Using DECinfo Locator to Identify Potential Environmental Justice Areas and Disadvantaged Communities

Applicants for planning and implementation projects should use the instructions below to determine if their project meets any of the following conditions:

- is within a Potentional Environmental Justice Area or Disadvantaged Community and will improve water quality within a Potential Environmental Justice Area or Disadvantaged Community,
- is within the HUC 10 watershed of a drinking water source that will improve drinking water quality serving a Potential Environmental Justice Area or Disadvantaged Community,
- is within the HUC 10 area and upstream of a Potential Environmental Justice Area or Disadvantaged Community,
- protects Potential Environmental Justice Areas or Disadvantaged Communities that are within a dam failure inundation area

For background information about the development of these criteria, please see
https://climate.ny.gov/Resources/Disadvantaged-Communities-Criteria
https://www.dec.ny.gov/public/911.html

The instructions below describe how to generate maps of the project location using the DECinfo Locator and how to obtain the census tract identifier for each Potential Environmental Justice Area and Disadvantaged Community.

For additional guidance on using the DECinfo Locator, visit
https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/109457.html .

1. Open the DECinfo Locator website: https://gisservices.dec.ny.gov/gis/dil/
   a. Agree to the Terms and Conditions of the website.
   b. If you are unfamiliar with using online map tools, the Get Started tutorial video is recommended.
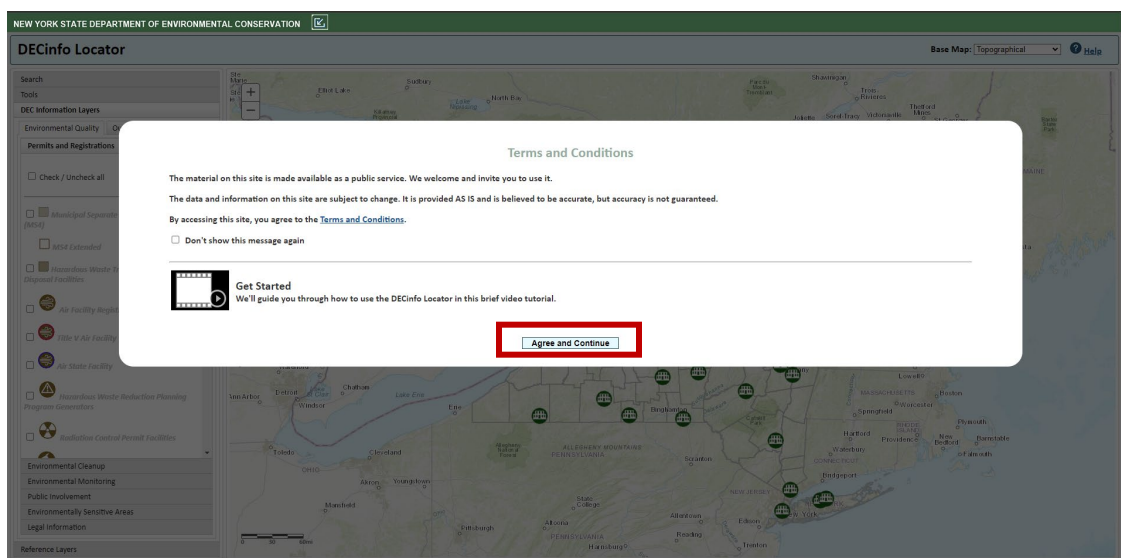
2. Your view is composed of two windows. The main window is a map of New York State. On the

