

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

**Project Title: Kahwa:tsire Housing Development Project**

**Project Location/Address: Off Helena Road near intersection of McNeil Road**

**Project Developer: Akwesasne Housing Authority**

**Project Coordinator: Kayla Herne – Akwesasne housing Authority**

**Email Address: kherne@aha-nsn.gov**

**Phone Number: 518-358-9020**

**Project Technical Contact: Jared Heintz, PE/RLA – Beardsley Architects + Engineers**

**Email Address: jheintz@beardsley.com**

**Phone Number: 315-601-7093**

**Project Approvals:**

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Anthony David  
Environment Division Director

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Jessica Raspitha  
Land Resources Program Manager

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Angela Benedict  
Air Quality Program Manager

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Darren Bonaparte  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

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Tiernan Smith  
Water Resources Program Manager

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Craig Arquette  
Emergency Response On-scene Coordinator

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Lisa Furnace  
Transfer Station Program Manager

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TBD  
EA Coordinator

## **Introduction**

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's environmental review process allows developers and the Tribe to examine proposed projects during the planning phase in order to prevent or minimize potentially adverse impacts to the environment or health of the community. This process, when followed objectively and thoroughly, is not intended to hinder development but to ensure that decisions that are made benefit future seven generations as per Mohawk tradition.

The review process incorporates the Ohen:ton Kariwatehkwen, the Thanksgiving Address, to acknowledge and give consideration to the mutual respect and responsibility that exists between the Mohawk people and the natural world.

## **The Environmental Review Process:**

1. The Environmental Assessment form is completed and submitted to the SRMT Environment Division.
2. The EA Coordinator distributes the completed form and supporting documents to the Environmental Assessment Review Team. An EA Review Meeting is scheduled, allowing the EA Review Team a minimum of one week to evaluate the proposed project prior to the meeting.
3. The EA Coordinator will arrange a site visit with the project developer and/or project coordinator if one is needed to gain additional information prior to the EA Review Meeting.
4. During the EA Review Meeting, the EA coordinator will facilitate a discussion on the proposed project and compile any questions or comments that arise.
5. Following the review of the project, the EA Review Team will issue one of the following decisions:
  - a. **Determine that the project is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion.** If a project is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion, the Categorical Exclusion Review Form and its process will apply.
  - b. **Approve the Environmental Assessment following a 30-day public comment period.** The 30-day public comment period will commence when the public notice and relevant project documents are made publically available. Once all comments have been adequately addressed, the Environment Division will issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).
  - c. **Request Additional Information.** The EA Coordinator will contact the project developer and project coordinator to request additional information that is pertinent to the decision of the Review Team. Once sufficient information has been collected, the review team will reevaluate the project and issue a decision.
  - d. **Disapprove the Project.** A project will be disapproved if it is found to have significant detriments to the environment and/or the community, and no efforts

have been made to address the impacts. Disapproved projects may be reconsidered if significant changes are made to the proposed project.

6. Once a project has been approved, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be written and published. At this point the review is considered complete, and the project may proceed into the site preparation or construction phase so long as the development abides by any provisions included in the FONSI or the environmental review.
7. Any amendments to the scope of the project must be approved by the Environment Division. Major changes may be subject to a thirty-day public comment period.

### **Instructions**

1. For construction within the existing footprint, and no additional development, complete a Categorical Exclusion Review form to the SRMT Environment Division. This form will be reviewed by the EA Coordination and Division Director to determine if a project is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion. If it does not meet the criteria for an exemption (as listed on the Categorical Exclusion Review Form), the SRMT Environment Division will request an Environmental Assessment Form.
2. For new construction, complete the Environmental Assessment Form when the project is at 50% design completion. It is recommended that the developer contact the Environment Division to request that the EA Coordinator facilitates the completion of the form and initiates the review process.
3. During the EA Preparation Meeting the Environmental Assessment form will be completed by the EA Coordinator, project developer, project coordinator, and any other parties that have information relevant to the review. (For SRMT projects, the project developer is the point of contact for the tribal department for whom the project is being completed, and the project coordinator will be the representative from SRMT Planning & Infrastructure.)
4. Please allow 8 weeks for the completion of the internal review and a 30-day public comment period. A site visit may be requested as part of the review process.
5. The project is prohibited from proceeding beyond the planning phase of development until the project has been approved, and a Finding of No Significant Impact has been issued.

