UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

OCT 27 2008

To All Interested Government Agencies and Public Groups:

In accordance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) procedures for the preparation of environmental impact statements (EIS), an environmental review has been performed on the proposed agency action below:

Project Name:	Town of Huron Water District No. 5
Purpose of Project:	The New York State Department of Health has determined that there is substantial need for a potable water supply within the proposed service area. Accordingly, the purpose of this project is to provide access to public water to areas in the Town of Huron that are currently experiencing poor groundwater quality, while also providing a critical water transmission link for the connection of public water to existing water users in eastern Wayne County.
Project Originator:	Wayne County Water and Sewer Authority
Project Location:	Wayne County, New York
Project Description:	The Wayne County Water and Sewer Authority (WCWSA) is proposing to install 26,250 feet of water main and associated improvements along portions of Ridge, Clapper and Woodruff Roads, located in the Towns of Huron and Wolcott, Wayne County, New York.
Estimated Eligible Project Costs:	$1,458,000
EPA Grants:	$ 577,300

Our environmental review of this project indicates that no significant adverse environmental impacts will result from the proposed action. Consequently, we have made a decision not to prepare an EIS on the project. This decision is based on a careful review of the project's environmental information document, as well as other supporting information. All of these documents, along with the Environmental Assessment (copy enclosed), are on file at the offices of EPA Region 2 and the Wayne County Water and Sewer Authority, where they are available for public scrutiny upon request. The EA is also available on EPA Region 2's website at http://www.epa.gov/region02/spmm/r2nepa.htm#r2docs.

Comments supporting or disagreeing with this decision may be submitted to EPA for consideration. All comments must be received within 30 calendar days of the date of this finding of no significant impact (FNSI). Please address your comments to: Grace Musumeci, Chief, Environmental Review Section, at the above address. No administrative action will be taken on the project for at least 30 calendar days after the date of this FNSI.

Sincerely,

Alan J. Steinberg
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

Environmental Assessment

I. Project Identification

Project Name: Town of Huron Water District No. 5

Grant Applicant: Wayne County Water and Sewer Authority
3377 Daansen Road
Walworth, New York 14568

Project Location: Towns of Huron and Wolcott
Wayne County, New York

II. Description of the Facility Planning Area

The planning area for this project includes the Towns of Huron and Wolcott, located in Wayne County, New York (see Figure 1). Specifically, water main construction will occur along the road rights-of-way of Ridge Road (County Road 143), Clapper Road and Woodruff Road.

Figure 1

Wayne County is situated within the Erie-Ontario lowlands physiographic region. Bedrock underlying Wayne County is sedimentary in origin, consisting primarily of sandstone, limestone and shale, and one section of dolomite approximately 150 feet thick. Essentially flat and dipping approximately 50 feet to the mile to the southwest, the layers occur as broad bands running east-west across the County.

The bedrock is oldest on the north edge of Wayne County at the Lake Ontario shoreline and is progressively younger in the south. In the project area, bedrock is predominantly Rochester Shale and Sodus Shale.

The predominant soil types along the proposed water main route are Williamson silt loam, Hilton gravelly loam, and Phelps gravelly loam. The majority of the soil associations in the project vicinity (estimated at 60%) are indicated to be moderately well-drained.

III. Purpose and Need for the Project

Individual water supplies in the Town of Huron have a long history of producing limited yields of extremely poor quality water. According to the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), there is substantial evidence of the need for a potable water supply within the proposed service area. This project will eliminate the dependency of existing households on individual wells that are currently inadequate and producing contaminated supplies. In addition, it will provide a critical water transmission link along Ridge Road, providing the base infrastructure for future connection of public water to existing users within eastern Wayne County.

Water available to most properties within the proposed service area is very poor in terms of bacteriological quality. Private water supplies have been contaminated by the infiltration of total coliform and fecal coliform bacteria from septic tank effluent into area wells. Specifically, recent water quality testing in the area of Huron indicates that 56% of the wells tested positive for total coliform bacteria. Although not generally harmful in and of itself, presence of total coliform bacteria indicates the possible presence of pathogenic bacteria, viruses and protozoans that also live in the human digestive system. In addition to short-term flu-like or intestinal illness, the consumption of water with elevated total and fecal coliform bacteria can lead to more serious illnesses. Consequently, the presence of these bacteria in the water supply presents a major concern for the public health and safety of local residents. The NYSDOH has determined that the water from wells contaminated with total and fecal coliform bacteria is unfit for human consumption.

Moreover, the water supply is generally undesirable in regard to inorganic chemical constituents (i.e., calcium, manganese, iron, sodium and sulfur). The levels of these chemicals within the water cause calcium and manganese to build up on fixtures and utensils. The water quality is currently so poor that a significant portion of the households resort to purchasing or carrying in water for domestic use.

