



For Immediate Release: 08/30/21

Contact: Shane Mahar | 518-603-0791 | shane.mahar@nypa.gov

NEW YORK STATE CANAL CORPORATION ANNOUNCES THE STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR EARTHEN EMBANKMENT INTEGRITY PROGRAM EXTENDED UNTIL OCTOBER 15

Extended Public Input Period Provides Additional Opportunity to Register Comments That Will Help Establish Protocols for Future Work Along Canal System

Community Information Sessions to be Held in September

The New York State Canal Corporation today announced the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) public comment period on the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) for its Earthen Embankment Integrity Program is being extended to **October 15, 2021**.

“The Canal Corporation is committed to a public engagement process that provides meaningful ways for members of the community to contribute to the final design of the Earthen Embankment Integrity Program,” **said Canal Corporation Director Brian U. Stratton**. “To that end, the Canal Corporation is extending the comment period to ensure that the public has the opportunity to fully understand and weigh in on the program, especially with regard to plans for public relations and community outreach for maintenance projects, which will be handled on a project-by-project basis when the program is implemented.”

With public input through the SEQRA process, the Canal Corporation is developing a guidebook to establish policies and procedures for the management of approximately 125 miles of earthen embankments along the entire 524-mile Canal system. This new guidebook will set forth protocols for safety, inspection, maintenance, community outreach and related environmental concerns, including a procedural approach as to where vegetation will be removed from these engineered embankments in the future.

Members of the public wishing to register a comment may do so by emailing NYSCC-Embankments@bergmannpc.com.

In addition, community members and stakeholders may learn more about the Earthen Embankment Integrity Program by attending one of the following informational sessions:

Monday, September 20, 2021

11:00 am and 6:30 pm
Town of Perinton Community Center
1350 Turk Hill Road
Fairport, NY 14450

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

11:00 am and 6:30 pm
Town of Perinton Community Center
1350 Turk Hill Road
Fairport, NY 14450

Community members may also register to participate in virtual sessions to be hosted at 11:00 am and 6:30 pm on Thursday, September 30, 2021, by emailing: public.info@canals.ny.gov.

Senator Samra Brouk said, “I am relieved that the Canal Corporation made the decision to hold additional information sessions and extend the public comment period on its Embankment Integrity Program. Canal Corporation leadership is listening to the voices of our community and my personal requests to rethink its strategy. I look forward to hearing more details about Canal Corporation’s maintenance plans and creating a better framework for community input on specific projects.”

Assemblymember Jennifer Lunsford said, “I am grateful that the Canal Corporation is taking community feedback seriously and extending the public comment period to allow constituents like mine ample opportunity to be part of the decision-making process. The Erie Canal and Canalway Trail run through the heart of my district and its true impact on our community cannot be quantified. I look forward to continuing, open discussions with the Canal Corporation regarding its Earthen Embankment Integrity Program while we work collaboratively to preserve the character of our communities.”

Also, the Canal Corporation plans to publish overview materials on its website to compliment the DGEIS and to specifically break down the program elements related to future public relations and community outreach when projects are identified.

All comments must be received by October 15, 2021 and will be incorporated into the Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement and associated guidebook for the Canal Corporation’s Earthen Embankment Integrity Program when they are adopted at the conclusion of the SEQRA process early next year.

For further information, please visit the Canal Corporation’s [website](#).

###

About the New York State Canal Corporation

New York’s Canal system includes four historic canals: the Erie, Champlain, Oswego, and Cayuga-Seneca. Spanning 524 miles, the waterway links the Hudson River with the Great Lakes, the Finger Lakes and Lake Champlain. The canals form the backbone of

the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor and connect hundreds of unique and historic communities.

The New York State Canal Corporation is a subsidiary of the New York Power Authority.

Like Canals on Facebook at [NYS Canal Corporation](#)

Follow Canals on Twitter at [@NYSCanalCorp](#)