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## **I. Project Information Summary**

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 includes the construction of a single family residential subdivision on an existing undeveloped parcel on the west side of Helena Road in the vicinity of McNeil Road. The project is expected to be constructed in two phases, essentially sequentially back to back which, for the purposes of this EA, may be considered a single development project. A total of approximately 27 residential lots ranging in size from approximately 0.5-acres to 1.4-acres are proposed and are accessed by a new paved loop roadway with a total length of approximately 3700 feet. Public water, electricity, and telecommunications utilities will be provided, wastewater discharges will be treated by individual on-site wastewater treatment systems.*

*Please refer to the accompanying drawing SK-C1 for a depiction of the proposed development, as well as the various location maps and other figures and attachments for additional information.*

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 total project site area is approximately 31.47-Acres with individual house lots proposed to be in the range of approximately 0.5-1.4 acres. The conceptual drawings provided with this submission depict all proposed development features with no future expansion or other significant modifications anticipated.*

*Detailed engineering design for the project is currently in progress with construction expected to occur in 2022-2024 for the development infrastructure and initial single family home construction. Subsequent lot sales and home construction are expected to occur over the next 5-years +/- to full occupancy.*

3. Estimated construction schedule and planned completion date?

*Refer to item #2 above.*

4. Why was this project proposed? (What improvements will it bring to the community?)

*The proposed project has been developed in response to significant community demand for affordable property, suitable for construction. Akwesasne currently has very few "neighborhoods" where community members may interact directly day to day; this project is developed in response to those needs.*

## II. Land Resources

1. Will tree removal be required?

☐ No      ☒ Yes. Please provide a map indicating where trees will be removed.

*Given the nature of the development, specific tree removals cannot be accurately depicted. In general clearing is expected to be a +/- 50' wide corridor for the proposed development roadway and utility infrastructure and selective clearing within the individual home lots to the extent required for home construction and on-site wastewater treatment systems. Tree removals will be limited to the minimum extent practical and supplemented with proposed landscaping.*

2. Are trees to be planted on the site?

☐ No      ☒ Yes.

- a. If yes, have the tree species and replanting sites been selected?

☒ No      ☐ Yes. Please include a list of species, and a map of replanting locations.

- b. If no, are recommendations needed for tree selection and planting locations?

☐ No      ☐ Yes

*A detailed planning plan will be developed with the final construction documents, general locations are depicted on the accompanying drawing SK-C1. New plants are generally anticipated to include native varieties of deciduous and coniferous trees to provide streetscape improvements, boundary screening, stormwater treatment practice plantings, or other similar conditions. The planting plan will be developed by a licensed Landscape Architect and trees installed by a qualified contractor. Recommendations from the SRMT Environment division are welcome.*

3. Please list 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.

Proposed plants:	Purpose:
See notes above	

**Please note that the territory of Akwesasne is within the range of the endangered Northern Long-Eared Bat. Due to the possible impacts to this species, tree removal**

is prohibited June 1<sup>st</sup> through July 31<sup>st</sup> each year to prevent impacts during a critical life stage of this species. This requirement pertains to all Federally funded projects.

Consideration will also be given to migratory birds and their nesting sites. Impacts to birds will be determined on a case by case basis.

*Applicant Note: This requirement is understood, and the contract documents will include provisions to limit clearing activities to outside the June 1 – July 31 window indicated.*

### III. Water Resources

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

☒ Yes      ☐ No

Please note: If off site fill is to be used, it needs to be certified as clean fill.

*The site improvements will include general cuts and fills of approximately 1-3 feet in depth throughout the roadway corridor. Limited imported select granular fill may be required to accommodate the proposed roadway construction, along with stone subbase and asphalt courses. No significant import or export of material is proposed.*

2. Will there be permanent or temporary discharges to surface water?

☒ Yes (Permanent)      ☐ Yes (Temporary)      ☐ No

If yes, identify the type of discharge anticipated:

☐ Raw Water      ☐ Treated Process Water      ☒ Diverted Stormwater      ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

*The project will include the construction of stormwater management practices in accordance with the requirements of the SRMT Environment Division and as outlined in the NYSDEC Stormwater Management Design Manual and the EPA General Permit. All stormwater discharges shall be limited to no greater than the pre-development condition. At the completion of the detailed design phase, and prior to construction, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and associated Notice of Intent (NOI) will be provided to the SRMT for review and approval.*

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

- ☐ Agricultural Watering or Consumption  
☐ Human Consumption (Commercial)  
☒ Human Consumption (Domestic)  
☐ Industrial Uses  
☐ None  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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

☐ Yes      ☒ No

5. Will the community water system/ waterline be utilized for the proposed project?

☒ Yes      ☐ No

6. Will the community wastewater system or septic tank be used?

- ☐ Community Wastewater System    ☒ Septic Tank (size: *sized per residence requirements 1000 -1250 gal typical*)  
☐ Neither    ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