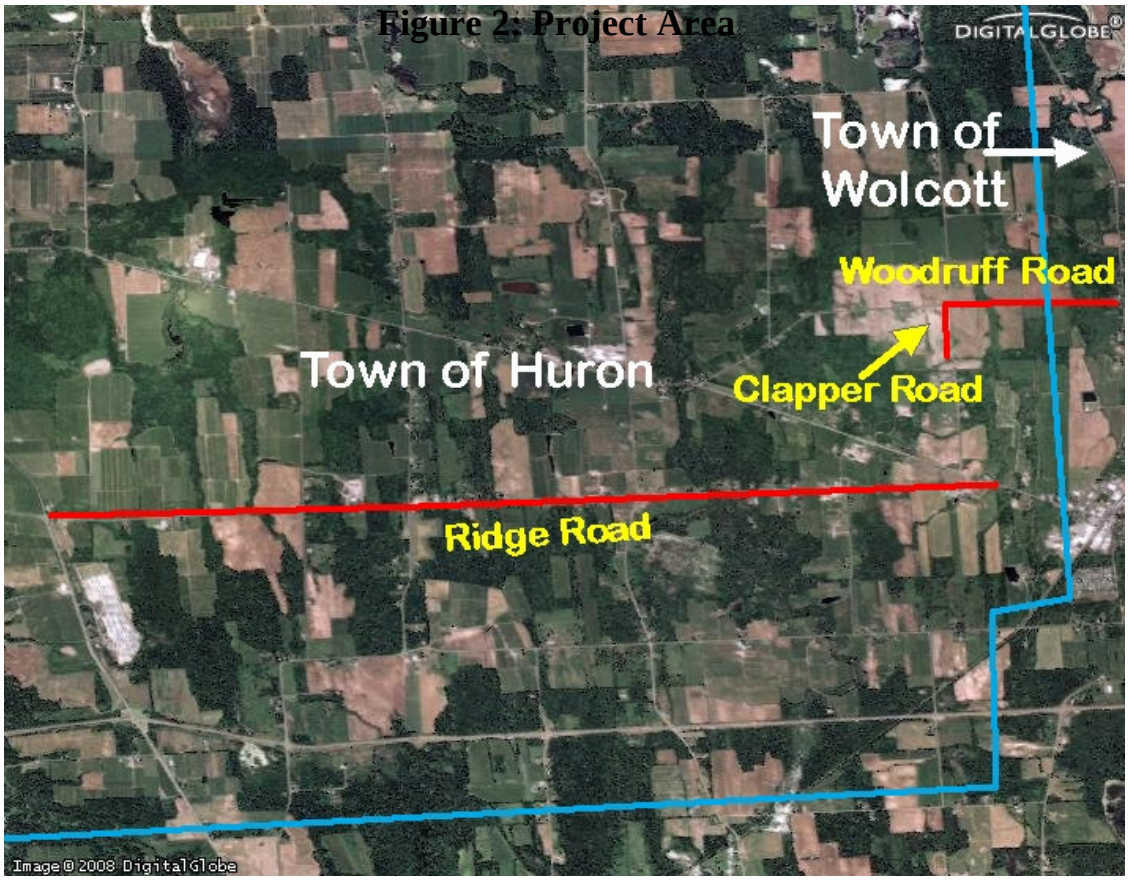
The proposed project will also complete a critical link in the regional water transmission system along Ridge Road, as well as providing a connection between the Town of Huron and the Town

of Wolcott water systems. The Town of Wolcott will benefit by gaining access to public water supply from western Wayne County in order to expand its water system. Finally, the project will increase the water supply available for fire fighting purpose, thereby improving fire protection in the Town of Huron.

IV. Detailed Description of Selected Plan

The Wayne County Water and Sewer Authority (WCWSA) is proposing to install 26,250 feet of water main along portions of Ridge, Clapper and Woodruff Roads, located in Wayne County, New York (see Figure 2). Of this total, 19,900 linear feet will be 12 inch water mains; the balance will be 8 inch water mains. In addition to the water mains, improvements will include a booster pump station, fire hydrants, valves, connection to the existing water main, water services, excavation and bedding materials, surface restoration, and residential/business hookups. Due to regional importance of the proposed water transmission main, the WCWSA is serving as the lead agency for the project. Assuming that construction will disturb an area approximately 20 feet in width along the length of the project, the total acreage of the project is 12 acres.

Figure 2: Project Area



Legend

Proposed Water Lines

Public water service will be provided to approximately 49.5 equivalent dwelling units. Most of the properties within the service area are residential, including single family homes, one two-family home, and apartments. Several commercial properties are also located within the service area. Public water service will be available to every property within the proposed water district, regardless of which side of the road the water line is actually installed. Water will be supplied from the WCWSA through the Town of Sodus. The Town of Sodus is supplied with water from both the Village of Sodus and the Town of Williamson, primarily from Lake Ontario. These suppliers have sufficient excess capacity to serve Water District No 5.

V. Estimated Project Costs

Total Project Cost:	$1,458,000
EPA Grant-Eligible Cost	$1,458,000
EPA Grant No. XP 972784-05	$ 577,300
USDA Rural Development Grant	$ 499,700
USDA Rural Development Long Term Loan	$ 381,000
Cost to Huron Water District No. 5	$ 381,000 (loan)
Existing Yearly Household User Charge:	$ 0.00 (no existing system)
Annual Debt Service Per Unit:	$ 426.00
Estimated Yearly Charge for Water Usage	$ 260.00
Total Estimated Annual Charges	$ 686.00

VI. Evaluation of Alternatives

A. No Action Alternative

Under the “No Action” alternative, water distribution facilities would not be installed to serve residents and businesses in the Town of Huron. No regional link or connection with the Town of Wolcott would be implemented. Consequently, the residents living in the proposed service area would continue to face the daily problems and expenses resulting from poor quality of available water and would continue to consume water potentially contaminated with bacteria. Additionally, fire protection would not be improved in the local area.

While taking no action would prevent any additional potential adverse effect to the environment, it would preclude the opportunity to provide a reasonable and effective solution to the known public health and safety problems in the area. As the need to address these problems has been identified as a high community priority, the “No Action” alternative is not practicable.

B. Private Treatment Systems/Bottled Water

The purchase of bottled water and the expanded use of water treatment systems for individual wells in the service area of the Town of Huron Water District No. 5 represent the private solution to meet household needs for water supply. Residents of the Town of Huron have used these methods and have found them to be inadequate to meet their daily needs for

water supply. In addition, private solutions are very costly to individual owners and result in additional fuel usage for pick-up or delivery of water. As a result, a public treatment solution is more cost effective and economically prudent.

C. Treatment Process Alternatives

Properties in the service area will be supplied with public water by the WCWSA, via the Town of Sodus. The Town of Sodus is supplied with water from both the Village of Sodus and the Town of Williamson, primarily from Lake Ontario. These water suppliers already have water treatment processes in place in their existing facilities. No changes are anticipated or necessary in order to supply public water to Huron Water District No. 5. Therefore, treatment process alternatives are not applicable to the project.

D. Alternative Location/Routing

The water main extension along Ridge Road will allow critical connections with other portions of the regional water system. The water main extension along Clapper and Woodruff Roads will allow for the connection with the Town of Wolcott water system.

The road rights-of-way represent the shortest and most direct route between the properties to be served with public water. As the rights-of-way were previously disturbed during road construction, their utilization would also result in the least amount of environmental impacts, including impacts to wetlands, floodplains, agricultural lands, significant habitats and archeological and historic resources. In addition, residents dependent upon wells that produce only limited water supplies of very poor quality water cannot be served with public water in a cost-effective manner without locating water mains along the rights-of way of these roadways. For this reason, there does not appear to be a better alternative to building the improvements in the proposed location to accomplish the stated objectives.

