

## 3. Affected Environment

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### 3.1 Introduction

This section presents a description of the existing environmental conditions of the areas that may be affected by the Proposed Action and the other alternatives under consideration in this EIS (NEPA regulations 40 C.F.R. 1502.15 and the BIA NEPA Handbook Part 6). The section is subdivided to address the principal resource components of concern including Land Resources, Water Resources, Air, Living Resources, Cultural Resources, Socioeconomic Conditions, Resource Use Patterns, and Other Values. Data and analyses are portrayed and discussed at levels necessary to understand the effects of the alternatives and commensurate with the relative importance of specific potential impacts. Generally, in this section the respective resources are described for the Nation's proposed trust lands in relation to a broader surrounding region and as appropriate, a definition of a Study Area pertinent to the particular resource component is provided. In a number of instances, detailed supporting information is referenced to appendices that accompany this EIS.

### 3.2 Land Resources

#### 3.2.1 Topography

##### 3.2.1.1 Introduction

Topography describes the surface features of a region including elevation, slope, and orientation of the landforms. A region's topography influences surface water drainage, weather patterns, and the visibility of man-made features, as well as provides a visual backdrop to the area. The Study Area for this discussion is the southwestern portion of Oneida County and the northern portion of Madison County. This section provides a discussion of the general topography including land formations and variations in elevation throughout the Study Area, as well as the topography of Nation lands proposed for trust transfer.

##### 3.2.1.2 Topography of the Study Area

Oneida and Madison Counties are located within the southeastern portion of the Oneida Lake Watershed, in the central part of New York State. Oneida and Madison Counties exhibit large variations in topography because the Oneida Lake Watershed is located within a transition zone between following three physiographic provinces: the Mohawk Section of the Appalachian Highlands, the Southern New York Section of the Appalachian Highlands, and the Erie/Ontario Lake Plains (Fenneman and Johnson, 1946); these three physiographic provinces are discussed in more detail in Section 3.5.1.2 Physiography. The

Mohawk Section of the Adirondack Highlands, which includes the Tug Hill Uplands, is located to the north and east of Oneida Lake. This area is characterized by high elevations ranging from approximately 1,000 to 3,000 feet above mean sea level (amsl) and rugged terrain with deep gorges, steep escarpments, and rolling hills. The Southern New York Section of the Adirondack Highlands is located to the south of Oneida Lake and is also distinguished by relatively high elevations ranging from approximately 700 to 2,000 feet amsl and features high hills, rolling slopes, and various glacial features. The steep, north-facing escarpment of the Onondaga Limestone marks the northern margin of the Southern New York Section of the Appalachian Highlands Plateau that divides the counties into two very different topographic areas, with the low-lying Oneida Lake Plain situated to the north of the escarpment. The Oneida Lake Plain is part of a separate physiographic province identified as the Eastern Lake Section of the Central Lowland Interior Plains, also referred to as the Erie/Ontario Lake Plains. Portions of Madison and Oneida Counties that are located within the Oneida Lake Plain feature low elevations (less than 800 feet amsl) with no major geological landforms, flat or gentle slopes and various glacial lake deposits that were produced during the last glaciation.

All drainage in the Study Area flows towards Oneida Lake, the low lying point in this region. The watersheds and sub-watersheds in the Study Area are discussed in detail in Section 3.3 Water Resources.

### 3.2.1.3 Topography of Nation Lands

A three-dimension depiction of the topography of Nation lands is shown on Figure 3.2-1. As identified in this figure, the highest elevations in the Study Area are located along Oneida Creek, where the elevation is approximately 1,600 feet amsl. In the vicinity of Nation lands the lowest elevations (approximately 400 feet amsl) are generally located near Oneida Lake, along the border of Oneida and Madison Counties near the Hamlet of Knoxboro. Most Nation lands contain flat or gently rolling terrain at the lower elevations of the Oneida Lake Plain surrounding Oneida Lake. The steepest slopes in the area of Nation lands are located west of New York State (NYS) Route 46, near Five Chimneys Corner and the U.S. Air Force (USAF) Stockbridge Test Site. These steep slopes, generally in the 20 to 40 percent range with higher slopes in limited locations, occur along the northern margin of the Southern New York Section of the Appalachian Highlands located on both sides of a large northwest-southeast trending ridge parallel to Oneida Creek. The average slope on Nation lands is approximately three percent (United States Geological Survey, 2006).

The topography of Nation lands is depicted on Figures 3.2 through 3.2-11. As identified in these figures, the topography of Nation lands varies slightly among the Groupings. The highest elevation of Group 1 lands, which is approximately 675 feet amsl, is located at the eastern end of the Village of Vernon while the lowest elevation, which is approximately 475 feet amsl, is located just north of Interchange 33 off of the New York State Thruway

(I-90). On Group 2 lands the elevation ranges from 370 to 1,382 feet amsl while the elevation ranges from approximately 370 to 1,600 feet amsl on Group 3 lands. This wide range of elevations occurs because some Group 2 and Group 3 lands are located in the low-lying Oneida Lake Plain and some are located in the northern margin of the Southern New York Section of the Appalachian Highlands (United States Geological Survey, 2006). While the range of elevations is quite large for Group 2 and 3 lands, the average slope of these lands of approximately three to six percent, respectively is generally low. The average slope of Group 1 lands is two percent.

### **3.2.2 Soils**

#### **3.2.2.1 Introduction**

This section provides a description of the soils found within the Study Area, which is defined as the southwestern portion of Oneida County and the northern portion of Madison County. Differences in soil types are important with respect to potential development possibilities or agricultural uses. The suitability of soil for agricultural purposes is discussed in Section 3.5.5 Agriculture.

A General Soil Map, which was created in 1979 by the USDA Soil Conservation Service and the Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station, provides useful information on the soil resources located throughout Madison County. In addition, the Soil Survey of Madison County, New York, which is also published by the same organizations and was issued in 1981, supplements the General Soil Map in greater detail for in-depth analysis of impacts. Both of these documents were obtained from Madison County for use in this EIS.

Characteristics of soil types that affect potential development include slopes, erosion potential, and hydric properties. Generally, soils on slopes of over 15 to 25 percent are not considered developable because the slopes are too steep. In addition, municipal ordinances often restrict building on steep slopes; however, the percentage necessary for designation as a steep slope may vary from municipality to municipality. Steep slopes are also a factor in determining erosion potential. The erosion hazard associated with soil types ranges from slight to very severe and defines the potential for soil loss if an unsurfaced road or trail is built. In addition, certain soils are classified as hydric, which means that they are often unsuitable for agriculture or other types of development primarily because they are frequently saturated and are often indicative of wetlands.

#### **3.2.2.2 Soil Types in the Study Area**

In the Study Area, soils are comprised of a mixture of sand, silt, and clay and are classified as loams, silt loams, loamy sands, and gravelly loams (Figure 3.2-12). Most of these soils were formed over either glacial till, in deposits of silt or sand on glacial lake plains or in water-sorted sand on glacial outwash plains. A few of the soils were formed in recent alluvium (sedimentary deposit) on floodplains. Near Oneida Lake north of I-90, soils are identified as muck, loam, and sandy loam with some silt loam interspersed. The soils in

the Study Area located south of I-90 are predominantly silt loam. Most of the soils in the Study Area are not considered to be hydric, which are defined as soils that are saturated, flooded or ponded long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper portion of the soil profile (United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service, 1987). Hydric soils are generally indicative of areas of muck/swamp terrain located near streams. Nearly all hydric soils in the Study Area are located north of I-90 (Figure 3.2-13).

**3.2.2.3 Soil Types on Nation Lands**

A wide variety of soil types underlie Nation lands. These soil types are listed in Appendix K, along with some of the characteristics of these soils including the approximate percentages of each soil type that underlies Nation lands. In general, the soils underlying Nation lands are predominantly silt loams. Table 3.2-1 summarizes the key soil characteristics of Nation lands.

**Table 3.2-1  
Soil Characteristics of Nation Lands**

| <b>Types</b>             | <b>Acres</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|--------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Hydric Soils             | 2,659        | 15             |
| Non-hydric Soils         | 14,697       | 84             |
| Non-designated           | 14           | 1              |
|                          |              |                |
| <b>Erosion Potential</b> | <b>Acres</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
| Slight                   | 8,879        | 51             |
| Moderate                 | 5,735        | 33             |
| Severe                   | 2,273        | 13             |
| Very Severe              | 90           | 1              |
| Not Rated                | 393          | 2              |
|                          |              |                |
| <b>Slope</b>             | <b>Acres</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
| 0-15                     | 10,833       | 62             |
| 15-25                    | 433          | 2              |
| > 25                     | 89           | 1              |
| Unknown                  | 6,015        | 35             |

Sources: SSURGO 2.1 Database and the Nation, 2005

As identified in Table 3.2-1, only 15 percent of the soils that underlie Nation lands are considered to be hydric by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service. However, 84 percent of the soils have a slight or moderate erosion potential. Most Nation lands do not have a high erosion hazard and most of these lands do not have steep slopes.

The soil characteristics of Nation lands vary slightly amongst the Groupings. As shown in Table 3.2-2, nine percent of Group 1 lands contain hydric soils. In addition, 22 percent of

Group 2 lands and 13 percent of Group 3 lands contain hydric soils and could potentially be unsuitable for development.

**Table 3.2-2  
Hydric Soil Rating of Nation Lands**

| Soil Rating | Percent of Area |               |               |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
|             | Group 1 Lands   | Group 2 Lands | Group 3 Lands |
| Hydric      | 9               | 22            | 13            |
| Non-hydric  | 90              | 77            | 86            |
| Unknown     | 1               | 1             | 1             |

Source: United States Department of Agriculture, 2005

Table 3.2-3 illustrates that while most Group 1 and 2 lands have a slight to moderate erosion potential, a significant percentage of Group 3 lands (24 percent) are located in areas with a severe erosion potential. These Group 3 lands are located in the area of Oneida Creek where elevations are the highest and the slopes are the steepest, as discussed in Section 3.2.1 Topography.

**Table 3.2-3  
Erosion Potential of Soils on Nation Lands**

| Erosion Potential | Percent of Area |               |               |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
|                   | Group 1 Lands   | Group 2 Lands | Group 3 Lands |
| Slight            | 51              | 65            | 37            |
| Moderate          | 46              | 24            | 36            |
| Severe            | 1               | 9             | 24            |
| Very Severe       | 1               | 1             | 2             |
| Not Rated         | 1               | 1             | 1             |

Source: United States Department of Agriculture, 2005

Table 3.2-4 shows that no Group 1 lands, one percent of Group 2 lands, and four percent of Group 3 lands have slopes over 15 percent and would not be considered developable. Some soils were not designated a slope classification; there are more soils on Group 2 and 3 lands for which no slope was designated than for Group 1 lands. A general analysis of slope presented in Section 3.2.1 Topography shows that the majority of properties in the Groupings have average slopes in the lowest range of zero to 15 percent, as identified in Table 3.2-4.

