

**Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe  
Environment Division  
Environmental Assessment Form**

Project Name:

Project Developer:

Project Coordinator:

Address:

Phone Number:

FAX Number:

Other Contacts:

## **Introduction**

It is the tradition of the Mohawk People to look seven generations ahead in making decisions that affect the community. It is in this spirit that the Environmental Review Process has been developed. The resources available on the Saint Regis Mohawk Reservation are limited and dwindling with each year that passes. It is the intention of this process to increase awareness of available resources and ensure that all consideration of these resources is taken when initiating a project. Focus and vigilance are required to make sure the seventh generation will have all that is necessary to maintain and continue our way of life.

This community is unique and consists of cultural resources that have survived countless efforts to eliminate them and they are deserving of our protection and care. Development can proceed and remain in harmony with the cultural values passed on to us by our ancestors, but it requires forethought and effort.

The land and resources should be considered as a gift to pass down to future generations, and as such it should remain as whole, intact, and healthy as it was received so that it may sustain them. Actions today should not be at the sacrifice of our children.

The environmental review process is a step-by-step process of gathering information concerning the possible impacts to the community and the environment. This information is then used in an analysis or evaluation of the proposed development so that proper decisions, which are of benefit to all community members (including the developer), are made.

The review process allows developers and the Tribe to examine a proposed project before it is started in order to prevent or minimize potential impacts to the environment and health of the community. The process, if followed objectively and thoroughly, will reveal any problems that might be associated with a development and permit actions to be taken to eliminate or minimize potential problems.

The review process can actually result in savings of time and money for developers when the costs that may be related to change orders in construction or loss of time due to delays are considered.

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, through Tribal Emergency Pollution Authority, 89-34, “has the authority to protect the health, safety and welfare of all people within the exterior boundaries of the reservation. It also may take such further action as is necessary to protect the public health, the quality of the environment and living resources upon which the Tribe relies,” authorizes the Tribe to require Environmental Reviews.

The review process incorporates the Thanksgiving Address and considers all the things that we are thankful. It is this tradition of thanks that the review process has been conceived and dedicated. One recurring theme of the Thanksgiving Address is the statement that “Now our minds are one,” and if that theme is considered we will all benefit.

## **Instructions**

1- Fill out the form assuring that all questions are answered, even if the answer is “none” or “unknown”. Do not leave any questions blank and limit answers to one paragraph or less. If there is supporting documentation or other information supporting an answer attach the paperwork at the end of the document.

2- Ensure all questions are answered and make 3 additional copies. Turn in the original and all three copies to the environment division office. The receptionist will assign a file number and that will begin the review process. To save paper, an electronic copy on a CD is also acceptable and preferred for the first submission.

3- The review process includes an in-house review of the document through various departments within the environment division. The in-house review team will meet and at that time there will be a decision to choose one of the following five options:

**a-Declare a Categorical Exclusion (No Public Comment Period)**

If a Categorical Exclusion is decided then the project represents very little or no impact and can proceed.

**b-Approve the Environmental Assessment** and proceed to the thirty-day public comment period

The thirty-day public comment period will be published in a minimum of one local newspaper with a circulation that includes the entire reservation. The project can proceed once all comments that have been received are addressed to the satisfaction of the commentator.

**c-Request Additional Information**

A request for additional information will be made when an answer(s) are deemed incomplete or inaccurate. Once the additional information is received and accepted the document will proceed to the thirty-day public comment period. Three updated hard copy versions of the document must be submitted to environment division office to be used for the thirty-day public comment period.

**d-Require an Environmental Impact Statement**

The requirement for an Environmental Impact Statement will occur when it is determined that the project will have a significant impact(s) requiring additional study and scoping sessions throughout the community to determine if the course of action is justified.

**e-Disapprove the project.**

Disapproval of the project will occur when a project has been determined to have significant negative impact(s) to prove detrimental to the community and/or environment.