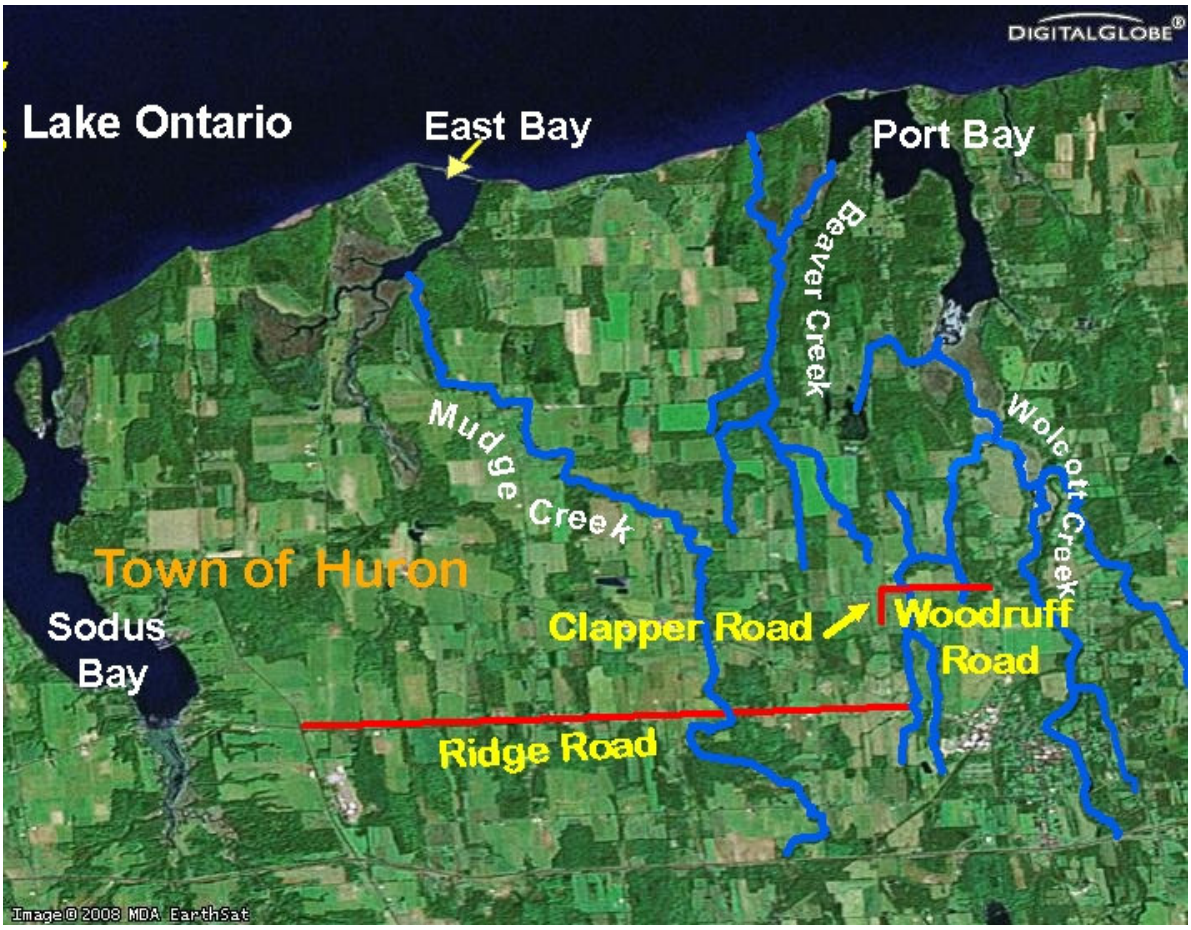
VII. Environmental Consequences of the Selected Plan/Mitigation Measures

A. Surface Water and Groundwater Quality

There are several surface water bodies within the project area which have been evaluated by the New York State Stream Classification system. The water quality classifications assigned to these water bodies are as follows (see Figure 3):

- Sodus Bay: Class B (Contact Recreation and Trout/Trout Propagation)
- East Bay/Beaver Creek: Class B (Contact Recreation and Trout/Trout Propagation)
- Mudge Creek: Class C (Fisheries and Non Contact Recreation)
- Port Bay: Class B (Contact Recreation and Trout/Trout Propagation)
- Wolcott Creek: Class C (Fisheries and Non Contact Recreation)

Figure 3: Waterbodies and Watercourses in the Project Area



None of these surface water bodies serves as a drinking water source; however, all are listed on the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYSDEC) Priority Waterbody List (PWL), with nutrients noted as the primary pollutant. The primary source of these pollutants according to the PWL, is onsite septic systems and agriculture.

No significant direct impacts to surface or groundwater quality in the project area is expected as a result of this project. The installation of the water mains and appurtenances will not permanently affect surface water runoff, drainage flow patterns, the beds or banks of existing streams (including Sodus Bay and Port Bay), or groundwater quality or quantity. The contractor will be required to implement erosion control measures so as to minimize the impact of the excavation and backfill activities. The areas in which the water mains are to be installed will be graded and reseeded as quickly as possible following construction to restore the natural setting.

There is a small potential for indirect impacts to groundwater quality as a result of the implementation of this project. If provision of public water leads to an increase in development in the project area along with a concurrent increase in the use of onsite septic systems, ground water quality could be affected. However, this possibility is considered

remote, since induced growth is not expected as a result of this project. Further, considering the limited scale of the project area, any such effects would be minor and localized.

Finally, the project area is not located within a sole source aquifer; consequently no impacts to sole source aquifers are anticipated.

B. Population

The Towns of Huron and Wolcott are located in the north central part of Wayne County. These towns are rural and agricultural in nature, and existing housing is scattered throughout the countryside. Denser development, including seasonal homes, is located along the shores of Sodus Bay and Port Bay. Total population for both towns was 6,400 residents; the Village of Wolcott, with 1,712 residents, is the largest population center in the project vicinity (2000 Census). As a whole, Wayne County is sparsely populated, with 155.2 residents per square mile; the average for New York State as a whole is 401.9 (2000 Census).

C. Traffic

The rights-of-way along portions of Ridge, Clapper and Woodruff Roads in the Town of Sodus will be affected by this project. Ridge Road is a Wayne County highway (County Road 143). Minor delays may be experienced as temporary lane closures or traffic detours are needed during construction. While travelers on these roadways may be inconvenienced, these impacts will be short term, lasting only during working hours during construction phase activities. No long term impacts to roadway or traffic patterns are expected.

The WCWSA will obtain a work permit from the Wayne County Highway Department for work within the right-of-way of Ridge Road (County Road 143). Construction signage and other measures will be implemented to maintain safety and direct traffic around the work area during water main installation.