left is the legend. The legend is a table of contents composed of several drop-down menus containing all the categories of data that can be displayed on the map.
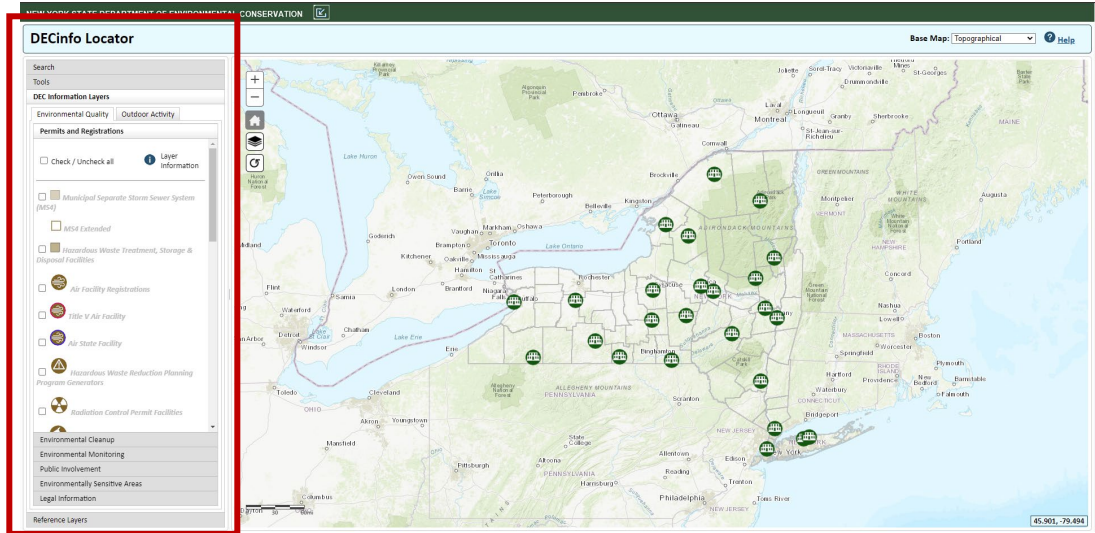
3. The four menus you will need to use are Public Involvement, Search, Reference Layers, and Tools. First, click on Public Involvement. This will expand the Public Involvement tab, revealing all the Public Involvement layers. Turn layers on and off by clicking the check box to the left of each layer.

DEC Information Layers

Search

Tools

DEC Information Layers

Environmental Quality	Outdoor Activity

Permits and Registrations

☐ Check / Uncheck all   ⓘ Layer Information

☐ ▢ *Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)*

     ☐ *MS4 Extended*

☐ ▢ *Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage & Disposal Facilities*

☐ *Air Facility Registrations*

☐ *Title V Air Facility*

☐ *Air State Facility*

☐ *Hazardous Waste Reduction Planning Program Generators*

☐ *Radiation Control Permit Facilities*

Environmental Cleanup

Environmental Monitoring

Public Involvement

Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Legal Information

Reference Layers

Public Involvement

☐ Check / Uncheck all   ⓘ Layer Information

☐ ▢ *Potential Environmental Justice Areas*

☐ ▢ **Disadvantaged Communities (DAC)**

☐ *OEJ Grants*

☐ *Environmental Excellence Awards Winners*

☐ *Climate Smart Communities*

☐ *Climate Smart Communities Grants*

☐ *Zero-emission Vehicle Rebates*

4. Next, click on the check box for Potential Environmental Justice Areas and/or Disadvantaged Communities. This will turn on the Potential Environmental Justice Areas and/or Disadvantaged Communities layer. Note that the layer only becomes visible once you've zoomed in sufficiently.
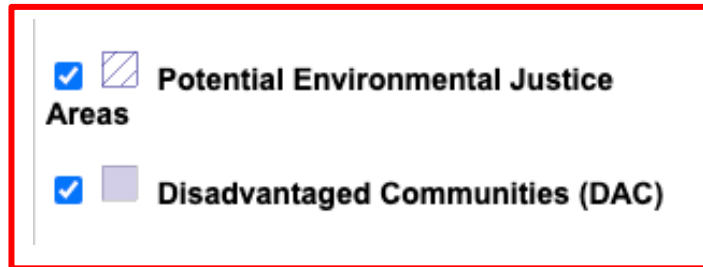
*Layer becomes visible when you zoom in on the map.