**Table 3.2-4  
Percent Slope of Nation Lands**

| Percent Slope  | Percent of Area |         |         |
|----------------|-----------------|---------|---------|
|                | Group 1         | Group 2 | Group 3 |
| 0-15           | 92              | 69      | 69      |
| 15-25          | 0               | 1       | 3       |
| > 25           | 0               | 0       | 1       |
| Non-designated | 8               | 30      | 27      |

Note: Values are based on slopes associated with soils as described by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Source: United States Department of Agriculture, 2005

### 3.2.3 Geological Setting and Mineral Resources

#### 3.2.3.1 Introduction

This section describes the geological setting characterizing the Study Area with respect to both bedrock geology (earth and rock found below ground) and surficial geology (earth and rock found above the bedrock). The Study Area for this section is the southwestern portion of Oneida County and the northern portion of Madison County. The geology of the Study Area provides the basis for understanding the soil types, drainage, and other characteristics of Nation lands.

#### 3.2.3.2 Bedrock Geology

Oneida and Madison Counties are underlain by sedimentary bedrock of Middle Ordovician to Upper Devonian age dating between approximately 500 and 345 million years ago (Rickard and Fisher, 1970). Bedrock formations located beneath the Study Area are identified in Figure 3.2-14. These formations were generally laid down at a time of globally high sea levels when the continents were flooded and a shallow sea existed in this region. Great quantities of sediment were washed into this sea from high mountains to the east, creating vast sediment accumulations of many thousands of feet in thickness over a time period of nearly 200 million years; the sediment accumulations alternated between sand, mud, and lime as the sea levels fluctuated. The weight of the sediments in this large area compressed the underlying material made primarily of clay and calcium carbonate to form shales and limestones, respectively. These formations eventually became exposed to more recent glacial and stream erosion around 65 million years ago, as the continent began to uplift and these rocks were raised above sea level (Fisher et al., 1970).

The approximate percentage of each type of bedrock shown in Figure 3.2-14 that underlies Nation lands is provided in Table 3.2-5. Individual formation names and rock types are identified in this table. Rochester Shale underlies nearly all of the Group 1 lands and more than half of the Group 2 lands. A variety of bedrock formations underlie Group 3 lands.

**Table 3.2-5  
Bedrock Types Underlying Nation Lands**

| Bedrock Material  | Percent of Area |               |               | Total Nation Lands |
|---|-----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|
|   | Group 1 Lands   | Group 2 Lands | Group 3 Lands |                    |
| Port Ewen Formation (limestone and dolostone)           | 0               | 4             | 16            | 8                  |
| Marcellus Formation (shale)                             | 0               | 0             | 4             | 2                  |
| Skaneateles Formation (shale, limestone, and sandstone) | 0               | 1             | 1             | 1                  |
| Oriskany Sandstone                                      | 0               | 1             | 15            | 6                  |
| Onondaga Limestone                                      | 0               | 1             | 9             | 4                  |
| Oswego Sandstone  | 0               | 3             | 5             | 4                  |
| Pulaski Formation (siltstone and shale)                 | 0               | 3             | 2             | 2                  |
| Rochester Shale   | 99              | 58            | 24            | 51                 |
| Guelph Dolostone  | 1               | 13            | 5             | 7                  |
| Grimsby Formation (sandstone, shale, and siltstone)     | 0               | 3             | 1             | 2                  |
| Syracuse Formation (dolostone, shale, gypsum, and salt) | 0               | 1             | 7             | 4                  |
| Vernon Formation (shale and dolostone)                  | 0               | 12            | 11            | 9                  |

Source: New York State Museum and New York State Geological Survey, 1999

### 3.2.3.3 Surficial Geology

The surficial sediments that underlie Nation lands were primarily deposited as a result of the retreat of the last North American continental ice sheet, approximately 10 to 15 thousand years ago. As the ice sheet advanced over the Study Area, it scoured and carried rock debris along its path. As identified in Figure 3.2-15, the northern and western portions of the Study Area are dominated by lacustrine (lake) sand, silt, and clay deposited in and near Oneida Lake (Cadwell et al., 1987). Smaller units include kames (subglacial stream deposits of sand and gravel), moraines (deposited adjacent to active glacial margins during retreat), and recent alluvium (sand and gravel) deposited within the floodplains of modern stream channels.

There are several types of surficial sediments underlying Nations lands. These sediments are identified below:

- Till - Variable texture (boulders to silt), usually poorly sorted sand-rich diamict, deposition beneath glacier ice, permeability varies with compaction, thickness variable (one to 50 meters)
- Lacustrine silt and clay - Generally laminated silt and clay, deposited in proglacial lakes, generally calcareous, low permeability, potential land instability, thickness variable (up to 50 meters)

- Recent deposits - Oxidized fine sand to gravel, permeable, generally confined to floodplains within a valley, in larger valleys may be overlain by silt, subject to flooding, thickness (one to 10 meters)
- Lacustrine sand - Generally quartz sand, well sorted, stratified, usually deposited in proglacial lakes but may have been deposited on remnant ice, generally a near-shore deposit or near a sand source, permeable, thickness variable (10 to 20 meters)
- Kame moraine - Variable texture (size and sorting) from boulders to sand, deposition at an active ice margin during retreat, constructional kame and kettle topography, locally, calcareous cement, thickness variable (10 to 30 meters)
- Swamp deposits - Peat-muck, organic silt and sand in poorly drained areas, unoxidized, commonly overlies marl and lake silt, potential land instability, thickness variable (two to 20 meters)
- Dunes - Fine to medium sands, well sorted, stratified, generally wind-reworked lake sediment, permeable, well drained, thickness variable (one to 10 meters)
- Bedrock – Exposed or generally located within one meter of the surface, in some areas saprolite is preserved
- Till moraine - Variable texture (size and sorting), generally low permeability, deposition adjacent to ice, thickness variable (10 to 30 meters)
- Kame deposits - Coarse to fine gravel and/or sand; includes kames, eskers, kame terraces, kame deltas, ice contact or ice cored deposition; lateral variability in sorting; texture and permeability; may be firmly cemented with calcareous cement; thickness variable (10 to 30 meters)
- Outwash sand and gravel - Coarse to fine gravel with sand, proglacial fluvial deposition

Till, which is derived from material deposited from glacial ice, is the dominant surficial sediment located on Nation lands. Till is generally composed of gravel, clay, and sand with variable texture and permeability and is representative of the loamy soils described in Section 3.2.2 Soils. The approximate percentage of each surficial sediment that underlies Nation lands are identified in Table 3.2-6. The dominant surficial sediment in the Groupings varies slightly; nearly all Group 1 lands are predominantly underlain with till; Group 2 lands are predominately underlain with till and lacustrine silt, clay, and sand; and Group 3 lands are predominantly underlain with till and lacustrine silt and clay.

#### 3.2.3.4 Areas of Geological Significance

The Chittenango Gorge, a geologic feature that has been recognized by local communities for its unique physical character, is located in the Study Area. This feature is a steep, narrow gorge that was carved by the Chittenango Creek and features nearly vertical outcrops and exposed limestone. None of the Nation lands are located in the vicinity of Chittenango Gorge.



**Table 3.2-6  
Surficial Geology Underlying Nation Lands**

| Surficial Sediment       | Percent of Area |               |               |                    |
|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|
|                          | Group 1 Lands   | Group 2 Lands | Group 3 Lands | Total Nation Lands |
| Till                     | 92              | 15            | 46            | 44                 |
| Lacustrine Silt and Clay | 0               | 54            | 30            | 33                 |
| Lacustrine Sand          | 3               | 15            | 3             | 7                  |
| Swamp Deposits           | 0               | 1             | 8             | 3                  |
| Till Moraine             | 1               | 5             | 2             | 3                  |
| Recent Deposits          | 0               | 4             | 2             | 2                  |
| Bedrock                  | 1               | 1             | 5             | 2                  |
| Kame Moraine             | 0               | 2             | 2             | 1                  |
| Kame Deposits            | 0               | 0             | 2             | 1                  |
| Dunes                    | 0               | 2             | 0             | 1                  |
| Outwash Sand and Gravel  | 3               | 0             | 0             | 1                  |
| Water                    | 0               | 1             | 0             | 1                  |

Source: New York State Museum and New York State Geological Survey, 1999

### 3.2.3.5 Areas of Geological Significance

The Chittenango Gorge, a geologic feature that has been recognized by local communities for its unique physical character, is located in the Study Area. This feature is a steep, narrow gorge that was carved by the Chittenango Creek and features nearly vertical outcrops and exposed limestone. None of the Nation lands are located in the vicinity of Chittenango Gorge.

### 3.2.3.6 Mineral and Natural Energy Resources

Crushed stone, limestone, salt, construction sand and gravel, and zinc are the top five mineral commodities found in New York State (NYSDEC Division of Mineral Resources, 2006a). The mineral resources located in the Study Area are typical of those found throughout the State of New York. Mineral resources found on Nation lands are consistent with those found throughout the Study Area. No significant mineral resources are known to exist on Nation lands that are not readily available in the rest of the Study Area. Existing mining and oil and gas well activities in the Study Area are discussed in Section 3.8.3 Mining.

## 3.2.4 Land Use

### 3.2.4.1 Introduction

An analysis of the Proposed Action requires an assessment of existing land use conditions and New York State and local laws regarding land use. This section contains a general description of existing land use conditions in the Study Area, which encompasses portions of Madison and Oneida Counties and those communities within which the Nation owns land. Additionally, this section describes existing land use in the municipalities within which the Nation owns land and on Nation lands located within these municipalities. Land use discussions are also provided for the municipalities where the Nation does not

own land but are located within a 1,000-foot radius of Nation lands; a 1,000-foot radius was selected because it encompasses an area that would reasonably be expected to experience potential impacts on land use as a result of implementation of the Proposed Action or the one of the alternatives.

The land use information contained within this section is based primarily on land use maps and comprehensive and master plans obtained from municipalities; street maps; field survey observations; topographic maps; and communication with local and county officials. Existing land use conditions were determined through a review of 2004 County Real Property Data that were verified through a field reconnaissance conducted in November 2005, communication with local and county officials, and a review of available aerial photography. The land use on each Nation holding was categorized using general codes developed by the New York State Office of Real Property Services (NYSORPS); the NYSORPS makes a determination of land use through municipal assessors who survey each property in a community. Using the set of codes developed by the NYSORPS, a full description of which can be found in the ORPS category list in Appendix A, the assessors then determines the land use of each parcel. When a parcel has more than one use, assessors make a land use determination using NYSORPS codes and either classify the property as a single use if one is so much more prevalent than the other or as a mixed-use based on the corresponding code.