D. Recreation

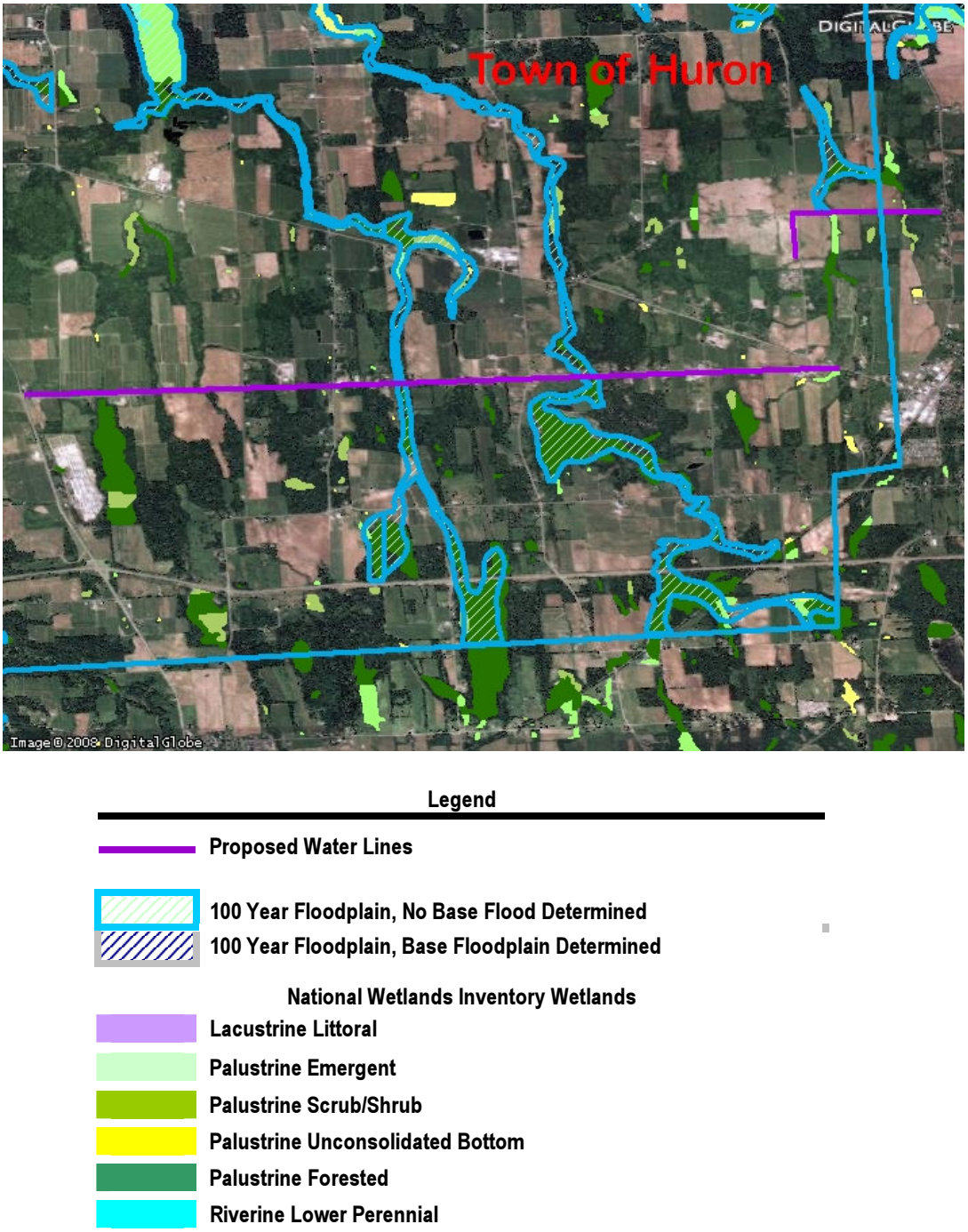
Sodus Bay, East Bay and Port Bay, as well as Lake Shore Marshes WMA associated with these waterbodies, are the major recreational resources in the project vicinity. Boating, fishing, swimming, and other water related activities are popular in these areas in the summer. Sodus Bay and Port Bay are destinations for residents of the greater Rochester area who have second homes and recreational cottages there. Hunting occurs within the Lake Shore Marshes WMA and within the larger region surrounding the project area.

However, these recreational areas will not be serviced by the proposed project. Consequently, no direct or indirect impacts are anticipated to occur as a result of the implementation of this project

E. Wetlands/Floodplains

Existing wetland mappings published by the NYSDEC and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) were reviewed in relation to the project components (see Figure 4).

Figure 4: Wetlands and Floodplains



According to the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for the Town of Huron, the proposed water main will be installed across the 100-year floodplain in three locations. On Ridge Road, the water main will cross the floodplain associated with a tributary to East Bay just east of Fifth Road/North Road. Also on Ridge Road, the water main will cross the floodplain associated with Mudge Creek, east of Dutch Street Road. On Woodruff Road, the water main will be installed adjacent to the floodplain associated with a tributary to Wolcott Creek.

The project will not result in significant adverse impacts on the floodplain, as excavation will not be extensive and all construction will be completed within a relatively short time. Since the water main will be installed below ground, it will not impede floodwater flows or affect surface drainage patterns. The acreage of floodplain area that will be temporarily affected by the project is expected to be an acre or less. Erosion control measures as outlined in the "Guidelines for Erosion and Sediment Control in Urban Areas of New York State" will be implemented to prevent sedimentation. Local floodplain approvals will be obtained, as necessary, for this project. All construction will be undertaken in accordance with permit conditions.

According to the FIRM for the Town of Wolcott, the project area within the Town's boundaries is not located within the 100-year floodplain.

F. Noise

Although residents along portions of Ridge, Clapper and Woodruff Roads may experience sporadic increases in noise levels during construction, these increases will be temporary. Construction of this project will produce operating noise exceeding the local ambient noise level. Any temporary, minor increase in noise during construction will not result in significant impacts, and will be subject to compliance with local noise ordinances.

G. Air Quality

Since this project will be funded in part through a Federal grant, the project is subject to the general conformity regulations (40 CFR 93 Subpart B). This project is located in Wayne County, NY, within the Rochester 8-hour ozone nonattainment area. The area was designated by EPA as nonattainment for the 8-hour ozone standard effective June 15, 2004. Ozone is not directly emitted from vehicles and equipment, but rather it forms through a chemical reaction in the atmosphere in the presence of sunlight. Therefore, for the analysis we determined the emissions of the ozone precursors, oxides of nitrogen (NO_X) and volatile organic compounds (VOC). These precursors result from combustion and are directly emitted by vehicles and engines.

