

*Appendix 2*  
*Scoping Document*

# TOWN OF COLONIE

PUBLIC OPERATIONS CENTER  
347 OLD NISKAYUNA ROAD  
LATHAM, NEW YORK 12110-2289



Robert S. Mitchell, P.E.  
DIRECTOR

ENGINEERING & PLANNING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
TELEPHONE (518) 783-2741  
FAX (518) 783-2888

To: Michael Zagata, Commissioner, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation  
William Clarke, Regional Permit Administrator, Region 4, NYSDEC  
Mary Brizzell, Town of Colonie Supervisor and Town Board Members  
Amis Zilgme, Colonie Town Attorney  
Peter Platt, Town of Colonie Planning Board and Planning Board Members  
Jean Donovan, Town of Colonie Zoning Board of Appeals  
Thomas Lyons, Town of Colonie SEAMAB  
Francia McCashion, Town of Colonie Sign Review Board  
David McMorris, Town of Colonie Pure Waters Department  
Gary Mostert, Latham Water District  
Frederick Doeing, Albany Co. Dept. of Public Works  
Richard Carlson, NYS Dept. of Transportation  
John Poorman, Capital District Transportation Committee  
Thomas Brown, South Colonie School District  
Paul Burgdorf, Town of Colonie IDA  
Willie Janeway, Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission  
Stephen Lukowski, P.E., Albany Co. Dept. of Public Health  
Mrs. Audrey Farnsworth, Mohonasen Central School District  
Dr. J. Briggs McAndrews, Niskayuna Central School District  
Frank Leak, Mayor, Village of Colonie  
Edwin D. Reilly, Jr., Supervisor, Town of Niskayuna  
Albert P. Jurczynski, Mayor, City of Schenectady  
William Alyward, Supervisor, Town of Guilderland  
James A. Constantino, Supervisor, Town of Rotterdam  
Peter Conway, P.E., Clough, Harbour & Associates

From: Mary Burke, Sr. Planner  
Town of Colonie Engineering & Planning Services Department

Date: February 15, 1996

RE: Final Scoping Document  
Lishakill / Kings Road Area DGEIS

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the Final Scoping Document for the  
Lishakill - Kings Road Area DGEIS.

If you should have any questions, please contact either Kevin DeLaughter or myself at  
783-2741.

cc: S. Wilson, Clough, Harbour & Associates

**RECEIVED**

FEB 20 1996

CLOUGH, HARBOUR  
& ASSOCIATES

**FINAL SCOPING DOCUMENT  
LISHA KILL-KINGS ROAD AREA  
DRAFT GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (DGEIS)**

**I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY:**

A description of the study area boundaries will be included along with a discussion of existing development conditions. The need for the GEIS will be discussed including a general overview of development pressure the area is experiencing. A twenty (20) year planning period will be used as a basis for the GEIS.

**II. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING AND IMPACT ANALYSIS:**

**A. Land Use and Zoning:**

Zoning and existing and future land use will be evaluated based on the Town of Colonie's Zoning Ordinance, the Town of Colonie's Land Use Management Advisory Council (LUMAC) Report, and the comprehensive plans for the towns of Niskayuna, Guilderland, Rotterdam, the Village of Colonie and the City of Schenectady. This will include a discussion of lands used for agricultural purposes and potential conflicts with existing agricultural uses. A discussion of other land uses including properties owned by State of New York, the Nature Conservancy and the Town of Colonie will be provided along with an analysis of potential land use conflicts. An overview of proposed and potential development will be evaluated as well.

**B. Geology, Topography, and Soils:**

Using information provided by the *Soil Survey of Albany County, New York* (1994), the general geology, topography and soils will be identified and discussed. Analysis of slope stability will be based on review of topographic maps, existing soil information and site visits, as required. Areas of severe limitations will be identified. In addition, areas of potential limitations will be identified and specific guidelines for future analyses will be provided.

**C. Vegetation, Wildlife, and Aquatic Ecology:**

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Wildlife Resource Center, NYSDEC Region 4 Office, New York State Natural Heritage Program, and the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission will be contacted to identify any rare, threatened or endangered animals or plants known to occur within the study area. Emphasis will be placed on areas mapped as Karner Blue Butterfly habitat. A discussion of the Albany Pine Bush Management Plan will be provided.

NYSDEC regulated wetlands will be identified by existing mapping. The location of federally regulated wetlands will be identified by using the *Soil Survey of Albany County*, aerial photographs, and field visits, where necessary. Potential impacts and mitigation measures associated with projected development will be discussed. A general discussion of vegetative types and potential wildlife that may inhabit the study area will also be included.

D. Surface and Ground Water:

This section will discuss the locations of both surface water and groundwater resources. Depth of water table and potential limitations this may create will also be discussed. State water quality classifications will be identified for the Lisha Kill and its tributaries. Impact on the Lisha Kill as a result of development will be discussed. Methods to protect surface and groundwater resources will be outlined in accordance with the Town of Colonie's Watercourse Area Management Local Law. The responsibilities of the Town of Colonie's Significant Environmental Areas Management Appeals Board (SEAMAB) will also be discussed.

E. Hydrology, Drainage, and Water Quality:

An analysis of existing drainage patterns and flood prone areas will be provided. Pre- and post-development runoff will be calculated for sub-watersheds in the study area using the USDA Soil Conservation Service Model TR-55. Areas of concern regarding existing drainage problems will be identified. The general impact of storm water runoff on the water quality of the Lisha Kill will be discussed. Alternatives will be identified which could help alleviate the impact that road salt has upon the watershed. Impacts, alternatives, and mitigation measures related to future development will be provided. The analysis will include reference to the "Kings Road Area Drainage Study" and the "Maywood Drainage Area Study".

