

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

**Project Title:** Raquette River Boat Launch

**Project Location/Address:** Library Rd., Akwesasne, NY

**Project Developer:** SRMT Planning & Infrastructure

**Project Coordinator:** Brent Herne

**Email Address:** brent.herne@srmt-nsn.gov

**Phone Number:** 518-358-4205

**Project Approvals:**

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Anthony David  
Environment Division Director

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Jessica Raspitha  
Land Resources Program Manager

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Angela Benedict  
Air Quality Program Manager

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Darren Bonaparte  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

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Tiernan Smith  
Water Resources Program Manager

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Craig Arquette  
Emergency Response On-scene Coordinator

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Shane Tarbell  
Transfer Station Program Manager

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Dylan Herne  
EA Coordinator

## **Introduction**

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's environmental review process allows developers and the Tribe to examine proposed projects during the planning phase in order to prevent or minimize potentially adverse impacts to the environment or health of the community. This process, when followed objectively and thoroughly, is not intended to hinder development but to ensure that decisions that are made benefit future seven generations as per Mohawk tradition.

The review process incorporates the Ohen:ton Kariwatehkwen, the Thanksgiving Address, to acknowledge and give consideration to the mutual respect and responsibility that exists between the Mohawk people and the natural world.

## **The Environmental Review Process:**

1. The Environmental Assessment form is completed and submitted to the SRMT Environment Division.
2. The EA Coordinator distributes the completed form and supporting documents to the Environmental Assessment Review Team. An EA Review Meeting is scheduled, allowing the EA Review Team a minimum of one week to evaluate the proposed project prior to the meeting.
3. The EA Coordinator will arrange a site visit with the project developer and/or project coordinator if one is needed to gain additional information prior to the EA Review Meeting.
4. During the EA Review Meeting, the EA coordinator will facilitate a discussion on the proposed project and compile any questions or comments that arise.
5. Following the review of the project, the EA Review Team will issue one of the following decisions:
  - a. **Determine that the project is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion.** If a project is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion, the Categorical Exclusion Review Form and its process will apply.
  - b. **Approve the Environmental Assessment following a 30-day public comment period.** The 30-day public comment period will commence when the public notice and relevant project documents are made publically available. Once all comments have been adequately addressed, the Environment Division will issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).
  - c. **Request Additional Information.** The EA Coordinator will contact the project developer and project coordinator to request additional information that is pertinent to the decision of the Review Team. Once sufficient information has been collected, the review team will reevaluate the project and issue a decision.
  - d. **Disapprove the Project.** A project will be disapproved if it is found to have significant detriments to the environment and/or the community, and no efforts

have been made to address the impacts. Disapproved projects may be reconsidered if significant changes are made to the proposed project.

6. Once a project has been approved, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be written and published. At this point the review is considered complete, and the project may proceed into the site preparation or construction phase so long as the development abides by any provisions included in the FONSI or the environmental review.
7. Any amendments to the scope of the project must be approved by the Environment Division. Major changes may be subject to a thirty-day public comment period.

### **Instructions**

1. For construction within the existing footprint, and no additional development, complete a Categorical Exclusion Review form to the SRMT Environment Division. This form will be reviewed by the EA Coordination and Division Director to determine if a project is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion. If it does not meet the criteria for an exemption (as listed on the Categorical Exclusion Review Form), the SRMT Environment Division will request an Environmental Assessment Form.
2. For new construction, complete the Environmental Assessment Form when the project is at 50% design completion. It is recommended that the developer contact the Environment Division to request that the EA Coordinator facilitates the completion of the form and initiates the review process.
3. During the EA Preparation Meeting the Environmental Assessment form will be completed by the EA Coordinator, project developer, project coordinator, and any other parties that have information relevant to the review. (For SRMT projects, the project developer is the point of contact for the tribal department for whom the project is being completed, and the project coordinator will be the representative from SRMT Planning & Infrastructure.)
4. Please allow 8 weeks for the completion of the internal review and a 30-day public comment period. A site visit may be requested as part of the review process.
5. The project is prohibited from proceeding beyond the planning phase of development until the project has been approved, and a Finding of No Significant Impact has been issued.

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Medicinal plant considerations, impacts to past or current cultural sites, and social impacts



## **I. Project Information Summary**

1. Location and activities of proposed project (construction, road-building, vehicles, etc.):  
Describe the location of the proposed project including maps, drawings and any engineering or architectural designs. Sketch maps are acceptable if others are not available and as long as they contain key reference points.

The project site is located at the end of Library Road and has approximately 310 feet of shoreline along the Raquette River. The site is approximately 4,500 feet upstream of the confluence with the St. Lawrence River. Refer to the attached Figures.

2. Describe the size of the current project, in terms of building size, acreage and estimated schedule of construction. Also, describe any planned future additions and/or expansions to the site if any are planned.