4- Once the determination is made to proceed, a Finding of No Significant Impact will be written, published and the project can proceed. The project manager is bound to abide by all provisions stated in the Environmental Assessment.

5- Changes to the document have to be reviewed and approved by this office. Changes can be subject to a Thirty-Day public comment period.

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Choose either Yes or No. For other questions describe answer in 1 paragraph or less. Write “None” or “Unknown” if question is not applicable or unknown, do not leave answer space blank. Attach supporting maps, sketches, drawings and other documentation to the end of this document.

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For Agriculture Information contact Cornell Cooperative Extension Franklin County at (518) 483-7403

For Wetlands Information contact the Water Resources Manager at 358-5937

For Historical or Cultural Preservation Information contact Darren Bonaparte, THPO at 358-2272



## II. Land

*“We give greetings and thanks to our Mother the Earth – she gives us that which makes us strong and healthy. We are grateful that she continues to perform her duties as she was instructed. The women and Mother Earth are one – givers of life. We are her color, her flesh and her roots. Now our minds are one.”*

1. Describe the site of the proposed activity in terms of general topographic features (mountainous, hilly, flat, wetland, etc.).
2. Describe the soil types (sand, clay, gravel, etc.) known to exist on the site of the proposed activity. Include any information such as boring logs.
3. Describe any measures that will be used to monitor and to control any erosion that may occur as a result of activities at the proposed site.
4. Describe the quantities (volume) of fill that may be used at the activity site. Describe the source of the fill.

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5. Describe any improvements (buildings, houses, equipment roads, fences, etc.) the proposed activity will have upon the land.
  - a. Describe the height, above grade, of any structures being planned for the proposed site.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Describe the color(s) of any structures being planned for the proposed site. Describe whether the color(s) are expected to complement, enhance or otherwise impact on the natural or established settings of the proposed site and site surroundings.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. Describe the material(s) that will be used in the construction of any structures being planned for the proposed site.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - d. Will any structures planned for the proposed site obstruct the view of any neighboring or surrounding properties?

**Choose either Yes or No. For other questions describe answer in 1 paragraph or less. Write "None" or "Unknown" if question is not applicable or unknown, do not leave answer space blank. Attach supporting maps, sketches, drawings and other documentation to the end of this document.**

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### III. Plants and Vegetation

*“We give greetings and thanks to the plant life. Within the plants is the force of substance that sustains many life forms. From the time of the creation we have seen the various forms of plant life work many wonders. We hope that we will continue to see plant life for the generations to come. Now our minds are one.”*

1. Describe the types of vegetation (trees, shrubs, grass, soil plants, water plants, other) on the proposed site. Use of common names is acceptable.
  
2. Describe if activities at the proposed site will result in the removal or alteration of the vegetation Described in item 1. Describe the extent the removal or alteration will occur.
  
3. Are there any threatened or endangered species on site?

Yes       No

If yes, list any and all known threatened or endangered plant species that may be impacted as a result of activities on the proposed site.

<u>Plant Species Name (Common and/or Latin)</u>	<u>Endangered</u>	<u>Threatened</u>
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**Choose either Yes or No. For other questions describe answer in 1 paragraph or less. Write “None” or “Unknown” if question is not applicable or unknown, do not leave answer space blank. Attach supporting maps, sketches, drawings and other documentation to the end of this document.**

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4. Briefly list and describe any proposed landscaping, including ornamentals, windbreak, exotics, etc., that will occur at the proposed site. Indicate the types of plants that will be used and their purpose.
5. Describe any measures that will be utilized to preserve or enhance the naturally occurring vegetation on the proposed site.
6. Is the proposed site a known or suspected hunting and gathering area?
- Yes       No

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#### IV. Medicine Plants

*“We greet and thank the medicine plants of the earth. They have been instructed by the Creator to cure our diseases and sicknesses. Our people will always know their native names. They come in many forms and have many duties. Through the ones who have been vested with knowledge of the medicine plants, we give thanks. Now our minds are one.”*

1. Is the proposed site known or suspected as being a medicine plant area?

Yes       No

If yes, list the medicine plants and their uses.