5. Now return to the table of contents and select Search.

6. In the search field, type in the address of the proposed project location. A dropdown menu will appear giving you a selection of candidate locations. Select the correct address. If an address does not yet exist for your project location, select an address that is as close as possible to the project location.
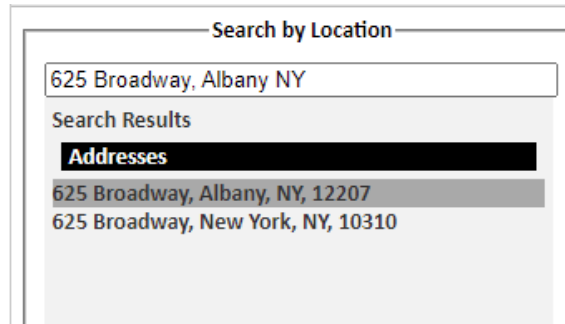
7. When the location is selected, the DECinfo Locator will automatically zoom in to the project location and place a square marker at the indicated site. Areas that are within the Disadvantaged Communities are symbolized by a purple ove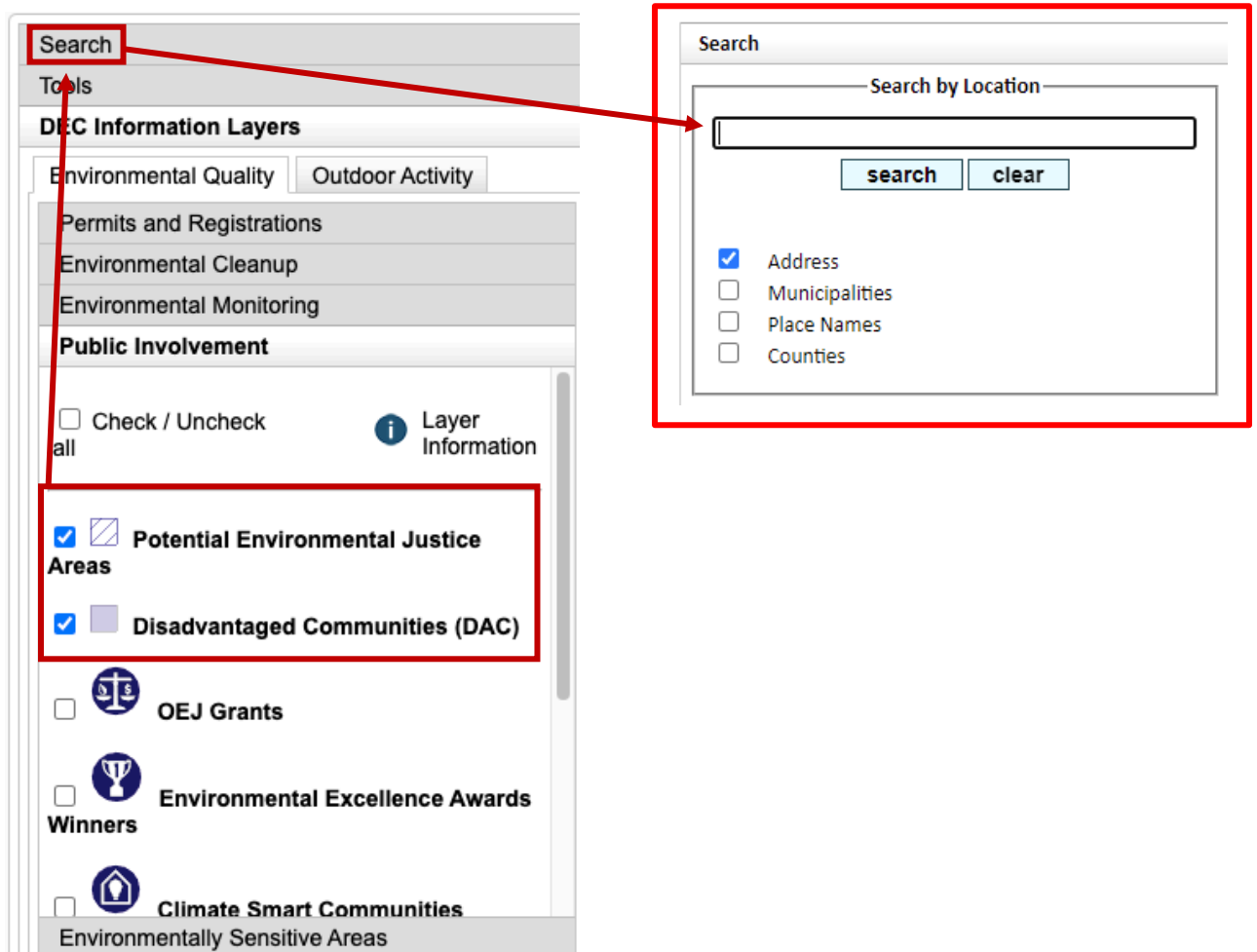rlay; Potential Environmental Justice Areas are symbolized by a striped overlay. Areas that are not within the Potential Environmental Justice Areas or Disadvantaged Communities do not have this overlay. In the example below, the proposed project location at 625 Broadway in Albany is within a Potential Environmental Justice Area and Disadvantaged Community, but surrounding areas of the City vary.

