



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

SEP 26 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 Sodus Water District No. 7

Purpose of Project: The New York State Department of Health has determined that there is substantial evidence of the 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 Sodus that are currently experiencing poor groundwater quality, while also providing a critical water transmission link for future expansion of public water within 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 is proposing to install 44,550 feet of water main along portions of North, Christian Holler, North Geneva, Newell, Boyd, Shaker, and York Settlement Roads, in the Town of Sodus, Wayne County, New York, to provide access to public water to areas that are currently experiencing poor groundwater quality.

Estimated Eligible Project Costs: \$1,895,000

EPA Grants: \$ 866,000

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 the 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 Sodus Water District No. 7

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

Project Location: Town of Sodus
Wayne County, New York

II. Description of the Facility Planning Area

The planning area for this project is the Town of Sodus, located in Wayne County, New York (see Figure 1). Specifically, construction will occur along the road rights-of-way of North, Christian Holler, North Geneva, Newell, Boyd, Shaker, and York Settlement Roads.

Figure 1



III. Purpose and Need for the Project

Individual water supplies in the Town of Sodus 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, this project will provide a critical water transmission link along North Geneva Road, providing the base infrastructure for future expansion of public water within eastern Wayne County.

Water available to most properties within the proposed service area is very poor in terms of bacteriological qualities. 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 Sodus indicates that 60% of the wells tested positive for total coliform bacteria, and 22% tested positive for fecal coliform bacteria. Although they are generally not harmful in themselves, they indicate 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.

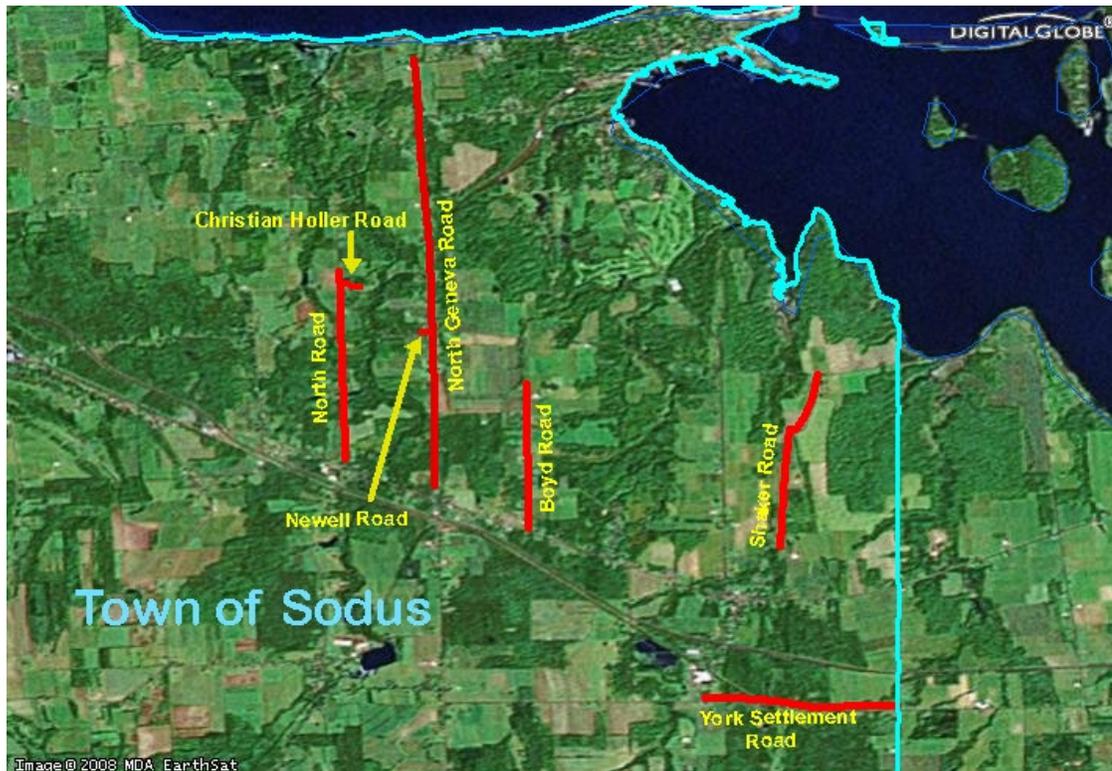
Moreover, the water supply is generally undesirable in regard to inorganic chemical constituents (i.e., calcium, manganese, iron, sodium and sulfur). The levels of these chemicals within the water cause calcium and manganese to build up on fixtures and utensils. The water quality is currently so poor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

IV. Detailed Description of Selected Plan

The Wayne County Water and Sewer Authority (WCWSA) is proposing to install 44,550 feet of water main along portions of North, Christian Holler, North Geneva, Newell, Boyd, Shaker, and York Settlement Roads, in the Town of Sodus, Wayne County, New York (see Figure 2). In addition to the water main, improvements will include fire hydrants, valves, connection to the existing water main, residential hook-ups, excavation and bedding materials, and surface restoration. The WCWSA is the project sponsor and lead agency for the project. The Town of Sodus has created the water district and is involved in the review and approval processes. 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 20.5 acres.

Public water service will be provided to approximately 97 equivalent dwelling units. Most of the properties within the service area are residential, including single family homes, one two-family home, and labor camp housing trailers. One commercial property is 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. The water suppliers will be the Town of Williamson and the Village of Sodus. These suppliers have sufficient excess capacity to serve Water District No 7.

Figure 2: Proposed Water Main Locations



V. Estimated Project Costs

Total Project Cost:	\$1,895,000
EPA Grant-Eligible Cost	\$1,895,000
EPA Grant No. XP97274505	\$ 866,000
Grant form USDA Rural Development	\$ 245,000
USDA Rural Development Long Term Loan	\$ 784,000
Cost to Sodus Sewer District No. 7	\$ 783,500 (Loan)
Existing Yearly Household User Charge:	\$ 0.00 (no existing system)
Annual Debt Service Per Unit:	\$ 440.00
Estimated Yearly Charge for Water Usage	\$ 240.00
Total Estimated Annual Charges	\$ 680.00

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 Sodus. No regional link along North Geneva Road 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. Because 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 Sodus Water District No. 7 represents the private solution to meet household needs for water supply. Residents of the Town of Sodus 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 Town of Williamson and the Village of Sodus. 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 the Sodus Water District No. 7. Therefore, treatment process alternatives are not applicable to the project.

