



KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

JOHN R. KOELMEL
Chairman

BRIAN U. STRATTON
Director

November 28, 2022

William T Keeler Mayor
City of Cohoes
97 Mohawk Street
Cohoes, NY 12047

Re: Earthen Embankment Integrity Program (EEIP)
Notice of Release of Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement (FGEIS)
and Final Embankment Guide Book (Guide Book)

Dear William T Keeler,

The New York State Canal Corporation (NYSCC), as Lead Agency, has completed the Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement document for the proposed Barge Canal Earthen Embankment Integrity Program. This notice is issued pursuant to Part 617 of the implementing regulations pertaining to Article 8 (State Environmental Review Act) of the Environmental Conservation Law.

The NYSCC is also releasing a Final Embankment Maintenance Guide Book, which is its primary governance document for implementation of the EEIP. The FGEIS and Final Guide Book documents, including redline versions illustrating changes from the draft documents and responses to comments, are available for download on November 30, 2022, at <https://www.nyscanalintegrity.org>.

The purpose of the EEIP is to implement a documented comprehensive Canal System embankment inspection and maintenance program to restore, maintain, and manage the integrity of embankments within the Canal System. Specifically, the scope includes all embankment material and impairments, along with turf, vegetation, armoring or paving that is parallel to the embankment slopes and surfaces from outside the toe of the outboard slope of the canal or feeder to the toe of the inboard embankment slope. It includes water recording and management features used in regulation of water levels in the canal and feeders, and geotechnical instrumentation devices. It also includes design and implementation of certain alternative solutions to vegetation removal, as well as amenities such as supplemental compatible vegetation.

The Generic EIS provided analyses regarding the potential for impact from EEIP activities on Land, Geologic Features and National Natural Landmarks, Surface Waters and Wetlands, Groundwater, Floodplains, Ecology (Plants and Animals), Agricultural Resources, Aesthetic

Resources, Historic and Archaeological Resources, Open Space and Recreational Resources, Transportation Resources, Noise, Odor, Light, Human Health, Community Plans, and Community Character. Potential significant impacts were identified, and avoidance, minimization and mitigation of these impacts were presented for those impacts. Individual EEIP segments would be screened, and those that would cause significant environmental impacts would be mitigated. Any individual EEIP segments that could not be mitigated would require a supplemental SEQR review or a separate SEQR review.

Please feel free to share this information, including the FGEIS and Final Guide Book documents, with your community. If you require additional information regarding the Final Guide Book or FGEIS, please call me at (518) 433-6841.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Candiloro". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jim" and last name "Candiloro" clearly distinguishable.

James Candiloro, PE
Director, Environment, Health & Safety