

**Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
Environment Division
Environmental Assessment Form**

Project Name: **Sunrise Acres II Addition & Enhancement Project**

Project Developer: **AKWESASNE HOUSING AUTHORITY**

Project Coordinator: Elizabeth M. Jacobs, Acting Executive Director

Address: 378 State Route 37, Hogansburg, NY 13655

Phone Number: (518)358-9020

FAX Number: (518)358-2958

Other Contacts: Michel Simon, AHA Operations Manager

Introduction

It is the tradition of the Mohawk People to look seven generations ahead in making decisions that affect the community. It is in this spirit that the Environmental Review Process has been developed. The resources available on the Saint Regis Mohawk Reservation are limited and dwindling with each year that passes. It is the intention of this process to increase awareness of available resources and ensure that all consideration of these resources is taken when initiating a project. Focus and vigilance are required to make sure the seventh generation will have all that is necessary to maintain and continue our way of life.

This community is unique and consists of cultural resources that have survived countless efforts to eliminate them and they are deserving of our protection and care. Development can proceed and remain in harmony with the cultural values passed on to us by our ancestors, but it requires forethought and effort.

The land and resources should be considered as a gift to pass down to future generations, and as such it should remain as whole, intact, and healthy as it was received so that it may sustain them. Actions today should not be at the sacrifice of our children.

The environmental review process is a step-by-step process of gathering information concerning the possible impacts to the community and the environment. This information is then used in an analysis or evaluation of the proposed development so that proper decisions, which are of benefit to all community members (including the developer), are made.

The review process allows developers and the Tribe to examine a proposed project before it is started in order to prevent or minimize potential impacts to the environment and health of the community. The process, if followed objectively and thoroughly, will reveal any problems that might be associated with a development and permit actions to be taken to eliminate or minimize potential problems.

The review process can actually result in savings of time and money for developers when the costs that may be related to change orders in construction or loss of time due to delays are considered.

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, through Tribal Emergency Pollution Authority, 89-34, "has the authority to protect the health, safety and welfare of all people within the exterior boundaries of the reservation. It also may take such further action as is necessary to protect the public health, the quality of the environment and living resources upon which the Tribe relies," authorizes the Tribe to require Environmental Reviews.

The review process incorporates the Thanksgiving Address and considers all the things that we are thankful. It is this tradition of thanks that the review process has been conceived and dedicated. One recurring theme of the Thanksgiving Address is the statement that "Now our minds are one," and if that theme is considered we will all benefit.

Instructions

1- Fill out the form assuring that all questions are answered, even if the answer is “none” or “unknown”. Do not leave any questions blank and limit answers to one paragraph or less. If there is supporting documentation or other information supporting an answer attach the paperwork at the end of the document.

2- Ensure all questions are answered and make 3 additional copies. Turn in the original and all three copies to the environment division office. The receptionist will assign a file number and that will begin the review process. To save paper, an electronic copy on a CD is also acceptable and preferred for the first submission.

3- The review process includes an in-house review of the document through various departments within the environment division. The in-house review team will meet and at that time there will be a decision to choose one of the following five options:

a-Declare a Categorical Exclusion (No Public Comment Period)

If a Categorical Exclusion is decided then the project represents very little or no impact and can proceed.

b-Approve the Environmental Assessment and proceed to the thirty-day public comment period

The thirty-day public comment period will be published in a minimum of one local newspaper with a circulation that includes the entire reservation. The project can proceed once all comments that have been received are addressed to the satisfaction of the commentator.

c-Request Additional Information

A request for additional information will be made when an answer(s) are deemed incomplete or inaccurate. Once the additional information is received and accepted the document will proceed to the thirty-day public comment period. Three updated hard copy versions of the document must be submitted to environment division office to be used for the thirty-day public comment period.

d-Require an Environmental Impact Statement

The requirement for an Environmental Impact Statement will occur when it is determined that the project will have a significant impact(s) requiring additional study and scoping sessions throughout the community to determine if the course of action is justified.

e-Disapprove the project.

Disapproval of the project will occur when a project has been determined to have significant negative impact(s) to prove detrimental to the community and/or environment.

4- Once the determination is made to proceed, a Finding of No Significant Impact will be written, published and the project can proceed. The project manager is bound to abide by all provisions stated in the Environmental Assessment.

5- Changes to the document have to be reviewed and approved by this office. Changes can be subject to a Thirty-Day public comment period.

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I. Information

Choose either Yes or No. For other questions describe answer in 1 paragraph or less. Write “None” or “Unknown” if question is not applicable or unknown, do not leave answer space blank. Attach supporting maps, sketches, drawings and other documentation to the end of this document.

For Endangered Species Information go to the USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPAC) tool found at <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>

For Medicine Plant Information contact Everett Cook, Traditional Medicine at 358-3141 ext 14
For Agriculture Information contact Cornell Cooperative Extension Franklin County at (518) 483-7403
For Wetlands Information contact the Water Resources Manager at 358-5937
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“We who have gathered together are responsible that our cycle continues. We have been given the duty to live in harmony with one another and other living things. We give greetings that our people still share the knowledge of our culture and ceremonies and are able to pass it on. We have our elders here and also the new faces yet to be born, which is the cycle of our families – for this we give thanks and greetings. Now our minds are one.”