NYSORPS land use classifications, including a description of each, are as follows:

- Residential – Land used for dwellings or human habitation.
- Commercial – Land used for commerce, retail or wholesale exchange of services and goods.
- Industrial – Land used for the production and distribution of manufactured, durable, and non-durable products.
- Agricultural – Land used for cultivating soil, producing crops, and/or raising livestock.
- Wild/forested/public parks/open space – Land used for wildlife or nature preserves, the appreciation of nature or land that has not been developed.
- Public services – Property used to provide services to the general public and to store, garage or repair motor vehicles and/or equipment used in providing public services.
- Recreation and entertainment – Land used by groups for recreation, amusement or entertainment including theaters, auditoriums, exhibition halls, indoor and outdoor sports, and athletic activities.
- Vacant land – Property that is not in use, lacks permanent improvement or in temporary use including residential vacant land including rural vacant tax lots; underwater vacant land; abandoned agricultural land, and other rural vacant land including waste lands, sand dunes, salt marshes, swamps, rocky areas, and woods

- not associated with wild/forest/public parks/open space land; vacant land in commercial areas; urban renewal or slum clearance, public utility vacant land, and vacant land in industrial areas.
- Community services – Property used for the well-being of the community including land used for the provision of resources or services to the general community including educational facilities, religious facilities, benevolent associations, cultural facilities, Indian reservations, government buildings, correctional facilities, universities, and military installations (New York State Office of Real Property Services, 2006).

Descriptions of Nation properties using the set of codes developed by NYSORPS can be found in the Existing and Future Land Use By Alternative tables in Appendix A.

#### **3.2.4.2 Regional and Historical Setting**

The Central New York Region is broadly defined as the area generally located between the Cities of Syracuse and Utica, bounded on the south by the Pennsylvania State line and on the west by the Finger Lakes region of New York State. Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, and Oswego Counties are located in the Central New York Region. This broad section of New York State has several medium-sized cities and urbanized areas such as Rome, Utica, Cortland, and Syracuse, and numerous towns and villages including Oneida, Verona, Cazenovia, and New York Mills.

With the opening in 1825 of the Erie Canal, extending from Lake Erie to the Hudson River, the Central New York Region became an important component of the manufacturing industry in the U.S. The Erie Canal; which made boom towns out of Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Rome, Utica, and Schenectady; made an immense contribution to the wealth and importance of New York City and New York State but its impact extended much further as it increased trade throughout the U.S. by opening eastern markets to Midwest farm products and encouraged western immigration. British repeal of the Corn Law resulted in a huge increase in trade in Midwestern wheat to Britain. Trade between the U.S. and Canada also increased as a result of the Corn Law and a reciprocity (free-trade) agreement signed in 1854, much of this trade flowed along the Erie Canal. The completion of I-90, which was built in the 1950's by the State of New York to connect its major cities, was also a factor in the growth of the Central New York Region as population centers and business districts emerged on both sides of the right-of-way. In recent decades, however, the area has experienced a decline in manufacturing.

Today planners throughout the Central New York Region are devising ways to make the area more attractive to local businesses as well as for residents who might seek to relocate there. In 1996, the Metropolitan Development Association of Syracuse and Central New York, Inc. developed Vision 2010, which is a comprehensive regional economic growth strategy designed to “make Central New York the location of choice for businesses and families by strengthening the economic vitality of the region. Vision 2010 was

instrumental in identifying new opportunities for growth, and marshaling resources to pursue those opportunities. The New York Indoor Environmental Quality Center and Center of Excellence in Environmental Systems are direct results of Vision 2010” (Metropolitan Development Association of Syracuse and Central New York, Inc., 1996). Despite these planning efforts, the Central New York Region continues to experience economic challenges.

### **Oneida County**

Oneida County is bounded to the east by Herkimer County, to the south by Madison and Otsego Counties, to the west by Madison and Oswego Counties, and to the north by Oswego and Lewis Counties. This county occupies a total area of approximately 814,934 acres (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000). The Mohawk River runs through Oneida County and its river valley is one of the most fertile in the State of New York. This fertile soil has made conditions within Oneida County especially suited for agriculture.

The opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 stimulated the planting of cash crops in Oneida County by providing farmers and local merchants within the county access to eastern markets through improved transportation services. By the mid-nineteenth century, all transportation by land and water west of the City of Albany converged in the City of Rome, stimulating growth in this city as well as in the neighboring City of Utica.

Industrialization in Oneida County took place between the mid-nineteenth and mid-twentieth centuries. Prior to World War II, Oneida County had become the center of textile manufacturing in the U.S. After the war, many of these textile mills relocated to areas in the southern part of the U.S. In the 1950’s, the retail and wholesale services that are dominant in Oneida County today were recruited to the county along with other new industries.

Information on the history of agriculture in Oneida County is discussed in Section 3.8.2 Agriculture. Oneida County is currently a diverse agricultural area, yet approximately two thirds of all agricultural production is attributed to the dairy industry. Oneida County ranks sixth in New York State with regard to the number of dairy cows (Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government, 2002).

### **Madison County**

Madison County occupies approximately 432,152 acres and is characterized as rural in nature (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000). Madison County contains a number of diverse land forms ranging from swamp lands near Lake Oneida in the northern section, to a watershed of many streams dominating the central section, and to rich valleys located in the south with a variety of usages including agriculture. Madison County’s relatively good climate, soils, and topography resulted in ideal conditions for the rise of the hops industry during the nineteenth century. Competition from the western states eventually contributed to the demise of this industry within Madison County.

Information on the history of agriculture in Oneida County is discussed in Section 3.8.2 Agriculture. The dairy industry eventually replaced hops as the dominant agricultural industry in Madison County. This industry evolved as a result of the importation into the U.S. of the first Holstein-Frisian cattle by a local entrepreneur to provide fertilizer for the hop fields in Madison County. Today Madison County is ranked eighth in New York State with regard to total dairy production (Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government, 2002).

Other important agricultural industries that developed over the years in Madison County include breeding horses both for racing and for pleasure, as well as the growth of cash crops including potatoes and onions in the northern part of the county. During the past 30 years, however, the agriculture sector in Madison County has declined and was replaced by wholesale, retail, and service industries that continue to struggle to survive.

### 3.2.4.3 General Land Use

#### ***Oneida and Madison Counties***

The predominant land uses in the Study Area are related to agriculture. Agricultural uses include farmsteads, pastures, dairy production, crops, and livestock. According to the NYSORPS, agricultural lands must be greater than 10 acres in size and must have been actively utilized in the preceding two years for the production of agricultural products averaging \$10,000 or more in annual gross sales. As reported in Table 3.2-7, 44 percent of the land located in the municipalities where the Nation owns land is dedicated to agricultural uses. It is important to note that the amount of Nation lands classified as agriculture is dependant upon the definition utilized to describe agricultural lands. In this case the NYSORPS definition of agricultural lands is used; however, in others sections of this EIS, different definitions of agriculture or farm lands may be utilized. The second and third most prominent land use is vacant land and residential uses, respectively, where each of these uses comprises 23 percent. Other land uses in the Study Area include industrial, commercial, public service, community services, recreation and entertainment, and wild, forested, and conservation lands and public parks. The Study Area, like the Central New York Region as a whole, also contains large tracts of inactive, undeveloped, wooded lands and wetlands.

Assessors determine the amount of agricultural acreage by taking measurements of a property for a given municipal property assessment roll. Assessors submit the assessment rolls to the NYSORPS with the land use type and size and the NYSORPS tabulates the data and calculates the number of acres. This assessment methodology differs from that utilized by the USDA National Statistics Service, which mails census requests to all farms in a county and then compiles and assesses the responses. The year in which the data are collected by the assessors and the USDA may also be different. Hence, the number of acres reported by the NYSORPS may differ from the acreage reported by the USDA. The

general land use information reported in this section was obtained from the NYSORPS because it is the most comprehensive.

**Table 3.2-7  
Land Use of Municipalities Located in Oneida and Madison Counties  
with Nation Lands**

| Land Use   | Acres          | Percent of Area |
|--|----------------|-----------------|
| Agricultural   | 121,259        | 44              |
| Commercial   | 4,456          | 2               |
| Community Services                                   | 5,488          | 2               |
| Industrial   | 1,805          | 1               |
| Public Services                                      | 9,644          | 3               |
| Recreation and Entertainment                         | 3,743          | 1               |
| Residential  | 62,243         | 23              |
| Vacant Land  | 62,907         | 23              |
| Wild, Forested, Conservation Lands, and Public Parks | 3,141          | 1               |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>274,686</b> | <b>100</b>      |

Source: New York State Office of Real Property Services, 2004

***Nation Lands***

As listed in Table 3.2-8, Nation lands are located in three hamlets, five villages, two cities, and 11 towns in Oneida and Madison Counties. Additional municipalities are discussed in this section because they are located within the Study Area, even though there are no Nation lands located within the boundaries of those municipalities.

The land uses of Nation holdings include the following: commercial retail activities, commercial gaming and resort uses (the Turning Stone Resort & Casino), SavOn gas stations and convenience stores, marinas, a broadcasting company (Media Broadcasting), fiberglass repair shops, golf courses, Nation member housing and actively-used residential dwellings, Nation’s governmental facilities, agriculture, and cultural land uses including outdoor activities and traditional Iroquois agriculture. Additionally, the Nation owns inactive lands such as undeveloped properties, wetland areas, and vacant residential dwellings. Some Nation lands have multiple uses such as agricultural/cultural, cultural/commercial, agricultural/residential, and commercial/residential. For the purpose of this EIS, land uses are identified by municipality, except where a number of Nation lands in close proximity to one another are located in more than one municipality. Land use on Nation holdings is illustrated on Figure 3.2-16.

Based on information provided by the Nation, approximately 20 percent or 3,428 acres of the total 17,370 acres of Nation lands are identified as Group 1. Approximately 37 percent or 6,475 acres of Nation lands are identified as Group 2 and approximately 43 percent or 7,467 acres of Nation lands are identified as Group 3.

**Table 3.2-8  
List of Municipalities with Nation Lands**

| Village/City             | Township            | County  |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------|
| Hamlet of Durhamville    | Town of Verona      | Oneida  |
| Hamlet of Verona Beach   | Town of Verona      | Oneida  |
|                          | Town of Verona      |         |
|                          |                     |         |
| Village of Sylvan Beach  | Town of Vienna      | Oneida  |
|                          | Town of Vienna      |         |
|                          |                     |         |
| Village of Vernon        | Town of Vernon      | Oneida  |
| Village of Oneida Castle | Town of Vernon      | Oneida  |
| City of Sherrill         | Town of Vernon      | Oneida  |
|                          | Town of Vernon      |         |
|                          |                     |         |
| Hamlet of Augusta        | Town of Augusta     | Oneida  |
|                          | Town of August      |         |
|                          |                     |         |
| City of Oneida           |                     | Madison |
|                          |                     |         |
| Village of Canastota     | Town of Lenox       | Madison |
|                          | Town of Lenox       |         |
|                          |                     |         |
|                          | Town of Stockbridge | Madison |
|                          |                     |         |
| Village of Cazenovia     | Town of Cazenovia   | Madison |
|                          | Town of Cazenovia   |         |
|                          |                     |         |
|                          | Town of Lincoln     | Madison |
|                          | Town of Sullivan    | Madison |
|                          | Town of Smithfield  | Madison |
|                          | Town of Fenner      | Madison |

Source: The Nation, 2005

As presented in Table 3.2-9, most Nation lands are utilized for agriculture that correlates with the prominent land use of the municipalities in which Nation lands are located (see Table 3.2-7). Based on the data provided by the NYSORPS and by the Nation, approximately 66 percent or 11,450 acres of the Nation’s 17,370 acres are used for agricultural-related purposes. The second largest land use for Nation holdings is residential, which comprises approximately 11 percent of Nation lands or 1,974 acres. Recreation and entertainment are the third largest land use, encompassing 1,545 acres or approximately nine percent of Nation lands. The fourth largest land use for Nation holdings is vacant land, which comprises 1,169 acres or approximately seven percent of Nation lands.

