



VILLAGE OF KIRYAS JOEL

Post Office Box 566, Monroe, NY 10949
Phone: 845.783.8300 • Fax: 845.783.9491 • TDD: 800.662.1220

Mayor
Abraham Wieder
Administrator-Clerk
Gedalye Szegedin

Trustees
Moses Goldstein
Jacob Freund
Samuel Landau
Jacob Reisman

For Immediate Release:
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Contact: Paul Larrabee
518-689-7246

DRAFT GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW

The Village of Kiryas Joel today announced that it has released a Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) for public comment. The DGEIS is a product developed by the Village Board consistent with its role and responsibilities as SEQRA Lead Agency coordinating the review of potential environmental impacts of a petition advanced by local property owners seeking to annex 507 acres from the Town of Monroe to the Village of Kiryas Joel. The DGEIS also considers potential impacts from an alternative petition filed with the Village and Town to annex 164 of the 507 acres from the Town to the Village.

Following a period of thorough and thoughtful consideration, the Village Board determined the DGEIS to be complete and adequate for public review at its meeting on Friday, May 1. The planning process began in January 2014 and has been ongoing for the ensuing 16 months. The 600-plus-page document is now available for public review and comment. It may be accessed via website, <http://www.kj-seqra.com/507Acres/>.

“We appreciate the hundreds of hours that the Village Board and its advisors have spent working with our planning consultant Tim Miller Associates to ensure that the DGEIS is a thorough and complete review of the potential environmental impacts associated with the annexation petition,” said Ari Felberman, Government Relations Coordinator. “We also want to acknowledge the thoughts and feedback offered by everyone who attended two public scoping sessions hosted by the Village and submitted oral and written comments. Combined we heard directly at these sessions from over 100 of our residents and neighbors.”

Additionally, Village officials and its consulting team attended an informational session conducted earlier this month by the Orange County Planning Department. During that session, various topics on the annexation were reiterated, including many that are now addressed in the DGEIS.

The completion of the DGEIS marks the beginning of the SEQRA public comment period. Upon filing and distribution of the DGEIS, the Village Board will schedule and publish notice of a voluntary public hearing to solicit comments on the DGEIS. This hearing will be combined with the Joint Hearing on the annexation petitions with the Town of Monroe. Copies of the DGEIS have been provided to the Monroe Town Board and a list of interested agencies and others who have expressed interest in this action. The DGEIS is also available for public review on the dedicated website for the annexation, <http://www.kj-seqra.com/507Acres> as well as at the Kiryas Joel Village Hall, Monroe Town Hall and Monroe Public Library. Comments on the DGEIS should be sent to Tim Miller Associates 10 North St, Cold Spring, NY 10516.