D. Alternative Location/Routing

The extension of public water to the Town of Sodus Water District No. 7 has been designed to eliminate existing problems with poor quality and inadequate water supply experienced by residents of the local area. The extension of public water

to the affected area is considered by NYSDOH as the most effective solution to the public health problem facing residents of the area. In addition, the project will complete a critical link along North Geneva Road through the Town of Sodus to allow for the future provision of public water to much of eastern Wayne County, N.Y.

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 North, Christian Holler, North Geneva, Newell, Boyd, Shaker and York Settlement Roads. In particular, the water main along North Geneva Road will allow critical connections with other portions of the regional 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, using them would also result in the least amount of environmental impact, including impacts to wetlands, floodplains, agricultural lands, significant habitats and archeological and historic resources. 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:

- Sodus Bay: Class B (Contact Recreation and Trout/Trout Propagation)
- Salmon Creek: Class C (Fisheries and Non Contact Recreation)
- First Creek: Class C (Fisheries and Non Contact Recreation)
- Third Creek: Class C or C (T) (Contact Recreation and Trout/Trout Propagation)

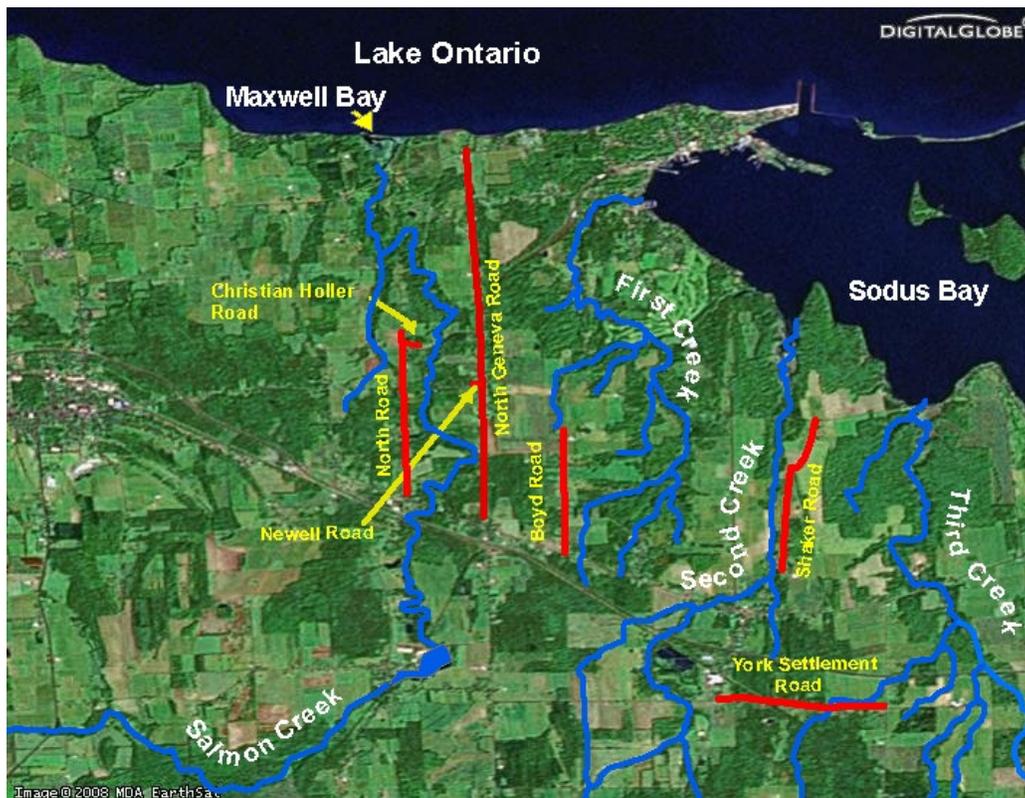
None of these water bodies serves as a drinking water source. Sodus Bay and First Creek are listed on the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYSDEC) Priority Waterbody List (PWL). Sodus Bay is listed as stressed, with nutrients noted as the primary pollutant. The primary source of these pollutants, according to the PWL, is onsite septic systems. First Creek is listed as threatened for fish propagation, with silt (sediment) listed as the primary pollutant. Salmon Creek, Second Creek and Third Creek are not listed on the PWL.

While the project area drains into several water bodies, including Salmon Creek, First Creek, Second Creek, Third Creek, Sodus Bay, Maxwell Bay, and Lake Ontario (see Figure 3), the installation of water mains and appurtenances will not affect surface water runoff, drainage flow patterns, nor the beds or banks of existing streams

or water bodies. The proposed water mains will be installed along roadways which parallel the creeks. The water mains will not cross any of the creeks listed above, although they will cross one unnamed tributary to Third Creek. In addition, the proposed water mains will be installed in any locations adjacent to Sodus Bay, Maxwell Bay, or Lake Ontario. In addition, 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.

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

Figure 3: Waterbodies and Watercourses in the Project Area



B. Population

The Town of Sodus is located in the north central part of Wayne County. The Town is rural and agricultural in nature, and existing housing is scattered through the countryside. Heavier development, including seasonal homes, is located in the Village of Sodus Point along the shore of Sodus Bay. The Village of Sodus is the other population center in the project vicinity. The hamlet area of Wallington is located at the southern terminus of the project on North Geneva Road.

Population growth from 1990 to 2000 was 4.7%, with a town-wide population of 8,949 recorded in the 2000 census.

C. Geology

Wayne County is situated within the Erie-Ontario lowlands physiographic region. The County is in the northern segment of the region that extends from Lake Ontario to the Montezuma Marsh. This area consists of elongated drumlins somewhat evenly spaced between relatively level lake plains. Glacial scouring created long valleys that later filled with water to form the Finger Lakes, which are located to the south of the project area.

Bedrock underlying Wayne County is sedimentary in origin. The major rock types are sandstone, limestone and shale, and one section of dolomite approximately 150 feet thick. The underlying rock is essentially flat and dips approximately 50 feet to the mile to the southwest, occurring as broad bands running east-west across the County.

