

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_ - 2021**

**WHEREAS**, there is pending before this Honorable Board legislation to authorize the County of Westchester to issue bonds in connection with capital project WD309 – Water Storage Facilities and Maintenance Program (“WD309”); and

**WHEREAS**, this Honorable Board has determined that the proposed authorization would constitute an action under Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law, known as the New York State Environmental Quality Review (“SEQR”) Act; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to SEQR and its implementing regulations (6 New York Code of Rules and Regulations Part 617), this project is classified as an Unlisted action, which requires this Honorable Board to make a determination as to whether the proposed action will have a significant impact on the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Westchester is the only involved agency with discretionary authority for this action and, therefore, is assuming the role of Lead Agency; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with SEQR and its implementing regulations, an Environmental Assessment Form has been prepared to assist this Honorable Board in its environmental assessment of this proposed action; and

**WHEREAS**, this Honorable Board has carefully considered the proposed action and has reviewed the attached short Environmental Assessment Form and the criteria set forth in Section 617.7 of the implementing regulations and has identified the relevant areas of environmental concern, as described in the attached Environmental Assessment Form, to determine if this proposed action will have an effect upon the environment.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the County Board of Legislators of the County of Westchester, State of New York, as follows:

**RESOLVED**, that based upon the Honorable Board's review of the Environmental Assessment Form and for the reasons set forth therein, this Board finds that there will be no significant adverse impact on the environment from the capital project; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, the Clerk of the Board of Legislators, as responsible officer in Lead Agency, is authorized and directed to sign the Determination of Significance in the attached Environmental Assessment Form, which Form is made a part hereof; to issue this "Negative Declaration" on behalf of this Board pursuant to Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law; and to immediately transmit same to the Commissioner of Planning to be filed, published and made available pursuant to the requirements of Part 617 of New York Code of Rules and Regulations; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Resolution shall take effect immediately.

TO: Lynne Colavita, Senior Assistant County Attorney  
Department of Law

FROM: David S. Kvinge, AICP, RLA, CFM   
Director of Environmental Planning

DATE: December 30, 2020

SUBJECT: **STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW FOR  
WD309 Water Storage Facilities and Maintenance Program**

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The Planning Department has reviewed Capital Project WD309 – Water Storage Facilities and Maintenance Program (Unique ID: 1609).

This project has been classified as an Unlisted action pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act and its implementing regulations, 6 NYCRR Part 617 (SEQR). A Short Environmental Assessment Form has been prepared for the project for consideration by the Board of Legislators.

Additionally, please be advised that the County is the only involved agency with discretionary authority and, therefore, must assume the role of Lead Agency under SEQR.

Please contact me if you require any additional information regarding this document.

DSK/cnm

Att.

cc: Andrew Ferris, Chief of Staff  
Paula Friedman, Assistant to the County Executive  
Tami Altschiller, Assistant Chief Deputy County Attorney  
Gideon Grande, Deputy Budget Director  
Lorraine Yazzetta, Associate Budget Director  
Anthony Zaino, Assistant Commissioner  
William Brady, Chief Planner  
C.J. Gelardo, Capital Program Coordinator, Department of Environmental Facilities  
Michelle Greenbaum, Assistant County Attorney  
Michael Lipkin, Associate Planner  
Claudia Maxwell, Associate Environmental Planner

# Short Environmental Assessment Form

## Part 1 - Project Information

### Instructions for Completing

**Part 1 – Project Information.** The applicant or project sponsor is responsible for the completion of Part 1. Responses become part of the application for approval or funding, are subject to public review, and may be subject to further verification. Complete Part 1 based on information currently available. If additional research or investigation would be needed to fully respond to any item, please answer as thoroughly as possible based on current information.

Complete all items in Part 1. You may also provide any additional information which you believe will be needed by or useful to the lead agency; attach additional pages as necessary to supplement any item.