**\*\*\*In addition to the completion of Section IV: Medicine Plants, a letter is needed from Richard Cook Jr., SRMT Traditional Medicine, stating a finding of “No Effect” for the proposed site. Once received, attach the letter to this Environmental Assessment form. Please contact Junior Cook, SRMT Traditional Medicine:**

**Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe  
Everett Cook  
Traditional Medicine  
412 State Route 37  
Akwesasne, NY 13655  
518.358.3141**

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## V. Agricultural Information

*We have been given three main foods from the plant world – they are the corn, bean and squash – the Three Sisters. For this we give thanks and greetings in the hope that they too will continue to replenish Mother Earth with the necessities of the life cycle. Now our minds are one.*

1. Is the proposed site in an area of active agricultural usage?

Yes       No

2. Is the proposed site in an area of former active agricultural usage?

Yes       No

3. Is the proposed site going to be active in agricultural usage?

Yes       No

If yes, describe the agricultural activity.

4. If yes, Will agricultural usage include the traditional crops (corn, beans, squash, etc...) of the Haudenosaunee?

Yes       No

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## VI. Water

*“We give thanks to the spirit of waters for our strength of well being. The waters of the world have provided many things – they quench our thirst, provide food for the plant life, and are the source of strength for the medicines we need. Now our minds are one.”*

1. Will the proposed activity affect surface water resources (streams, lakes, ponds, wetlands) in the area?

Yes       No

If yes, name or describe the waters that will be affected and attach a map or sketch that depicts the water resources being affected.

2. Will there be any fill and dredge activities at the proposed site?

Yes       No

If yes, provide an estimate of fill and dredge volumes and describe the material being used as fill or being dredged.

3. Describe any and all activities that will result in the withdrawal or diversion of surface water.

**Choose either Yes or No. For other questions describe answer in 1 paragraph or less. Write “None” or “Unknown” if question is not applicable or unknown, do not leave answer space blank. Attach supporting maps, sketches, drawings and other documentation to the end of this document.**

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4. Is the proposed project in a flood plain?

Yes       No

If yes, list the water source(s).

5. Will any materials be discharged into surface waters?

Yes       No

If yes, identify the material(s) if known and their probable impact on the water.

6. Describe the final use and condition of any water that may be used on the proposed site.

7. Will there be drilling and use of wells for the proposed project?

Yes       No

8. Will the community water system be utilized for the proposed project?

Yes       No

**Choose either Yes or No. For other questions describe answer in 1 paragraph or less. Write "None" or "Unknown" if question is not applicable or unknown, do not leave answer space blank. Attach supporting maps, sketches, drawings and other documentation to the end of this document.**

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9. Will there be any discharges (septic tanks, sewage, industrial, etc.)?

Yes       No

If yes, describe the estimated amounts, and probable impacts.

10. Will the community wastewater system be utilized for the project?

Yes       No

11. Describe any sources of surface water runoff that will result from the proposed activities.

12. Describe how runoff will be disposed and/or collected. Provide any engineering or architectural designs or drawings of collection and disposal systems include flow rates, volumes, surface water names being impacted, and volumes of pits, tanks or lagoons that are a part of the flow system.

13. Describe the flow patterns (onto ground, into other waters, pits, tanks, etc.) of the runoff. Provide maps, diagrams, etc. to aid in the description.

**Choose either Yes or No. For other questions describe answer in 1 paragraph or less. Write “None” or “Unknown” if question is not applicable or unknown, do not leave answer space blank. Attach supporting maps, sketches, drawings and other documentation to the end of this document.**

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14. Describe any and all known contaminants that may be associated with the runoff.

15. Wetlands

a. Is the proposed project located in or near a wetland area?