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

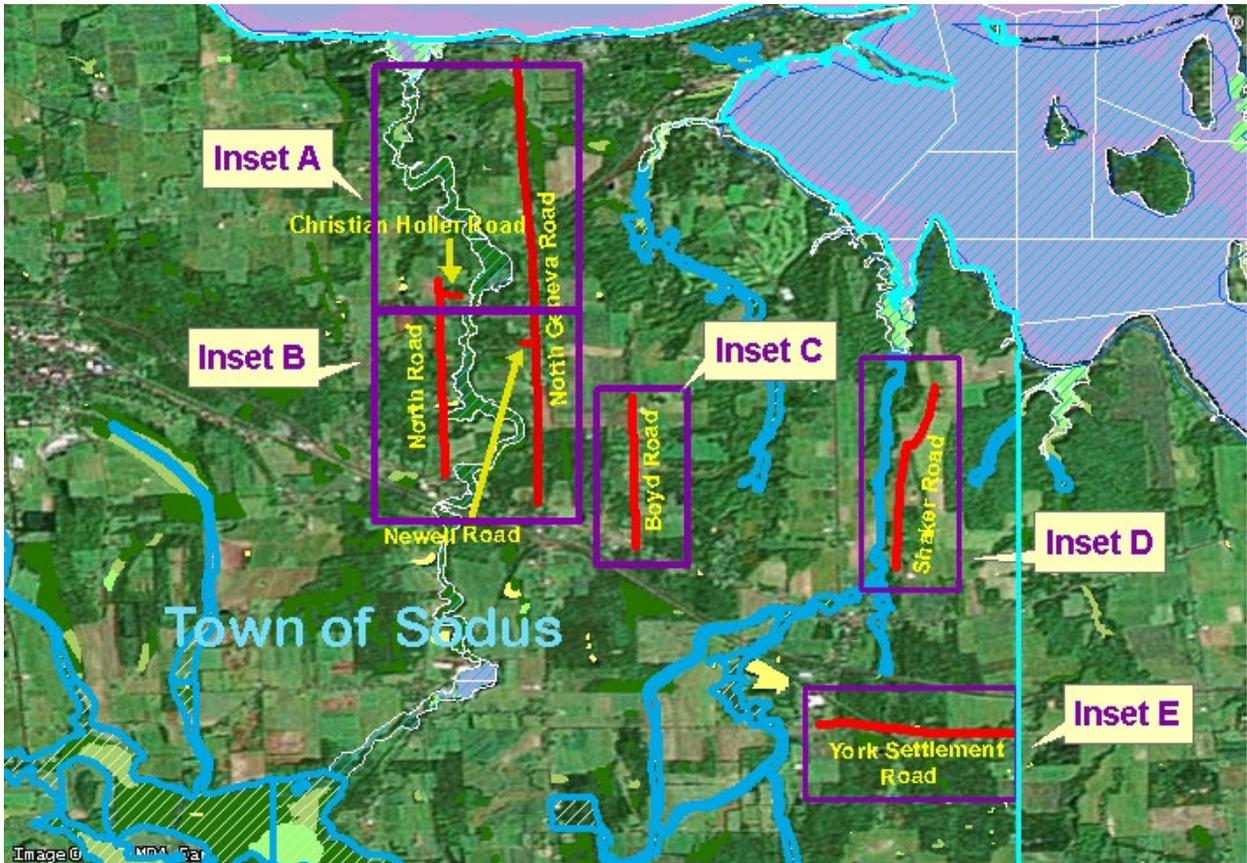
D. Wetlands/Floodplains

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 Figures 4-9).

The water main would be located within or near Federally designated wetlands along North Geneva Road and North Road. These wooded, riparian wetlands are associated with Salmon Creek and an unnamed tributary to Maxwell Bay. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and NYSDEC oversee a permit process for actions within or adjacent to wetlands. This permit process provides ample opportunity to establish construction practices that would mitigate potential adverse impacts associated with development in or adjacent to wetlands areas. Any work within wetlands will be undertaken in accordance with permit requirements. 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 and to preserve the original wetland values to the maximum extent possible.

According to the Flood Insurance Rate Map for the Town of Sodus, the project area is not located within the 100 year floodplain. The roadways in which the water main will be installed run parallel to Salmon Creek and Second Creek and their associated floodplain areas, but no construction across these flood hazard areas will occur. Consequently, no impacts to floodplain resources are anticipated.

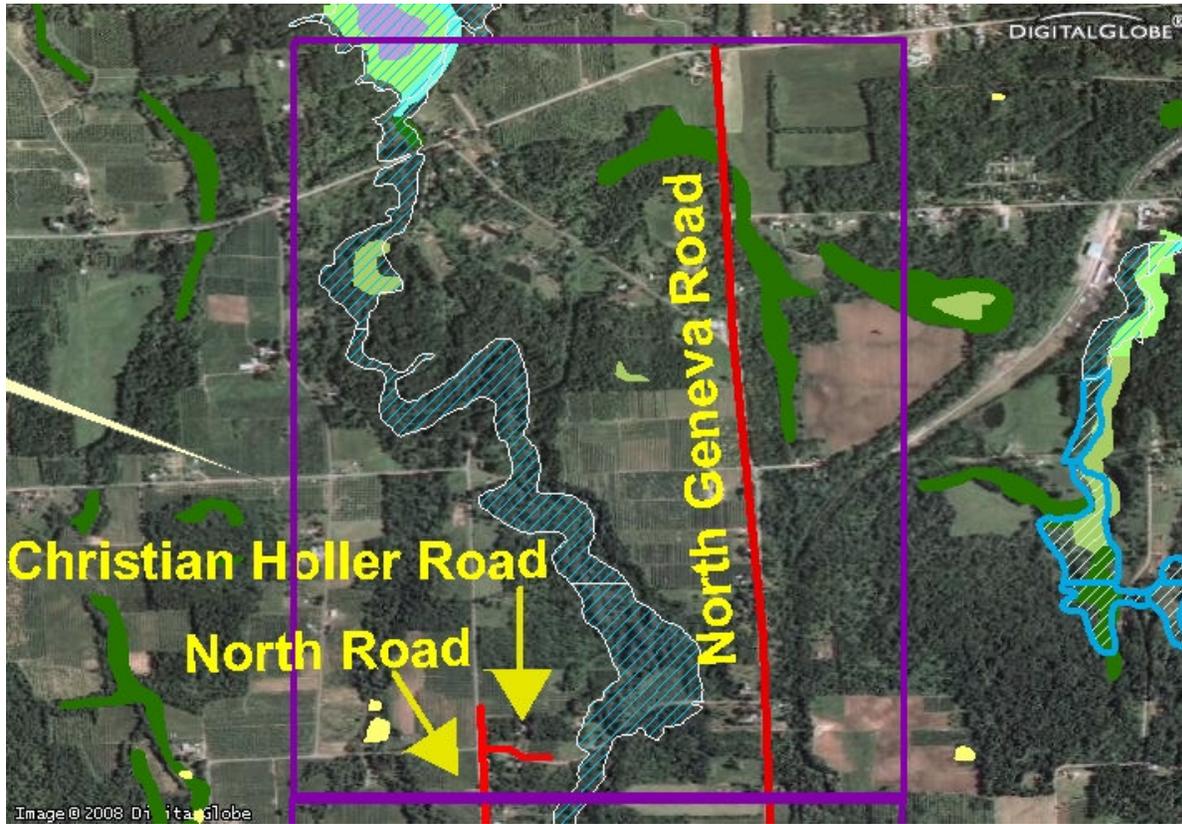
Figure 4: Floodplain & Wetlands Resources