<b>Part 1 – Project and Sponsor Information</b>			
Name of Action or Project: Water Storage Facilities and Maintenance Program (WD309) - Grasslands Water Tower			
Project Location (describe, and attach a location map): Bradhurst Avenue, Valhalla (Town of Mount Pleasant), Westchester County, NY			
Brief Description of Proposed Action: The project involves the rehabilitation of the water tower facility for County Water District No. 3, which serves the County's Grasslands and Community College campuses. The rehabilitation work includes: removal of antennae from the water tower; repainting and recoating of the water tower interior and exterior; replacement of various vent and access equipment on the water tower; replacement of the cathodic protection system within the tower; electrical and instrumentation upgrades; construction of an instrumentation enclosure within the base of the tower; rehabilitation of equipment within the existing pumping stations and vault chambers around the base of the tower, and construction of a new meter chamber near the base of the tower. The project will also include replacement of the existing security fence and gates, the addition of a 1-foot-wide concrete strip along the fence line, paving of the gravel access road, and the installation of grassed swales for stormwater management.			
Name of Applicant or Sponsor: County of Westchester		Telephone: (914) 995-4400 E-Mail: dsk2@westchestergov.com	
Address: 148 Martine Ave			
City/PO: White Plains		State: NY	Zip Code: 10601
1. Does the proposed action only involve the legislative adoption of a plan, local law, ordinance, administrative rule, or regulation? If Yes, attach a narrative description of the intent of the proposed action and the environmental resources that may be affected in the municipality and proceed to Part 2. If no, continue to question 2.			NO <input type="checkbox"/>
			YES <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Does the proposed action require a permit, approval or funding from any other government Agency? If Yes, list agency(s) name and permit or approval: NYSDEC- SPDES General Permit			NO <input type="checkbox"/>
			YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. a. Total acreage of the site of the proposed action?		_____ 7 acres	
b. Total acreage to be physically disturbed?		_____ 1 acres	
c. Total acreage (project site and any contiguous properties) owned or controlled by the applicant or project sponsor?		_____ 46.74 acres	
4. Check all land uses that occur on, are adjoining or near the proposed action:			
5. <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input type="checkbox"/> Rural (non-agriculture) <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential (suburban)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forest <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other(Specify): Cemetery, school, parkway			
<input type="checkbox"/> Parkland			

5. Is the proposed action,	NO	YES	N/A
a. A permitted use under the zoning regulations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Consistent with the adopted comprehensive plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6. Is the proposed action consistent with the predominant character of the existing built or natural landscape?	NO	YES	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
7. Is the site of the proposed action located in, or does it adjoin, a state listed Critical Environmental Area?	NO	YES	
If Yes, identify: _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8. a. Will the proposed action result in a substantial increase in traffic above present levels?	NO	YES	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
b. Are public transportation services available at or near the site of the proposed action?			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
c. Are any pedestrian accommodations or bicycle routes available on or near the site of the proposed action?			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9. Does the proposed action meet or exceed the state energy code requirements?	NO	YES	
If the proposed action will exceed requirements, describe design features and technologies:			
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
_____			
10. Will the proposed action connect to an existing public/private water supply?	NO	YES	
If No, describe method for providing potable water: _____			
The project involves improvements to an existing water supply facility, but does not include any new water supply connections.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
11. Will the proposed action connect to existing wastewater utilities?	NO	YES	
If No, describe method for providing wastewater treatment: _____			
_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
_____			
12. a. Does the project site contain, or is it substantially contiguous to, a building, archaeological site, or district which is listed on the National or State Register of Historic Places, or that has been determined by the Commissioner of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to be eligible for listing on the State Register of Historic Places?	NO	YES	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
b. Is the project site, or any portion of it, located in or adjacent to an area designated as sensitive for archaeological sites on the NY State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) archaeological site inventory?			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
13. a. Does any portion of the site of the proposed action, or lands adjoining the proposed action, contain wetlands or other waterbodies regulated by a federal, state or local agency?	NO	YES	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
b. Would the proposed action physically alter, or encroach into, any existing wetland or waterbody?			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
If Yes, identify the wetland or waterbody and extent of alterations in square feet or acres: _____			
_____			
_____			



**Disclaimer:** The EAF Mapper is a screening tool intended to assist project sponsors and reviewing agencies in preparing an environmental assessment form (EAF). Not all questions asked in the EAF are answered by the EAF Mapper. Additional information on any EAF question can be obtained by consulting the EAF Workbooks. Although the EAF Mapper provides the most up-to-date digital data available to DEC, you may also need to contact local or other data sources in order to obtain data not provided by the Mapper. Digital data is not a substitute for agency determinations.