Table 3.2-9 also identifies the distribution of land uses by the Groupings. The following discussion identifies the four prominent land uses (agricultural, residential, recreation and entertainment, and vacant land) of Nation holdings by the Groupings. As identified in Table 3.2-9, 1,549 acres or 14 percent of the Nation's agricultural land is in Group 1, 3,860 acres or 34 percent is in Group 2, and 6,041 acres or 53 percent is in Group 3. This table also identifies that there are 1,160 acres or 59 percent of the Nation's residential land is in Group 2, 436 acres or 22 percent is in Group 1, and 378 acres or 19 percent is in Group 3. Lands that are utilized for recreation and entertainment are mostly in Group 1 with 1,332 acres or 86 percent. The remaining 213 acres or 14 percent of the Nation's recreation and entertainment lands are in Group 2; none of the Group 3 lands are utilized for recreation and entertainment. Nation lands that are vacant occupy 1,169 acres, 917 of these acres or 78 percent is in Group 3, 23 acres or two percent is in Group 1, and 229 acres or 20 percent is in Group 2.

The prominent land uses differ amongst the Groupings. Of the 3,427 acres of Group 1 lands, the prominent land uses are agricultural, recreation and entertainment, and residential that comprises a total of 3,317 acres or 97 percent. The remaining Group 1 lands consisting of 110 acres or three percent are utilized for commercial, industrial, public services, vacant land, and wild, forested, conservation lands and public parks. None of the Group 1 lands are utilized for community service. Of the 6,476 acres of Group 2 lands, the prominent land uses are agricultural, residential, and wild, forested, conservation lands, and public parks that comprise a total of 5,489 acres or 85 percent. The land use with the greatest amount of acreage in Group 2 is agricultural, which comprises 3,860 acres. All of the lands utilized for community service and almost all of the land utilized for wild, forested, conservation lands and public parks are located in Group 2. Of the 7,467 acres of Group 3 lands, the prominent land uses are agricultural, vacant lands, and residential that comprises a total of 7,336 acres or 98 percent. Group 3 lands are primarily utilized for agricultural purposes and comprise 6,041 acres. None of the Group 3 lands are utilized for community services, public services, recreation and entertainment, and wild, forested, conservation lands, and public parks.

#### **3.2.4.4 Oneida County Land Use**

The total area of Oneida County is 814,934 acres (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000). The municipalities in which the Nation owns land, however, encompass a total area of 180,011 acres or approximately 22 percent of the total area of Oneida County. As shown in Table 3.2-10, 45 percent of the land in these municipalities is used for agricultural purposes. In the year 2002, Oneida County reported a total of approximately 167,300 acres of agricultural lands located within 20 different agricultural districts (Oneida County Department of Planning, 2002). Residential uses account for the second highest



**Table 3.2-9  
Land Use on Nation Holdings**

| Land Use Category                                    | Group 1 Lands (acres) | Group 1 Lands Percentage of Total Nation Lands | Group 2 Lands (acres) | Group 2 Lands Percentage of Total Nation Lands | Group 3 Lands (acres) | Group 3 Lands Percentage of Total Nation Lands | Total Acreage of Land Use | Percentage of Nation Lands |
|--|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|--|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Agricultural   | 1,549                 | 14   | 3,860                 | 34   | 6,041                 | 53   | 11,450                    | 66                         |
| Commercial   | 79                    | 37   | 104                   | 48   | 32                    | 15   | 215                       | 1                          |
| Community Service                                    | 0                     | 0  | 155                   | 100  | 0                     | 0  | 155                       | 1                          |
| Industrial   | 4                     | 2  | 121                   | 54   | 99                    | 44   | 224                       | 1                          |
| Public Services                                      | 1                     | 1  | 165                   | 99   | 0                     | 0  | 166                       | 1                          |
| Recreation and Entertainment                         | 1,332                 | 86   | 213                   | 14   | 0                     | 0  | 1,545                     | 9                          |
| Residential  | 436                   | 22   | 1,160                 | 59   | 378                   | 19   | 1,974                     | 11                         |
| Vacant Land  | 23                    | 2  | 229                   | 20   | 917                   | 78   | 1,169                     | 7                          |
| Wild, Forested, Conservation Lands, and Public Parks | 3                     | 1  | 469                   | 99   | 0                     | 0  | 472                       | 3                          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>3,427</b>          | <b>20</b>                                      | <b>6,476</b>          | <b>37</b>                                      | <b>7,467</b>          | <b>43</b>                                      | <b>17,370</b>             | <b>100</b>                 |

Source: New York State Office of Real Property Services, 2004

percentage of land at 22 percent, while vacant land comprises the third highest percentage of land at 21 percent.

**Table 3.2-10**  
**Land Use of Municipalities Located in Oneida County with Nation Lands**

| Land Use   | Acres          | Percent of Area |
|--|----------------|-----------------|
| Agricultural   | 81,093         | 45              |
| Commercial   | 3,418          | 2               |
| Community Services                                   | 4,154          | 2               |
| Industrial   | 880            | 1               |
| Public Services                                      | 8,545          | 5               |
| Recreation and Entertainment                         | 2,443          | 1               |
| Residential  | 39,289         | 22              |
| Vacant Land  | 37,852         | 21              |
| Wild, Forested, Conservation Lands, and Public Parks | 2,337          | 1               |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>180,011</b> | <b>100</b>      |

Source: New York State Office of Real Property Services, 2004

The following discussion, which classifies Nation and non-Nation lands by municipality, presents an inventory of the land use in each of the municipalities within Oneida County in which Nation lands are located. A discussion of the Nation land uses classified according to the Groupings that are located within each town, city or village is also provided. The information identified in the discussions below were obtained from the municipalities and from observations made by Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. (MP) staff during site visits made to the Study Area in October and November 2005. The figures (Figures 3.2-17 through 3.2-21) that are provided with this discussion show general land use for these municipalities, which was obtained from data provided by the NYSORPS. These figures also identify general land use on Nation lands as obtained during observations made by MP staff during the site visits to the Study Area, data provided by the Nation, photographs, and aerial photography.

**Town of Verona**

The Town of Verona is located in the southwestern portion of Oneida County and is approximately 70 square miles (44,608 acres) in area. It is bounded on the north by the Town of Vienna and the City of Rome; on the west by Oneida Lake, the City of Oneida, and the Town of Lenox; on the south by the Town of Vernon; and on the east by the City of Rome and the Town of Westmoreland (Figure 3.2-18). The Hamlet of Durhamville is located on the southwestern border of the Town of Verona. The Village of Verona is located in the center of the Town of Verona where NYS Route 365 intersects with NYS Route 31.

The land use discussion for the Town of Verona includes a description of baseline conditions in the town as well as in the Villages of Verona and Oneida Castle, which are both located in the Town of Verona. A variety of land uses are located in the Town of Verona on non-Nation lands including residential, agricultural, dairy farming, recreational, cultural, commercial, public facilities, schools, and governmental uses.

Vernon-Verona-Sherrill Middle School and High School is located on the west side of NYS Route 31, just east of the Turning Stone Resort & Casino. Additionally, large areas of the Town of Verona remain undeveloped. Wetlands and wooded areas are located in many areas of the Town of Verona.

The northwestern portion of the Town of Verona has large areas of undeveloped land and wetlands located near the Erie Canal. Properties in the northern part of the Town of Verona are utilized for a mix of low-density residential uses, active and inactive crop fields and pastures, local retail commercial establishments, and vacant or undeveloped lands. Verona Beach State Park is located just east of Oneida Lake at NYS Route 13. Hamlets with small local retail and local service businesses are located throughout the northern part of the Town of Verona. In the northern part of the Town of Verona near the Village of Sylvan Beach, many properties are used for residential, seasonal residential, local retail commercial establishments, and recreational activities.

Fallow crop fields, active farming, and land used for raising livestock comprise a significant amount of land in the Town of Verona (New York State Office of Real Property Services, 2004; Malcolm Pirnie, Inc., 2005). Farm-related activities are located throughout the Town of Verona. Cemeteries, low-density residential dwellings, pastures, wooded properties, wetlands, and undeveloped parcels are located along Germany Road, Carpenter Road, Irish Ridge Road, Happy Valley Road, New London Road, and NYS Route 31. A large abandoned military reservation that was once the Verona Test Site and the Nation's wetlands mitigation site (Parcel 37 in Group 2 lands) are located between NYS Route 31 and Germany Road. Properties located south of NYS Route 31 include low density residential dwellings, pastures, farms, and undeveloped areas. The New York Central Railroad right-of-way runs through the Town of Verona from its eastern boundary southwest towards Madison County.

In the center of the Town of Verona near the Turning Stone Resort & Casino, properties that are not under Nation ownership are utilized for a variety of low intensity development including residential and local retail uses. Land uses surrounding the Turning Stone Resort & Casino generally include local commercial retail establishments, low-density residential dwellings, pastures, agricultural properties, office space, wooded parcels, wetlands, and undeveloped land located along NYS Route 365, I-90, and Ostrander Road. To the northeast of the Turning Stone Resort & Casino near the Town of Westmoreland border and along NYS Route 365, land uses are generally low-density and include residential, vacant lands, pastures, agriculture, and wooded properties with some local commercial retail businesses.

There are two hamlets located in the Town of Verona that have Nation lands, the Hamlet of Verona Beach and the Hamlet of Durhamville. The Hamlet of Verona Beach is located on the western portion of the Town of Verona on Oneida Lake north of NYS Route 31.

The Hamlet of Verona Beach contains single-family and multi-family seasonal and year-round dwellings, local retail commercial businesses, open space, waterfront-related uses, recreational uses, wetlands, wooded parcels, and vacant areas. The Hamlet of Durhamville is located in the central portion of the Town of Verona along NYS Route 31 and NYS Route 46. Land uses in the Hamlet of Durhamville are residential, agriculture, and local retail.

#### Nation Lands

The Nation owns 173 parcels comprised of 220 tax lots located within the Town of Verona encompassing 8,594 acres of land. This land includes three tax lots on three parcels encompassing 350 acres located within the Hamlet of Durhamville and eight parcels comprised of nine tax lots with a total area of eight acres located in the Hamlet of Verona Beach. Nation lands comprise approximately 19 percent of the total area of the Town of Verona.

The predominant land uses on Nation holdings in the Town of Verona are commercial gaming-related and resort uses that support or are directly related to the Turning Stone Resort & Casino located on Patrick Road south of NYS Route 365 including the Shenendoah Golf Course, the Pleasant Knolls Golf Course, the Kaluhyat Golf Course and the Sandstone Hollow Golf Course. Additional related commercial gaming land uses in the Town of Verona include accommodations as described below, parking garages, employee housing, storage facilities, support services, office space, and operations. Accommodations at the Turning Stone Resort & Casino include the Lodge at Turning Stone a 98-suite luxury boutique hotel adjacent to the casino, the Tower at Turning Stone a 19-story hotel with 287 rooms and suites, the Inn at Turning Stone featuring 62 rooms, the Villages at Turning Stone RV Park with 175 paved sites, and the Hotel at Turning Stone a three-story hotel with 258 rooms. Most of these accommodations are located at the intersection of Patrick Road and NYS Route 365; the Villages at Turning Stone RV Park are located along the north side of NYS Route 365, to the west of the Sandstone Hollow Golf Course. The Inn at Turning Stone is located on NYS Route 365 north of I-90.

