

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

Project Title: First Americans 3

Project Developer: [REDACTED]

Project Coordinator: [REDACTED]

Address: 870 State Route 37, Hogansburg NY 13655

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Project Approvals:

Anthony David
Environment Division Director

Jessica Raspitha
Land Resources Program Manager

Angela Benedict
Air Quality Program Manager

Darren Bonaparte
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Tiernan Smith
Water Resources Program Manager

Craig Arquette
On-Site Coordinator

Lisa Furnace
Transfer Station Program Manager

Dylan Herne
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 and proceed to the 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 location of the proposed project is on Tarbell road in what is best described as the Ransom Farm hay field. The physical address is unknown as it has never been assigned a 911 address, however the location is approximately 400ft past the Ransom farm driveway on Tarbell rd, Akwesasne. A proposed site location is detailed below. The proposed development will have an approximately 1.5 acre growing area, office trailer, and a storage/equipment trailer. The site will also have a small parking lot for employees. In all only ~18,830sq/ft will be developed to support the grow operation. There will also be a security fence installed to protect the grow operation. All information also detailed in the site map appendix 1.



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.

All details are including in the attached Site Map appendix 1. Please note that the office will be a

construction drop trailer. The storage/ warehouse building will be a storage barn placed on a gravel pad. There will be no paving completed on the site. Only gravel surfaces will be utilized for the building pads, and the parking areas. The washcar area indicated on the site map is an area to be used to clean growing equipment and tractors. This area will also be a gravel.

3. Estimated construction schedule and planned completion date?

Construction will commence upon completion of the Environmental Review process. It is anticipated that construction will take 1 month to complete.

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

The project hopes to be the first outdoor grow operation that is in full compliance with all SRMT Tribal Rules and Regulations.

II. Land Resources

1. Will tree removal be required?

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

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

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:
None proposed.	

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 1st through July 31st 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.

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.

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: _____

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: _____)

☒ Neither : The job trailer will have a pump out system that will handle waste through a third party contractor.

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).

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.

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			
Non-Road Equip	5	8	Electric
Dump Trucks	3	8	Diesel
Fork Lifts			
Tractor Trailers			
Generators			

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 anticipated odors would be from initial emissions from dump trucks when dropping of construction materials. These should be completed in the first 15 days of the building process.

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?

All construction will take place during normal business hours.

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: _____

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.

None anticipated for project.

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: ____ Duration of project_

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

✓ No ☐ Yes. Please explain: _____

2. Are there any hazards (chemical, biological, physical, electrical, etc.) that may result from the changed use of this area?

✓ No ☐ Yes. Please explain: _____

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

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

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

✓ No ☐ Yes. Please explain: _____

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

✓ No ☐ Yes. Please explain: _____

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?

Please note that Darren Bonaparte was called and emailed on 4/29. A site plan was provided and information about the project was conveyed during both messages. At this time Mr. Bonaparte has not reached back in regard to his acknowledgment that his services are requesting. However, once a letter from his office is available it will be provided, and forwarded to be submitted with this file.

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
Akwesasne, NY 13655
darren.bonaparte@srmt-nsn.gov
518.358.2272**

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
Akwesasne, NY 13655
everett.cook@srmt-nsn.gov
518.358.3141**

Please note that Everett Cook did not respond to several calls. We were able to reach the Akwesasne Cultural Restoration program, and they stated they have performed several traditional medicine reviews for the Environment division. As such their services have been requested. At this time, we have not received the letter of no finding from them but once we do it will be forwarded to be submitted with this file.

Status of Environmental Form

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. We seek approval of this project pending a thirty-day public comment period.
- ☐ 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.