



**Parks, Recreation,
and Historic Preservation**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ERIK KULLESEID
Commissioner

May 22, 2020

William Scriber
Executive Director
Port Of Oswego Authority
1 East 2nd Street
Oswego, NY 13126

Re: SEQRA
Port of Oswego Grain Handling Systems Improvement Project/East Terminal Wharf
Oswego, Oswego County
20PR02854

Dear William Scriber:

Thank you for requesting the comments of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation's Division for Historic Preservation (Division) as part of your SEQRA process. These comments are those of the Division and relate only to Historic/Cultural resources. They do not include potential environmental impacts to New York State Parkland that may be involved in or near your project. Such impacts must be considered as part of the environmental review of the project pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (New York Environmental Conservation Law Article 8) and its implementing regulations (6 NYCRR Part 617).

We note that the proposed project is adjacent to Fort Ontario, the Walton and Willett Stone Store and Derrick Boat No. 8. All three properties are listed in the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places. Of particular concern is the historic Fort complex, which is partly defined by its sweeping open vista of Lake Ontario. The viewshed for this historic site is largely unobstructed at this time.

The existing Port facilities adjacent to the site do not appear to exceed 4-5 stories in height. We understand that the undertaking includes increasing the height of two existing 46-foot tall silos to 103.5 feet; placing a 180-foot high bucket elevator between the new silos; building a new 55-foot tall dome; increasing the height of the northern section of the existing transit warehouse by 25-feet and adding an 83-foot tall bucket elevator to its north façade. As such, the proposal will introduce industrial structures that will exceed 10 and 18-stories in height into the Fort's viewshed.

Based upon the limited information provided to our office, we would determine that the build out of this development plan will have significant adverse impacts upon the historic character and setting of Fort Ontario.

In order to help your agency fulfill its requirement to take a "hard look" at potential environmental impacts, we request the following additional information so that we might provide more substantive comments:

Division for Historic Preservation

P.O. Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189 • (518) 237-8643 • parks.ny.gov

- A comprehensive visual impact analysis that identifies and assess the visual contrasts created by the proposed project, and the impacts those contrasts may have on the surrounding historic resources, landscape and public.
- Simulations of the proposed silos, bucket elevators and transit warehouse as seen from Fort Ontario.
- Elevation drawings of each façade of the proposed silos, bucket elevators, and transit warehouse.
- Site plan showing the location and species of the proposed vegetative barrier.

In reviewing the submitted Environmental Assessment Form, we note that you have identified the U.S. Department of Transportation (Maritime Administration) as an involved agency. If this agency will be reviewing, funding or permitting this undertaking they will need to initiate Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and consult with our office and other interested parties. Similarly, if any other state or federal agency may be involved in this undertaking, they will need to consult with this office under the appropriate historic preservation statute outside of your SEQR review.

Additional review requests should be provided via our Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS) at <https://cris.parks.ny.gov>. To submit, log into CRIS as a guest, choose "submit" at the very top of the menu, and then choose "submit new information for an existing project." You will need this project number and your email address.

If you have any questions regarding our comments, I can be reached my by email.

Sincerely,



Robyn Sedgwick
Historic Site Restoration Coordinator
e-mail: robyn.sedgwick@parks.ny.gov

via e-mail only

cc: A. Mavian – EDR
G. Johnson – EDR
CRIS Notification List