

Short Environmental Assessment Form

Part 1 - Project Information

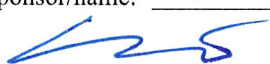
Instructions for Completing

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.

| | | | |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Part 1 – Project and Sponsor Information | | | |
| Town of Long Lake Battery Energy Storage System Law - Local Law Adoption by the Town Board of the Town of Long Lake in Hamilton County, NY | | | |
| Name of Action or Project: | | | |
| Town of Long Lake Battery Energy Storage System Law - Proposed as Local Law No. 1 of 2023 | | | |
| Project Location (describe, and attach a location map): | | | |
| Town wide | | | |
| Brief Description of Proposed Action: | | | |
| Adoption of a local law regulating the designating of properties suitable for the location, construction, operation and decommissioning of battery energy storage systems and to ensure compatible land uses in the vicinity of the the areas affected by battery energy storage systems and to mitigate impacts of battery energy storage on the the environmental resources and lands within the Town of Long Lake. The proposed law contains procedures and requirements to obtain a permit application review. The proposed local law provides for the issuance, conditioning, or denial of a permit by the Town Board. | | | |
| Name of Applicant or Sponsor: | | Telephone: 518-624-3001 | |
| Town Board of the Town of Long Lake | | E-Mail: supervisor@mylonglake.com | |
| Address: | | | |
| 1130 Deerland Rd | | | |
| City/PO: | | State: | Zip Code: |
| Long Lake | | NY | 12847 |
| 1. Does the proposed action only involve the legislative adoption of a plan, local law, ordinance, administrative rule, or regulation? | | | NO |
| 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. | | | YES |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Does the proposed action require a permit, approval or funding from any other government Agency? | | | NO |
| If Yes, list agency(s) name and permit or approval: | | | YES |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. a. Total acreage of the site of the proposed action? _____ acres | | | |
| b. Total acreage to be physically disturbed? _____ acres | | | |
| c. Total acreage (project site and any contiguous properties) owned or controlled by the applicant or project sponsor? _____ acres | | | |
| 4. Check all land uses that occur on, are adjoining or near the proposed action: | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input type="checkbox"/> Rural (non-agriculture) <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Residential (suburban) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forest <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic <input type="checkbox"/> Other(Specify): | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parkland | | | |

| | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 5. Is the proposed action, a. A permitted use under the zoning regulations? b. Consistent with the adopted comprehensive plan? | NO | YES | N/A |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> | |
| 7. Is the site of the proposed action located in, or does it adjoin, a state listed Critical Environmental Area? If Yes, identify: _____ | NO | YES | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 8. a. Will the proposed action result in a substantial increase in traffic above present levels? b. Are public transportation services available at or near the site of the proposed action? c. Are any pedestrian accommodations or bicycle routes available on or near the site of the proposed action? | NO | YES | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 9. Does the proposed action meet or exceed the state energy code requirements? If the proposed action will exceed requirements, describe design features and technologies: _____ _____ | NO | YES | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | | | |
| 10. Will the proposed action connect to an existing public/private water supply? If No, describe method for providing potable water: _____ _____ | NO | YES | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 11. Will the proposed action connect to existing wastewater utilities? If No, describe method for providing wastewater treatment: _____ _____ | NO | YES | |
| | <input 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? 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? | NO | YES | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input 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? b. Would the proposed action physically alter, or encroach into, any existing wetland or waterbody? If Yes, identify the wetland or waterbody and extent of alterations in square feet or acres: _____ _____ _____ | NO | YES | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | | | |

| | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 14. Identify the typical habitat types that occur on, or are likely to be found on the project site. Check all that apply: <input type="checkbox"/> Shoreline <input type="checkbox"/> Forest <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural/grasslands <input type="checkbox"/> Early mid-successional <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban | | |
| 15. Does the site of the proposed action contain any species of animal, or associated habitats, listed by the State or Federal government as threatened or endangered? | NO | YES |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 16. Is the project site located in the 100-year flood plan? | NO | YES |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 17. Will the proposed action create storm water discharge, either from point or non-point sources? If Yes, | NO | YES |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| a. Will storm water discharges flow to adjacent properties? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Will storm water discharges be directed to established conveyance systems (runoff and storm drains)? If Yes, briefly describe: | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | | |
| _____ | | |
| 18. Does the proposed action include construction or other activities that would result in the impoundment of water or other liquids (e.g., retention pond, waste lagoon, dam)? If Yes, explain the purpose and size of the impoundment: | NO | YES |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | | |
| 19. Has the site of the proposed action or an adjoining property been the location of an active or closed solid waste management facility? If Yes, describe: | NO | YES |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | | |
| 20. Has the site of the proposed action or an adjoining property been the subject of remediation (ongoing or completed) for hazardous waste? If Yes, describe: | NO | YES |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | | |
| I CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED ABOVE IS TRUE AND ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE | | |
| Applicant/sponsor/name: <u>Clay Arsenault</u> Date: <u>4/14/2023</u> | | |
| Signature: <u></u> Title: <u>Town Supervisor</u> | | |

Narrative for legislative action to accompany SEAF Part One Project Description

Adoption of a local law regulating the designation of properties suitable for the location, construction, operation, and decommissioning of battery energy storage systems and to ensure compatible land uses in the vicinity of the areas affected by battery energy storage systems and to mitigate impacts of battery energy storage on the environmental resources and lands within the Town of Long Lake. The proposed law contains procedures and requirements to obtain a permit application review. The proposed local law provides for the issuance, conditioning, or denial of a permit by the Town Board.

