

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Environmental Permits, Region 8
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**CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

January 10, 2024

Mayor Laurie DeNardo
Village of Watkins Glen
303 N. Franklin Street
Watkins Glen, NY 14891

Supervisor Dominick Smith
Town of Dix
2266 County Road 17
Watkins Glen, NY 14891

RE: Notice of Complete Application, Acceptance of Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Public Legislative Hearing

It's Greener Now Inc – Padua Gravel Pit
DEC ID# 8-4424-00006/00001; ML# 80244
Article 23 - Mined Land Reclamation
Watkins Glen (V), Dix (T), Schuyler County

Dear Mayor DeNardo and Supervisor Smith:

The Department has completed its initial review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) submitted by It's Greener Now, Inc. proposing a 60.95-acre expansion of their existing Padua Gravel Pit. This is a Type 1 action pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) regulations and a major project pursuant to the New York Uniform Procedures Act (UPA) regulations. Please refer to the enclosed notice for a detailed project description.

Based on Staff review, we have made the determination that the application is complete and the DEIS is adequate for public review and comment Pursuant to 6 NYCRR 621.8 (Uniform Procedures), two (2) legislative public comment hearings for the receipt of unsworn public comments on the Mined Land Reclamation permit application and DEIS will be held. The first hearing will be held virtually on February 12, 2024 at 6:00 PM through the WebEx electronic platform. A second hearing will be held on February 13, 2024 at 2:00 PM at Seneca Lake Events Center at Clute Park, 586 East 4th Street, Watkins Glen, NY 14891. In the event of inclement weather, the in-person hearing will be held on February 15, 2024 at 1:00 PM at the Seneca Lake Events Center. In addition, written public comments will be accepted by the Department on the DEIS and permit application documents until February 28, 2024. I have enclosed a copy of the combined notice, the DEIS, and the mining application for your review. Additionally, a copy will be made available for public review at the Watkins Glen Public Library during normal business hours. The Department will also place a copy of the referenced documents at the NYSDEC Region 8 Office in Avon, and they will be posted on-line at <https://jmt.com/padua-ridge-deis/>.

The mining application is also being reviewed pursuant to the Mined Land Reclamation Law (MLRL). The MLRL affords the Town and the Village the opportunity to make a determination and notify the Department and applicant in regard to:

- Appropriate setbacks from property boundaries or public thoroughfare rights-of-way;



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- Fabricated or natural barriers designed to restrict access if needed, and the type, length, height and location of the barriers;
- Dust control;
- Hours of operation; and
- Whether mining is prohibited at this location.

The Department will evaluate all comments and recommendations and will review the supporting documentation provided that justifies the particular determination on an individual basis. The comment period on the DEIS and application will close on February 28, 2024.

Please contact me at 585-226-5382 or email at frances.knickmeyer@dec.ny.gov if you have any question relating to the status of this application or the information discussed in this letter.

Thank you for your time and assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Frances Knickmeyer
Environmental Analyst

Enc.

Cc (w/o enclosures):

Martin Wojcik, It's Greener Now, Inc.
Robert LaFleur, JMT of New York, Inc.
Dan Sek, NYSDEC - Mined Land Reclamation
Dusty Tinsley, NYSDEC - Office of General Counsel
Tom Haley, NYSDEC – Regional Permit Administrator
File