


Memorandum

TO: Jack D. Homkow, Director, Office of Environmental Affairs

FROM: Matthew A. Stanley, AICP, Senior Environmental Manager 

DATE: February 9, 2015

RE: *State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Type II Determination for the St. John's University 2015 Refunding Project* — Independent Colleges and Universities Program

St. John's University ("St. John's" or the "University") has requested financing from the Dormitory Authority State of New York ("DASNY") pursuant to DASNY's Independent Colleges and Universities Program for its *2015 Refunding Project*. Accordingly, the *2015 Refunding Project* is subject to environmental review pursuant to the *State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA")*.

Based on a review of the attached *Single Approval Credit Summary*, dated January 30, 2015, it has been determined that for purposes of *SEQRA*, the Proposed Action would consist of DASNY's authorization of the issuance of approximately \$125,000,000 in 23-year, fixed- and/or variable-rate, tax-exempt and/or taxable, Series 2015 bonds to be sold through a negotiated offering on behalf of St. John's. The proceeds of the tax-exempt bond issuance would be used to advance refund DASNY's St. John's University Series 2007A bonds (the "Proposed Project").

Description of the Institution. St. John's University is an independent, not-for-profit institution of higher education chartered under the laws of the State of New York. The University was founded in 1870 and originally incorporated in 1871 as St. John's College, Brooklyn. Today, the University's main campus is in Queens, with three other New York campuses, in Staten Island, Oakdale and Manhattan. Prior to the late 1990s, the University had primarily been a commuter school until a transition to residential living began with the construction of residence halls and related facilities on the Queens campus. The University currently includes six schools and colleges: St. John's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, the School of Education, the Peter J. Tobin College of Business, the College of Professional Studies, and the School of Law. The University offers over 100 degree programs, ranging from the two-year associate level to full doctorates.

SEQR Determination. DASNY completed this environmental review in accordance with *SEQRA*, codified at Article 8 of the New York *Environmental Conservation Law ("ECL")* and implementing regulations, promulgated at Part 617 of Title 6 of the *New York Codes, Rules and Regulations ("N.Y.C.R.R.")*, which collectively contain the requirements for the *State Environmental Quality Review ("SEQR")* process.

Refinancing of existing debt is a Type II action as specifically designated by 6 *N.Y.C.R.R.* § 617.5(c)(23). Type II “actions have been determined not to have significant impact on the environment or are otherwise precluded from environmental review under Environmental Conservation Law, article 8.”¹ Therefore, no further *SEQR* determination or procedure is required for any project identified as Type II.

SHPA Determination. The Proposed Project was also reviewed in conformance with the *New York State Historic Preservation Act of 1980 (“SHPA”)*, especially the implementing regulations of Section 14.09 of the *Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Law (“PRHPL”)*, as well as with the requirements of the Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”), dated March 18, 1998, between DASNY and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (“OPRHP”). It is the opinion of DASNY that the Proposed Project would have no impact on historic or cultural resources in or eligible for inclusion in the National and/or State Registers of Historic Places.

Attachments

cc: Dena T. Amodio, Esq.
Stephen J. Kosier
SEQR File
OPRHP File

¹ 6 *N.Y.C.R.R.* § 617.5(a).