Emission estimates were based on emission factors taken from a number of sources and vehicle/equipment types and activity levels supplied by the project sponsor. Table 1 on page 10 shows the results of the general conformity applicability analysis. Emissions of NO_X and VOC in the Town of Huron Water District No. 5 project's construction year of 2008 are below the applicable deminimis threshold values; therefore, the project is presumed to conform with the State Implementation Plan and no further action is necessary.

Table 1

2008 CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS SUMMARY FOR GENERAL CONFORMITY		
POLLUTANT	**VOC**	**NOx**
OFF-ROAD CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS (tons/year)	0.079	0.579
ON-ROAD CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS (tons/year)	0.007	0.022
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS (tons/year)	**0.086**	**0.601**
GENERAL CONFORMITY THRESHOLD (tons/year)	**50**	**100**
PERCENTAGE OF THRESHOLD	**0.17%**	**0.60%**

H. Vegetation

The project area includes the rights-of-way of Ridge, Clapper and Woodruff Roads. Vegetation along the roads rights-of-way generally comprises grasses and low, scrubby plants. These areas were disturbed during road construction and no significant vegetation is located within these rights-of-way.

The USFWS and the NYSDEC were contacted for information on any rare, threatened or endangered species and/or critical habitat in the project area. The federally-listed eastern prairie fringed orchid "has been known from" Wayne County. However, this species occurs in wet prairie habitat; the proposed water main will be installed in existing rights-of-way, and will not affect this habitat. Further, the species is listed as a historic record and possibly extirpated. For these reasons, impacts to the eastern prairie fringed orchid are not anticipated. The NYSDEC has indicated that an endangered plant, nodding pogonia, was seen in the project area; however, that record is from 1906, and it is not likely that the proposed project will affect this species.

I. Wildlife

A variety of native fish and wildlife live in habitats throughout the project area. Fish common in Sodus Bay, located northeast of the project area, include walleye, bass, and brown trout. The Lake Shore Marches State Wildlife Management Area (WMA), portions of which are associated with Maxwell Bay, Salmon Creek and Third Creek, west and south of Sodus Bay, East Bay and Port Bay, is a productive nesting area for waterfowl and marsh birds, including Great blue heron, Green heron, American bittern, Mallard, Wood duck, Black tern, Marsh wren, and Common snipe. Other wildlife found in the Management Area includes muskrat, beaver, raccoon, mink, white-tailed deer, gray squirrel, Wood cock, Ring-necked pheasant, snapping turtle, painted turtle, northern water snake, bullfrog, and northern

leopard frog. Fish species include northern pike, brown bullhead, rock bass, bluegill, pumpkinseed, white crappie, and largemouth bass. Other fish species, including white sucker, smallmouth bass, and various salmonids, generally spawn upstream in major tributaries such as Sodus Creek.

The WCWSA, utilizing the USFWS website, identified the following three Federally-listed species that "are or have been known from" Wayne County.

1) Bog Turtle *(Clemmys muhlenbergii)*

The preferred habitat of bog turtles is sedge dominated wet meadows or open calcareous bogs. The proposed water main will be installed within the rights-of way of Ridge, Clapper, and Woodruff Roads. Construction will be confined to previously disturbed areas. Since potential bog turtle habitat is located within the vicinity, the WCWSA conducted a field review of the project area to identify wetlands areas that exhibit potential bog turtle habitat. This review noted that six wetland or stream crossings will be undertaken as a part of this project. The majority of wetlands locations reviewed consisted of wooded, riparian, wetlands associated with defined stream channels. None of the wetlands areas identified exhibited open canopy, sedge meadows preferred by bog turtles. Accordingly, it has been determined that construction of the proposed project is not anticipated to have an impact on bog turtle habitat.

2) Bald Eagle *(Haliaeetus leucocephalus)*

Upon review of the available information on the USFWS website as well as the National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines (May 2007), it is not anticipated that any impact to Bald eagles or their habitat (large trees or structures near aquatic areas) will occur. Once the water main is installed, vegetative cover will be restored and no further ground disturbance, development, paving, increased traffic or other disruptions to Bald eagle habitat will occur.

3) Indiana Bat *(Myotis sodalis)*

The Indiana bat is known to winter in caves and mines within six counties in New York State. Based upon review of the USFWS's "Indiana Bat Fact Sheet," it has been determined that no further consultation is required in regards to this species, since there are no caves or mines within the project area.

J. <u>Agricultural Lands</u>

The area around the project site is included within Wayne County Agricultural District No. 5. The project will make public water available to a total of 49.5 equivalent dwelling units in the Town of Huron. Sixteen of these parcels are classified as farmland or abandoned agricultural land in Wayne County Agricultural District No. 5. Information made available by Town officials about the usage of the farmland parcels indicates that these farms are primarily used to grow fruit or field crops.

Short-term effects to agricultural resources primarily involve construction-related impacts associated with excavation of a trench to contain the water main. Such ground disturbance could potentially disrupt drainage or tile lines within the adjacent agricultural field. However, it is not expected that construction will exert significant physical impacts on agricultural resources as it will primarily occur within road rights-of-way. Standard construction practices will be used to minimize ground disturbance, erosion and drainage problems that may result during and after construction until ground cover is established. In order to minimize the direct impact of construction on agricultural lands, the contractor will be required to comply with specific construction requirements established by the Department of Agriculture and Markets.

This project will make public water available to 16 parcels classified as farmland or abandoned agricultural land within the Town of Huron. The potential long term impacts on agricultural resources involve the removal of farmland from production as a result of the availability of a public water supply. It is estimated that a total of 717 acres of farmland are within the service area of the Town of Huron Water District No. 5 and Agricultural District No. 5, which is the maximum amount of land within the Agricultural District that could be removed from production as a result of the availability of a public water supply.

In order to minimize the conversion of farmland to non-farm uses, the Town of Huron should adopt a hookup restriction resolution. The hookup restriction resolution would limit connections to the public water system to agricultural uses and existing no-farm uses within the Agricultural District. Since this area is rural residential in nature and not within a major growth corridor, the proposed water system improvement project is not likely to alter the character of the community.

As no properties in the Town of Wolcott will be served with public water as a result of the proposed action, a hook-up restriction will not be necessary in the Town of Wolcott.