Yes       No

b. If the wetland area affected exceeds ¼ acre (>11,000 ft<sup>2</sup> or 1,000 m<sup>2</sup>) then a wetland permit is required.

Status of permit:  Filed  Pending  Approved  Denied

**Choose either Yes or No. For other questions describe answer in 1 paragraph or less. Write “None” or “Unknown” if question is not applicable or unknown, do not leave answer space blank. Attach supporting maps, sketches, drawings and other documentation to the end of this document.**

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## VII. Animals

*“We give thanks and greetings to the animal life. They are still living in the forests and other places. They provide us with food and this gives us peace of mind knowing that they are still carrying out their instructions as given by the Creator. We therefore give greetings and thanks to our animal brothers. Now our minds are one.”*

1. List any and all animals observed on the proposed site. Common names are acceptable.
2. Are there any threatened or endangered animal species on or near the proposed site?

Yes       No

If yes, list any and all known threatened or endangered animal species that may be impacted as a result of activities on the proposed site.

<u>Animal Species Name (Common and/or Latin)</u>	<u>Endangered</u>	<u>Threatened</u>
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3. Describe the type of habitat that exists at the proposed site.
4. Describe the type of forage that exists at the proposed site.
5. Describe the presence of any calving or birthing areas for big game, including deer.

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## VIII. Trees

*“We acknowledge and give greetings to the trees of the world. They too continue to perform the instructions which they were given. The maple trees are the symbols as the had of the trees. It is the maple trees that provide us with sap for our syrup and is the first sign of the rebirth of spring. The trees provide us with shelter, shade and fruits. Long ago our people were given a way of peace and strength and this way is symbolized by the everlasting tree of peace. Now our minds are one.”*

1. Will the project require the clearing of trees?

Yes       No

If no, skip to section IX.

2. Approximately how many trees (4 in or 100mm in diameter or bigger) will be removed?

3. List all types of trees to be removed.

4. Will these trees be replaced?

Yes       No

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## IX. Birds

*“We now turn our thought toward the winged creatures. They have songs which they sing to help us appreciate our own purpose in life. We are reminded to enjoy our life cycle. Some of the winged are available to us as food and they too are carrying out their responsibilities. To us the eagle is the symbol of strength. It is said that they fly the highest and can see the creation. We show our gratitude for the fulfillment of his duties. Now our minds are one.”*

1. List the types of birds located on the project site.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Does the project site include nesting grounds for migratory birds?  
 Yes       No
  
  
3. Will the nesting sites be disturbed?  
 Yes       No
  
  
4. Is there evidence of game birds on the project site?  
 Yes       No

If yes, list the types of game birds.

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5. Are there any threatened or endangered bird species on or near the proposed site?

Yes       No

If yes, list any and all known threatened or endangered bird species that may be impacted as a result of activities on the proposed site.

<u>Bird Species Name (Common and/or Latin)</u>	<u>Endangered</u>	<u>Threatened</u>
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## **X. Air**

*“We listen and heart the voices of the four winds. We are assured that they are following the instructions of the Creator. They bring us strength. They come from the four directions. For this we give greetings and thanks. Now our minds are one.”*

1. Describe the quantity and type of emissions (dust, sulfur dioxide, smoke, steam, etc.) that will result from activities at the proposed site. Provide any emissions calculations, engineering design information, etc... at the end of this document.
  
2. Describe any odors and the nature of the odor, its source, and any possible effects on human receptors that may be associated with activities at the proposed site.
  
3. Describe the measures that will be utilized to reduce or control emissions or odors associated with activities at the proposed site. Include any engineering designs or contractor specifications related to emission or odor control, if available, at the end of this document.

