



**DORMITORY AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT**

**NOTICE OF COMPLETION
OF
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
AND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
NEW YORK STATE LIFE SCIENCES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY**

Date: October 15, 2024

Title of Action: New York State Life Sciences Public Health Laboratory

Project Sponsor: New York State Department of Health
Wadsworth Center
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12237

Lead Agency: Dormitory Authority of the State of New York
515 Broadway
Albany, New York 12207-2964

SEQR Status: Type I Action (6 N.Y.C.R.R. 617.4(b)(6)(i) and 617.4(b)(6)(v))

Review Type: Coordinated Review

This notice is issued pursuant to the *State Environmental Quality Review Act* (“SEQRA”), codified at Article 8 of the New York *Environmental Conservation Law* (“ECL”), and its 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.

The Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (“DASNY”), as SEQR lead agency, has completed and accepted a *Draft Environmental Impact Statement* (“DEIS”) for the Proposed Action and Proposed Project described below. A public hearing will be held on October 30, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at The College of St. Rose, Touhey Forum, Thelma P. Lally School of Education, 432 Western Avenue (1009 Madison Avenue), Albany, Albany County, New York. The purpose of the public hearing is to allow all involved agencies and interested parties and members of the public an opportunity to comment on the DEIS.

Overview. This project is being reviewed pursuant to SEQRA, Article 8 of the ECL, and its implementing regulations (6 N.Y.C.R.R. § 617), which are collectively referred to as SEQR or the SEQR Process. Accepted methodologies and procedures that are consistent with SEQR have been utilized as a general guide for evaluating the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Project (described in detail below). Specific methodologies and impact significance criteria used in the technical analyses are discussed accordingly in each DEIS chapter.

The Proposed Project is also being reviewed in conformance with the *New York State Historic Preservation Act of 1980* (“SHPA”), specifically 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”). Additionally, the Proposed Project is being reviewed in conformance with the *State Smart Growth Public Infrastructure Policy Act* (“SSGPIPA”).

Description of Proposed Action and Proposed Project. DASNY has received a request from the New York State Department of Health (“NYSDOH”) to construct the New York State (“NYS”) Life Sciences Public Health Laboratory. For the purposes of SEQR, the Proposed Action would consist of NYSDOH’s approval of construction pursuant to the *Public Health Law* (“PHL”) of NYSDOH’s plan to centralize and consolidate existing operations of the Wadsworth Center that are currently located in five separate facilities located in the Capital Region. DASNY’s role is to deliver the project on behalf of its customer agency, NYSDOH, the programmatic decision makers and owners of the project. As the Owner’s Representative, DASNY would hold all contracts, including with the design-build team and other consultants.

The Proposed Action would result in the construction of a new, purpose-built, state-of-the-art Life Sciences Public Health Laboratory building and accessory surface parking lot (the “Proposed Project”). The Proposed Project would foster innovation and collaboration at the Wadsworth Center facility, and between the Wadsworth Center and outside partners, contributing to broader life sciences initiatives in the Capital Region.

Location of Proposed Project. The Proposed Project would be located on a vacant, approximately 27-acre site on the southeastern portion of the W. Averell Harriman State Office Building Campus, flanked by Washington Avenue to the north, Western Avenue to the south, University at Albany to the west, and New York State Route 85 to the east, in Albany, Albany County, New York.

Potential Environmental Impacts. The *DEIS* evaluates the Proposed Project for potential environmental impacts, including land use, zoning, and public policy; stormwater management; socioeconomics; visual and community character; environmental justice; community facilities (including solid waste and recycling); infrastructure (including water supply, sanitary wastewater, and energy infrastructure); traffic and transportation; air quality and climate change; noise; hazardous materials; and construction activities.

Public Hearing. A public hearing will be held on:

Wednesday, October 30, 2024

At 6:30 p.m.

Location: **The College of St. Rose, Touhey Forum, Thelma P. Lally School of Education,
432 Western Avenue (1009 Madison Avenue), Albany, Albany County, New York**

Parking is available in **Lot P1** (enter at 432 Western Avenue) and **Lot P19** (enter at 919 Madison Avenue).

A livestream of the public scoping meeting may be viewed at www.dasny.org/.

The purpose of the public hearing is to allow all involved agencies and interested parties and members of the public an opportunity to comment on the *DEIS*.

Comments on the *DEIS* will be accepted until November 15, 2024. Written comments and electronically mailed comments may be sent to DASNY at LSPHLComments@DASNY.org and at the address below.

The *DEIS* may be viewed on and downloaded from the DASNY website at www.dasny.org/.

A hard copy of the *DEIS* may be viewed at the Pine Hills Branch of the Albany Public Library, 517 Western Avenue, Albany.

To receive upcoming notices and documents on the Proposed Project, you may sign up using the email address: LSPHLComments@DASNY.org.

For Further Information Please Contact The Lead Agency At:

Contact Person: Robert S. Derico, R.A.
Director
Office of Environmental Affairs

Address: DASNY
515 Broadway
Albany, New York 12207

Phone: 518-257-3214

Email: rderico@dasny.org