



**DORMITORY AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK**  
***STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT***  
**POSITIVE DECLARATION**  
**NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**  
**DRAFT SCOPING DOCUMENT**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING**

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

**Date:** March 6, 2024

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

**Applicant:** New York State Department of Health  
Wadsworth Center  
Empire State Plaza  
Albany, New York 12237

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 lead agency, has determined that the Proposed Action described below may have a significant effect on the environment and that a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (“DEIS”) will be prepared.**

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

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

**Description of Proposed Action and Proposed Project.** The Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (“DASNY”) has received a request from the New York State Department of Health (“NYSDOH”) for the construction of its *New York State Life Sciences Public Health Laboratory*, pursuant to DASNY’s NYSDOH Capital Projects Program.

For the purposes of the New York *State Environmental Quality Review Act* (“SEQRA”), the Proposed Action would consist of DASNY’s approval of a construction application filed pursuant to Section 2802 of the *Public Health Law* (“PHL”) that would centralize and consolidate NYSDOH’s existing operations of the Wadsworth Center, currently located in five separate facilities located throughout the Capital Region.

More specifically, the *New York State Life Sciences Public Health Laboratory* project would redevelop a vacant, approximately 27-acre site on the southeastern portion of the Harriman Campus with a new, four-story building (plus mechanical floor), totaling approximately 647,000 gross square feet (“gsf”), and include a surface parking lot with approximately 930 parking spaces (the “Proposed Project”). The Proposed Project would maximize resources for public health testing and research collaborations within a purpose-built, state-of-the-art laboratory facility.

**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.

**Reasons Supporting this Determination.** Representatives of DASNY reviewed the *Full Environmental Assessment Form – Part 1* (“FEAF – Part 1”), dated February 1, 2024 (attached), and determined that the Proposed Project constitutes a Type I Action pursuant to 6 N.Y.C.R.R. 617.4(b)(6)(i) and 617.4(b)(6)(v) of the *SEQR* implementing regulations. On February 1, 2024, DASNY circulated a lead agency request letter and *FEAF – Part 1* as well as a *Distribution List of Involved Agencies and Interested Parties* (attached) to whom the lead agency letter was sent. There being no objections, DASNY assumed *SEQR* lead agency status and is conducting a coordinated review among the involved agencies. DASNY representatives discussed the Proposed Project’s environmental effects with representatives of NYSDOH and the Wadsworth Center, as well as representatives of the involved agencies.

DASNY subsequently completed an evaluation of the magnitude and importance of project impacts, as detailed in the *FEAF – Parts 2 and 3* (see attached). Based on the above, DASNY, as lead *SEQR* agency, has determined that the Proposed Project does not have the potential for significant adverse impacts to geological features, surface water, groundwater, flooding, plants and animals, agricultural resources, aesthetic resources, historic and archeological, resources, open space and recreation, critical environmental areas, consistency with community plans and community character.

DASNY, as SEQR lead agency, has also determined that the Proposed Project may have a significant adverse impact on the environment and that a targeted Draft Environmental Impact Statement (“DEIS”) will be prepared in compliance with SEQRA, including the consideration of potentially significant adverse environmental impacts, alternatives, and mitigation. Specifically, the DEIS will consider potential impacts to stormwater management, community facilities, solid waste and recycling, water supply, sanitary wastewater, traffic and transportation, potential changes to existing air quality, including potential climate change impacts, potential noise impacts (primarily from construction), the use, quantity and type of energy, and human health. In addition, notwithstanding its targeted finding of significance, because a DEIS will be prepared, DASNY also has determined that the DEIS will consider additional environmental resource categories such as local land use, zoning and public policy as well as aesthetic resources and the character or quality of existing community or neighborhood character in the DEIS to ensure that the public has sufficient opportunity to comment on the Proposed Project.

**Scoping.** Scoping is the process by which the issues to be addressed in the DEIS are identified. The scoping process focuses the DEIS on the potentially significant adverse environmental impacts; eliminates non-significant and non-relevant issues; identifies the extent and quality of information needed; identifies the range of reasonable alternatives to be discussed; provides an initial identification of mitigation measures; and provides the public with an opportunity to participate in the identification of impacts.

Also attached is a *Draft Scoping Document* for the Proposed Project. The purpose of the *Draft Scoping Document* is to provide an opportunity for involved agencies, interested agencies, and the public to review and comment on the scope of work for the DEIS.

**Public Scoping Meeting.** A public scoping meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 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. 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/](http://www.dasny.org/).

The purpose of the public scoping meeting will be to allow all involved agencies and interested parties an opportunity to comment on the scope of the DEIS. The attached *Draft Scoping Document* identifies the significant environmental conditions and resources that may be affected by the Proposed Project and defines the extent and quality of information necessary to address those issues in the DEIS.

Written comments and electronically mailed comments on the Draft Scoping Document may be sent to DASNY at [LSPHLComments@DASNY.org](mailto:LSPHLComments@DASNY.org) and will be accepted until April 15, 2024.

***For Further Information Please Contact The Lead Agency At:***

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