The project site is approximately 7 acres in total. The proposed boat launch development will utilize approximately 3 acres for construction of a two-lane concrete boat launch, parking for passenger vehicles and vehicles with trailers, and ADA compliant walkways and docks. No buildings are proposed as part of the current project.

The site has been designed with consideration for a future fish hatchery and associated parking on the southern portion of the site.

3. Estimated construction schedule and planned completion date?

Construction is anticipated to occur in the Spring/Summer 2024.

4. Why was this project proposed? (What improvements will it bring to the community?)

The main goal of the boat launch project is to offer the surrounding communities improved access to fish resources and recreation opportunities on the Raquette and St. Lawrence Rivers. Additionally, the facility will provide critical access for first responders, including Tribal Police.

## II. Land Resources

1. Will tree removal be required?

☐ No ☒ Yes. Please provide a map indicating where trees will be removed.

Generally anticipate to minimize disturbance of the existing riparian stream buffer to the boat launch area and dock access. Refer to attached Concept Plan. Approximately 15,000 SF of nearshore riparian stream buffer is anticipated to be disturbed.

2. Are trees to be planted on the site?

☐ No ☒ Yes.

- a. If yes, have the tree species and replanting sites been selected?

☒ No ☐ Yes. Please include a list of species, and a map of replanting locations.

- b. If no, are recommendations needed for tree selection and planting locations?

☒ No ☐ Yes

3. Please list 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.

Proposed plants:	Purpose:
DECIDUOUS SHADE TREES	PARKING LOT SHADING
NATIVE RIPARIAN STREAM BUFFER	GOAL TO RETAIN MAJORITY OF RIPARIAN STREAM BUFFER

**Please note that the territory of Akwesasne is within the range of the endangered Northern Long-Eared Bat. Due to the possible impacts to this species, tree removal is prohibited June 1<sup>st</sup> through July 31<sup>st</sup> each year to prevent impacts during a critical life stage of this species. This requirement pertains to all Federally funded projects.**

**Consideration will also be given to migratory birds and their nesting sites. Impacts to birds will be determined on a case by case basis.**

### III. Water Resources

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

☒ Yes      ☐ No

Please note: If off site fill is to be used, it needs to be certified as clean fill.

Generally anticipate the project design to follow existing elevations and minimize disturbance of the existing riparian stream buffer. Minor dredge/fill may be required for the boat launch and dock access.

2. Will there be permanent or temporary discharges to surface water?

☐ Yes (Permanent)      ☐ Yes (Temporary)      ☒ No

If yes, identify the type of discharge anticipated:

☐ Raw Water      ☐ Treated Process Water      ☐ Diverted Stormwater      ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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

☐

☐ Agricultural Watering or Consumption

☐

☐ Human Consumption (Commercial)

☐

☐ Human Consumption (Domestic)

☐

☐ Industrial Uses

☒

☒ None

☐

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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

☐ Yes      ☒ No

5. Will the community water system/ waterline be utilized for the proposed project?

☐ Yes      ☒ No

6. Will the community wastewater system or septic tank be used?

☐

☐ Community Wastewater System      ☐ Septic Tank (size: \_\_\_\_\_)

☒

☒ Neither      ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Describe select 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:

- ☐ None
- ☒ Silt Fencing
- ☒ Erosion Control Blanket
- ☒ Staked in Hay/Straw Bails
- ☒ Turbidity Curtain Assemblage, (In Water Work)
- ☒ Regularly Scheduled Site Inspections for Erosion Prevention Monitoring
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional requirements:**

**Any project that includes paving a previously un-paved surface will require a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).**

**Impacts to wetlands will be determined on a case-by-case basis. If more than 1/4 acre of wetlands are disturbed, a wetland permit will be required.**

**Please contact the Environment Division Water Resources Program Manager if you have any questions related to these requirements.**

#### IV. Air Quality

1. Please complete the following chart so that we can estimate emissions and the air quality impacts of the proposed project.

Type	Number or # of Deliveries	Hours Per Day (Use)	Fuel Type
Non-Road Diesel			
Non-Road Equip			
Dump Trucks			
Fork Lifts			
Tractor Trailers			
Generators			

The long-term use of the project will not involve high-emission vehicles for operations or deliveries. Temporary impacts are expected during construction only.

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. (e.g. acid washing, paving, welding, etc.)

No permanent impacts anticipated. Temporary impacts due to construction activities only.

3. For the purpose of noise pollution prevention, will there be any construction activities outside of normal business hours (Monday- Friday, 7am- 5pm)? If so, what are the anticipated hours of operation, and how long is this expected to last?

Construction is anticipated to occur only during normal business hours.

## V. Logistics

1. Are any sources of light (non-construction) being planned in areas where there were not previously lights? This includes street lights, overhead lights, light-up billboards, etc.