1. Location and activities of proposed project (construction, road-building, vehicles, etc.): Describe the location of the proposed project including maps, drawings and any engineering or architectural designs. Sketch maps are acceptable if others are not available and as long as they contain key reference points.

The proposed project site is located at the Akwesasne Housing Authority (AHA) campus, 378 State Route 37, Hogansburg, in Franklin County NY. AHA’s Sunrise Acres Addition and Enhancement project consists of five (5) apartment buildings, each consisting of four (4) apartments each, and will be built along the southwesterly most boundary of Lot 225-A. Each apartment building will be similar in form and design of the existing Sunrise Acres Phase II buildings to provide a cohesive incorporation to the existing design of the complex.

The proposed project site is approximately 4.7 acres of overgrown woods located between the AHA property, Lot #225, and the adjacent property to the north and east.

See **Attachment “A”**, Google Earth Project Scope Map.

The construction methods used include high energy efficient design and beyond code construction. This entails high performance materials and systems; such as, insulated concrete form (ICF) walls, high energy efficient windows and doors, low flow toilets and faucets, and highly efficient electric HVAC systems. The heating system will incorporate electric heat pumps instead of fossil fuel burning units, this allows AHA to utilize our 1 MW solar farm to offset our costs and reduce carbon emissions.

The interiors of the apartments use senior living design concepts that includes; open concept floor plans, monolithic flooring, accessible showers, safety bars, levered door handles, emergency switch pulls, and a ADA compliant unit. The project is in response to our growing waitlist of tribal elders who are looking for low-cost safe housing designated for Senior living and has no maintenance. AHA takes care of our residents’ maintenance needs, including, but not limited to, collecting their garbage, changing light bulbs, and even hanging pictures, etc.

The proposed site enhancements include approximately 12,000 sq. ft. of impervious roadways, parking areas, landscaped area, lawn and concrete walkways. The roadway and parking area has

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been designed to allow the elders easy access parking to their individual units along with concrete walkways to encourage walking, socialization and outdoor activities and more importantly, safety. The walkways will tie into the existing walkways, which leads to all the Sunrise Acres buildings and to the adjacent SRMT Health Clinic, for the residents' convenience.

The exterior design of the apartment buildings is identical in design and finish materials and will be easily incorporated into the current aesthetic of the Sunrise Acres Complex.

See **Figure 1** below.



Figure 1 Sunrise Acres II Seniors Independent Living Apartment Quad Unit (05/22/2020)

See **Attachment "B"**, A-201, A-202 Apartment Building Exterior Elevations.

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2. Describe the size of the current project, in terms of building size, acreage and estimated schedule of construction. Also, describe any planned future additions and/or expansions to the site if any are planned.

The current project scope is approximately 4.74 Acres, which is the area of the ground disturbance. Each Building will be approximately 4,500 square feet each for a total of 22,500 square feet. There will be approximately 1,300 linear feet of roadway and over 3,000 linear feet of paved walkways, porches and benches for resting along the walkways. There will be approximately thirty (30) standard parking spaces which includes six (6) ADA accessible parking spaces.

The property will be graded to promote surface water drainage according to NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) guidelines, A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), will be conducted and submitted for the SRMT Environment Division's approval.

The project is a time sensitive project and technically has begun on January 1, 2020. The anticipated start date was originally June 1, 2020, but due to COVID-19 has been moved changed to begin on or after August 11, 2020. The project must be completed by December 31, 2021, no exceptions.

AHA anticipates the project construction phase to be much shorter than anticipated because this project is similar to our Sunrise Acres II project conducted in 2010 with this future expansion in mind.

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II. Land

“We give greetings and thanks to our Mother the Earth – she gives us that which makes us strong and healthy. We are grateful that she continues to perform her duties as she was instructed. The women and Mother Earth are one – givers of life. We are her color, her flesh and her roots. Now our minds are one.”

1. Describe the site of the proposed activity in terms of general topographic features (mountainous, hilly, flat, wetland, etc.).

The site is a gently sloping heavily wooded area, sloping from its highest elevation, to the North, to the lowest elevation, to the South. The topography of the site has been incorporated into the design of the development, so there won't be too much change to the grade.

See **Attachment “C”**, C-104, C-105 Site Grading, Drainage and Erosion Control Plan A, B & C.

2. Describe the soil types (sand, clay, gravel, etc.) known to exist on the site of the proposed activity. Include any information such as boring logs.

According to the NRCS the soil survey states that the soil types include;

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
39B	Churchville silty clay loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	1.7	38.8%
41A	Muskellunge silty clay loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	0.7	15.0%
61B	Hogansburg loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	2.0	46.3%
Totals for Area of Interest		4.4	100.0%

See **Attachment “D”**, USDA NRCS Custom Soils Resource Report.

3. Describe any measures that will be used to monitor and to control any erosion that may occur as a result of activities at the proposed site.

A NYS compliant Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be completed and submitted to the SRMT Environment Division for this project in accordance with New York state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) guidelines.

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4. Describe the quantities (volume) of fill that may be used at the activity site. Describe the source of the fill.

The proposed site has a gently south sloping grade, which has been incorporated in to the design of the project. Approximately 500 tons of locally sourced filled will be utilized, this is an approximation. The local fill will be trucked in from less than 20 miles away and supplied by local subcontractors. Every effort is being made to ensure that native owned businesses be utilized to complete the work on this project, by Tribal mandate.

