

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
412 State Route 37
Akwesasne, NY 13655

Project Name: AHA Veteran's Supportive Housing
Date Issued: 6/27/2016

I. INTRODUCTION

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe has reviewed an Environmental Assessment for the proposed *Veteran's Supportive Housing*, file number 2016-01. The proposed project will include the construction of an 8,091 square foot, 6 unit apartment complex, with on-site facilities for veterans. The project will also include 62 parking spaces, 800 feet of sidewalk, and 1000 feet of roadway that will be shared with the *Senior's Supportive Housing* Project. The building will be located to the east of the existing Akwesasne Housing Authority (AHA) Administration building on State Route 37 in Akwesasne.

II. MITIGATION MEASURES

The nature and scope of the proposed project will not cause significant negative impacts to the physical environment. Work being completed will utilize silt fencing as needed along the construction site and around critical areas where excavation is to occur, or around trees and vegetation that are not to be disturbed. Stormwater must be handled according the guidelines set forth by the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The SWPPP summarizes the proposed stormwater management system for the site development, as well as the rationale for sizing the stormwater drainage structures and water quantity and quality treatment systems, and the selection of the erosion control methods employed for the construction of the project.

This project, in conjunction with the construction of the *AHA Senior's Supportive Housing* project, will result in impacts to the adjacent wetlands, which will require a wetland mitigation following a 2:1 ratio for offsetting all wetland impacts. To satisfy this requirement the SRMT Environment Division and Akwesasne Housing Authority have agreed upon a compensatory mitigation in-lieu fee that would be acceptable to properly mitigate or enhance 2.14 acres of wetlands required to off-set the proposed 1.07 acres of wetland impacts.

Additionally, because this projects proposes the clearing/removal of approximately 10 trees within the project area, special consideration shall be given to the habitat of the Northern-Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). The Northern Long-eared Bat has been considered a threatened species since January 2016 by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). As the project site is located within the range of this species, the removal of trees is prohibited from June 1- July 31 to protect this species during a critical stage in its lifecycle. Trees can only be

cleared during this period if further investigation is conducted to ensure that the site and surrounding area are void of hibernacula or occupied maternity roost.

III. CONCLUSION

Pursuant to the requirements of NEPA, the SRMT Environment Division concludes that the proposed project meets the requirements outlined above and discussed in the EA. This project will not significantly impact human health or the environment in the project area. The SRMT Environment Division is issuing this FONSI for the proposed *Veteran's Supportive Housing* project. The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Environment Division does require that this project be developed and operated consistent with the above listed mitigation measures and information outlined in the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Environmental Assessment.