***Individual on-site wastewater treatment systems will be constructed as part of each individual home construction and are anticipated to participate in the SRMT septic system replacement/construction program. Systems will be designed in accordance with the requirements of the NYSDOH.***

7. Describe select 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:

- ☐ None  
☒ Silt Fencing  
☒ Erosion Control Blanket  
☐ Staked in Hay/Straw Bails  
☐ Turbidity Curtain Assemblage, (In Water Work)  
☒ Regularly Scheduled Site Inspections for Erosion Prevention Monitoring  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional requirements:**

**Any project that includes paving a previously un-paved surface will require a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).**

***A project SWPPP is currently under development on conjunction with detailed engineering design for the project. A copy of the SWPPP will be provided to SRMT***



*upon completion for review and comment.*

**Impacts to wetlands will be determined on a case-by-case basis. If more than ¼ acre of wetlands are disturbed, a wetland permit will be required.**

**Please contact the Environment Division Water Resources Program Manager if you have any questions related to these requirements.**

*The project site does not include areas of suspected wetlands and accordingly, no impacts are proposed. Please advise if the SRMT believes jurisdictional wetlands may be present on the project site.*

#### IV. Air Quality

1. Please complete the following chart so that we can estimate emissions and the air quality impacts of the proposed project.

Type	Number or # of Deliveries	Hours Per Day (Use)	Fuel Type
Non-Road Diesel	n/a		
Non-Road Equip	5-10*	8	Diesel
Dump Trucks	5-20*	8	Diesel
Fork Lifts			
Tractor Trailers			
Generators			

*Emissions proposed are related to the initial construction period only which is expected to be approximately 3-4 month total duration. Equipment is primarily anticipated to include excavators, bulldozers, vibratory rollers, paving machines, or similar heavy construction equipment for the proposed road construction. Deliveries of stone, asphalt, and related materials will be by tandem dump trucks. Following the completion of the infrastructure construction, only typical single family residential vehicular and home energy emissions are anticipated.*

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. (e.g. acid washing, paving, welding, etc.)

*The only odors anticipated for the proposed project are from the initial placement of the asphalt pavement roadway surfaces. Paving operations are anticipated to be less than a 5-day total duration. Significant impacts to surrounding community are not anticipated.*

3. For the purpose of noise pollution prevention, will there be any construction activities outside of normal business hours (Monday- Friday, 7am- 5pm)? If so, what are the anticipated hours of operation, and how long is this expected to last?

*No construction activity outside of normal business hours is anticipated and the construction contract requirements will be set accordingly.*

## V. Logistics

1. Are any sources of light (non-construction) being planned in areas where there were not previously lights? This includes street lights, overhead lights, light-up billboards, etc.

☐ No      ☒ Yes. What times of day are planned sources of light expected to be used for the proposed site?

☒ Dusk- dawn  
☐ 24- hours  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

***Limited street lighting is being considered for safety and security purposes – lighting will be limited to the minimum extent practical and be specified as dark sky compliant fixtures. A photometric analysis will be conducted to confirm no light trespass beyond the property boundaries.***

2. Describe any anticipated changes to traffic (this includes detours, increased traffic during construction, or any other changes to the traffic pattern). Please address temporary changes during construction as well as any long-term changes as a result of the development.

***No major adverse impacts to existing traffic patterns are anticipated. During construction vehicular access is generally limited to a small number of construction staff and periodic material deliveries; all work is within an existing undeveloped site with no construction within the existing roadways proposed.***

***Following construction, traffic impacts are estimated as follows using data provided in the ITE Trip Generation and Parking Generation handbooks:***

***Total trips per 2-vehicle, suburban single-family household = 5.9 trips/day.  
27 households x 5.9 trips/day = 159.3 trips/day.***

3. Is there a demolition component to this project?

☒ No      ☐ Yes. Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Will you require a roll-off container on site?

☒ No      ☐ Yes. How many: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates needed: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Will the completed development require dumpsters and service from the SRMT Transfer Station?

☒ No      ☐ Yes. How many: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Do you have a hauler under contract?