A variety of other land uses exist on Nation holdings in the Town of Verona including active and vacant residential structures, commercial retail uses, and agriculture. Commercial-related land uses such as the golf courses, operations, support facilities, and SavOn gas stations and convenience stores are generally located along the south side of NYS Route 365 and Patrick, Vernon, Beacon Light, and Snyder Roads in the vicinity of the Turning Stone Resort & Casino. The Pleasant Knolls Golf Course and a large agricultural property located east of Verona Road are south of the Turning Stone Resort & Casino and along the Verona Town line and Stoney Brook Road. Wetlands and undeveloped areas are located on Nation lands along NYS Route 31 and Germany Road, to the north and west of the Turning Stone Resort & Casino. Other wetland and vacant properties are located along Germany, Carpenter, and Irish Ridge Roads. The abandoned

Kamp Airport located along Irish Ridge Road in the western part of the Town of Verona is on Nation lands.

Land uses on Nation holdings in the western part of the Town of Verona consist of single-family residential structures and vacant land. Wild and forested land is located on three parcels along the Erie Canal. In the southwestern part of the Town of Verona, Nation lands that are located along Hill Road contain warehouses, old field succession, wetlands, member housing, vacant residential dwellings, and woodlands. Just north of this area, part of the right-of-way for the New York Central Railroad is located on Nation land. In the southern part of the Town of Verona near the Vernon Town line, some Nation lands are used for other agricultural purposes while others remain wooded and undeveloped (New York State Office of Real Property Services 2004; Malcolm Pirnie, Inc., 2005).

Generally, Nation lands in the Town of Verona are similar in character to non-Nation properties located within the Study Area that surround these lands often being utilized for the same uses as when the Nation reacquired them. The Turning Stone Resort & Casino and its support facilities, including the Tower Hotel, are atypical of other land uses in the vicinity of this gaming and resort establishment and throughout the Town of Verona.

Nation lands located within the Hamlet of Verona Beach are utilized for member housing, commercial uses, a SavOn gas station and convenience store, vacant commercial and residential structures, recreational uses, and the Snug Harbour Marina. These properties are located on both sides of NYS Route 13. Properties in the Hamlet of Durhamville are utilized for member housing and vacant residential uses.

#### *Group 1 Lands*

There are 70 parcels comprised of 80 tax lots of Group 1 lands located in the Town of Verona. These 80 tax lots encompass a total area of 2,196 acres and constitute approximately 26 percent of the total area of all Nation lands located within the Town of Verona as well as approximately five percent of the total area of the town. These properties support or are directly related to the Turning Stone Resort & Casino and include the Shenendoah Golf Course, the Pleasant Knolls Golf Course, and the Sandstone Hollow Golf Course.

#### *Group 2 Lands*

There are 85 parcels comprised of 118 tax lots of Group 2 lands located in the Town of Verona. These Group 2 lands contain eight parcels comprised of nine tax lots for a total area of eight acres located in the Hamlet of Verona Beach and one parcel comprised of one tax lot encompassing 330 acres located in the Hamlet of Durhamville. These 122 tax lots encompass a total of 4,298 acres and constitute approximately 50 percent of the total area of all Nation lands located within the Town of Verona, as well as approximately 10 percent of the total area of the town.

### *Group 3 Lands*

There are 18 parcels comprised of 22 tax lots of Group 3 lands located in the Town of Verona. These Group 3 lands contain two parcels comprised of two tax lots for a total of 20 acres located in the Hamlet of Durhamville. These 22 tax lots encompass a total area of 2,099 acres and constitute approximately 24 percent of the total area of all Nation lands located within the Town of Verona, as well as approximately five percent of the total area of the town.

Uses of Nation lands are similar in scope and character to non-Nation land uses in the Town of Verona. Both Nation and non-Nation lands contain occupied and vacant single-family residential structures, occupied and vacant commercial retail facilities, recreational uses, and waterfront-related activities. These land uses are consistent with the land uses of property located within the Study Area.

### ***Town of Vienna***

The Town of Vienna is approximately 95 square miles (60,653 acres) in area (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000). The Town of Vienna is located in the western part of Oneida County and is bounded on the north by the Town of Camden, on the east by the City of Rome, on the south by the Town of Verona and Oneida Lake, and on the west by the Town of Constantia in Oswego County (Figure 3.2-19). The Erie Canal is located on the south border of the Town of Vienna near the Village of Sylvan Beach and Fish Creek defines part of the Vienna Town line.

Much of the land located within the Town of Vienna is undeveloped or vacant. Other land uses include conservation lands, public parks, public services, and areas for recreation and entertainment. There are also areas of residential, agricultural (farm, active and inactive pastures, and crop fields), and commercial uses located within the Town of Vienna. Farming, crops, and land utilized for the raising of livestock are located in the eastern part of the Town of Vienna near the border with the City of Rome. Residential uses are located throughout the Town of Vienna, while the largest commercial area is located in the central part of the town just north of Oneida Lake.

### ***Village of Sylvan Beach***

Sylvan Beach is a village located in the southwestern corner of the Town of Vienna. The Village of Sylvan Beach has an area of approximately 0.8 square miles (486 acres) and is bounded by the Erie Canal on the south, Fish Creek on the east, and by Oneida Lake on the west (U. S. Census Bureau, 2000). Single, two, and multi-family seasonal and year-round residential uses are located throughout the Village of Sylvan Beach; located west of NYS Route 13 there are residential dwellings, a local post office, and waterfront activities; and along NYS Route 13 there are local retail commercial businesses, personal services, recreational uses, government offices, offices, and SavOn gas stations and convenience stores. Sylvan Beach Amusement Park is located along the shores of Oneida Lake. On the east side of the Village of Sylvan Beach are residential structures, vacant properties, open

space, recreational uses, and park land. A trailer park is located on the east side of the Village of Sylvan Beach, just north of the Erie Canal.

Land uses in the area surrounding Nation holdings are low-density residential, water-related, and mobile homes. Land uses on the Marinar's Landing Marina property are similar in scale and character to adjacent and nearby residential uses on non-Nation lands.

#### *Nation Lands*

The Nation owns one parcel of land comprised of seven tax lots encompassing seven acres located entirely in the Village of Sylvan Beach within the Town of Vienna. Nation lands comprise 0.01 percent of the total area of the Town of Vienna. All Nation lands located within the Town of Vienna are also located within the Village of Sylvan Beach. In addition, certain Nation lands in the Town of Verona are located within 1,000 feet of the boundary with the Town of Vienna. Those Nation lands located within 1,000 feet of the Village of Sylvan Beach are characterized by wooded areas and wetlands.

#### *Group 1 Lands*

There are no Group 1 lands located within the Town of Vienna.

#### *Group 2 Lands*

The Nation owns one parcel comprised of seven tax lots of Group 2 lands encompassing seven acres located entirely in the Village of Sylvan Beach within the Town of Vienna. Marinar's Landing Marina, which is used for seasonal and year-round rental housing, is located on the seven tax lots. Nation lands constitute 0.01 percent of the total area of the Town of Vienna. The Marinar's Landing Marina was a marina prior to its purchase by the Nation. While the Nation has invested in certain improvements to this facility, its underlying use as a marina has not changed.

#### *Group 3 Lands*

There are no Group 3 lands located within the Town of Vienna.

The uses of Nation lands are similar to land uses on non-Nation properties in the Town of Vienna.

#### **Town of Vernon**

The Town of Vernon is located on the western border of Oneida County and is bounded by the City of Oneida and Madison County on the west, the Town of Verona on the north, the Towns of Westmoreland and Kirkland on the east, and the Town of Augusta on the south (Figure 3.2-20). The Town of Vernon is approximately 38 square miles (24,397 acres) in area (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000).

Land use in the Town of Vernon consists of a variety of residential uses and structures, agricultural uses, office space, local retail commercial businesses, warehouses, public facilities, governmental uses, wooded parcels, wetlands, and vacant lands. Government

offices and community facilities are generally located within the Villages of Vernon and Oneida Castle, and the City of Sherrill. Generally, non-Nation lands located east of Verona Road are utilized for agricultural uses, low-density residential development, wetlands, wooded areas, and vacant parcels. Along NYS Route 5 non-Nation properties have the following land uses: community facilities, Vernon Downs entertainment resort and harness race track, local retail commercial businesses, low-density residential uses, gas and automotive repair stations, warehouses, and agriculture. The southern part of the Town of Vernon south of NYS Route 5 is generally comprised of low-density residential uses, agricultural uses, wetlands, wooded areas, and vacant lands. Unincorporated areas of the Town of Vernon located west of Verona Street are utilized for agriculture, low-density residential uses, wetlands, wooded areas, and vacant lands.

The Village of Vernon is located in the central area of the Town of Vernon in the vicinity of the intersection of NYS Route 5 and NYS Route 31, east of the City of Sherrill. The area of the Village of Vernon is approximately 0.9 square miles (582 acres) (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000). Local commercial retail uses, personal services, office space, convenience stores, gas stations, and warehouses are located generally along NYS Routes 5 and 31 in the Village of Vernon. Single-family and multi-family residential structures are generally located along secondary streets and roads. W.A. Wettel Elementary School is located in the southwestern part of the Village of Vernon, along Peterboro Street. The uses of Nation lands are generally similar in nature to land uses of non-Nation properties located in the Study Area.

#### Nation Lands

There are 29 parcels comprised of 37 tax lots of Nation lands located within the Town of Vernon, encompassing a total of 1,911 acres of land. Nation lands consist of four parcels comprised of five tax lots located within the Village of Vernon. Nation lands comprise approximately eight percent of the total area of the Town of Vernon. Nation lands located in the Town of Vernon generally are utilized for agriculture (pastures), wetlands, single-family residential structures, office space, warehouses, golf courses and associated operations, and SavOn gas stations and convenience stores.

In the northern portion of the Town of Vernon located north of NYS Route 5, land uses on Nation holdings consist of single-family and vacant dwellings, agriculture, warehouses, wooded areas, wetlands, and vacant land. The Atunyote Golf Course and properties for support operations are located on the north side of Cooper Street, east of Verona Street. Along NYS Route 5 in the Town of Vernon, Nation lands contain a warehouse and vacant lands. Nation lands located in the western part of the Town of Vernon along Peterboro Road near the town line are used for agriculture and member housing.

As stated previously, the Nation owns four parcels located within the Village of Vernon that are comprised of five tax lots encompassing 10 acres of land. These Nation lands,



which are located along NYS Routes 5 and 31, are utilized for a telecommunications office, a commercial warehouse, an abandoned motel structure, agricultural land, and residential uses.