5. Describe any improvements (buildings, houses, equipment roads, fences, etc.) the proposed activity will have upon the land.

The proposed project will incorporate walkways that tie into the existing walkway system of the Sunrise Acres complex to promote walking and socializing of our staff and residents. The curbing will promote safer driving and maneuverability within the complex to accommodate increased traffic and the walkways will tie into the existing to provide a walking trail for our residents.

The landscape plan includes trees and shrubbery for aesthetics and shading for our tenants, which is conducive to our existing site design.

- a. Describe the height, above grade, of any structures being planned for the proposed site.

The proposed project building will be approximately 27'-0" from ground elevation to the highest ridgeline of the proposed buildings.

- b. Describe the color(s) of any structures being planned for the proposed site.

The color scheme will be French gray siding with tan trim, the windows will be bronze color, the roofing will be brown standing seam, and decorative stone. All of which coincides with the existing aesthetic of the Sunrise Acres.

See **Figure 2** below.

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Figure 2 AHA Sunrise Acres III - Exterior Finish

- a. Describe whether the color(s) are expected to complement, enhance or otherwise impact on the natural or established settings of the proposed site and site surroundings.

The colors of the structure will be a complimentary to the existing Sunrise Acres Phase II buildings. The project will incorporate the same color and siding we used on the AHA Seniors' and Veterans buildings that was constructed in 2019.

- b. Describe the material(s) that will be used in the construction of any structures

11

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being planned for the proposed site.

The material(s) being used in the construction of the structures include;

- ICF walls to the trusses,
- High energy efficient windows and doors,
- Solid wood cabinetry,
- LED lighting (Exterior and Interior),
- Solatube solar lights,
- MDF moldings,
- Vinyl Plank flooring,
- Metal standing seam roofing,
- Smartside siding and trim system,

- c. Will any structures planned for the proposed site obstruct the view of any neighboring or surrounding properties?

The project will not obstruct or impede the view of any of the neighbors and/or surrounding properties. It is in AHA's purview to enhance the current natural environment with our developments for our tenants, community and visitors to our facilities.

Currently all the neighbors view is obstructed by the overgrown wooded area, which we will be incorporating into the site plan for privacy.

Choose either Yes or No. For other questions describe answer in 1 paragraph or less. Write "None" or "Unknown" if question is not applicable or unknown, do not leave answer space blank. Attach supporting maps, sketches, drawings and other documentation to the end of this document.

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III. Plants and Vegetation

"We give greetings and thanks to the plant life. Within the plants is the force of substance that sustains many life forms. From the time of the creation we have seen the various forms of plant life work many wonders. We hope that we will continue to see plant life for the generations to come. Now our minds are one."

1. Describe the types of vegetation (trees, shrubs, grass, soil plants, water plants, other) on the proposed site. Use of common names is acceptable.

The proposed site is overgrown wooded areas with common brush, such as native grasses and sumacs. The trees contained within are mostly native maple and birch.
See **Figure 3** below.

Choose either Yes or No. For other questions describe answer in 1 paragraph or less. Write "None" or "Unknown" if question is not applicable or unknown, do not leave answer space blank. Attach supporting maps, sketches, drawings and other documentation to the end of this document.

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Figure 3 Sunrise Acres Addition & Enhancement Project Site

2. Describe if activities at the proposed site will result in the removal or alteration of the vegetation Described in item 1. Describe the extent the removal or alteration will occur.

The proposed site will be cleared of all trees and vegetation to make way for the construction of the apartment buildings, sidewalks and roadway within the project work zone. Every effort will be made to incorporate native tree already located on the proposed project site into the site plan. This will be determined by Beardsley Design and Michel Simon, Operations Manager. All bordering trees and vegetation will be left to provide privacy, wind break and shading for the complex and the neighboring properties.

Choose either Yes or No. For other questions describe answer in 1 paragraph or less. Write "None" or "Unknown" if question is not applicable or unknown, do not leave answer space blank. Attach supporting maps, sketches, drawings and other documentation to the end of this document.

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3. Are there any threatened or endangered species on site?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, list any and all known threatened or endangered plant species that may be impacted as a result of activities on the proposed site.

The NYS Fish and Wildlife states that there are no critical habitats listed for this specific project site.

See **Attachment "E"**, US Fish & Wildlife Service letter dated May 14, 2020.

<u>Plant Species Name (Common and/or Latin)</u>	<u>Endangered</u>	<u>Threatened</u>
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There are no known threatened or endangered plant species that may be impacted as a result of the proposed site activities.

4. Briefly list and describe any proposed landscaping, including ornamentals, windbreak, exotics, etc., that will occur at the proposed site. Indicate the types of plants that will be used and their purpose.

There will be locally grown and sold ornamental shrubs, trees and plants used in the landscaped areas located intermittently around the proposed project site, similar to the existing Sunrise Acres Phase II project. Along with any native trees that will be kept to be incorporated into the site plan.

5. Describe any measures that will be utilized to preserve or enhance the naturally occurring vegetation on the proposed site.

