



May 17, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Advisory

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**ILDC PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE:
PROPOSED TOWN OF EVANS AGRIBUSINESS PARK**
Public comments will be collected regarding Draft Scoping Document

Tuesday, May 18, 2021 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM

REGISTRATION REQUIRED for PUBLIC and MEDIA to ATTEND:

<https://www.ecidany.com/agpark>

Livestream listen/watch only:

<https://www.ecidany.com/streaming>

MEETING AGENDA:

Opening Remarks **Erie County Executive Mark C. Poloncarz**
Supervisor Mary K. Hosler, Town of Evans
Brett Kreher, Kreher Poultry Farms Partner &
Chairman, Erie County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board

Overview **John Cappellino, ILDC**
President & CEO
Maria Whyte, Erie County
Deputy County Executive

Presentation **Andrew C. Reilly, AICP Wendel Companies**
Director of Planning and Environmental Services

Q&A /Public Comment

MEDIA ONLY: POST-MEETING FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS LINK:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85265581853?pwd=bUxTMEZHM2c0YVB0Sm1YWTVZQVUyZz09>

**ILDC TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING
FOR FUTURE TOWN OF EVANS AGRIBUSINESS PARK**

Town of Evans, NY—The Industrial Land Development Corporation [ILDC] will hold a **virtual public meeting Tuesday, May 18 at 7:00 p.m.** regarding the former Eden-Angola Airport site in the Town of Evans. The ILDC, which serves as the land development arm of the Erie County Industrial

Development Agency (ECIDA), will collect public comments for the Draft Scoping document on a proposal to develop an agribusiness park on the site.

The Draft Scoping Document outlines issues that will be analyzed in the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS), pursuant to the project's New York State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR). The purpose of the DGEIS is to evaluate the potential impacts of the Infrastructure Master Plan targeting industrial agribusiness development at the proposed Erie County Agribusiness Park site.

“This public meeting is the first opportunity for the local community to offer input on the scoping document for the property,” **said ECIDA/ILDC President and CEO John Cappellino**. “We are looking forward to presenting the Infrastructure Master Plan and getting the project underway, but we also want to make sure the Town of Evans and the surrounding community has a chance to voice their views on the project,” Cappellino said.

“As Chairman of the Erie County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board (ECAFPB), I applaud our elected representatives and planning professionals for recognizing the importance of cultivating our productive local farms and food supply. The proposed agribusiness park will ideally help both our local farms *and* businesses seeking to grow in WNY. Further, we applaud how the proposed location is *not* located on existing productive farmland. But *rather*, reuses land that was removed from agriculture many decades ago,” **said Brett Kreher, ECAFPB Chairman and a Partner in Kreher Poultry Farms**.

In 2019, National Grid awarded a \$354,000 grant to help the ILDC finance infrastructure work within the park, and Erie County provided a \$230,000 grant to help fund master planning efforts.

“National Grid’s economic development program supports customers and projects like these that are designed to build a robust portfolio of sites and buildings that can attract new businesses, develop new markets and help existing customers,” **said National Grid Regional Director Ken Kujawa**. “Our partnership with Buffalo and Erie County Industrial Land Development Corp. will help them accomplish all of these goals.”

The grant was made through National Grid’s Strategic Economic Development Program, which provides expertise and resources to attract businesses, as well as to related marketing and sales efforts. The Strategic Economic Development Program is part of a suite of economic development programs offered by National Grid. More information about National Grid’s economic development programs is available at www.shovelready.com.

BACKGROUND: DRAFT SCOPING DOCUMENT

Since details regarding the future agribusiness park are as yet unknown, a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) is being prepared to analyze potential environmental impacts of the project.

The Draft Scoping Document will provide a general description of an infrastructure master plan, outline the SEQR process, and identify relevant potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed development of an agribusiness park on the site. Public comments will help the ILDC identify important community issues and concerns that need to be addressed during the GEIS process.

The Scoping Document is the first step of the GEIS process; scoping is used to identify potential issues and ensure that the Draft GEIS (DGEIS) will be a comprehensive document.

A Public Scoping meeting and public comment period will allow the community to articulate any concerns that may have about the agribusiness park and allows the ILDC to include those concerns in the GEIS process.

Following the online meeting, participants will be directed to a link at www.ecidany.com to offer written comments.

BACKGROUND

ERIE COUNTY AGRIBUSINESS PARK: TOWN OF EVANS

The Buffalo & Erie County Industrial Land Development Corp purchased 240 acres of land at the former Eden-Angola Airport from private owners in April 2020, with the intent of developing the Erie County Agribusiness Park.

The ILDC paid \$980,000 for two parcels along Eden Evans Center Road, near the Eden-Angola exit on the 90West Interstate.

In 2019, National Grid awarded a \$354,000 grant to help the ILDC finance infrastructure work within the park, and Erie County provided a \$230,000 grant to help fund master planning efforts.

The Infrastructure Master Plan for the 240-acre site will identify a proposed layout of support services and identify land use and development principles for the property. The Infrastructure Master Plan project will also identify an implementation strategy to guide and attract future development of the site.

The Erie County Industrial Development Agency is a public benefit corporation sanctioned by the State of New York to offer tax incentives to qualified businesses, and is dedicated to furthering economic development, adaptive reuse of qualified properties, job creation and ensuring a thriving business environment in Erie County. The staff of the ECIDA are not employees of the City of Buffalo, the County of Erie, or the State of New York. The ECIDA does not receive operating funds from taxpayer revenues. The ECIDA receives its operating funds by collecting fees from businesses that enter into contracts with the Agency, from investments, and from loan fees.

The Industrial Land Development Corporation, or ILDC, is the land development services and bond issuance arm of the ECIDA. The ILDC is overseen by a separate Board of Directors, Chaired by Erie County Executive Mark C. Poloncarz.

For more information, visit www.ecidany.com

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