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## **XII. Energy and Natural Resources**

*“Our thoughts now turn to the sky. We see the sun, the source of life. We are instructed to call him our Elders Brother. With the sun we can see the perfect gifts which we are grateful. Our Brother sun nourishes Mother Earth and is the source of light and warmth. Our Brother is the source of all fires of life. With every new sunrise is a new miracle. Now our minds are one.”*

1. Describe the types of energy resources (electric, solar, natural gas, propane, wood, coal, etc.) that will be utilized as a result of activities at the proposed site. Provide estimates of the amounts of each resource that will be required for the activities at the site.
  
2. Describe any types of alternative forms of energy (solar, bio-mass, etc.) that will be used in activities at the proposed site. Provide estimates on the amounts of conventional energy sources they will replace.
  
3. Describe any types of energy conservation methods that will be utilized on the proposed site.

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### XIII. Environmental Health

1. Are there any hazards (chemical, biological, physical, electrical, etc.) that may result from activities at the proposed site?

Yes       No

If yes, describe to whom the hazards will present danger.

2. Is there any potential for exposure, by anyone, to toxic chemicals?

Yes       No

If yes, list the chemicals by common or trade name and the quantity involved, potential effects, and the potential routes for exposure. Also indicate the populations and the proximity of those at greatest potential for exposure.

<u>Chemical Name</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Effects</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Proximity</u>
Bad stuff	1gal/day	sneezing	Raq. Pt	1 mi. east

**Choose either Yes or No. For other questions describe answer in 1 paragraph or less. Write “None” or “Unknown” if question is not applicable or unknown, do not leave answer space blank. Attach supporting maps, sketches, drawings and other documentation to the end of this document.**

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**For Medicine Plant Information contact Everett Cook, Traditional Medicine at 358-3141 ext 14**

**For Agriculture Information contact Cornell Cooperative Extension Franklin County at (518) 483-7403**

**For Wetlands Information contact the Water Resources Manager at 358-5937**

**For Historical or Cultural Preservation Information contact Darren Bonaparte, THPO at 358-2272**



3. Is there a risk for fire and/or explosion as a result of activities at the proposed site?

Yes       No

If yes, describe sources and types of combustibles or explosive materials that may be used, stored or handled at the site.

4. Will there be a risk for spillage of any materials as a result of activities at the proposed site?

Yes       No

If yes, describe the material type, volumes used, storage tank volumes and transport container volumes.

5. Is there a potential for the generation of fumes as a result of activities at the proposed site?

Yes       No

6. Describe the waste disposal practices that will be utilized at the proposed site. Provide estimates on the amounts of and types of waste that may be generated.

**Choose either Yes or No. For other questions describe answer in 1 paragraph or less. Write "None" or "Unknown" if question is not applicable or unknown, do not leave answer space blank. Attach supporting maps, sketches, drawings and other documentation to the end of this document.**

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#### **XIV. Light and glare**

*“During the night time we see the moon. We have been instructed to address her as our Grandmother. In her cycle she makes her face new in harmony with other female life. Our natural cycles of women. She determines the arrival of children, causes the tides of the oceans and she also helps us measure time. Our Grandmother continues to lead us. We are grateful and express our thanksgiving. Now our minds are one.”*

1. Describe any sources of light being planned for the proposed site.
2. Are the types of lights being planned for the proposed site expected to produce any glare?  
 Yes       No
3. Is any source of light being planned for the proposed site expected to produce any known safety hazard?  
 Yes       No
4. What times of day are planned sources of light expected to be used for the proposed site?

**Choose either Yes or No. For other questions describe answer in 1 paragraph or less. Write “None” or “Unknown” if question is not applicable or unknown, do not leave answer space blank. Attach supporting maps, sketches, drawings and other documentation to the end of this document.**

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## **XV. Transportation**

*“The Stars are the helpers of Grandmother Moon. They have spread themselves all across the sky. Our people knew their names and their messages of future happenings even to helping to mold individual character of mankind. The Stars provide us with guidance and they bring the dew to the plant life. As we view the beauty of the Stars we know that they too are following the instructions of the Creator. Now our minds are one.”*

1. Describe how activities at the proposed site will affect currently constructed public streets and highways as well as the projected number of vehicles per day activities at the proposed site are expected to produce.
2. Describe any parking areas that are being planned for the proposed site.
3. Describe any new highway or street construction being planned for the proposed site. If any engineering designs are available attach to the end of this document.
4. Will current highway and street maintenance activities be affected by activities at the proposed site?