Garmin, USGS, InCenMap, INCREMENTP, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Part 1 / Question 7 [Critical Environmental Area]	No
Part 1 / Question 12a [National or State Register of Historic Places or State Eligible Sites]	No
Part 1 / Question 12b [Archeological Sites]	Yes
Part 1 / Question 13a [Wetlands or Other Regulated Waterbodies]	Yes - Digital mapping information on local and federal wetlands and waterbodies is known to be incomplete. Refer to EAF Workbook.
Part 1 / Question 15 [Threatened or Endangered Animal]	No
Part 1 / Question 16 [100 Year Flood Plain]	No
Part 1 / Question 20 [Remediation Site]	No

Project:	WD309 Grasslands Water Tower
Date:	December 2020

**Short Environmental Assessment Form  
Part 2 - Impact Assessment**

**Part 2 is to be completed by the Lead Agency.**

Answer all of the following questions in Part 2 using the information contained in Part 1 and other materials submitted by the project sponsor or otherwise available to the reviewer. When answering the questions the reviewer should be guided by the concept "Have my responses been reasonable considering the scale and context of the proposed action?"

	No, or small impact may occur	Moderate to large impact may occur
1. Will the proposed action create a material conflict with an adopted land use plan or zoning regulations?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Will the proposed action result in a change in the use or intensity of use of land?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Will the proposed action impair the character or quality of the existing community?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Will the proposed action have an impact on the environmental characteristics that caused the establishment of a Critical Environmental Area (CEA)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Will the proposed action result in an adverse change in the existing level of traffic or affect existing infrastructure for mass transit, biking or walkway?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Will the proposed action cause an increase in the use of energy and it fails to incorporate reasonably available energy conservation or renewable energy opportunities?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Will the proposed action impact existing: a. public / private water supplies? b. public / private wastewater treatment utilities?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Will the proposed action impair the character or quality of important historic, archaeological, architectural or aesthetic resources?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Will the proposed action result in an adverse change to natural resources (e.g., wetlands, waterbodies, groundwater, air quality, flora and fauna)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Will the proposed action result in an increase in the potential for erosion, flooding or drainage problems?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Will the proposed action create a hazard to environmental resources or human health?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Short Environmental Assessment Form Part 3 Determination of Significance

For every question in Part 2 that was answered “moderate to large impact may occur”, or if there is a need to explain why a particular element of the proposed action may or will not result in a significant adverse environmental impact, please complete Part 3. Part 3 should, in sufficient detail, identify the impact, including any measures or design elements that have been included by the project sponsor to avoid or reduce impacts. Part 3 should also explain how the lead agency determined that the impact may or will not be significant. Each potential impact should be assessed considering its setting, probability of occurring, duration, irreversibility, geographic scope and magnitude. Also consider the potential for short-term, long-term and cumulative impacts.

Much of the work, which involves internal or surface renovations or replacements in-kind, will have no impact on the environment.

Construction of a new meter chamber will occur within the fenced in and maintained area beneath the water tower will have little to no impact on the environment. The vault, itself, will be approximately 6 feet wide by 4 feet long by 8 feet high, and will be installed to a depth of 10 feet. Due to previous heavy disturbance associated with the construction of the water tower facility, no impact on archaeological resources are anticipated.

The existing gravel access road is approximately 12 feet wide and 2,145 feet in length. Paving of the road will allow for easier access to the water tower and will ensure that the path remains passable as it currently washes out and must be regraded often. Grassed swales will guide stormwater runoff to various discharge points with rip-rap aprons to facilitate percolation into the ground. A tributary of the Bronx River and a man-made pond exist at the south end of the property. The tributary passes in a culvert underneath Bradhurst Avenue at the base of the driveway. The dispersal of storm water at various points along the length of the driveway with outlet protection at each discharge point, along with erosion and sediment controls during construction, will minimize impacts to the tributary.

A chain-link fence currently encircles the water tower approximately 25 feet beyond the water tower pedestal base. The area within the fence is mowed as is a few feet outside the fence. The fence and gate assembly will be replaced in kind. However, a paved apron that will extend 6 inches on each of the fence will be installed to keep weeds and saplings from growing into the fence, which currently cause damage to the fence and allow trespassers to climb over the fence. This new apron and fence will reduce the need for future maintenance and will improve site safety with little to no environmental impact.

The project will ensure the safety of the local drinking water and continued operation of the tower and pumping facilities.

- Check this box if you have determined, based on the information and analysis above, and any supporting documentation, that the proposed action may result in one or more potentially large or significant adverse impacts and an environmental impact statement is required.
- Check this box if you have determined, based on the information and analysis above, and any supporting documentation, that the proposed action will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts.

County of Westchester

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Lead Agency

Malika Vanderberg  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Print or Type Name of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Clerk to Board of Legislators  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title of Responsible Officer

*Dan Kuge*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Preparer (if different from Responsible Officer)