#### *Group 1 Lands*

There are 15 parcels comprised of 19 tax lots of Group 1 lands located in the Town of Vernon. These 19 tax lots encompass a total of 1,232 acres and constitute approximately 64 percent of the total area of all Nation lands located within the Town of Vernon, as well as approximately five percent of the total area of the town.

#### *Group 2 Lands*

There are 10 parcels comprised of 13 tax lots of Group 2 lands located in the Town of Vernon, which consists of all five tax lots located in the Village of Vernon. These 13 tax lots encompass a total of 247 acres and constitute approximately 13 percent of the total area of all Nation lands located within the Town of Vernon, as well as approximately one percent of the total area of the town.

#### *Group 3 Lands*

There are four parcels comprised of five tax lots of Group 3 lands located in the Town of Vernon. These five tax lots encompass a total of 432 acres and constitute approximately 23 percent of the total area of all Nation lands located within the Town of Vernon, as well as approximately two percent of the total area of the town.

On both Nation and non-Nation lands, high activity land uses are generally located along the highways while agriculture and vacant lands are typically located along local and secondary roads in the Town of Vernon. However, the land use on some Nation lands is atypical of nearby and adjacent properties.

#### **City of Sherrill**

The City of Sherrill is located along the western portion of the Town of Vernon and is bounded by Oneida Creek and Madison County on the west (Figure 3.2-21). The City of Sherrill is approximately two square miles (1,293 acres) in area (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000). Land uses within the City of Sherrill include a variety of single-family and two-family residential structures, commercial office space, government office space, local commercial retail businesses, and gas and automotive repair stations. A reservoir is located at the intersection of West Hamilton Avenue and Betsinger Road. McAllister Elementary School is located in the center of the City of Sherrill. More high activity land uses are located along NYS Route 5; similar types of land uses are found in the Village of Oneida Castle and the Village of Vernon.

#### Nation Lands

The Nation owns eight parcels of land comprised of 11 tax lots encompassing four acres in the City of Sherrill. Nation lands comprise 0.3 percent of the total area of the City of

Sherrill. Nation land uses are utilized for Standing Stone retail commercial businesses, residential structures, agricultural uses, and a SavOn gas station and convenience store.

*Group 1 Lands*

There are no Group 1 lands located within the City of Sherrill.

*Group 2 Lands*

The Nation owns six parcels comprised of nine tax lots of Group 2 lands in the City of Sherrill. These nine tax lots encompass a total of three acres and constitute 75 percent of the total area of all Nation lands located within the City of Sherrill, as well as 0.2 percent of the total area of the city. As previously stated, these properties include the Standing Stone retail commercial businesses, residential structures, agricultural uses, and a SavOn gas station and convenience store.

*Group 3 Lands*

The Nation owns two parcels comprised of two tax lots of Group 3 lands located in the City of Sherrill. The two tax lots encompass a total of 0.6 acres and constitute approximately 15 percent of the total area of all Nation lands located within the City of Sherrill, as well as 0.05 percent of the total area of the city. Properties in this group are characterized by vacant residential uses.

Land use on Nation holdings is similar to land use on non-Nation properties in the City of Sherrill.

**Town of Augusta**

The Town of Augusta is approximately 28 square miles (17,741 acres) in area and is located in the southwestern corner of Oneida County (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000). The Town of Augusta is bounded on the north by the Town of Vernon, on the east by the Towns of Marshall and Kirkland, on the south by the Town of Madison located in Madison County, and on the west by the Town of Stockbridge located in Madison County. Within the Town of Augusta are located the Hamlet of Augusta on NYS Route 26, the Hamlet of Knoxboro northwest of the Hamlet of Augusta, and the Village of Oriskany Falls located in the southeast corner of the town (Figure 3.2-22).

Active pastures and crop fields are located throughout the Town of Augusta. Undeveloped areas and residential development are also distributed throughout the Town of Augusta. A commercial district is located in the west central portion of the Town of Augusta and vacant land is located in the southeastern portion of the town. Other land uses in the Town of Augusta are pockets of industrial development in the southeastern portion, as well as areas designated for public use (i.e., wild, forested, conservation lands, public parks, public services, and recreational and entertainment). Local retail establishments are located in the Hamlet of Augusta and the Village of Oriskany Falls.

### Nation Lands

Nation lands are located in the northwestern portion of the Town of Augusta, along Stockbridge town line and also within the Hamlet of Augusta. The Nation owns three parcels of land comprised of six tax lots encompassing a total area of 259 acres. Nation lands, which constitute approximately 1.5 percent of the total area of the Town of Augusta, are utilized for active and vacant residential uses, farmland, and commercial areas.

### *Group 1 Lands*

There are no Group 1 lands located within the Town of Augusta.

### *Group 2 Lands*

There are two parcels comprised of four tax lots of Group 2 lands located in the Town of Augusta encompassing a total area of one acre. These Nation lands are located within the Hamlet of Augusta along Solsville Road and NYS Route 26, and are currently vacant. These four tax lots constitute 0.4 percent of the total area of all Nation lands located within the Town of Augusta, as well as 0.01 percent of the total area of the town.

### *Group 3 Lands*

There is one parcel comprised of two tax lots of Group 3 lands located in the Town of Augusta along the Town of Stockbridge border. These two tax lots encompass a total of 258 acres and constitute approximately 99 percent of the total area of all Nation lands located within the Town of Augusta, as well as approximately one percent of the total area of the town. These properties are utilized for active and vacant residential uses, and farmland.

The land use of Nation holdings is similar to the land use of non-Nation properties. Both Nation lands and non-Nation lands in the Town of Augusta have residential, commercial, and agricultural uses.

### **City of Rome**

The City of Rome is located in central Oneida County and is approximately 76 square miles (48,640 acres) in area. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000). The City of Rome is bounded on the north by the Towns of Annsville and Lee, and by Delta Lake; on the east by the Town of Floyd; on the south by the Towns of Westmoreland, Whitestown, and Verona; and on the west by the Town of Vienna. The City of Rome has an inner district and an outer district. Although Nation lands are not located within the City of Rome, the city's southern boundaries are within 1,000 feet of Nation lands located in the Town of Verona, therefore, a description of land use in the vicinity of Nation holdings is provided below.

Lands in the southern and western part of the City of Rome's outer district comprise mostly undeveloped, inactive, and wooded areas. Some of the properties located along NYS Route 49, Lauther Road, and Hogsback Road have inactive and active farming

related uses and residential dwellings. Additionally, there are wetland areas located north and east of the city boundary and along Erie Canal, Wood Creek, Beaver Brook, Fish Creek, and Brandy Creek. Becks Grove airstrip is located on the south side of Oswego Road, near the Vienna Town border. The western and southern parts of the City of Rome have some concentrations of residential development and local retail establishments including Pine Crest, Becks Grove, and Seifert Corners.

Existing land uses on Nation holdings in the northern part of the Town of Verona are generally similar to those nearby areas located within the southern and western parts of the City of Rome's outer district.

### **Town of Westmoreland**

The Town of Westmoreland is approximately 118 square miles (75,520 acres) in area (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000). The Town of Westmoreland is located in the central part of Oneida County and is bounded by the City of Rome on the north, the Town of Whitesnow on the east, the Town of Kirkland on the south, and the Towns of Vernon and Verona on the west. Although Nation lands are not located within the Town of Westmoreland, its western boundaries along the Town of Verona are located within the Study Area, therefore, a description of land use in the vicinity of these Nation holdings in the Town of Verona is provided.

The Town of Westmoreland is a rural community with many areas being utilized for farming, crops, and livestock raising. I-90 crosses the Town of Westmoreland from east to west. As noted in the Town of Westmoreland Comprehensive Plan, land use patterns in the town are characteristic of land uses in upstate rural New York municipalities (Town of Westmoreland Comprehensive Plan Final Draft, 1995). Located in the northern and western part of the Town of Westmoreland are mostly residential properties, active crop fields, and vacant parcels. Additionally, there are some wetlands located near the Vernon Town line.

Existing land uses on Nation holdings in the Town of Verona include inactive pastures and fields, and wetlands. These land uses are similar in nature and typical of many properties in this area of Oneida County.

#### **3.2.4.5 Madison County Land Use**

The total area of Madison County is 432,152 acres. The municipalities in which the Nation owns land, however, encompasses a total area of 94,675 acres or approximately 22 percent of the total area of Madison County. Agriculture is the dominant land use in these municipalities. As identified in Table 3.2-11, 43 percent of the area is utilized for agriculture. Agricultural lands in Madison County total 168,264 acres located with 13 different agricultural districts (Madison County Farmland Protection Board, 2005). The second largest land use in these municipalities is vacant land, accounting for 27 percent of the area. Residential land, the third largest land use, accounts for 24 percent of the area.

**Table 3.2-11  
Land Use of Municipalities Located in Madison County  
with Nation Lands**

| Land Use   | Acres         | Percent of Area |
|--|---------------|-----------------|
| Agricultural   | 40,166        | 43              |
| Commercial   | 1,038         | 1               |
| Community Services                                   | 1,334         | 1               |
| Industrial   | 925           | 1               |
| Public Services                                      | 1,099         | 1               |
| Recreation and Entertainment                         | 1,300         | 1               |
| Residential  | 22,954        | 24              |
| Vacant Land  | 25,055        | 27              |
| Wild, Forested, Conservation Lands, and Public Parks | 804           | 1               |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>94,675</b> | <b>100</b>      |

Source: New York State Office of Real Property Services, 2004

The information identified in the discussions below were obtained from the municipalities and from observations made by MP staff during site visits made to the Study Area in October and November 2005. The figures (Figures 3.2-22 through 3.2-29) that are provided with this discussion show general land use for these municipalities, which was obtained from data provided by the NYSORPS. These figures also identify general land use on Nation lands as obtained during observations made by MP staff during the site visits to the Study Area, data provided by the Nation, photographs, and aerial photography.

**City of Oneida**

The City of Oneida is located in the northeastern corner of Madison County. The City of Oneida is approximately 22 square miles (14,131 acres) in area and is bounded by the Towns of Lenox and Lincoln on the west, Oneida County and Oneida Creek on the north and east, and the Town of Stockbridge on the south (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000). I-90 traverses the northern portion of the City of Oneida, running east to west (Figure 3.2-23). The Old Oneida Lake Canal is located in the northern part of the City of Oneida. Dismantled and inactive railroad rights-of-way pass through the City of Oneida from east to west at various locations.

Land uses north of I-90 generally include residential, agricultural, small local retail commercial businesses, the Old Erie Canal, wetlands, wooded areas, and vacant lands. Land uses south of I-90 and in the downtown area of the City of Oneida include medium-density residential and multi-family dwellings, offices, medium-sized retail commercial businesses, personal services, community facilities, governmental offices, wholesale businesses, parks and recreational areas, and vacant lands. A number of public parks and open space are located throughout the downtown area. Retail shopping centers are located near the intersection of Genessee Street (NYS Route 5) and NYS Route 46. The Oneida Country Course is located south of NYS Route 5, just east of Bakers Reservoir. South of NYS Route 5, the land uses in the City of Oneida have a more rural character and are generally utilized for pastures, single-family dwellings on large parcels of land, small local

retail commercial businesses, wooded areas, and vacant lands. Cemeteries are located south of NYS Route 5 and along Fairview Avenue, West Road, and Middle Road.