AHA will not disturb the wooded area and foliage between Lot 225-A and the adjacent properties so that it provides a wind break and a visual separation. It will also discourage trespassing and provide privacy for AHA residences and the adjacent property owners.

6. Is the proposed site a known or suspected hunting and gathering area?

☐ Yes ☒ No

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IV. Medicine Plants

"We greet and thank the medicine plants of the earth. They have been instructed by the Creator to cure our diseases and sicknesses. Our people will always know their native names. They come in many forms and have many duties. Through the ones who have been vested with knowledge of the medicine plants, we give thanks. Now our minds are one."

1. Is the proposed site known or suspected as being a medicine plant area?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, list the medicine plants and their uses.

See **Attachment "F"**, Letter from Everett Cook, SRMT Traditional Medicines.

*****In addition to the completion of Section IV: Medicine Plants, a letter is needed from Richard Cook Jr., SRMT Traditional Medicine, stating a finding of "No Effect" for the proposed site. Once received, attach the letter to this Environmental Assessment form. Please contact Junior Cook, SRMT Traditional Medicine:**

Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
Everett Cook
Traditional Medicine
412 State Route 37
Akwesasne, NY 13655
518.358.3141

Choose either Yes or No. For other questions describe answer in 1 paragraph or less. Write "None" or "Unknown" if question is not applicable or unknown, do not leave answer space blank. Attach supporting maps, sketches, drawings and other documentation to the end of this document.

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V. Agricultural Information

We have been given three main foods from the plant world – they are the corn, bean and squash – the Three Sisters. For this we give thanks and greetings in the hope that they too will continue to replenish Mother Earth with the necessities of the life cycle. Now our minds are one.

1. Is the proposed site in an area of active agricultural usage?

☐ Yes ☒ No

2. Is the proposed site in an area of former active agricultural usage?

☐ Yes ☒ No

3. Is the proposed site going to be active in agricultural usage?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, describe the agricultural activity.

4. If yes, Will agricultural usage include the traditional crops (corn, beans, squash, etc...) of the Haudenosaunee?

☐ Yes ☐ No

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VI. Water

"We give thanks to the spirit of waters for our strength of well-being. The waters of the world have provided many things – they quench our thirst, provide food for the plant life, and are the source of strength for the medicines we need. Now our minds are one."

1. Will the proposed activity affect surface water resources (streams, lakes, ponds, wetlands) in the area?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, name or describe the waters that will be affected and attach a map or sketch that depicts the water resources being affected.

2. Will there be any fill and dredge activities at the proposed site?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, provide an estimate of fill and dredge volumes and describe the material being used as fill or being dredged.

3. Describe any and all activities that will result in the withdrawal or diversion of surface water.

The activities that will result in the diversion of surface water will be managed by a storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP). The surface water will be diverted to an existing retention pond located on the Sunrise Acres campus.

4. Is the proposed project in a flood plain?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, list the water source(s).

5. Will any materials be discharged into surface waters?

☐ Yes ☒ No

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If yes, identify the material(s) if known and their probable impact on the water.

6. Describe the final use and condition of any water that may be used on the proposed site.

The final use and condition of any water that may be used on the proposed site will be for residential use only. This includes cooking, cleaning and bathing.

7. Will there be drilling and use of wells for the proposed project?

☐ Yes ☒ No

8. Will the community water system be utilized for the proposed project?

☒ Yes ☐ No

9. Will there be any discharges (septic tanks, sewage, industrial, etc.)?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, describe the estimated amounts, and probable impacts.

The average discharge of wastewater per day per unit will be approximately 75 gallons for a total of 1,500 gallons per day. I have contacted Shawn Martin, SRMT Water Department and have received confirmation that this project will not have a negative impact on the Tribe's water or sewer capacity.

See **Attachment "F"**, Shawn Martin, Director SRMT Water Department letter dated March 2, 2020.

10. Will the community wastewater system be utilized for the project?

☒ Yes ☐ No

11. Describe any sources of surface water runoff that will result from the proposed activities.

Any surface water runoff generated from the impervious ground coverings will be diverted to a

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storm water catch basins, and then to the existing retention pond.

12. Describe how runoff will be disposed and/or collected. Provide any engineering or architectural designs or drawings of collection and disposal systems include flow rates, volumes, surface water names being impacted, and volumes of pits, tanks or lagoons that are a part of the flow system.

Surface run off will be diverted to catch basin and then deposited into a storm water retention pond located on the Sunrise Acres Complex, to the west of the pavilion.

See **Attachment "C"**, C-104, C-105 Site Grading, Drainage and Erosion Control Plan A, B & C.

13. Describe the flow patterns (onto ground, into other waters, pits, tanks, etc.) of the runoff. Provide maps, diagrams, etc. to aid in the description.

The runoff will be diverted to manholes to an existing storm water retention area located to the southwest portion of the site. See attached site plan for the proposed flow pattern of the runoff.

14. Describe any and all known contaminants that may be associated with the runoff.

Only typical road contaminants will be associated with any runoff generated from the proposed project, which may include; fluids from parked vehicles, roadway dirt and sand. Any other known contaminants will be brought in by visitors and tenants' vehicles and not contributed by the proposed project or AHA Maintenance staff.

Choose either Yes or No. For other questions describe answer in 1 paragraph or less. Write "None" or "Unknown" if question is not applicable or unknown, do not leave answer space blank. Attach supporting maps, sketches, drawings and other documentation to the end of this document.

