

This Chapter discusses the potential impacts that the proposed action and the alternatives may have on air quality.

A. ALTERNATIVE 1: PROPOSED ACTION

Under this alternative the Nation's property would be placed into trust and the property would continue to be used as it is now with gaming operations reopened at the LakeSide Entertainment locations.

As noted in Section 4.12, "Traffic and Transportation," there would be no notable change in traffic patterns and therefore no changes to mobile source area or onsite air quality, nor are any development or transportation projects in the area expected to significantly change traffic patterns or levels of any pollutant of concern. Screening criteria described in NYSDOT's Environmental Procedures Manual (EPM) were employed at the Nation's LakeSide Enterprise properties in the Town of Seneca Falls and the Village of Union Springs to determine whether a detailed air quality analysis at the intersections in the study area is required due to increased traffic volumes resulting from the Proposed Action.

The area roadway intersections were reviewed based on the EPM criteria for determining locations that may warrant a CO microscale air quality analysis. It should be noted that monitoring air quality conditions resulting from traffic under similar conditions as those on the date of the environmental baseline (e.g., the date of the fee-to-trust application) was not possible due to the suspension of gaming operations following that date. Resuming gaming operations would be expected to resume previous traffic conditions, similar to those when gaming was operational. The screening analysis examined the air quality under build levels of service ("Build LOS"), as discussed in Section 4.12, "Traffic and Transportation Effects." The Build LOS assumes full operation of the gaming facilities that were in operation at the time of the Nation's fee-to-trust application, and for the purpose of this analysis, this condition approximates existing environmental baseline conditions. The screening analysis determined that none of the fourteen project-affected intersections in either the Town of Seneca Falls or the Village of Union Springs have a LOS that would indicate the need for detailed microscale air quality analyses, and that no affected intersection results in significant adverse air quality impacts to the immediate area.

The air quality conditions under this alternative would be the same as those during the pre-October 2005 period when the LakeSide Entertainment gaming facilities were in full operation, at which time no air quality impacts existed as a result of those operating conditions. Therefore, there would be no significant air quality impacts as a result of the Proposed Action.

B. ALTERNATIVE 2: NO ACTION

Under this alternative, the Nation's properties would not be placed into trust, and the Nation would continue to own the properties in fee. The Nation would continue use of its properties for

the multiple purposes in operation at the time of the fee-to-trust application (e.g., gas stations and convenience stores, and a car wash). Under this alternative, the Nation may elect to return the subject properties to the environmental baseline conditions by reopening its temporarily closed gaming facilities, in which case, no changes from the environmental baseline would occur. There would be no changes to onsite air quality nor are any development or transportation projects in the area expected to significantly change traffic patterns or levels of any pollutant of concern. Therefore, there would be no significant air quality impacts as a result of the No Action Alternative.

C. ALTERNATIVE 3: ENTERPRISE PROPERTIES INTO TRUST

Under Alternative 3, which would place the Nation's property in Seneca Falls and Union Springs into trust, no changes are proposed to existing land resources as described in Section 3.3, "Air Quality." Under this alternative, the subject properties would continue to be used as it is now with gaming operations reopened at the LakeSide Entertainment locations. There would be no changes to onsite air quality nor are any development or transportation projects in the area expected to significantly change traffic patterns or levels of any pollutant of concern. As with Alternative 1, above, any increased traffic volumes associated with this alternative would not warrant detailed microscale analysis, indicating no appreciable increase in pollutants of concern. In addition, the air quality conditions under this alternative would be the same as those during the baseline environmental condition period when the LakeSide Entertainment gaming facilities were in full operation, at which time no air quality impacts existed as a result of those operating conditions. Therefore, there would be no significant air quality impacts as a result of the Enterprise Properties into Trust Alternative.

D. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

No cumulative impacts on air quality are anticipated for the proposed action under any of the analyzed alternatives. No other currently active proposals are similar to the proposal in either county. Tribal fee-to-trust applications in other New York counties are also not anticipated to produce statewide cumulative impacts, since air quality impacts from other proposals, if any, would be localized. With no impacts on air quality resulting from the proposal, and no other proposals impacting the same resources, no cumulative impacts are anticipated.