#### Nation Lands

The Nation owns 39 parcels comprised of 45 tax lots encompassing a total of 1,039 acres located within both the inner and outer portions of the City of Oneida. Nation lands comprise approximately seven percent of the total area located within the City of Oneida. Nation lands located near the downtown area of the City of Oneida are utilized for SavOn gas stations and convenience stores, a wholesale distribution center, vacant and active warehouses, Nation Government Services and Affairs offices, member housing, active and vacant residential uses, and the Nation's communications/media relations office. In the outer rural areas of the City of Oneida, Nation lands located along NYS Route 46 and Glenwood Avenue are utilized for Nation Services and Affairs offices, Nation community facilities, a gymnasium, the cultural and education center, farming, a 99-acre inoperative sand and gravel pit, member housing and residential uses, including the Village of the White Pines Member Housing complex, a graveyard, a SavOn gas station and convenience store, and vacant properties.

#### *Group 1 Lands*

There are no Group 1 lands located within the City of Oneida.

#### *Group 2 Lands*

There are 35 parcels comprised of 40 tax lots of Group 2 lands located in the City of Oneida. These 40 tax lots encompass a total of 789 acres and constitute approximately 76 percent of the total area of all Nation lands located within the City of Oneida, as well as approximately six percent of the total area of the city.

#### *Group 3 Lands*

There are four parcels comprised of five tax lots of Group 3 lands located in the City of Oneida. These five tax lots encompass a total of 250 acres and constitute approximately 24 percent of the total area of all Nation lands located within the City of Oneida, as well as approximately two percent of the total area of the city.

There are similar land uses on Nation and non-Nation lands located within the City of Oneida. Both Nation and non-Nation lands have a rural and suburban character in the areas located outside of the City of Oneida's downtown area. Land uses of Nation holdings located in the downtown area are similar in nature to land uses typically located in the urbanized area of the City of Oneida, as both Nation and non-Nation lands are utilized for office space, convenience stores and gas stations, residential structures, and vacant structures.

### ***Town of Lenox***

The Town of Lenox is located in the northeastern corner of Madison County and occupies an area of approximately 36 square miles (23,296 acres) (U. S. Census Bureau, 2000). The Town of Lenox is bounded on the north by Oneida Lake, on the east by Oneida Creek and Oneida County, on the south by the Town of Lincoln, and on the west by the Town of Sullivan (Figure 3.2-24). I-90 traverses the Town of Lenox from east to west. The Village of Wampsville, where the Town of Lenox's government offices are located, is near the east town boundary on NYS Route 5.

The land in the Town of Lenox is utilized for a variety of residential uses, local retail commercial businesses, active farmland, active crop fields, livestock, pastures, gas and automotive repair stations, office space, recreational and water-related uses, industrial uses, community facilities, schools, government offices, wetlands, wooded areas, and vacant lands. A canal/irrigation system is located in the southern portion of the Town of Lenox. Generally agricultural uses, residential uses, vacant structures, wetlands, wooded areas, and vacant land areas are located outside of the villages and hamlets of the Town of Lenox.

Governmental offices; single, two, and multi-family dwellings; commercial retail businesses, personal service businesses, convenience stores, gas stations, and community facilities are generally concentrated in the Villages of Canastota and Wampsville. The International Boxing Hall of Fame is located on the northwest side of the Village of Canastota, and an airport and an industrial park is located to the southwest. Local cemeteries are located to the south of this village. The Casolwood Golf Course is located just outside of the Village of Canastota to the west. County offices are located in the downtown area of the Village of Wampsville. Single-family, local retail commercial businesses, convenience stores, gas stations, automotive repair shops, and community facilities are located along NYS Route 5 in the southern portion of the Town of Lenox.

### ***Nation Lands***

The Nation owns 22 parcels comprised of 34 tax lots encompassing a total of 826 acres located within the Town of Lenox. These Nation lands are exclusive of those located within the Village of Canastota. Nation lands comprise approximately four percent of the total area of the Town of Lenox.

Nation lands located in the northern portion of the Town of Lenox are utilized for member housing, single and vacant residential structures, the Marion Manor Marina, member boating facilities, and a SavOn gas station and convenience store while wetlands, wooded parcels, and vacant lands are located in other sections of the town. Nation lands located in and near the Hamlet of South Bay on Oneida Lake are utilized for the Marion Manor Marina that is comprised of five tax lots, a member boating and recreational facility, a SavOn gas station and convenience store, vacant residential structures, and

vacant lands. In the western part of the Town of Lenox on the Town of Sullivan border, Nation lands are utilized for member housing, wooded areas, and wetlands. In the center of the Town of Lenox, Nation lands are generally located in two areas, along I-90 and in and around the Village of Canastota. Along I-90, Nation lands are utilized for member housing, wooded parcels, wetlands, and other vacant properties.

#### *Group 1 Lands*

There are no Group 1 lands located within the Town of Lenox.

#### *Group 2 Lands*

There are 18 parcels comprised of 25 tax lots of Group 2 lands located in the Town of Lenox. These 25 tax lots encompass a total of 638 acres and constitute approximately 77 percent of the total area of all Nation lands located within the Town of Lenox, as well as approximately three percent of the total area of the town.

#### *Group 3 Lands*

There are four parcels comprised of nine tax lots of Group 3 lands located in the Town of Lenox. These nine tax lots encompass a total of 187 acres and constitute approximately 23 percent of the total area of all Nation lands located within the Town of Lenox, as well as 0.8 percent of the total area of the town.

In general, land uses on Nation holdings are of a similar nature and character as on non-Nation properties located in the Town of Lenox.

#### ***Village of Canastota***

The Village of Canastota is located in the south central part of the Town of Lenox. The Village of Canastota has an area of approximately three square miles (2,125 acres) and is located along NYS Route 13 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000). The Village of Canastota is directly accessible to I-90, which traverses the village from east to west. NYS Route 5 forms the southern boundary of the Village of Canastota.

The Village of Canastota contains a central core of moderately scaled development including governmental buildings, institutional uses, public facilities, local and regional retail commercial uses, and industrial activity. Just outside of the central core of the village area are single-family, two-family, and multi-family residences. Erie Canal State Park is located in the center of the Village of Canastota. Within the Village of Canastota, Nation lands and non-Nation lands are utilized for institutional uses, residential structures and uses, and vacant land.

#### *Nation Lands*

The Nation owns 13 parcels comprised of 13 tax lots encompassing a total of 226 acres within the Village of Canastota. Nation lands comprise approximately 11 percent of the total area of the Village of Canastota. Within the Village of Canastota, Nation lands are



utilized for a SavOn gas station and convenience store located adjacent to I-90, vacant recreational parcels, a cultural area (a Nation festival site), Indian Country Today's Newspaper publishing headquarters, Nation Police headquarters located on Diamond Street, active and abandoned agricultural uses, and active and abandoned residential structures.

*Group 1 Lands*

There are no Group 1 lands located within the Village of Canastota.

*Group 2 Lands*

There are 13 parcels comprised of 13 tax lots of Group 2 lands located in the Village of Canastota. These 13 tax lots encompass a total of 226 acres and constitute approximately 11 percent of the total area of the Village of Canastota.

*Group 3 Lands*

There are no Group 3 lands located within the Village of Canastota.

Nation lands located in the Village of Canastota consist primarily of residential, recreational, agricultural and community facility uses. Since the Village of Canastota as a whole consists of similar uses, the character of Nation lands is congruent in nature and scale to the village. Thus, in general, existing Nation land uses are similar to those of non-Nation properties.

***Town of Stockbridge***

The Town of Stockbridge is approximately 32 square miles (20,262 acres) in area and is located in the northeastern corner of Madison County (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000). The Town of Stockbridge is bounded on the north by the City of Oneida and Oneida County, on the east by the Towns of Vernon and Augusta in Oneida County, on the south by the Towns of Eaton and Madison, and on the west by the Towns of Smithfield and Lincoln (Figure 3.2-25).

The Town of Stockbridge is mostly a rural community, with pastures and other agricultural uses located throughout. Undeveloped areas, residential development, and low-intensity commercial establishments are also distributed throughout the Town of Stockbridge. With a few exceptions, local commercial retail businesses, office space, community facilities, government offices, and personal services are concentrated within the hamlets of the Town of Stockbridge and the Village of Munnsville.

*Nation Lands*

The Nation owns 28 parcels comprised of 48 tax lots encompassing 3,621 acres of land. Nation lands comprise approximately 18 percent of the total area of the Town of Stockbridge. Many Nation lands in the Town of Stockbridge are utilized for farming activities, pastures, and crop fields. Properties located in the northern part of the Town of

Stockbridge and along NYS Route 46 are utilized for pastures, farming, crops, member housing, livestock raising, outdoor activities, residential uses, a Nation cattle facility (the Heifer Hotel), wetlands, wooded areas, and vacant parcels. Nation lands utilized for the Pratts Sand and Gravel Pit are located in the southern part of the Town of Stockbridge along Pratts Road. Located in the eastern portion of the Town of Stockbridge are Nation lands used for crops and farming activities, pastures, and outdoor activities. Some of the Nation lands located on the east side of the Town of Stockbridge have wetlands and wooded areas or are vacant.

#### *Group 1 Lands*

There are no Group 1 lands located within the Town of Stockbridge.

#### *Group 2 Lands*

There is one parcel comprised of one tax lot of Group 2 lands located in the Town of Stockbridge. This tax lot is located in the southwestern portion of the Town of Stockbridge to the west of NYS Route 46 and it contains the Nation's sand and gravel operation (Pratts Sand and Gravel Pit) that provides aggregate material for Nation construction projects. This one tax lot encompasses a total of 121 acres and constitutes approximately three percent of the total area of all Nation lands located within the Town of Stockbridge, as well as 0.6 percent of the total area of the town.

#### *Group 3 Lands*

There are 27 parcels comprised of 47 tax lots of Group 3 lands located in the Town of Stockbridge. These 47 tax lots encompass a total of 3,500 acres and constitute approximately 97 percent of the total area of all Nation lands located within the Town of Stockbridge, as well as approximately 17 percent of the total area of the town.

Nation lands located in the Town of Stockbridge are generally rural in character. Since most of the non-Nation lands are used for pastures, crops, and livestock, the character is similar in nature and scale to the Town of Stockbridge as a whole. In general, existing Nation land uses are similar to those of non-Nation properties.

### **Town of Cazenovia**

The Town of Cazenovia is approximately 52 square miles (33,101 acres) in area (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000). Lake Cazenovia is located in the northern portion of the Town of Cazenovia. The Town of Cazenovia is bounded by the Town of Sullivan on the north, the Towns of Fenner and Nelson on the east, the Town of De Ruyter on the south, and Onondaga County on the west (Figure 3.2-26).

