



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

ROSE HARVEY
Commissioner

August 18, 2015

RE: SEQR Lead Agency Designation
Development and Adoption of the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail Master Plan/Generic
Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS)
Towns of Fishkill and Philipstown, Dutchess and Putnam Counties

Dear Potential Involved Agency,

This letter is to reach out to you regarding lead agency coordination for the development and adoption of the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail Master Plan/GEIS. This project has been classified as a Type I action. The NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) intends to serve as Lead Agency for this project in accordance with SEQR. Unless we hear otherwise within 30 days of the date of this correspondence we will assume you are in agreement with OPRHP serving as lead agency for this action.

Over the past year and a half, a Steering Committee, with the assistance of RBA Consulting, has developed a Preliminary Draft Master Plan which presents a conceptual stage preferred alternative alignment for the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail. Enclosed you will find Part 1 of the Full Environmental Assessment Form (FEAF) (and supporting documentation), project location and preliminary preferred alignment maps, and the Table of Contents for the Preliminary Draft Master Plan. The full Preliminary Draft Master Plan document can be found on-line here: <http://nysparks.com/inside-our-agency/master-plans.aspx>.

This action involves development of a Draft Master Plan/Draft GEIS and following that, adoption of a Final Master Plan/FGEIS. Four public meetings were held during the planning process at which public input was solicited. Stakeholder groups were involved as well and provided invaluable input. Therefore, further scoping will not be conducted. The FEAF Part 1 has been filled out based on general information about the trail corridor. Some segments of the trail are still conceptual in nature and so not all questions have responses. Please review all documentation contained within the Part 1 document pertaining to your agency for accuracy. Please feel free to provide us with any preliminary comments, additional information or concerns you feel need to be addressed within the environmental review. I have provided the attached form for your response.

Thank you and if you have any questions, please contact Nancy Stoner, Environmental Analyst, at (518) 486-2699 or nancy.stoner@parks.ny.gov.

Sincerely,

Ron Rausch
Director, Environmental Management Bureau

cc: Tom Alworth
Linda Cooper
Bill Bauman
Evan Thompson
Jesse Jaycox