K. Cultural Resources

In order to determine if sensitive historic or archeological resources are present in the project area, a project description and map were submitted to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for review on January 13, 2008. In a letter dated February 8, 2008, the agency responded that the proposed improvements would have “No Effect” upon historic or archeological resources. In addition, consultation occurred with the Cayuga Nation via the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development (RD) Agency. The Cayuga Nation did not indicate a desire to be a consulting party to RD for the project and therefore, no further coordination with the Nation is necessary.

L. Odors/Aesthetics

The Project area is located within a rural/agricultural region. Views consist of rural homes separated by cultivated fields, fallow fields, or wooded/scrub areas. The Lake Shore Marshes Wildlife Management Area consists primarily of low marshy areas, and provides

opportunities for wildlife viewing or birdwatching. Sodus Bay, East Bay and Port Bay are the most significant aesthetic resources in the project vicinity, and homes along these waterbodies have been built to take advantage of the view and the location along the waterfront. However, the water mains for the proposed project will not be constructed within or even adjacent to these waterbodies and are not designed to serve waterfront homes. In addition, the installation of the water mains and the provision of public water to the residents and businesses in the service area will not produce odors.

Construction phase activities may result in temporary increases in odors caused by operation of construction vehicles and equipment. These impacts will be short term, lasting only during construction phase activities. In addition, proposed water mains will be installed below ground, the project will not affect views or other visual resources. Views of Sodus Bay and Lake Ontario, the primary aesthetic resources in the project area, will be unaffected by the proposed action.

M. Wild And Scenic Rivers

There are no wild or scenic rivers which will be affected by this project.

N. Land Use

The Town of Huron is predominantly rural, residential, and agricultural in nature. Family-owned farms and larger industrial farms produce fruit crops, field crops, vegetables and other products. The Village of Wolcott, located east of the project area, is the largest population center in the vicinity. A small hamlet area (Huron) is located north of the project area.

Sodus Bay (located west of the project area) and Port Bay (located east of the project area) are centers of recreational activity on Lake Ontario. These bay areas are used for boating, fishing and other water-related activities and are popular locations for seasonal cottages and waterfront homes. East Bay is smaller and less developed, but still functions as an important recreational resource, especially since it is associated with Chimney Bluffs State Park. The Lake Shore Marshes State WMA is located directly west and south of Sodus Bay, East Bay and Port Bay

As mentioned previously, implementation of this project could lead to the conversion of farmland to residential uses. However, since the area is currently sparsely populated, and the rate of population growth only slightly exceeds 5% in Wayne County as a whole, a large scale expansion of the existing housing base is not anticipated

O. Environmental Justice

The Region 2 Environmental Justice (EJ) Analysis supports EPA Region 2's Interim Policy for Environmental Justice (IP). The specific community that is under evaluation for inclusion in the Region's EJ program is referred to as the Community of Concern (COC) in the IP. The evaluation process hinges on the comparison of the respective levels of the

environmental burden, minority representation, and low-income representation between the COC and its statistical reference area.

For environmental burden analysis, Region 2 advances the concept of an "Environmental Load Profile (ELP)". The profile would provide a representation of the environmental load (i.e. relative environmental burden) within a community.

The ELP serves to identify communities that may bear a disproportionate environmental load in comparison to statewide-derived thresholds. Currently, the Environmental Load Profile consists of the following three indicators: Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Air Emissions, Air Toxics, and Facility Density. The ELP generates a summary report that provides numeric values for state thresholds, indicator of the community of concern (COC Indicator), and the ranking of the community in the state. These calculated values not only identify whether the particular community meets an ELP threshold, but further upon exceedance, the indicator value is ranked to provide a measure of magnitude.

Analysis of the Environmental Load Analysis for the Town of Huron indicates that only one of the indicators evaluated, Facility Density Indicator, exceeds the respective New York State thresholds (see Table 3). The ranking of that exceedance is only a 1, indicating a very low potential risk.

Table 3: Environmental Load Analysis

Indicators	NYS Threshold	COC Indicator	Ranking
TRI Indicator	5.67	.07	0
Facility Density Indicator	56	56.32	1
Air Toxics Cancer Indicator	63.55	14.55	0
Air Toxics Non-cancer Indicator	11.3	2.33	0

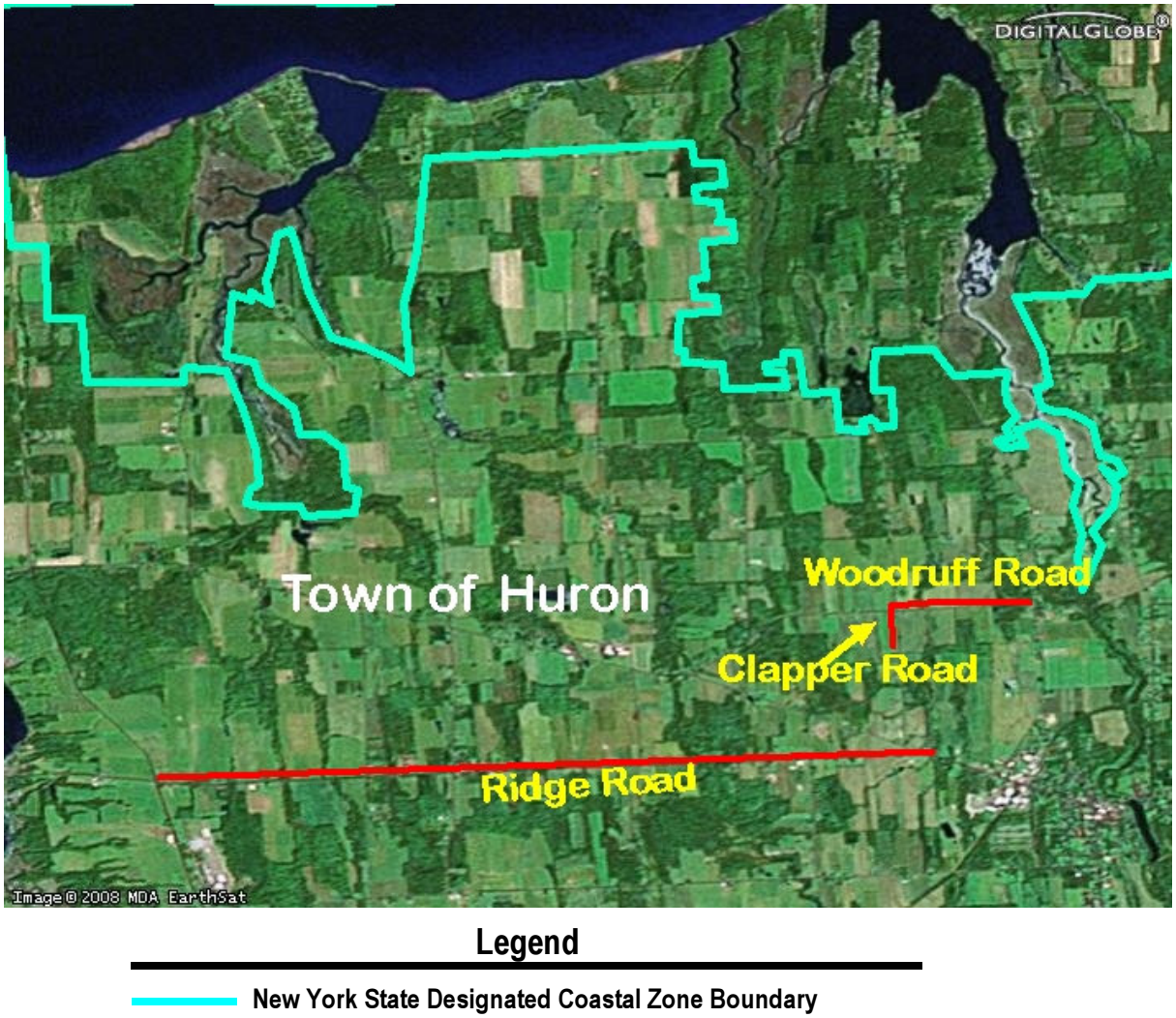
Further, analysis of the project area indicates that minorities are 5.53% of the population (compared to 34.73%, the percentage for determining minority areas in rural areas of New York State), and that 8.41% percent of residents have income below the poverty level (compared to 23.59%, which is the percentage that EPA uses in New York State to identify low income rural areas). Accordingly, the area does not meet the EPA criteria for being classified an EJ area and no additional EJ analysis is necessary.