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15. Wetlands

a. Is the proposed project located in or near a wetland area?

X Yes ☐ No

b. If the wetland area affected exceeds $\frac{1}{4}$ acre ($>11,000$ ft² or 1,000 m²) then a wetland permit is required.

Status of permit: ☐ Filed ☐ Pending ☐ Approved ☐ Denied

Choose either Yes or No. For other questions describe answer in 1 paragraph or less. Write "None" or "Unknown" if question is not applicable or unknown, do not leave answer space blank. Attach supporting maps, sketches, drawings and other documentation to the end of this document.

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VII. Animals

"We give thanks and greetings to the animal life. They are still living in the forests and other places. They provide us with food and this gives us peace of mind knowing that they are still carrying out their instructions as given by the Creator. We therefore give greetings and thanks to our animal brothers. Now our minds are one."

1. List any and all animals observed on the proposed site. Common names are acceptable.

2. Are there any threatened or endangered animal species on or near the proposed site?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, list any and all known threatened or endangered animal species that may be impacted as a result of activities on the proposed site.

<u>Animal Species Name (Common and/or Latin)</u>	<u>Endangered</u>	<u>Threatened</u>
--	-------------------	-------------------

3. Describe the type of habitat that exists at the proposed site.

The NYS Fish and Wildlife states that there are no critical habitats listed for this specific project site.

See **Attachment "D"**, US Fish & Wildlife Service letter dated May 14, 2020..

4. Describe the type of forage that exists at the proposed site.

There is no forage that exists on the proposed site.

5. Describe the presence of any calving or birthing areas for big game, including deer.

There is no presence of any calving or birthing areas for big game on the proposed site.

VIII. Trees

Choose either Yes or No. For other questions describe answer in 1 paragraph or less. Write "None" or "Unknown" if question is not applicable or unknown, do not leave answer space blank. Attach supporting maps, sketches, drawings and other documentation to the end of this document.

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"We acknowledge and give greetings to the trees of the world. They too continue to perform the instructions which they were given. The maple trees are the symbols as the had of the trees. It is the maple trees that provide us with sap for our syrup and is the first sign of the rebirth of spring. The trees provide us with shelter, shade and fruits. Long ago our people were given a way of peace and strength and this way is symbolized by the everlasting tree of peace. Now our minds are one."

1. Will the project require the clearing of trees?

X Yes ☐ No

If no, skip to section IX.

2. Approximately how many trees (4 in or 100mm in diameter or bigger) will be removed?

Approximately 10-20 trees that are over 4" diameter will be removed from the 4-acre area to accommodate the proposed project. Every effort will be taken to leave the native trees to provide shade and privacy for our residents and our neighbors.

3. List all types of trees to be removed.

Sumacs, maples, elm, ash, oak & birch.

4. Will these trees be replaced?

X Yes ☐ No

The proposed project has landscaped areas and flower beds around each building. In proposed project has plan to include native trees and plants into these landscaped areas and tree between the buildings and outlying areas. The same landscaping principles will be identical to the Sunrise Acres Phase II project.

See **Attachment "G"**, C-107 Overall Planting Plan

Choose either Yes or No. For other questions describe answer in 1 paragraph or less. Write "None" or "Unknown" if question is not applicable or unknown, do not leave answer space blank. Attach supporting maps, sketches, drawings and other documentation to the end of this document.

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IX. Birds

"We now turn our thought toward the winged creatures. They have songs which they sing to help us appreciate our own purpose in life. We are reminded to enjoy our life cycle. Some of the winged are available to us as food and they too are carrying out their responsibilities. To us the eagle is the symbol of strength. It is said that they fly the highest and can see the creation. We show our gratitude for the fulfillment of his duties. Now our minds are one."

1. List the types of birds located on the project site.

Currently, there are no visible birds nesting and/or located on the project site. The urban density of the area, lawn mowing noise, traffic and adjacent wetlands, keep the bird population to a very minimum.

See **Attachment "D"**, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Letter, dated May 14, 2020.

2. Does the project site include nesting grounds for migratory birds?

☐ Yes ☒ No

See **Attachment "D"**, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Letter, dated May 14, 2020

3. Will the nesting sites be disturbed?

☐ Yes ☐ No

4. Is there evidence of game birds on the project site?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, list the types of game birds.

5. Are there any threatened or endangered bird species on or near the proposed site?

Choose either Yes or No. For other questions describe answer in 1 paragraph or less. Write "None" or "Unknown" if question is not applicable or unknown, do not leave answer space blank. Attach supporting maps, sketches, drawings and other documentation to the end of this document.

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☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, list any and all known threatened or endangered bird species that may be impacted as a result of activities on the proposed site.

Bird Species Name (Common and/or Latin)

Endangered

Threatened

Choose either Yes or No. For other questions describe answer in 1 paragraph or less. Write "None" or "Unknown" if question is not applicable or unknown, do not leave answer space blank. Attach supporting maps, sketches, drawings and other documentation to the end of this document.

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X. Air

"We listen and heart the voices of the four winds. We are assured that they are following the instructions of the Creator. They bring us strength. They come from the four directions. For this we give greetings and thanks. Now our minds are one."