Legend

- Proposed Water Lines
- 100 Year Floodplain, No Base Flood Determined
- 100 Year Floodplain, Base Floodplain Determined
- National Wetlands Inventory Wetlands**
- Lacustrine Littoral
- Palustrine Emergent
- Palustrine Scrub/Shrub
- Palustrine Unconsolidated Bottom
- Palustrine Forested
- Riverine Lower Perennial

Figure 5
Inset A: Christian Holler Road, North Road (far northern section)
And North Geneva Road (north section) Project Area



Legend

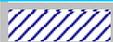
-  Proposed Water Lines
-  100 Year Floodplain No Base Flood Determined
-  100 Year Floodplain, Base Floodplain Determined
- National Wetlands Inventory Wetlands**
-  Lacustrine Littoral
-  Palustrine Emergent
-  Palustrine Scrub/Shrub
-  Palustrine Unconsolidated Bottom
-  Palustrine Forested
-  Riverine Lower Perennial

Figure 6
Inset B: Newell Road, North Road (southern section) and
North Geneva Road (southern section) Project Area

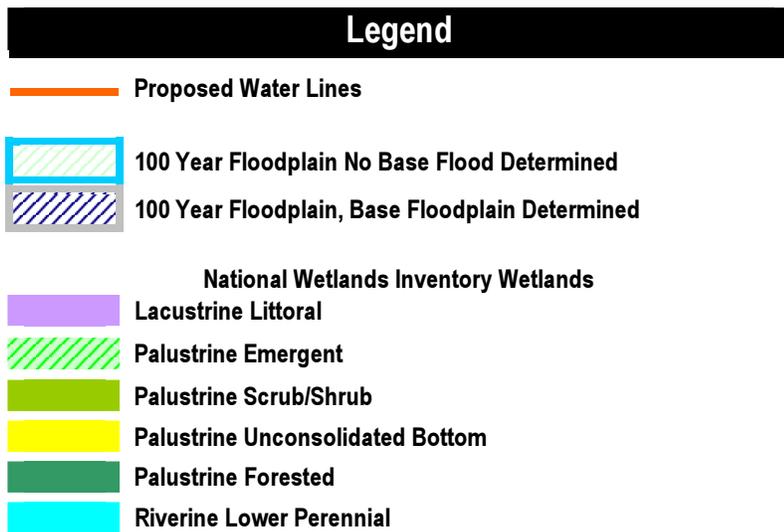
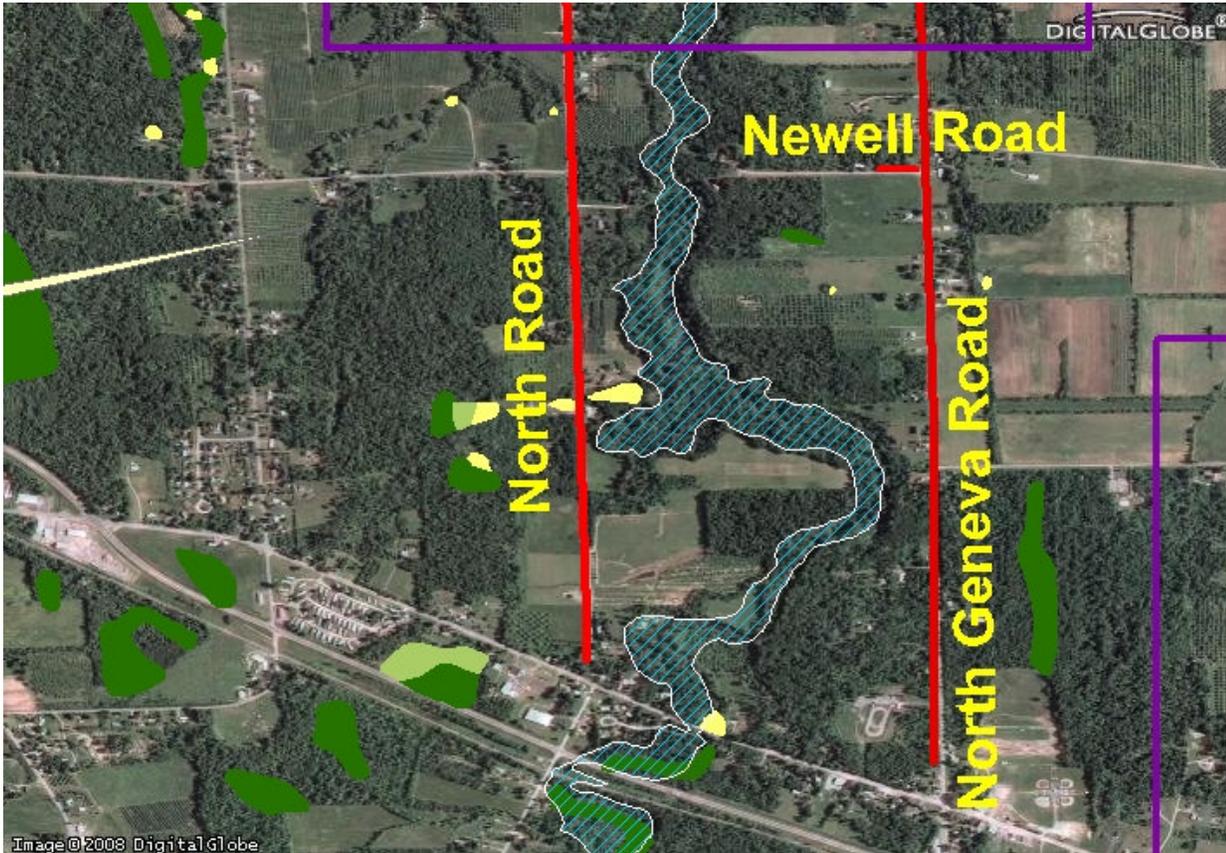
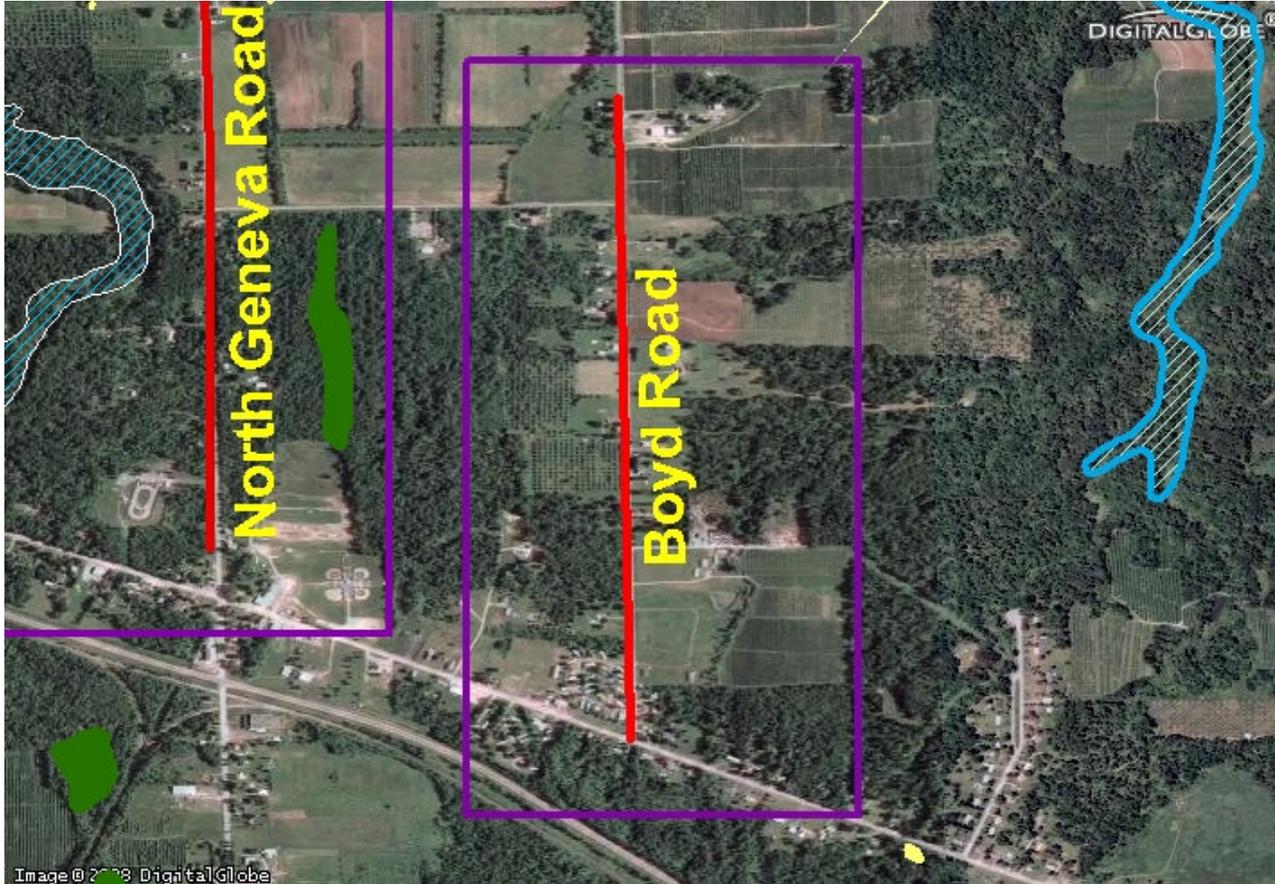


