UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND
BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW (SEQR)

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (DEIS)

PUBLIC HEARING

UB DOWNTOWN GATEWAY BUILDING

TUESDAY, JUNE 25TH, 2013

7:00 PM
APPEARANCES:

EDR COMPANIES
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COURT REPORTER:
MEGAN E. PELKA
MR. BRAZELL: We are here to conduct a public hearing tonight in accordance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act. The action that is subject to SEQR is the construction and operation of the University of Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

A Draft Environmental Impact Statement has been prepared to evaluate the potential impact of that action and we are here tonight, the purpose of our attendance if you will, is to allow the public, which at this point there is none, to provide comments orally on the contents of Draft Environmental Impact Statement. This is not meant to be interactive and it won't be.

The State University Construction Fund is the lead agency under SEQR and they are responsible for administering the SEQR process for this specific action and I am Ben Brazell. I'm with EDR here, the consultants to the State University Construction Fund, helping them through the SEQR process. We have
roughly a dozen slides or so that will provide a brief project intro and discuss where we are in SEQR and where we will ultimately end up in the process. So, I will quickly go through some of these slides here. First, here's a project intro.

The project is proposed to be located on the project's two-acre site; the southeast corner of Main and High Streets. That's where the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences is proposed to be located. It also includes an approximately six-tenths of an acre site between Goodrich and North Streets where a proposed a parking garage may be situated.

Currently, the site for the SMBS includes the metro station, which is right there (indicating), surface parking and a local bank branch and a parking garage site currently has surface parking and is adjacent to the EGG parking structure. A little bit more specifics on the SMBS building. It's located within the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus in UB Downtown. It's proposed to include up to
610,000 gross square feet. As previously indicated, the site currently has the metro rail station and that will be incorporated into the project and it will also include medical laboratory and educational facility.

The parking garage site, as previously indicated, is approximately six-tenths of an acre in size. It currently has existing surface parking. It's adjacent to the EGG structure and the UB Research Institute on Addictions. It would include up to 480 new spaces in approximately six levels and there is also the potential to add additional levels to the EGG structure to accommodate additional parking.

Quickly, how did we get here? In 2009, the UB comprehensive physical plan was released which essentially guides future development on all three of UB's campuses. A generic environmental impact statement was produced to evaluate the potential impacts of that plan; which included the construction of up to 7 million gross square feet of new
building space and the proposed School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences was one of the actions listed in that plan.

So, comprehensively looking at SEQR so far, back in October of 2011, the GEIS for the comprehensive plan was released and a final generic environmental impact statement, an FGEIS, was issued in March of 2012 for that document.

Building upon that and specific to the action that we are here to address this evening, in August 2012, the State University Construction Fund issued their intent to serve as the lead agency for the review of that specific project. In October 2012, after no other agencies opposed the SUCF serving as the lead agency, a positive declaration was issued.

Subsequent to that, a draft public scoping document was released. There was a public scoping comment period. There was a public scoping hearing which was similarly unattended and in December 2012, the final public scoping
document was released which basically dictates the contents of the draft environmental impact statement.

So, the DEIS for this specific action was released in June 2013; specifically June 4th. The public comment period on this DEIS will go from June 4th through July 8th and we are here this evening as previously indicated for the oral portion of the public comment period.

The future steps in SEQR. The public comment period, as previously indicated, ends in July. At that point, the final environmental impact statement for this specific action will be prepared; anticipated that that will be concluded in early August and then ultimately, the SEQR process for this action will conclude with the issuance of a finding statement by the State University Construction Fund, the lead agency in approximately mid-August.

We have just a few more slides. My colleague Pat Heaton is going to take us through those.
MR. HEATON: Thanks, Ben. I'll keep this brief. My name is Patrick Heaton. I'm a project manager at EDR. I was the project manager for the preparation of the DEIS for the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. Showing a slide here that lists the topics that are addressed in the DEIS. This is consistent with both the table of contents in the DEIS and the final scoping document for the project.

Showing here places where the DEIS is available for review, including the website maintained by the State University Construction Fund. There's a physical copy of the DEIS located both at Abbott Hall, University of Buffalo South Campus and at the central branch of the Buffalo Library in Downtown Buffalo. Have some information here summarized from the SEQR handbook published by the Department of Environmental Conservation that guides the public on how to effectively comment on a DEIS. I won't read it, but it just gives some
indications on how to effectively make
comments that can be useful towards resolving
potential concerns with environmental impact
in the SEQR process. The second slide talks
about how to best recommend mitigation
measures.

Finally, I'd just like to note that the
public hearing tonight was scheduled to begin
at 6:30. We waited until 7 o'clock to see if
any late members of the public came and wanted
to comment. For the record, it's worth
repeating that no one who wanted to comment on
the DEIS is present.

So, with that, I will say that the comment
period for the DEIS remains open until July
8th. Written comments can be provided to the
State University Construction Fund either via
mail or by email. Mailing and email addresses
are shown on the screen in front of the room
and with that, we will conclude the public
hearing for the SEQR review for the School of
Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. Thank you.

(The hearing concluded at 7:08 p.m.)
STATE OF NEW YORK)

) ss.

COUNTY OF ERIE )

I, Megan E. Pelka, Notary Public, in and for the County of Erie, State of New York, do hereby certify:

That the witness whose testimony appears hereinbefore was, before the commencement of their testimony, duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth; that said testimony was taken pursuant to notice at the time and place as herein set forth; that said testimony was taken down by me and thereafter transcribed into typewriting, and I hereby certify the foregoing testimony is a full, true and correct transcription of my shorthand notes so taken.

I further certify that I am neither counsel for nor related to any party to said action, nor in anyway interested in the outcome thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my seal this _____ day of ______________, 2013.

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Megan E. Pelka
Notary Public - State of New York
No. 01PE6112244
Qualified in Erie County
My commission expires 6/28/16