1. Describe the quantity and type of emissions (dust, sulfur dioxide, smoke, steam, etc.) that will result from activities at the proposed site. Provide any emissions calculations, engineering design information, etc... at the end of this document.

The proposed project will have some emissions from standard construction activities on site during the construction phase. The heating system will be electric boiler and will utilize electricity generated from the AHA Go Solar Initiative solar facility, recently commissioned.

2. Describe any odors and the nature of the odor, its source, and any possible effects on human receptors that may be associated with activities at the proposed site.

The proposed project activities will temporarily contribute emissions/odors from standard construction machinery and construction vehicles, and are considered only short-term. Once construction is complete, there will be only emissions from cars, lawn and snow removal equipment that will be used to maintain the Sunrise Acres campus.

3. Describe the measures that will be utilized to reduce or control emissions or odors associated with activities at the proposed site. Include any engineering designs or contractor specifications related to emission or odor control, if available, at the end of this document.

AHA maintains our fleet of vehicles, lawn and snow removal, to the highest standard which eliminate exorbitant amounts of emissions from fossil fuels fired equipment.

Choose either Yes or No. For other questions describe answer in 1 paragraph or less. Write "None" or "Unknown" if question is not applicable or unknown, do not leave answer space blank. Attach supporting maps, sketches, drawings and other documentation to the end of this document.

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XI. Noise

"The thunderers we call our Grandfathers we give greetings and thanks. You have also been given certain responsibilities by the Creator. We see you roaming the sky carrying with you water to renew life. Your loud voices are heard from time to time and for the protection and medicine you give, we offer our thanksgiving. Now our minds are one."

1. List types (equipment, traffic, machinery and construction), time and level of noise that will be generated as a result of activities at the proposed site.

The anticipated types of equipment used during construction are as follows;

- Backhoe
- Excavator
- Bulldozer
- Dump trucks
- Utility trucks
- Graders

The hours of construction will be from 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday to Friday. The awarded contractor will be allowed to work on the weekends and holidays only in the event that the project will fall behind of schedule and with explicit and prior approval of the AHA. Any unauthorized work days will be prohibited to avoid the disruption to our elderly residents.

Beardsley Architect & Engineers conducted Noise Survey and concluded that the proposed project was within the 65 dB limit required for the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA).

See **Attachment "H"**, Beardsley Architects + Engineers, Noise Assessment, dated April 21, 2020.

Choose either Yes or No. For other questions describe answer in 1 paragraph or less. Write "None" or "Unknown" if question is not applicable or unknown, do not leave answer space blank. Attach supporting maps, sketches, drawings and other documentation to the end of this document.

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2. Describe the measures that may be taken to monitor, reduce or control the production of noise and its impacts at the proposed site.

The measure taken to monitor, reduce or control the production of noise will be to ensure the timely commencement of the project to avoid having to have longer work weeks. The work week will be limited from Monday to Saturday from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM to avoid causing a nuisance to our residents.

Speed controls are in place on our Sunrise Acres campus to ensure safety and to reduce noise complaints. This will be stringently monitored by AHA staff and Michel Simon, Operations manager to ensure the utmost safety of our residents and staff.

The proposed project site is also located far enough from State Route 37 that highway noise is well below the 65dB range, determined by NEPA. Furthermore, the project incorporates bordering trees along the North and East borders which will also be a noise buffer from the adjacent properties and roadway.

Once the construction phase is completed there will be minimal noise generated by the project, it is a residential area and is occupied by elders and every effort is made to ensure a peaceable environment for our tenants.

Choose either Yes or No. For other questions describe answer in 1 paragraph or less. Write "None" or "Unknown" if question is not applicable or unknown, do not leave answer space blank. Attach supporting maps, sketches, drawings and other documentation to the end of this document.

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XII. Energy and Natural Resources

“Our thoughts now turn to the sky. We see the sun, the source of life. We are instructed to call him our Elders Brother. With the sun we can see the perfect gifts which we are grateful. Our Brother sun nourishes Mother Earth and is the source of light and warmth. Our Brother is the source of all fires of life. With every new sunrise is a new miracle. Now our minds are one.”

1. Describe the types of energy resources (electric, solar, natural gas, propane, wood, coal, etc.) that will be utilized as a result of activities at the proposed site. Provide estimates of the amounts of each resource that will be required for the activities at the site.

The propose project will use electric boilers, for heating, and electric heat pump water heaters. Each building will have (4) 2-bedroom apartments, and will use approximately 30,000 kWh of electricity per year. This estimate is taken from our current Sunrise Acres Phase II project, which is similar in size and systems.

2. Describe any types of alternative forms of energy (solar, bio-mass, etc.) that will be used in activities at the proposed site. Provide estimates on the amounts of conventional energy sources they will replace.

The proposed project will utilize solar electricity from the AHA Go Solar initiative 1 MW solar facility. The community based solar facility was developed to help AHA offset electrical costs and continue to allow us to provide low-cost rents to our tenants.

Choose either Yes or No. For other questions describe answer in 1 paragraph or less. Write “None” or “Unknown” if question is not applicable or unknown, do not leave answer space blank. Attach supporting maps, sketches, drawings and other documentation to the end of this document.

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3. Describe any types of energy conservation methods that will be utilized on the proposed site.