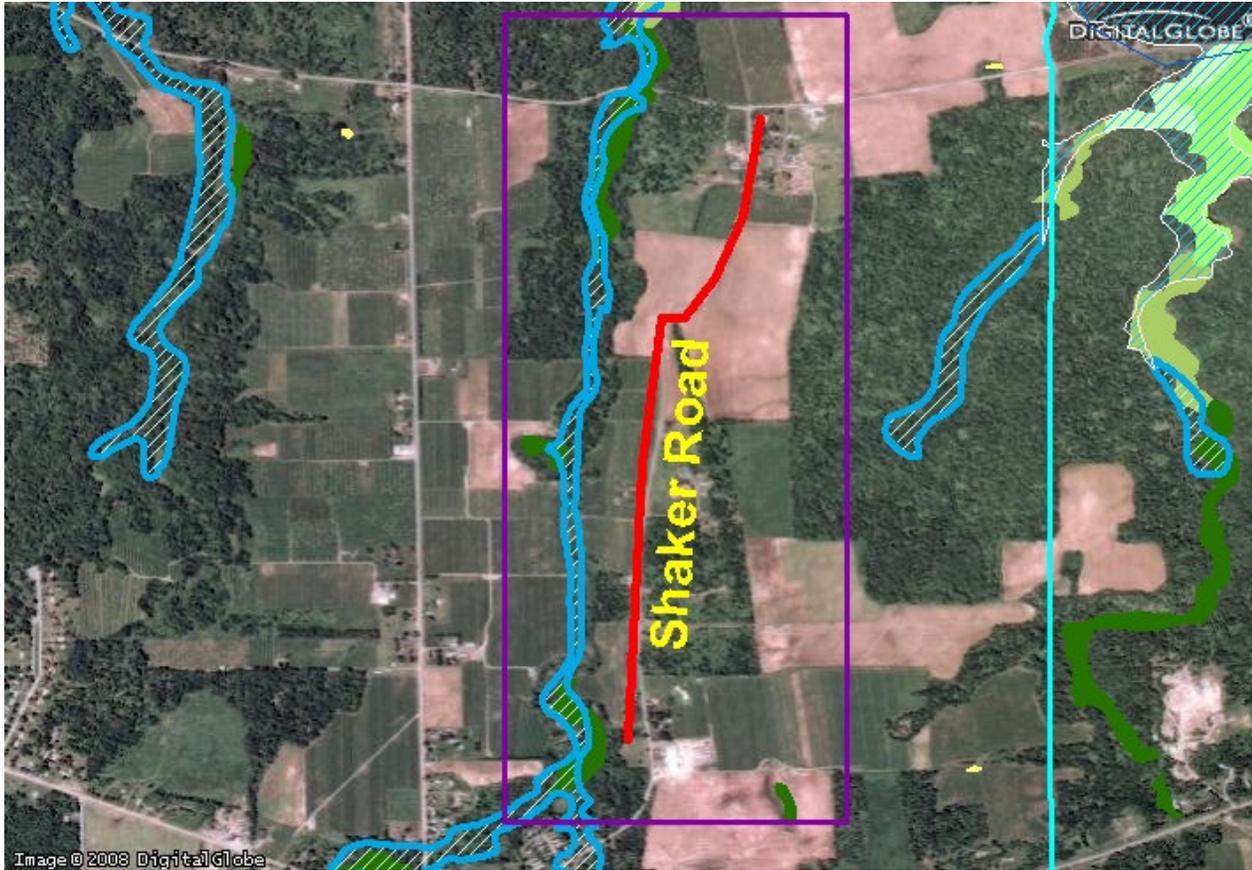
Figure 7
Inset C: Boyd Road Project Area



