

## CHAPTER 9

### ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

#### 9.1 BACKGROUND

SEPA stands for “State Environmental Policy Act” and was adopted in 1971 to ensure that environmental factors are considered during project-related decision making by state and local agencies. SEPA is designed to provide a comprehensive review of a given proposal, requiring the identification and evaluation of probable impacts to all elements of the built and natural environment. The SEPA process begins when the first permit application for a proposal is submitted to a state or local agency. Most steps in the SEPA process are handled by the agencies that will issue permits or other approvals for the project. A SEPA Checklist is the most common document used to summarize the project impacts; however, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is sometimes needed. The checklist is comprised of questions and answers about the project and both the built environment (land use, transportation, utilities and services, etc.) and the natural environment (water, air, plants, animals, etc.). Upon conclusion of agency reviews and public input, the lead agency issues a statement stipulating the degree of environmental impact anticipated and mitigation measures required. The most common statement is a Determination of Non-Significance (DNS). The “lead agency”, the Clinton Water District, is responsible for administering the SEPA process related to implementation of sewer facilities at Clinton.

#### 9.2 SEPA CHECKLIST

Based on communication with DOE (David Nunnalee, December 18, 2002), a SEPA Checklist is not required in conjunction with this Comprehensive Sewer Plan. It is anticipated that the SEPA Checklist would be completed at the time a Capital Facilities Plan is prepared. The Clinton Water District, as the lead agency, is responsible for completing the environmental review, distributing it to other permitting agencies and stakeholders, conducting the public process and issuing the final determination.