Yes       No

If yes, how?

**Choose either Yes or No. For other questions describe answer in 1 paragraph or less. Write “None” or “Unknown” if question is not applicable or unknown, do not leave answer space blank. Attach supporting maps, sketches, drawings and other documentation to the end of this document.**

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## **XVI. Historical preservation**

*“The four powerful spirit beings who have been assigned by the Creator to guide us both by day and night are called the Sky Dwellers. Our Creator directed these helpers to assist him in dealing with us during our journey on Mother Earth. They know our every act and they guide us with the teachings that the Creator established. For the power of direction, we give greetings and thanks to the Sky Dwellers. Now our minds are one.”*

1. Are there any known or suspected historical sites that may be located on the proposed site?

Yes       No

2. Is there a presence of, known or suspected, buildings that may be considered historical landmarks?

Yes       No

3. Is the proposed site known for traditional uses, historic or current?

Yes       No

**Choose either Yes or No. For other questions describe answer in 1 paragraph or less. Write “None” or “Unknown” if question is not applicable or unknown, do not leave answer space blank. Attach supporting maps, sketches, drawings and other documentation to the end of this document.**

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## **XVII. Cultural Preservation**

*“We now turn our thoughts to the Creator himself. We choose our finest words to give thanks and greetings to him. He has prepared all things on earth for our peace of mind. Then he said, “I will now prepare a place for myself where no one will know my face, but I will be listening and keeping watch on the people moving about the earth.” And indeed, we see that all things are faithful to their duties as he has instructed them. We will therefore gather our minds into one and give thanks to the Creator. Now our minds are as one.”*

1. Does the proposed site include any known or suspected ceremonial areas?

Yes       No

2. Does the proposed site include any known or suspected burial grounds?

Yes       No

3. Does the proposed site include any known or suspected archeological resources?

Yes       No

**\*\*\*In addition to the completion of Sections XVI & XVII: Cultural & Historical Preservation, a letter is needed from the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) stating a finding of “No Effect” for the proposed site. Once received, attach the letter to this Environmental Assessment form. Please contact Arnold Printup, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribes THPO:**

**Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe  
Darren Bonaparte  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
412 State Route 37  
Akwesasne, NY 13655  
518.358.2272**

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**Choose either Yes or No. For other questions describe answer in 1 paragraph or less. Write “None” or “Unknown” if question is not applicable or unknown, do not leave answer space blank. Attach supporting maps, sketches, drawings and other documentation to the end of this document.**

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## Status of Environmental Form

Date Filed:

Reviewed by:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Comments</u>
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The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, Environment Division met on \_\_\_\_, to discuss the contents of the environmental assessment filed by \_\_\_\_\_, on the above date and has made the determination that:

1. The responses to the environmental assessment have indicated little or no environmental impacts and the Environment Division GRANTS CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION STATUS for this project.
2. The responses to environmental assessment have positively met all environmental concerns the Environment Division currently has, and RECOMMENDS APPROVAL for the project to proceed to the thirty-day public comment period.
3. The responses to the environmental assessment have not positively or conclusively met all environmental concerns the Environment Division currently has, and REQUESTS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.
4. The responses to the environmental assessment have indicated a significant impact(s) and the need for an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT to be performed for the proposed project.
5. The responses to the environmental assessment indicate a significant negative impact(s) to the environment and to the resources of the Saint Regis Mohawk Reservation and RECOMMENDS DISAPPROVAL OF THE PROJECT.

Signed:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
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