☒ No      ☐ Yes [A copy of the hauler's permit is required]

If yes, please provide the following information:

Hauler's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Hauler's phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please note that you can self-haul directly to the SRMT Transfer Station, though larger projects that use a contracted hauler will require a hauler permit from the SRMT Compliance Office as per the SRMT Solid Waste Code.**

**The developer/ contractor will also need to be or become an established customer with the SRMT Transfer Station in order to dispose of solid waste at this facility.**

**Contact the Transfer Station at 518-358-4632 if you require roll off bins or other services.**

#### **VI. Environmental Health**

1. How will the site be heated?

- ☐ None/ Unheated
- ☐ Fuel oil. Tank size: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Propane. Tank size: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Electric
- ☐ Natural gas. Tank size: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Kerosene. Tank size: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Wood/ wood pellets
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

*Individual homeowner's may determine their preferred heating and cooling systems. In general fuels are anticipated to include primarily electric (heat pump) based systems, LP gas furnaces, or wood/wood pellet systems. Systems would presumably be identified and approved in the individual building permit applications by each homeowner.*

2. Is there any potential for exposure, by anyone, to toxic chemicals? (Includes the use or sale of pesticides, herbicides, industrial cleaning products, etc.)

☒ No      ☐ Yes. Please include SDS for materials that will be on site.

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

☐ No      ☒ Yes. Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

*Potential hazards exist from refueling of construction equipment. Typical best management practices such as secondary containment systems, the use of on-site spill kits, and other means, and reporting of spills to SRMT Environment Division will be a requirement of the construction contract. Volume of fuels and frequency of refueling is expected to be minimal and typical of other similar construction in the region.*

If YES: To minimize the impacts of accidental releases of petroleum, chemical and biological products during construction activities, how will these releases be managed? A plan to describe how releases will be managed is referred to as a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) plan. A SPCC plan contains the following information:

- a) List potential sources of an accidental release (spill from refueling construction equipment, vehicles, etc.)
  - b) Describe how you plan to prevent accidental releases.
  - c) Describe how you plan to contain an accidental release.
4. Are there any hazards (chemical, biological, physical, electrical, etc.) that may result from the changed use of this area?

☒ No      ☐ Yes. Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Is there a risk for fire and/or explosion as a result of the changed use of this area?

☐ No      ☒ Yes. Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

***The change in use from an undeveloped land to a single family home community marginally increases the potential for fire, however this risk is mitigated through adherence to building codes, OSHA compliance practices, and other best management practices. No significant impacts are anticipated.***

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

☐ No      ☒ Yes. Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

***Fumes generation is generally limited to the construction period as is summarized in section IV of this EA document.***

## **VII. Historical preservation**

1. Are there any known or suspected previous uses of the proposed site? (This may include houses, out-buildings/ farms, outhouses, wells, dumps/disposal sites- cars, tractors, etc., burials (pets, people, other), foundations, etc.)

☒ No      ☐ Yes. Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Is there a presence of, known or suspected, buildings that may be considered historical feature that would indicate previous use (any man-made structure)?

☒ No      ☐ Yes. Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Is the proposed site known for traditional and/or ceremonial uses, or other community

activities, historic or current?

**None known.**

**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 the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribes THPO:**

**Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe  
Darren Bonaparte  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
71 Margaret Terrance Memorial Way  
Akwasasne, NY 13655  
darren.bonaparte@srmt-nsn.gov  
518.358.2272**

***Refer to the accompanying Phase 1 Archaeological site assessment and associated letter indicating “no impact on cultural resources at this location” from THPO Director Darren Bonaparte.***

**A letter is needed from SRMT Traditional Medicines, stating a finding of “No Effect” for the proposed site. Once received, attach the letter to this Environmental Assessment form. Please contact SRMT Traditional Medicines:**

**Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe  
Everett Cook  
Traditional Medicine  
71 Margaret Terrance Memorial Way  
Akwasasne, NY 13655  
everett.cook@srmt-nsn.gov  
518.358.3141**

**Status of Environmental Form**

***TRADITIONAL MEDICINE REVIEW PENDING – WILL PROVIDE FOLLOW UP DOCUMENTATION WHEN RECEIVED***

Date Filed:

Project Number:

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, Environment Division met on \_\_\_\_\_ to discuss the contents of the filed environmental assessment and has determined that:

- ☐ The responses to the environmental assessment have indicated the proposed project qualifies for a CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION. Please follow up with the EA Coordinator to complete an Environmental Review form. A public-comment period will not be necessary.
- ☐ The responses to environmental assessment have addressed the concerns of the Environment Division, and the project has been APPROVED. All comments raised during the thirty-day public comment period have been adequately addressed. A Finding of No Significant Impact will be issued for this project.
- ☐ The responses to the environmental assessment have not adequately addressed the concerns of the Environment Division, and ADDITIONAL INFORMATION is being requested before a determination can be made on this project.
- ☐ The responses to the environmental assessment indicate a significant negative impact(s) to the environment and/or the health of the community. The Environment Division has DISAPPROVED the proposed project. This decision can be reevaluated if significant changes are made to the proposed project.