AHA just recently finished the construction of a 1MW solar facility called the AHA Go Solar Initiative. This project will provide 90%-100% or all AHA's energy needs allowing us to keep providing low cost housing to our tribal elders and reduce our carbon footprint.

Furthermore, along with utilizing renewable energy, AHA has standardized energy efficiency methodologies and materials in every one of projects, which include highly efficient and Energy Star rated products, low flow toilets and faucets, and beyond code construction, such as; ICF walls, R-50 ceiling insulation, sustainable materials, heat pump water heaters. LED lighting, and Solatubes lighting.

Our goal, as a Housing Authority, is to reduce our environmental impact on our natural environment, while still providing a built environment for our tribal members. It is a balance we strive for in every project we do today, and in the future.

Choose either Yes or No. For other questions describe answer in 1 paragraph or less. Write "None" or "Unknown" if question is not applicable or unknown, do not leave answer space blank. Attach supporting maps, sketches, drawings and other documentation to the end of this document.

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XIII. Environmental Health

1. Are there any hazards (chemical, biological, physical, electrical, etc.) that may result from activities at the proposed site?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, describe to whom the hazards will present danger.

2. Is there any potential for exposure, by anyone, to toxic chemicals?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, list the chemicals by common or trade name and the quantity involved, potential effects, and the potential routes for exposure. Also indicate the populations and the proximity of those at greatest potential for exposure.

<u>Chemical Name</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Effects</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Proximity</u>
Bad stuff	1gal/day	sneezing	Raq. Pt	1 mi. east

3. Is there a risk for fire and/or explosion as a result of activities at the proposed site?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, describe sources and types of combustibles or explosive materials that may be used, stored or handled at the site.

4. Will there be a risk for spillage of any materials as a result of activities at the proposed site?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, describe the material type, volumes used, storage tank volumes and transport container volumes.

Choose either Yes or No. For other questions describe answer in 1 paragraph or less. Write "None" or "Unknown" if question is not applicable or unknown, do not leave answer space blank. Attach supporting maps, sketches, drawings and other documentation to the end of this document.

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During construction, there may be a risk of spillage due to the heavy equipment used. The potential impact is negligible and AHA will abide and collaborate with the SRMT Environment Division in the event of any toxic chemical spills

5. Is there a potential for the generation of fumes as a result of activities at the proposed site?

☐ Yes ☒ No

6. Describe the waste disposal practices that will be utilized at the proposed site. Provide estimates on the amounts of and types of waste that may be generated.

With the commencement of construction, AHA will require the awarded contractor obtains and maintains a waste transfer permit for the duration of the construction phase.

Once the proposed project is developed, we will assess our needs and schedule appropriate pick-ups with SRMT Waste Removal Program, with whom we currently have as our service provider.

The estimated amounts of waste that the proposed project will add to the complex will be approximately 160 lb./week. This is based on our current amount of 740 lb./week. The proposed project will add an additional (20) units to our existing (59) units.

The waste being generated from the project is mostly household waste and household recyclables and is properly disposed of by the SRMT Solid Waste Management Program.

Choose either Yes or No. For other questions describe answer in 1 paragraph or less. Write "None" or "Unknown" if question is not applicable or unknown, do not leave answer space blank. Attach supporting maps, sketches, drawings and other documentation to the end of this document.

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XIV. Light and glare

"During the night time we see the moon. We have been instructed to address her as our Grandmother. In her cycle she makes her face new in harmony with other female life. Our natural cycles of women. She determines the arrival of children; causes the tides of the oceans and she also helps us measure time. Our Grandmother continues to lead us. We are grateful and express our thanksgiving. Now our minds are one."

1. Describe any sources of light being planned for the proposed site.

The proposed project will have street lighting for safety of our vulnerable sector tenants. The street lights are LED down facing street lights, there will be LED porch lights, and LED safety lights on the sides of the building to illuminate walkways. The exterior lighting will also ensure the safety of our tenants, as we incorporated numerous security measures to accommodate our expansions and growth. These are typical to what we already have existing on our campus.

2. Are the types of lights being planned for the proposed site expected to produce any glare?

☐ Yes ☒ No

3. Is any source of light being planned for the proposed site expected to produce any known safety hazard?

☐ Yes ☒ No

4. What times of day are planned sources of light expected to be used for the proposed site?

The street lights and exterior safety lighting will be utilized only from dawn to dusk.

Choose either Yes or No. For other questions describe answer in 1 paragraph or less. Write "None" or "Unknown" if question is not applicable or unknown, do not leave answer space blank. Attach supporting maps, sketches, drawings and other documentation to the end of this document.

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XV. Transportation

"The Stars are the helpers of Grandmother Moon. They have spread themselves all across the sky. Our people knew their names and their messages of future happenings even to helping to mold individual character of mankind. The Stars provide us with guidance and they bring the dew to the plant life. As we view the beauty of the Stars we know that they too are following the instructions of the Creator. Now our minds are one."

1. Describe how activities at the proposed site will affect currently constructed public streets and highways as well as the projected number of vehicles per day activities at the proposed site are expected to produce.