☒ No      ☐ Yes. What times of day are planned sources of light expected to be used for the proposed site?

☐ Dusk- dawn  
☐ 24- hours  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Describe any anticipated changes to traffic (this includes detours, increased traffic during construction, or any other changes to the traffic pattern). Please address temporary changes during construction as well as any long-term changes as a result of the development.

The project will create additional traffic on Library Road for boat launch users and temporary construction traffic.

3. Is there a demolition component to this project?

☒ No      ☐ Yes. Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Will you require a roll-off container on site?

☒ No      ☐ Yes. How many: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates needed: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Will the completed development require dumpsters and service from the SRMT Transfer Station?

☒ No      ☐ Yes. How many: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Do you have a hauler under contract?

☒ No      ☐ Yes [A copy of the hauler's permit is required]

If yes, please provide the following information:

Hauler's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Hauler's phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please note that you can self-haul directly to the SRMT Transfer Station, though larger projects that use a contracted hauler will require a hauler permit from the SRMT Compliance Office as per the SRMT Solid Waste Code.**

**The developer/ contractor will also need to be or become an established customer with the SRMT Transfer Station in order to dispose of solid waste at this facility.**

**Contact the Transfer Station at 518-358-4632 if you require roll off bins or other services.**

## VI. Environmental Health

1. How will the site be heated?

- ☒ None/ Unheated
- ☐ Fuel oil. Tank size: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Propane. Tank size: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Electric
- ☐ Natural gas. Tank size: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Kerosene. Tank size: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Wood/ wood pellets
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Is there any potential for exposure, by anyone, to toxic chemicals? (Includes the use or sale of pesticides, herbicides, industrial cleaning products, etc.)

- ☒ No      ☐ Yes. Please include SDS for materials that will be on site.

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

- ☒ No      ☐ Yes. Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

If YES: To minimize the impacts of accidental releases of petroleum, chemical and biological products during construction activities, how will these releases be managed? A plan to describe how releases will be managed is referred to as a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) plan. A SPCC plan contains the following information:

- a) List potential sources of an accidental release (spill from refueling construction equipment, vehicles, etc.)
- b) Describe how you plan to prevent accidental releases.
- c) Describe how you plan to contain an accidental release.

4. Are there any hazards (chemical, biological, physical, electrical, etc.) that may result from the changed use of this area?

- ☒ No      ☐ Yes. Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Is there a risk for fire and/or explosion as a result of the changed use of this area?

- ☒ No      ☐ Yes. Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

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

- ☒ No      ☐ Yes. Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

## VII. Historical preservation

1. Are there any known or suspected previous uses of the proposed site? (This may include houses, out-buildings/ farms, outhouses, wells, dumps/disposal sites- cars, tractors, etc., burials (pets, people, other), foundations, etc.)

☒ No      ☐ Yes. Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Is there a presence of, known or suspected, buildings that may be considered historical feature that would indicate previous use (any man-made structure)?

☒ No      ☐ Yes. Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Is the proposed site known for traditional and/or ceremonial uses, or other community activities, historic or current?

☒ No      ☐ Yes. Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

**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 the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribes THPO:**

**Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe  
Darren Bonaparte  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
71 Margaret Terrance Memorial Way  
Akwesasne, NY 13655  
darren.bonaparte@srmt-nsn.gov  
518.358.2272**

**A letter is needed from SRMT Traditional Medicines, stating a finding of “No Effect” for the proposed site. Once received, attach the letter to this Environmental Assessment form. Please contact SRMT Traditional Medicines:**

**Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe  
Everett Cook  
Traditional Medicine  
71 Margaret Terrance Memorial Way  
Akwesasne, NY 13655  
everett.cook@srmt-nsn.gov  
518.358.3141**