F. Utilities:

Water and sewer services in the study area will be analyzed. Specifically, this will include 1) evaluation of existing water distribution and treatment systems for potable water and fire flows, 2) assessment of existing sewage collection and treatment facilities, 3) evaluation of impacts, alternatives, and mitigation measures associated with the twenty (20) year planning period, and 4) discussion of the applicability of shared municipal services through inter-municipal agreements. In addition, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation, NYNEX, and cable television will be contacted to evaluate their ability to supply services, based on the projected development demand.

## **G. Transportation:**

Existing traffic data generated by the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), Albany County Department of Public Works, Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC), the Town of Colonie and other agencies, as appropriate, will be obtained and reviewed. The location and amount of new development that will likely occur through the planning period will be identified, and the trip generation potential of the anticipated development will be evaluated. A base year traffic volume flow map will be prepared for the key study area roadways. They will include: Central Avenue, Albany Street, Kings Road, Consaul Road, Lisha Kill Road, Morris Road, Waterman Avenue, and Cordell Road. Improvements to the Lisha Kill/Central Avenue intersection will be discussed relative to plans for repaving Central Avenue during the summer of 1996.

Capacity analyses for the end of the planning period traffic volumes will be conducted based on the year 2015 PM peak hour traffic projections provided by CDTC. This will provide the following information:

- ▶ Maximum PM Peak Hour Traffic Volumes for major intersections.
- ▶ Roadway links that would experience impacts to the land use/traffic volume compatibility index due to the additional traffic generated by the new development.
- ▶ Type of traffic generated and locations that might be adversely impacted by additional truck traffic.
- ▶ Appropriate alternatives and mitigation measures for identified transportation impacts, including a discussion of the alternative industrial access road between Cordell Road and Albany Street.
- ▶ Planning level cost estimates for the construction of improvements.

Methods to finance improvements will be identified. Alternate measures to reduce traffic impacts and related highway improvements will also be discussed.

## **H. Air Quality:**

An air quality analysis will be conducted using the Environmental Protection Agency's "Guideline for Modeling Carbon Monoxide from Roadway Intersections," dated November 1992. Relative impacts, mitigation measures, and associated costs for improvements will also be discussed.

I. Noise

Based on existing and available information, a discussion of impacts associated with airport related noise levels will be included. A discussion of truck traffic and industrial noise will also be discussed. Appropriate mitigation measures will be identified. Information in this section will be developed using the Albany County Airport's 1994 F.A.R. Part 150 Noise Compatibility Study.

III. SOCIOECONOMIC SETTING AND IMPACT ANALYSIS:

A. Demographics:

Demographic growth rates for the planning period will be developed, based on data provided by local planning agencies including the CDTC and the Capital District Regional Planning Commission. Criteria used for projections will be identified. Population related impacts and potential mitigation measures will be addressed.

B. Economics:

Existing and future economic conditions based on projected growth through the end of the planning period will be discussed. Fiscal impacts to municipal and community services associated with future development within the study area will be addressed.

C. Historical and Archaeological Resources:

The New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation, New York State Museum will be contacted to identify the location of historic and archaeological resources within the study area. Register eligible or listed sites and/or structures will be identified. Recommendations will be provided for long-term inventory, evaluation and protection of cultural resources. Recommendations for a public participation plan will also be developed.

D. Recreation and Open Space:

Included in this section will be a discussion of existing recreational facilities serving the study area. Impacts related to development for the twenty (20) year planning period for the user demand and carrying capacity of recreation facilities will be analyzed. Recommendations regarding recreation and open space (i.e., lands set aside for public recreational use) for associated development will be provided. This will include the potential establishment of hiking and/or bicycle trails along key corridors within the study area. Particular emphasis will be focused on the Pine Bush Area. Historic or archaeologically significant and/or environmentally sensitive areas that might be appropriate for public acquisition will be identified. Estimated costs will be prepared for projected improvements.



**E. Municipal Services:**

Current municipal services in the project area will be evaluated. These include schools, police, fire, ambulance, solid waste removal, and emergency medical services. Appropriate agencies will be contacted, and projected user demands for the twenty (20) year planning period will be analyzed. Based on this analysis, projections for future needs of municipal services will be provided.

**F. Visual Resources:**

This section will include a discussion of the physical character of the study area and areas of significant scenic or aesthetic value. Impacts on these visual resources for the twenty (20) year planning period will be identified and potential mitigation measures will be developed.

**IV. ALTERNATIVES:**

A discussion of alternatives with respect to varying development densities, changes to existing zoning and, various financial mechanisms to fund necessary public improvements will be included. Various alternatives to preserve open space and historic resources will be identified. In addition, the social alternatives in relation to various development densities will be examined. The no action alternative will also be evaluated in this section.

**V. CUMULATIVE AND GROWTH-INDUCING IMPACTS:**

Potential growth impacts associated with proposed residential and commercial development within the study area will be characterized. This may include impacts to community facilities and services, the natural environment, cultural and aesthetic resources, and the local economy.

**VI. IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES:**

Those natural and human resources listed in Sections II and III above that will be consumed, converted or made unavailable for future use will be identified.

**VII. UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:**

This section will identify those environmental impacts that cannot be avoided. Although some impacts may be minimized through the implementation of various mitigation measures, proposed development within the study area may have lasting social and environmental effects that can be expected to occur.