



VILLAGE OF KIRYAS JOEL

Post Office Box 566, Monroe, NY 10949
Phone: 845.783.8300 • Fax: 845.783.9491 • TDD: 800.662.1220

Mayor

Abraham Wieder

Administrator-Clerk

Gedalye Szegedin

Trustees

Moses Goldstein

Jacob Freund

Samuel Landau

Jacob Reisman

For Immediate Release:
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Contact: Paul Larrabee
518.689.7246
518.491.7577

FINAL GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT ACCEPTED
IN ACCORDANCE WITH SEQRA PROCEDURES

On Friday, August 14, 2015 the Village of Kiryas Joel approved issuance of the Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement (FGEIS) as complete. The FGEIS is a product developed by the Village Board of Trustees consistent with its role and responsibilities as State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) Lead Agency coordinating the review of potential environmental impacts of a petition advanced by local property owners. The petitioners are seeking to annex 507 acres from the Town of Monroe to the Village of Kiryas Joel. The FGEIS also considers potential impacts from an alternative petition filed with the Village and Town to annex a smaller 164 acre parcel.

The Village's planning consultant Tim Miller Associates received, reviewed and evaluated thousands of comments, mostly written, in response to the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS). Over the nearly two months since the deadline for submitting comments (June 22), the planners worked diligently to review and address all substantive comments received on the DGEIS. A number of comments received were directed specifically to the sufficiency of the annexation petitions and the overall public interest underlying the annexation decision; and a number of other comments raised issues that were not otherwise germane to the environmental effects of the annexation or the annexation petition. Public comment on issues other than the DGEIS are not responded to in the FGEIS but will be considered by the Kiryas Joel Village Board of Trustees when reaching its ultimate decision on the underlying annexation petition.

"The Village of Kiryas Joel thanks all concerned citizens who shared their thoughts at the public hearing and in subsequent written submissions," said Ari Felberman, Government Relations Coordinator for the Village of Kiryas Joel. "As designated Lead Agency the Village and its Planning Consultant Tim Miller Associates carefully reviewed all comments to ensure that all voices were heard in their review of property owners' request to be annexed into the village of Kiryas Joel and benefit from its services. We believe those comments helped craft the thorough and sufficient document that this FGEIS is."

As has been the practice throughout the SEQRA process, copies of the FGEIS will now be filed in accordance with SEQRA Part 617.12 and distributed to the Monroe Town Board, interested agencies and individuals, the Village and Town clerks' offices, the NYSDEC, and the Monroe public library, and may be viewed online at <http://www.kj-seqra.com/507Acres/>.

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