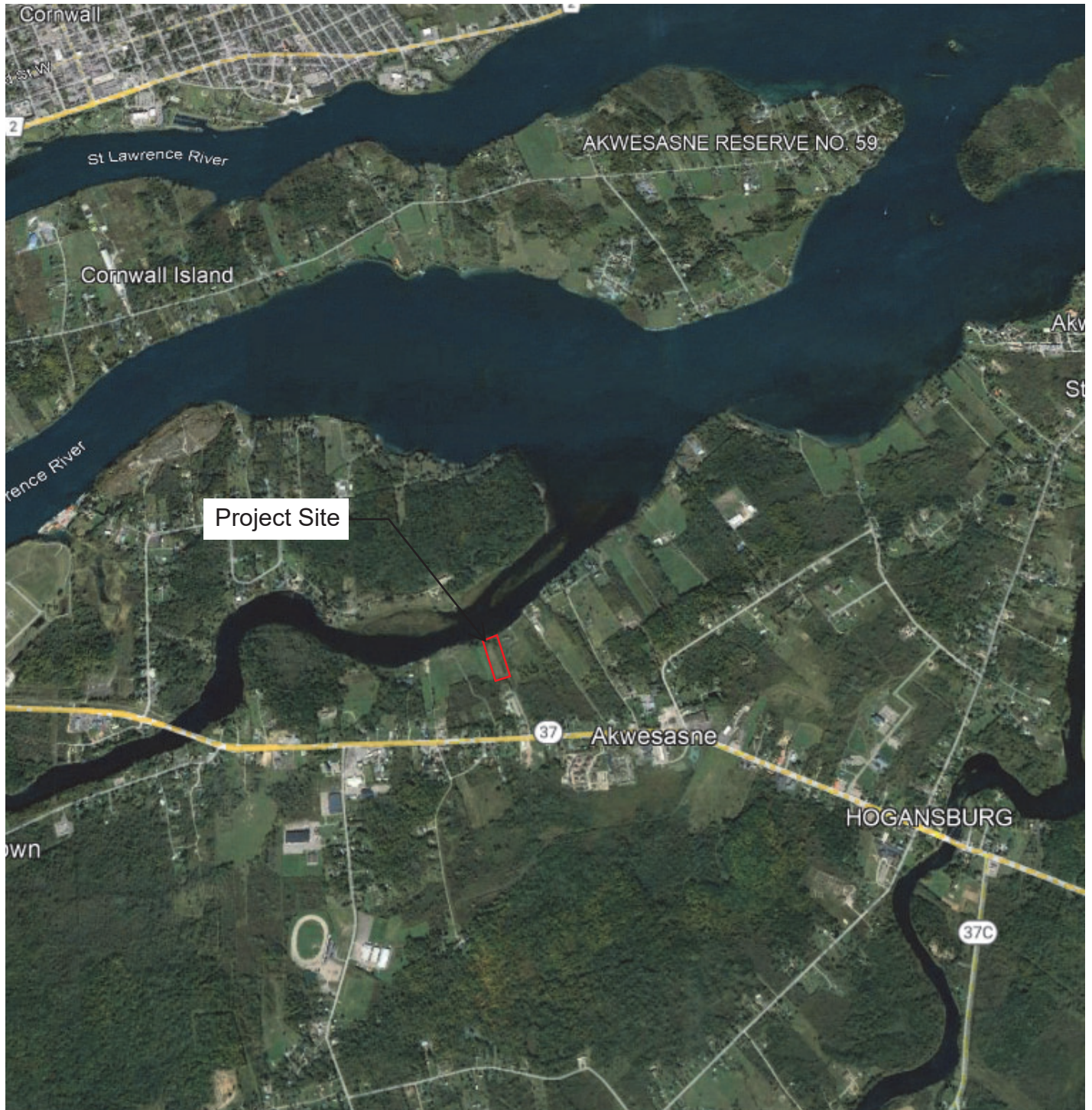
## Status of Environmental Form

Date Filed: 08/28/2023

Project Number: 2023-06

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, Environment Division met on \_\_\_\_\_ to discuss the contents of the filed environmental assessment and has determined that:

- ☐ The responses to the environmental assessment have indicated the proposed project qualifies for a CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION. Please follow up with the EA Coordinator to complete an Environmental Review form. A public-comment period will not be necessary.
- ☐ The responses to environmental assessment have addressed the concerns of the Environment Division, and the project has been APPROVED. All comments raised during the thirty-day public comment period have been adequately addressed. A Finding of No Significant Impact will be issued for this project.
- ☐ The responses to the environmental assessment have not adequately addressed the concerns of the Environment Division, and ADDITIONAL INFORMATION is being requested before a determination can be made on this project.
- ☐ The responses to the environmental assessment indicate a significant negative impact(s) to the environment and/or the health of the community. The Environment Division has DISAPPROVED the proposed project. This decision can be reevaluated if significant changes are made to the proposed project.



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CIVIL  
SITE  
LOCATION  
MAP

FIG #1

Project No: 23036

Drawn By: CEB

Designed By: CEB

Reviewed By:

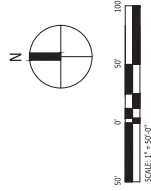
Raquette River Boat Launch

Library Road  
Akwesasne, New York

  
**beardsley**  
architects + engineers



- NOTES:
1. DRAWING IS FOR PRELIMINARY PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY AND IS BASED ON AVAILABLE AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY AND OTHER PUBLICLY AVAILABLE INFORMATION.
  2. DRAWING ILLUSTRATES GENERAL PLANNING ELEMENTS ONLY. REFER TO THE REPORT AND BUDGET ESTIMATE FOR ADDITIONAL FEATURES THAT MAY NOT BE SHOWN OR DETAIL.



## Conceptual Site Plan

**Raquette River Boat Launch**  
Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe

**SK-CI**  
JULY 6, 2023