Legend

-  Proposed Water Lines
-  100 Year Floodplain No Base Flood Determined
-  100 Year Floodplain, Base Floodplain Determined
- National Wetlands Inventory Wetlands**
 -  Lacustrine Littoral
 -  Palustrine Emergent
 -  Palustrine Scrub/Shrub
 -  Palustrine Unconsolidated Bottom
 -  Palustrine Forested
 -  Riverine Lower Perennial

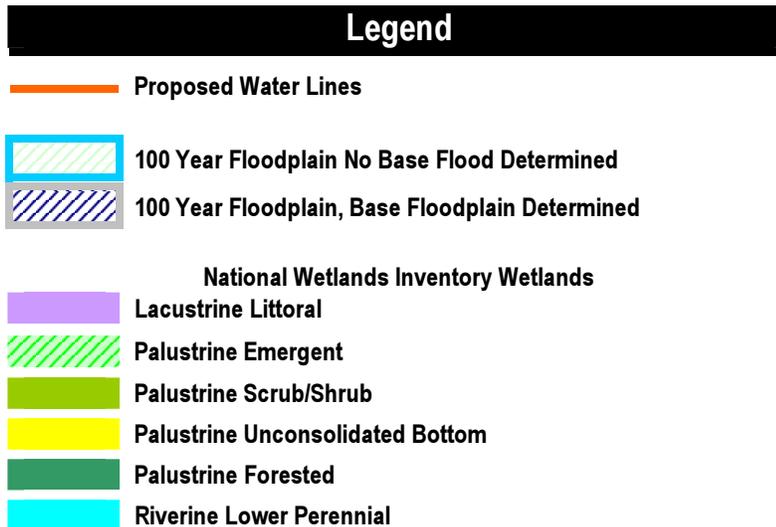
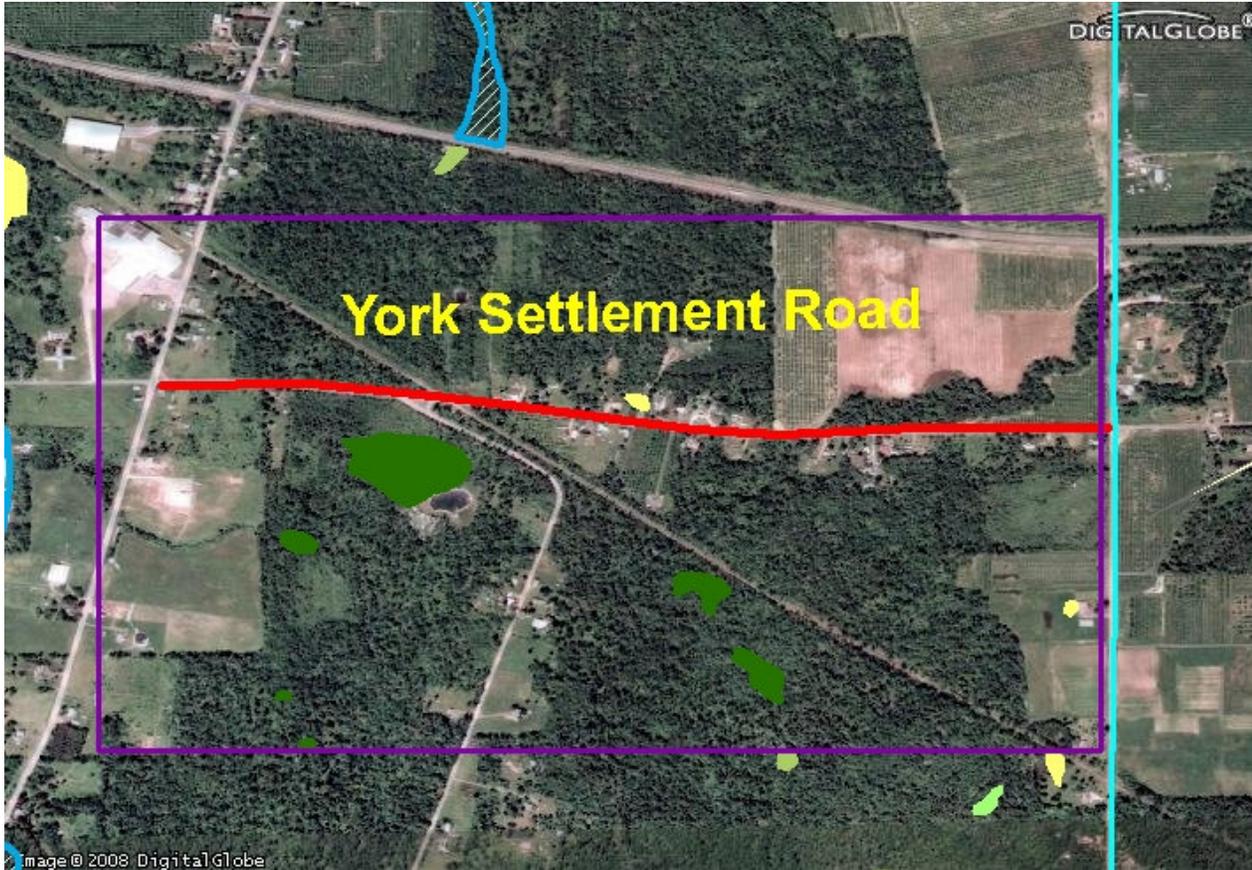
Figure 8
Inset D: Shaker Road Project Area



