 24 as well as permits and approvals from other regulatory agencies. Regulatory agencies issuing permits or approvals could be involved agencies in the SEQR process. Because of the involvement of permits and approvals by outside agencies not including Lead Agency, the annexation should not be approved or denied solely by elected officials of the Kiryas Joel Village Board and the Town of Monroe Board members.

2. Wetland review in Section 3.6 of the DGEIS was based on GIS mapping provided by Orange County and the NYSDEC’s Environmental Resource Mapper. **These types of maps do not necessarily reflect current conditions.** A field survey by wetlands and other ecologists is needed to accurately determine wetlands and other sensitive resources. **Was a field survey performed by certified ecologist to identify wetland and environmentally sensitive areas and confirm the accuracy of information? Were areas listed as protected species areas physically identified? If so, when were these performed and by whom?**

3. Nowhere in the DGEIS is FWS discussed nor any reference to inquiry letter sent to NYSDEC or FWS to confirm wildlife and habitat impacts. Have surveys of the habitat been performed by environmental experts?

I have no affiliation and I am a current resident in Orange County. This annexation is not in the best interest for the town of Monroe and surrounding areas including all of Orange County.

Address and Telephone Number
Stefanie Beemer
282 Mountain Lodge Road
Monroe, NY 10950