P. Coastal Resources

Review of the NYS Coastal Atlas indicates that the project area is not located within a designated coastal zone. The landwards coastal boundary associated with Sodus Bay is located just west of the project area at the intersection of Lake Bluff and Ridge Roads. In the Town of Wolcott, the landward coastal boundary associated with Port Bay is located east of West Port Bay Road (see Figure 5).

A portion of Lake Shore Marsh Significant Fish and Wildlife Habitat area is also located in this area along Wolcott Creek and Port Bay. However, no portion of the project area is located within the boundaries of the coastal area, consequently, impacts to coastal resources are not anticipated, and no further review is needed of the project's consistency with coastal policies.

Figure 5: New York State Designated Coastal Zone Boundary



Q. Socioeconomic Impacts

Wayne County, which includes the Towns of Huron and Wolcott, are largely rural and agricultural in nature. The County is sparsely populated with a total of 93,765 people, or approximately 155.2 persons per square mile based on 2000 Census Data. By comparison, the average person per square mile for New York State as a whole is 401.9.

The 2000 population of the Town of Huron was 2,117 people; for the Town of Wolcott it was 4,283 people. The median income for the Town of Huron is $41,389, while it is $33,516 for the Town of Wolcott; the median household income for Wayne County as a whole is $44,157; for the state of New York it is $43,393.

This project is not anticipated to have a negative impact upon socio-economic conditions in the proposed district. The total projected first year cost for a typical residential user in the project area is estimated at $686. This represents 1.65% of the Town of Huron's median household income of $41,389 (2000 Census).

R. Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts result from the combined impacts of two or more projects in a given geographical area, when the environmental impacts are potentially additive. The most significant projects in the planning process at this time which may impact the same resources as the Town of Huron Water District No. 5 project are the Town of Sodus Water District No. 7 Project and the Town of Wolcott West Port Bay Road Water District Project (see Figure 6).

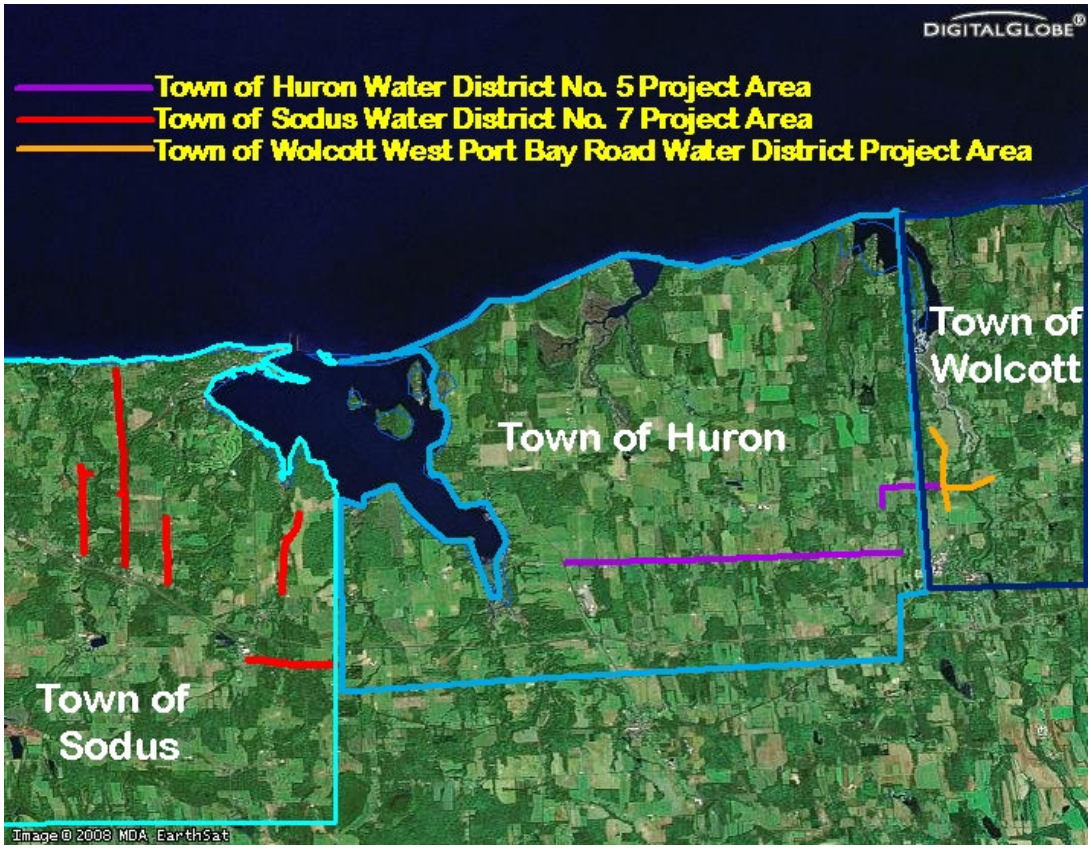
The Town of Sodus Water District No. 7 project is also being implemented by WCWSA as part of its objective to serve residents within the Town of Sodus who rely on poor or inadequate groundwater quality. A total of 44,550 feet of water mains will be installed along portions of North, Christian Holler, North Geneva, Newell, Boyd, Shaker and York Settlement Road in the Town of Sodus. The water main improvements along North Geneva Road will provide the base infrastructure for future expansion of public water within eastern Wayne County. This project will involve temporary impacts to wetlands and floodplains as six stream or wetlands crossings will be needed. Nevertheless, the majority of impacts associated with this project will be limited to existing road rights-of-way.