One of the Goals of the Town of Long Lakes Comprehensive Plan adopted January 27, 2021 as stated on page 34 of the section titled:

Goal: Ensure that the infrastructure is designed, operated, and built in a sustainable and resilient manner.

....

2. Make electrical service more reliable, particularly in emergency situations (e.g., redundant service, generators, etc.). The Town's long distance from power generation sources means that there is a greater amount of transmission infrastructure exposed to risks like falling trees and windstorms. The Town should continue to diversify its power sources and consider using generators, solar, and battery cells. Currently, the Town is in conversations with National Grid about the possibility of utilizing new high-capacity battery cells as backup power supplies. The Town should diligently pursue ongoing coordination with National Grid to ensure that this project moves forward.

Previous to the adoption of the Town's Comprehensive Plan in 2021, New York in 2019 New York passed the "Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act" (Climate Act), which codified aggressive climate and energy goals, including the deployment of 1,500 MW of energy storage by 2025, and 3,000 MW by 2030. (NYSERDA has since predicted that this installation base will be well over 6000 MW by 2030.)

Over \$350 million in New York State incentives have been authorized to accelerate the adoption of energy storage systems in an effort to build a self-sustaining industry. Energy storage systems are being supported by New York State's Public Service Commission which oversees public utilities with the hope that they assist in with many critical energy infrastructure needs associated with more renewable energy generation and the increasing demands made upon the existing electrical grid throughout the state and region.

As intermittent renewable power sources, such as wind and solar, provide a larger portion of New York's electricity, energy storage systems will be used to smooth and time-shift renewable generation, and minimize curtailment. As New York's grid becomes smarter and more decentralized, these systems will dispatch stored energy when and where it is needed the most.

Further, energy storage systems are being pursued by the major utilities within the state so as to meet peak power needs without relying on its oldest and dirtiest peak generating plants, many of which are approaching the end of their useful lives.

Also, the Climate Act and market forces are causing there to be an increasing “electrification” of daily life within the state. While rural areas such as Long Lake may not see the steep immediate trend toward electrification that many urban areas see first, there will be increasing demands upon the grid for air conditioning, heat pumps and Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations.

Additionally, battery energy storage systems are being increasingly deployed in the U.S. to help create the micro-grids which can provide short-term back-up power in selected areas during disruptions to normal grid system power transmission or generation facilities.

In 2020, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) developed the first comprehensive set of guidelines for reviewing and evaluating battery energy storage systems. The Town’s proposed local law on the topic is based principally upon the guidance and information provided to communities throughout the state to take steps necessary at the local level to protect the public, first responders, firefighters while promoting safe energy storage installations as part of the Climate Act objectives. NYSERDA has provided the Town with on-line web training and technical support and its document “The Battery Energy Storage System Guidebook” (Guidebook) to help local government officials, and citizens to understand and develop a battery energy storage system permitting and inspection processes to ensure efficiency, transparency, and safety in their local communities. The Guidebook is available to public on NYSERDA’s website at <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Clean-Energy-Siting-Resources/Battery-Energy-Storage-Guidebook>

NYSERDA also provided a Battery Energy Storage System Model Law which the Town has adapted to be the proposed Local Law #1 of 2023 currently under review.

As is well known, certain activities require a permit from the Adirondack Park Agency under: the Adirondack Park Agency Act; the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System Act; and the Freshwater Wetlands Act. For each of these laws, the APA’s permitting review criteria involves an analysis of potential impacts from the proposed activity on the natural, scenic, aesthetic, ecological, wildlife, historic, recreational, open space, and other resources of the Park - in addition to other standards.

The APA Act requires landowners to obtain permits for certain new development and subdivision activities, referred to as “regional projects.” Regional projects include: *Businesses providing goods, services, activities, etc. for a fee (except in Hamlet areas). * The construction of any structure over 40 feet in height, as measured from the highest point of the structure to the lower of either original or finished grade (except in Industrial Use areas)

Notwithstanding the comprehensive environmental review that could be provided by the APA for a Battery Energy Storage System within the Town of Long Lake, there are many circumstances where such review by APA would be absent or minimal and, in any case, might not cover all the concerns that local citizen’s would have in hosting such facilities within the Town. The proposed local law is aimed at filling in the gaps to ensure that the construction, operation, and decommissioning of such facilities comport with this local government’s requirements and obligations to ensure the health safety and the general well-being of the community.