There are a variety of land uses in the Town of Cazenovia. The land in the Town of Cazenovia is utilized for residential uses, crop fields, pastures, and other agricultural uses. Local commercial retail businesses, personal services, community facilities, office space, governmental offices, convenience stores, gas stations, automotive repair shops, and other

more intensive land uses are generally concentrated in the Hamlets of New Woodstock, Rippleton, North Cazenovia, and West Woodstock, and the Village of Cazenovia, which are located within the Town of Cazenovia. The Village of Cazenovia has multi-family residential dwellings located in the eastern and western portions of this village. Public Schools and Cazenovia College are located in the downtown area of the Village of Cazenovia. Cemeteries are located inside the Village of Cazenovia on Fenner Road, south of the village on Number Nine Road, and north of the village on Lincklaen Road.

#### Nation Lands

The Nation owns one parcel comprised of two tax lots encompassing nine acres in the Town of Cazenovia. Nation lands comprise 0.03 percent of the total area of the Town of Cazenovia. The one Nation parcel is located in the northwestern portion of the Town of Cazenovia just west of Lake Cazenovia and it contains an historic Oneida burial ground as well as wooded areas. There are no Nation lands located within the Village of Cazenovia or within 1,000-feet of the village boundary.

#### *Group 1 Lands*

There are no Group 1 lands located within the Town of Cazenovia.

#### *Group 2 Lands*

The Nation owns one parcel comprised of two tax lots of Group 2 lands located in the Town of Cazenovia. As stated previously, Nation lands are located in the northwestern portion of the Town of Cazenovia, just west of Lake Cazenovia. The two tax lots encompass a total of nine acres and constitute 0.03 percent of the total area of the Town of Cazenovia.

#### *Group 3 Lands*

There are no Group 3 lands located within the Town of Cazenovia.

As noted previously, Nation lands located in the Town of Cazenovia are used as historic burial grounds for the Oneida and Onondaga and are similar in use to the cemeteries located in the northwest corner of the town, north and west of Lake Cazenovia. Cemeteries are located east of West Lake Road and south of Peth Road, in the general vicinity of Nation lands.

#### ***Town of Lincoln***

The Town of Lincoln is approximately 25 square miles (16,000 acres) in area and is located in the northeastern portion of Madison County (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000). The Town of Lincoln is bounded on the north by the Towns of Lenox and Oneida, on the east by the Town of Stockbridge, on the south by the Towns of Smithfield and Fenner, and on the west by the Town of Sullivan (Figure 3.2-27).

The Town of Lincoln is a rural community, with pastures and active farms located throughout. Undeveloped areas (vacant land) and residential development are also distributed throughout the Town of Lincoln. Residential development is concentrated mostly in the central area of the Town of Lincoln with pockets of commercial establishments. Commercial development is located near Oxbow Road. There are also areas of wild, forested, conservation lands located in the central area of the Town of Lincoln. In addition, there are four relatively large water bodies located in the Town of Lincoln.

#### Nation Lands

In the Town of Lincoln, the Nation owns five parcels that are comprised of eight tax lots encompassing approximately 367 acres. Nation lands comprise approximately two percent of the total area of the Town of Lincoln. Nation lands in the Town of Lincoln are located primarily in the east central portion of the town, near the borders with the City of Oneida and Town of Stockbridge. Nation lands are also located in the south central portion of the Town of Lincoln, near the border with the Town of Fenner. One of these properties is located on both sides of the Lincoln Town line, near Oxbow Road. Most of the Nation lands located in the Town of Lincoln are classified as having agricultural uses such as crops. Other Nation lands are either vacant lands or mature wooded areas. Two parcels of Nation lands are used for member housing, one is located near Nichols Pond Road and the other is located near Vedder Road.

#### *Group 1 Lands*

There are no Group 1 lands located within the Town of Lincoln.

#### *Group 2 Lands*

The Nation owns two parcels comprised of three tax lots of Group 2 lands located in the Town of Lincoln. The three tax lots encompass a total of 22 acres and constitute approximately six percent of the total area of all Nation lands located within the Town of Lincoln, as well as 0.14 percent of the total area of the town. These Nation lands are used for member housing and vacant agriculture lands.

#### *Group 3 Lands*

The Nation owns three parcels comprised of five tax lots of Group 3 lands located in the Town of Lincoln. The five tax lots encompass a total of 345 acres and constitute approximately 94 percent of the total area of all Nation lands located within the Town of Lincoln, as well as approximately two percent of the total area within this town. These Nation lands are used for residential, vacant agriculture lands, and other rural vacant lands.

Land uses on Nation holdings are consistent with land uses on nearby non-Nation properties located within the Town of Lincoln.

### ***Town of Sullivan***

The Town of Sullivan is approximately 74 square miles (47,078 acres) in area (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000). It is located in the northwest portion of Madison County and is bounded on the north by Oneida Lake, on the east by the Towns of Lenox and Lincoln, on the south by the Towns of Cazenovia and Fenner, and on the west by the Towns of Cicero and Manlius in Onondaga County (Figure 3.2-28).

Located within the Town of Sullivan is the Village of Chittenango, where the town's government offices are located. The Town of Sullivan has many rural areas that are utilized for pastures, crops, farming, and land used for raising livestock. Undeveloped areas and residential development are also distributed throughout the Town of Sullivan, though the greatest concentration of undeveloped land is located in the northern portion near Oneida Lake. There are two relatively large areas of commercial and industrial development in the Town of Sullivan. One of these areas is located in the southeastern corner of the Town of Sullivan near the border with the Town of Lincoln, while the other is located in the northwestern portion of the town near the border with the Town of Manilus in Onondaga County. Another type of land use within the Town of Sullivan is public use (i.e., wild, forested, conservation lands, public parks/public services/recreational, and entertainment). The largest of these public use lands is located in the northern portion of the Town of Sullivan near Oneida Lake.

### ***Nation Lands***

The Nation owns four parcels comprised of four tax lots in the Town of Sullivan encompassing a total area of 181 acres. Nation lands comprise 0.4 percent of the total area of the Town of Sullivan. Nation lands located in the Town of Sullivan are concentrated in its northeastern portion, near the border with the Town of Lenox.

### ***Group 1 Lands***

There are no Group 1 lands located within the Town of Sullivan.

### ***Group 2 Lands***

There are two parcels comprised of two tax lots of Group 2 lands located in the Town of Sullivan. The largest of these parcels is located near Whitelaw Road and has wooded areas as well as member housing on it. These two tax lots encompass a total of 111 acres and constitute approximately 61 percent of the total area of all Nation lands located within the Town of Sullivan, as well as 0.2 percent of the total area of the town.

### ***Group 3 Lands***

There are two parcels comprised of two tax lots of Group 3 lands located in the Town of Sullivan. One of these two parcels is located near Whitelaw Road and the other is located near Gee Road. Both of these parcels are vacant. These two parcels encompass a total of 70 acres and constitute approximately 39 percent of the total area of all Nation lands located within the Town of Sullivan, as well as 0.2 percent of the total area of the town.

Land uses on Nation holdings are consistent with land uses on nearby non-Nation properties located within the Town of Sullivan.

### ***Town of Smithfield***

The Town of Smithfield is approximately 24 square miles (15,578 acres) in area and is located in the east central portion of Madison County (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000). The Town of Smithfield is bounded on the north by the Towns of Lincoln and Stockbridge, on the east by the Town of Stockbridge, on the south by the Towns of Eaton and Nelson, and on the west by the Town of Fenner. Located within the Town of Smithfield is the Hamlet of Peterboro, which is located in the center of the town, and the Hamlet of Siloam, which is located northeast of the Hamlet of Peterboro (Figure 3.2-29). There are no incorporated villages located in the Town of Smithfield.

The landscape of the Town of Smithfield is dominated by hilly terrain. The Town of Smithfield has many pastures, active farming, and crops. Based on information included in the Town of Smithfield Comprehensive Plan, approximately 58 percent of the area of the town is classified as agricultural. Undeveloped areas and residential development are distributed throughout the Town of Smithfield. Eighteen percent of the Town of Smithfield is classified as vacant rural or abandoned agricultural uses that are areas of wild, forested, conservation lands located in the south central area of the Town of Smithfield, as well as two relatively large water bodies. There are commercial establishments, residential uses, and governmental offices located within the Town of Smithfield.

### ***Nation Lands***

The Nation owns three parcels comprised of four tax lots in the Town of Smithfield encompassing a total area of 296 acres. Nation lands comprise approximately two percent of the total area of the Town of Smithfield. Nation lands are scattered throughout the Town of Smithfield.

### ***Group 1 Lands***

There are no Group 1 lands located within the Town of Smithfield.

### ***Group 2 Lands***

There are no Group 2 lands located within the Town of Smithfield.

### ***Group 3 Lands***

There are three parcels comprised of four tax lots of Group 3 lands located in the Town of Smithfield. There is a large parcel of land located in the southwestern portion of the Town of Smithfield near Rich Road and the Town of Fenner border. This parcel contains wetlands and it is used for outdoor activities. In the north-central portion of the Town of Smithfield near the border with the Town of Lincoln and not far from Northrup Road is a large parcel of vacant or undeveloped land containing historical and/or archaeological

resources. There is a large wooded parcel located in the northeastern portion of the Town of Smithfield near Peterboro Road and not far from the border with the Town of Stockbridge. These four tax lots encompass a total of 296 acres and constitute approximately two percent of the total area of the Town of Smithfield.

Land uses on Nation holdings located within the Town of Smithfield are consistent with and similar to nearby farming and undeveloped non-Nation properties located within the Study Area.

### ***Town of Fenner***

The Town of Fenner is approximately 31 square miles (19,936 acres) in area and is located in the north central portion of Madison County (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000). The Town of Fenner is bounded on the north by the Towns of Sullivan and Lincoln, on the east by the Town of Smithfield, on the south by the Towns of Cazenovia and Nelson, and on the west by the Town of Cazenovia (Figure 3.2-30). The Town of Fenner is located east of Cazenovia Lake. The Hamlet of Chittenango Falls is located on the western town line of the Town of Fenner, the Hamlet of Fenner is located in the center of the town, the Hamlet of Perryville is located on the north town line, and the Hamlet of Rowan Corners is located in the northwest part of the town.

The Town of Fenner is a mostly rural community with pastures and active agricultural uses located throughout. Undeveloped areas and residential development are distributed throughout the Town of Fenner. There are also areas of wild, forested, conservation lands located in the east central area of the Town of Fenner.

### ***Nation Lands***

The Nation owns one parcel comprised of one tax lot in the Town of Fenner, which encompasses 28 acres. This parcel comprises 0.1 percent of the total area of the Town of Fenner. Nation lands contain mature wooded areas and are located in the northeastern corner of the Town of Fenner near Oxbow Road and the border with the Town of Lincoln.

### ***Group 1 Lands***

There are no Group 1 lands located within the Town of Fenner.

### ***Group 2 Lands***

There are no Group 2 lands located within the Town of Fenner.

### ***Group 3 Lands***

There is one parcel comprised of one tax lot of Group 3 lands located in the Town of Fenner. This parcel, which is a mature wooded area, encompasses a total of 28 acres and constitutes 0.1 percent of the total area of the Town of Fenner.

Land uses on the Nation holdings located within the Town of Fenner are consistent with land uses on nearby non-Nation properties.