

PROCEDURES FOR ESTABLISHING A CEA

1. Identify, describe, and justify the CEA (Conservation Advisory Council will do)
 - i. Compile information on elements of concern
 - ii. Delineate the CEA boundaries
 - iii. Prepare the written justification
 - iv. Hold a public information meeting (optional)
 - v. Submit the justification and map to the Town Board
2. Publish a public notice that describes the purpose, the proposed boundaries, and the special environmental characteristics that justify the designation (Town Board)
3. Conduct a SEQR review (as an Unlisted action) (Town Board)
4. Hold a public hearing (Town Board)
5. Adopt the CEA (Town Board)
6. File a notice that the area has been designated as a CEA with the NYSDEC commissioner, NYSDEC regional office, and “any other agency regularly involved in undertaking, funding or approving actions in the municipality in which the area has been designated.” (Notice must include map, written justification, and proof of public hearing.)

REGULATORY CONSEQUENCES

The designation does not extend or restrict the permitting authority of any agency, but it merely draws greater attention to the importance of the area and the particular features of concern that should be taken into account when locating and designing new projects, conducting environmental reviews, and making regulatory decisions. It thus helps to ensure that the features of concern are duly considered in land use planning, reviews, and decisions.

Once the CEA has been formally established, decisions about the significance of environmental impacts within the CEA must be accompanied by written justification that addresses the particular features of concern for which the CEA was designated (617.7[c][1][iii] and 617.14 [g][4]).

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