Legend

-  Proposed Water Lines
-  100 Year Floodplain No Base Flood Determined
-  100 Year Floodplain, Base Floodplain Determined
- National Wetlands Inventory Wetlands**
-  Lacustrine Littoral
-  Palustrine Emergent
-  Palustrine Scrub/Shrub
-  Palustrine Unconsolidated Bottom
-  Palustrine Forested
-  Riverine Lower Perennial

Figure 9
Inset E: York Settlement Road Project Area



E. 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, which is 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 of emissions from various sources moving through 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. Tables 1 and 2 below show the results of the general conformity applicability analysis. Emissions of NO_x and VOC in the Town of Sodus Water District No. 7 project's construction years of 2008 and 2009 are below the applicable de minimis 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	NO_x
OFF-ROAD CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS (tons/year)	0.025	0.173
ON-ROAD CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS (tons/year)	0.002	0.006
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS (tons/year)	0.027	0.179
GENERAL CONFORMITY THRESHOLD (tons/year)	50	100
PERCENTAGE OF THRESHOLD	0.05%	0.18%

TABLE 2

2009 CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS SUMMARY FOR GENERAL CONFORMITY		
POLLUTANT	VOC	NO_x
OFF-ROAD CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS (tons/year)	0.077	0.571
ON-ROAD CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS (tons/year)	0.006	0.020
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS (tons/year)	0.083	0.592
GENERAL CONFORMITY THRESHOLD (tons/year)	50	100
PERCENTAGE OF THRESHOLD	0.17%	0.59%

F. Soils

The predominant soil types along the proposed water main route are Ira gravelly fine sandy loam, Hilton gravelly loam, Sodus gravelly fine sandy loam and Williamson silt loam. The majority of the soil associations in the project vicinity (estimated at 65%) are indicated to be moderately well-drained.

G. Vegetation

The project area includes the rights-of-way of North, Christian Holler, North Geneva, Newell, Boyd, Shaker, and York Settlement Roads. Vegetation along these roads generally includes grasses and low, scrubby plants. These areas were disturbed during road construction and no significant vegetation is located within these road rights-of-way.

No construction activities will occur within or along Sodus Bay, Lake Ontario or its tributary streams (Salmon Creek, First Creek, Second Creek or Third Creek). Likewise the project will not disturb any areas included within the Lake Shore Marshes State Wildlife Management Area.

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 identified a historic record for the State-endangered Lindley's Aster, which was last observed in the general area in 1938. The water main will be installed within the road right-of-way which was previously disturbed during road construction and grading. Given the relative location of the construction area to the place that the plant was last observed, and the historical nature of the record, water main installation should not affect this species.

H. 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, 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, largemouth bass, white sucker, smallmouth bass and various salmonids.

Deer and small mammals, including rabbits, woodchuck, mice and voles are common in the open fields and wooded habitat throughout the region. In addition to waterfowl, songbirds and raptors such as Red-tailed hawks are often seen in the area.

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*)

According to the Bog Turtle Northern Population Plan prepared for the USFWS, bog turtles inhabit a variety of wetland types throughout their range, but generally prefer small, open-canopy, herbaceous sedge meadows and fens bordered by more thickly vegetated and wooded areas. Throughout the bog turtle's northern range, seepage or spring fed emergent wetlands associated with streams are the primary habitat. These wetlands are often at or near the headwaters of small streams or tributaries. The habitats are often elongate or strip-like transitional zones, between drier areas and more thickly vegetated, wetter, wooded swamps or marsh.

The proposed water mains will be installed within the rights of way of North, Christian Holler, North Geneva, Newell, Boyd, Shaker, and York Settlement Roads, in the Town of Sodus, Wayne County, New York. While construction will be confined for the most part to the previously disturbed rights-of-way, an evaluation of these proposed routes conducted by Stantec Consulting Services determined that there will be six wetland or stream crossings. The majority of the wetland locations observed consisted of wooded, riparian wetlands associated with defined stream channels. None of the wetland areas exhibit the open canopy, sedge meadow preferred by bog turtles.

Accordingly, it has been determined that none of the wetland habitats that will be temporarily impacted are likely to be bog turtle habitat. Therefore, construction of the proposed water mains in the areas surveyed 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 “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, or forested habitat, within the project area.

I. Noise

Although residents along portions of North, Christian Holler, North Geneva, Newell, Boyd, Shaker and York Settlement Roads may experience sporadic increases in noise levels during construction, these increases will be temporary. The 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.

J. Coastal Resources

This project is not located within a state-designated coastal zone; consequently, coastal resources will not be impacted.

K. Wild And Scenic Rivers

No designated wild or scenic rivers will be affected by this project.

L. Agricultural Lands

The area around the project site is included within Wayne County Agricultural District No.7. The project will make public water available to a total of 97 equivalent dwelling units in the Town of Sodus. Thirteen of these parcels are classified as farmland or abandoned agricultural land; existing farms are used primarily to grow fruit.

Short-term effects 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.

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 approximately 425 acres of farmland are located within both the service area of the Town of Sodus Water District No. 7 and Agricultural District No. 7. This is the maximum amount of land within these Agricultural Districts that may 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 Sodus will adopt a hookup restriction resolution if recommended to do so by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. The hookup restriction resolution will limit connections to the public water system to agricultural uses and existing non-farm uses within the Agricultural District. As 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.

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.

M. 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 Seneca Nation of Indians via United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development (RD). The Seneca Nation of Indians 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.

N. Traffic

The rights-of-way along portions of North, Christian Hollow, North Geneva, Newell, Boyd, Shaker, and York Settlement Road in the Town of Sodus will be affected by this project. North Geneva Road is a Wayne County highway (County Road 1409). 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.

O. Odors/Aesthetics

Construction phase activities may result in temporary increases in odors (e.g., diesel exhaust) 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.

P. Socioeconomic Impacts

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 \$680. This represents 1.7% of the Town of Sodus's median household income of \$39,528 (2000 Census).

Q. 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.

Application of the Environmental Load Analysis for the Town of Sodus 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 very low potential risk.

Table 3: Environmental Load Analysis

Indicators	NYS Threshold	COC Indicator	Ranking
TRI Indicator	5.67	5.31	0
Facility Density Indicator	56	66.88	1
Air Toxics Cancer Indicator	63.55	16.28	0
Air Toxics Non-cancer Indicator	11.3	3.06	0

Further, analysis of the project area indicates that minorities are 6.64% of the population (compared to 34.73%, the percentage for determining minority areas in rural areas of New York State), and that 6.42% 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.