The Town of Wolcott West Port Bay Road Water District is being implemented by the Town of Wolcott. This project involves the installation of 8,600 linear feet of water mains along portions of West Port Bay Road and Furnace Road. The water mains proposed on West Port Bay Road will connect with the Huron Water District No. 5 at Woodruff Road. There are no National Wetlands Inventory wetlands located within the impact area for this project; there will only be one stream crossing. Additionally, construction impacts will be largely limited to existing road rights-of-way.

While the Huron and Wolcott water districts will interconnect, neither will directly connect with Sodus Water District No. 7. However, together these projects will complete significant links in the water supply system necessary to serve eastern Wayne County, specifically: an east-west link along Ridge Road across the Town of Huron and connecting with the Town of Wolcott (Huron Water District No. 5 and Wolcott West Port Bay Road Water District), and a north-south link along North Geneva Road which extends from Ridge Road to Lake Road (Sodus Water District No. 7). The Wolcott West Port Bay Road Water District Project will only minimally increase wetlands and floodplains impacts.

The extension of public water as proposed in these three projects should not result in any permanent cumulative adverse impacts. The most significant impact is the improvement in the water supply for area residents. Local residents and businesses will no longer rely on groundwater wells which produce poor quality water or an inadequate volume of supply.

Figure 6



While the purpose of each project is to correct the serious public health and safety concerns problems confronting existing residents and not to stimulate new growth, population growth could occur. If secondary growth does occur as a result of the access to public water, it is expected to occur at a measured pace over a long period of time. The Towns of Huron, Wolcott and Sodus are predominantly rural areas with relatively low growth rates. So while there is the potential that agricultural land in the project area could be converted to non-agricultural use, such impacts are not expected. Additionally, any such conversion would have to be approved on the local level, ensuring oversight and providing opportunity for public comment and review.

Wetlands and floodplains impacts for each project will be short term and minimal in scope; accordingly, significant cumulative impacts on wetlands and floodplains resources are not expected from implementation of these projects.

Minor adverse effects, including noise and localized air quality impacts, are associated with the construction phase of each project; however, significant cumulative environmental impacts are not expected from these short term effects. In addition, while the project areas in Huron and Wolcott interconnect, the project areas in Huron and Sodus are separated by more than a mile.

Some temporary disruption of travel along Ridge Road may occur as the Huron Water District No. 5 project will involve installation of a water main along 19,990 linear feet of Ridge Road, and the Sodus Water District No. 7 project will involve connections with the existing water main in Ridge Road at three locations west of the Town of Huron.

The project construction times for Huron Water District No. 5 and Wolcott West Port Bay Road Water District projects are the same. The construction of Sodus Water District No. 7 project will begin midway through the construction period of the Huron and Wolcott projects. Air emissions will be additive, however, each project contributes less than 1% of the applicable deminimis threshold levels. Accordingly, the combined emissions are not expected to exceed the threshold either.

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S. Induced Growth

The Town of Huron will use zoning regulations and site plan review procedures as needed to minimize any potential growth-inducing impacts of this project. Also, as a part of the agricultural review process, the Huron Town Board should adopt a hookup restriction, to limit the connections to public water system to agricultural uses and to existing non farm uses within the Agricultural District. Adoption of such a resolution would help to control secondary growth which could result from the provision of public water in the project area.

The provision of public water will not necessarily increase development in the project area, as water, albeit of questionable quality, is available through the use of private wells. Provision of public water could lead to zoning changes which could increase the density of future development, but most properties utilize septic systems which will provide a limiting factor to any potential downzoning in the future. Further, Wayne County as a whole has only been experiencing modest growth, and this is anticipated to continue.

VIII. Coordination of Environmental Review

A) Tribal Nations and Federal, State and Local Agencies Consulted

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District
U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development, Agricultural Service Center, Canandaigua, NY
Cayuga Nation (via USDA Rural Development review process)
U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation, Region 8

N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation Natural Heritage Program Information Services
N.Y.S. Department of Health
N.Y.S. Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
N.Y.S. Department of State, Division of Coastal Resources and Waterfront Development
N.Y.S. Department of Agriculture and Markets
Wayne County Department of Public Health
Wayne County Planning Department
Wayne County Highway Department
Wayne County Water and Sewer Authority
Wayne County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board
Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council
Town of Huron, Supervisor's Office
Town of Huron, Assessor's Office
Town of Wolcott, Assessor's Office

B. Significant Correspondence

1) Letter from N.Y.S. Department of Health, April 2, 2007
2) Letter from N.Y.S. Department of Health, Geneva District Office, April 4, 2007
3) Letter from N.Y.S. Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, February 8, 2008
4) Letter from N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Fish and Wildlife Resource Center Information Services, February 7, 2008
5) Letter from U.S.D.A. Natural Resource Conservation Service, January 22, 2008
6) Letter from Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council, March 8, 2007
7) Letter from U.S.D.A Rural Development tribal consultation with the Cayuga Nation, April 12, 2007
8) Letter from U.S.D.A. Rural Development (completion of tribal consultation), March 11, 2008

C. Reference Documents

1) *Environmental Information Document, Town of Huron Water District No. 5, Town of Huron and Wolcott, March 2008;* Stuart I. Brown Associates
2) *Soil Survey of Wayne County, USDA SCS in Cooperation with Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station, 1978*
3) *US Census of Population, 2000*
4) *Town of Sodus Water District No. 7 Project Environmental Assessment, EPA, 2008*