The Sunrise Acres Complex has a single entrance into the complex located off of State Route 37. The proposed site will have a minimal impact on State Route 37 due to the demographic of the tenants. A majority of our residents do not have cars or drive and 95% of our residents are not employed. Day traffic is very minimal other than the Akwesasne Housing Authority staff coming into and leaving work. The entrance to the complex is (2) double lanes to promote a safe flow of traffic to either the East or West of the complex with a large signage to encourage safe exiting and entrance. AHA has remediated the issue of increased traffic to our complex in 2018 in anticipation of the Seniors and Veterans Supportive housing project and this project.

2. Describe any parking areas that are being planned for the proposed site.

The proposed project has thirty-six (36) parking spots total to accommodate for the residential development. The proposed project will have (25) standard parking spots and (6) designated handicap parking spots for the residents and their visitors only.

3. Describe any new highway or street construction being planned for the proposed site. If any engineering designs are available attach to the end of this document.

The project will include approximately 2000 linear feet of new roadway located within the confines of the Sunrise Acres complex. It will be a private road maintained by the AHA Maintenance staff.

See **Attachment "I"**, C-102, C-103 Site Layout and Improvement Plan A, B & C.

Choose either Yes or No. For other questions describe answer in 1 paragraph or less. Write "None" or "Unknown" if question is not applicable or unknown, do not leave answer space blank. Attach supporting maps, sketches, drawings and other documentation to the end of this document.

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4. Will current highway and street maintenance activities be affected by activities at the proposed site?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, how?

Choose either Yes or No. For other questions describe answer in 1 paragraph or less. Write "None" or "Unknown" if question is not applicable or unknown, do not leave answer space blank. Attach supporting maps, sketches, drawings and other documentation to the end of this document.

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XVI. Historical preservation

"The four powerful spirit beings who have been assigned by the Creator to guide us both by day and night are called the Sky Dwellers. Our Creator directed these helpers to assist him in dealing with us during our journey on Mother Earth. They know our every act and they guide us with the teachings that the Creator established. For the power of direction, we give greetings and thanks to the Sky Dwellers. Now our minds are one."

1. Are there any known or suspected historical sites that may be located on the proposed site?

☐ Yes ☒ No

2. Is there a presence of, known or suspected, buildings that may be considered historical landmarks?

☐ Yes ☒ No

3. Is the proposed site known for traditional uses, historic or current?

☐ Yes ☒ No

See **Attachment "J"**, Letter from Darren Bonaparte, SRMT THPO dated June 29, 2020.

Choose either Yes or No. For other questions describe answer in 1 paragraph or less. Write "None" or "Unknown" if question is not applicable or unknown, do not leave answer space blank. Attach supporting maps, sketches, drawings and other documentation to the end of this document.

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XVII. Cultural Preservation

"We now turn our thoughts to the Creator himself. We choose our finest words to give thanks and greetings to him. He has prepared all things on earth for our peace of mind. Then he said, "I will now prepare a place for myself where no one will know my face, but I will be listening and keeping watch on the people moving about the earth." And indeed, we see that all things are faithful to their duties as he has instructed them. We will therefore gather our minds into one and give thanks to the Creator. Now our minds are as one."

1. Does the proposed site include any known or suspected ceremonial areas?

☐ Yes X No

2. Does the proposed site include any known or suspected burial grounds?

☐ Yes X No

3. Does the proposed site include any known or suspected archeological resources?

☐ Yes X No

See Attachment "J", Darren Bonaparte, SRMT THPO letter dated June 29, 2020.

*****In addition to the completion of Sections XVI & XVII: Cultural & Historical Preservation, a letter is needed from the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) stating a finding of "No Effect" for the proposed site. Once received, attach the letter to this Environmental Assessment form. Please contact Darren Bonaparte, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribes THPO:**

**Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
Darren Bonaparte
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
412 State Route 37
Akwesasne, NY 13655
518.358.2272**

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Choose either Yes or No. For other questions describe answer in 1 paragraph or less. Write "None" or "Unknown" if question is not applicable or unknown, do not leave answer space blank. Attach supporting maps, sketches, drawings and other documentation to the end of this document.

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Status of Environmental Form

Date Filed:

Reviewed by:

Name

Title

Date

Comments

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, Environment Division met on ____, to discuss the contents of the environmental assessment filed by ____, on the above date and has made the determination that:

1. The responses to the environmental assessment have indicated little or no environmental impacts and the Environment Division GRANTS CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION STATUS for this project.
2. The responses to environmental assessment have positively met all environmental concerns the Environment Division currently has, and RECOMMENDS APPROVAL for the project to proceed to the thirty-day public comment period.
3. The responses to the environmental assessment have not positively or conclusively met all environmental concerns the Environment Division currently has, and REQUESTS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.
4. The responses to the environmental assessment have indicated a significant impact(s) and the need for an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT to be performed for the proposed project.
5. The responses to the environmental assessment indicate a significant negative impact(s) to the environment and to the resources of the Saint Regis Mohawk Reservation and RECOMMENDS DISAPPROVAL OF THE PROJECT.

Signed:

Name

Title




Date

AHA Sunrise Acres II - Addition & Enhancement Project

Includes the development of (20) independent living tribal seniors apartments.



Legend

-  SAIL-Addition 4.74 Acres
-  St Regis Mohawk Health Services: Beverly H Cook
-  St Regis Mohawk Tribe

Google Earth

1000 ft