R. Cumulative Impacts

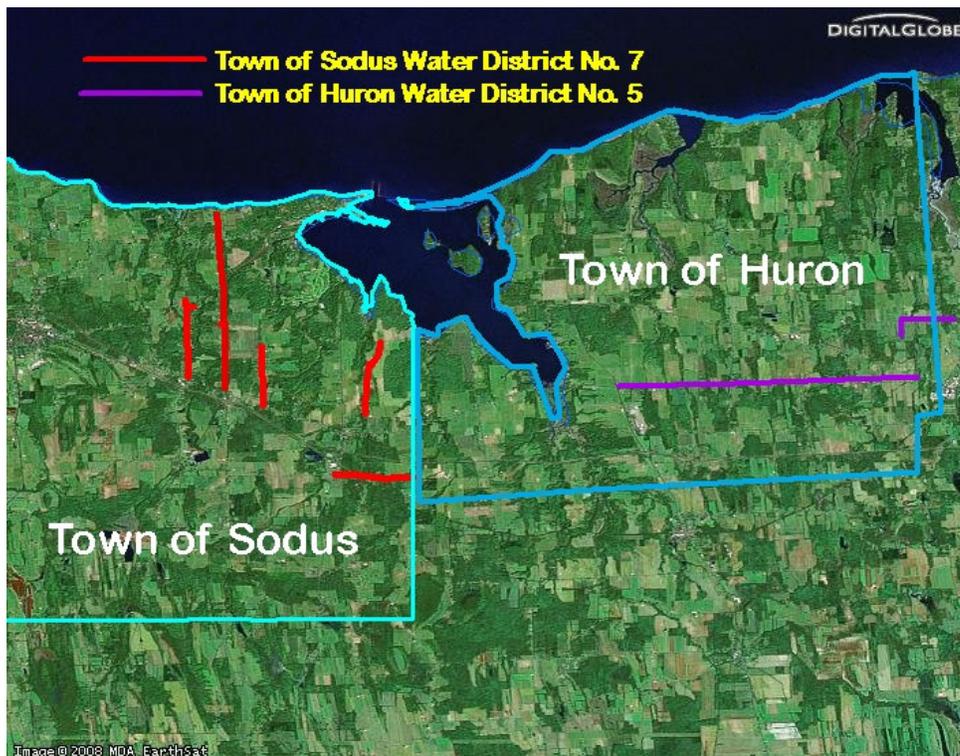
Cumulative impacts result from the combined impacts of two or more projects on a particular resource such that the environmental impacts are potentially additive. The most significant project in the planning process at this time which potentially relates to Sodus Water District No. 7 is the Town of Huron Water District No. 5 project.

Water District No. 5 is also being implemented by the WCWSA as part of its objective to expand future public water availability in eastern Wayne County as well as to immediately serve residents within the Town of Huron who rely on poor or inadequate groundwater quality. A total of 26,250 feet of water main will be installed along portions of Ridge, Clapper and Woodruff Roads with a connection to West Port Bay Road in the Town of Wolcott. These two projects do not directly connect to one another. However, together they complete two links in the water supply system necessary to serve eastern Wayne County, specifically: a north-south link along North Geneva Road which extends from Ridge Road to Lake Road (Sodus Sewer District No. 7), and an east-west link along Ridge Road across the Town of Huron and connecting with the Town of Wolcott (Huron Water District No. 5) (see Figure 10).

Local residents and businesses will no longer rely on groundwater wells which produce poor quality water or an inadequate volume of supply.

Minor adverse effects are associated with the construction phase of each project, however it is not expected that these short term disruptions will result in significant cumulative environmental impacts. The two project areas are separated by more than a mile. Some disruption of travel along Ridge Road may occur as Sodus Water District No. 7 will involve connections with the existing water main in Ridge Road at three locations, and Huron Water District No. 5 will involve installation of a water main along 19,990 linear feet of Ridge Road.

Figure 10: Public Water Supply Projects



The purpose of each project is to correct the serious public health and safety concerns confronting existing residents and not to stimulate new growth. The Towns of Sodus and Huron are rural areas with a growth rate of less than 5% between 1990-2000, according to US Census Data, which is less than the growth rate for Wayne County as a whole. Nevertheless, secondary growth may occur as a result of the access to public water.

However, any growth is expected to occur at a measured pace over a long period of time. Therefore, the project is not expected to contribute to rapid or drastic increases in population and the resultant environmental impacts due to increased development in the Town of Sodus. In summary, the extension of public water as proposed in these two projects will not result in significant cumulative adverse impacts.

R. Induced Growth

The Town of Sodus 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 Sodus (located west of the project area) and the Village of Sodus Point (located northeast of the project area) are the largest population centers in the vicinity. A small hamlet area (Wallington) is located to the north on North Geneva Road at the southern terminus of the project area. Sodus Bay, located west of the project area, is a center for recreational activity on Lake Ontario. Sodus Bay is used for boating, fishing and other water related activities and is a popular location for seasonal cottages and waterfront homes.

If needed, the Town of Sodus will use zoning regulations and site plan review procedures to minimize any potential growth inducing impacts of the project. Also, as a part of the agricultural review process, the Sodus Town Board should adopt a hookup restriction, to limit the connections to the 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.

As mentioned previously, if secondary growth does occur as result of access to public water, it is expected to occur at a measured pace over a long period of time. The rural nature and slow growth rate of the project area are expected to continue into the foreseeable future.

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
 Seneca Nation of Indians (via USDA Rural Development review process)
 U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Region 8
 NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Natural Heritage Program
 Information Services
 NYS Department of Health
 NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
 NYS Department of State, Division of Coastal Resources and Waterfront
 Development

NYS 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 Sodus

B. Significant Correspondence

- 1) Letter from New York State Department of Health, Western Region, April 5, 2007
- 2) Letter from New York State Department of Health, Geneva District Office, April 4, 2007
- 3) Letter from New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, February 8, 2008
- 4) Letter from NYSDEC Division of Fish and Wildlife Resource Center Information Services, February 6, 2008
- 5) Letter from USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, January 22, 2008
- 6) Letter from Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council, March 7, 2007
- 7) Letter from USDA Rural Development tribal consultation with the Seneca Nation Of Indians, April 12, 2007
- 8) Letter from USDA Rural Development (completion of tribal consultation), March 11, 2008

C. Reference Documents

- 1) *“SEQR Environmental Assessment Form and Attachment, Town of Sodus Water District No. 7; January, 2008*
- 2) *US Census of Population, 2000*
- 3) *“Environmental information Document, Town of Sodus Water District No. 7;” March, 2008*