Map annotations:
- Zoom In/Out Buttons
- Within an Environmental Justice AND Disadvantaged Community
- Within ONLY an Environmental Justice Area
- NOT within an Environmental Justice OR Disadvantaged Community
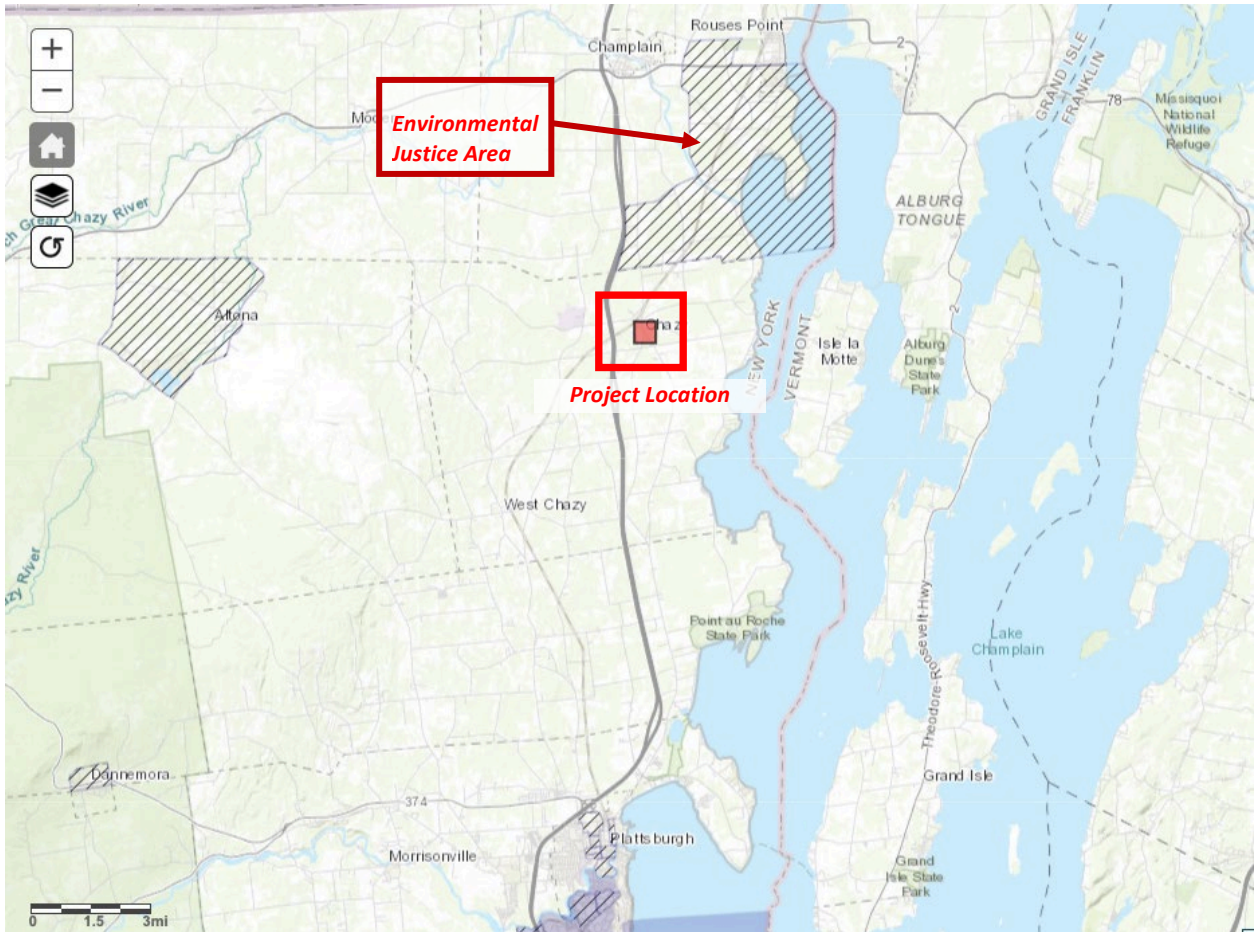- Within ONLY a Disadvantaged Community
- Scale Bar
- Project Location
- 42.643, -73.753

8. If the project is not directly within a Potential Environmental Justice Area or Disadvantaged Community area, the project may still be upstream and within a HUC 10 watershed area of a Potential Environmental Justice Area or Disadvantaged Community. To determine this, find the project area and zoom out on the map to see the surrounding area. The example below shows a project area in the Town of Chazy near Lake Champlain which is not a Potential Environmental Justice Area or Disadvantaged Community, but instead is upstream (Lake Champlain flows North) of a Potential Environmental Justice Area in the Town of Champlain.

9. To determine if the project will impact a Potential Environmental Justice Area or Disadvantaged Community, turn on the "HUC 10" watershed layer. To do this, first click on Environmental Monitoring. This will expand the Environmental Monitoring tab, revealing all the Environmental Monitoring layers. Turn layers on and off by clicking the check box to the left of each layer.
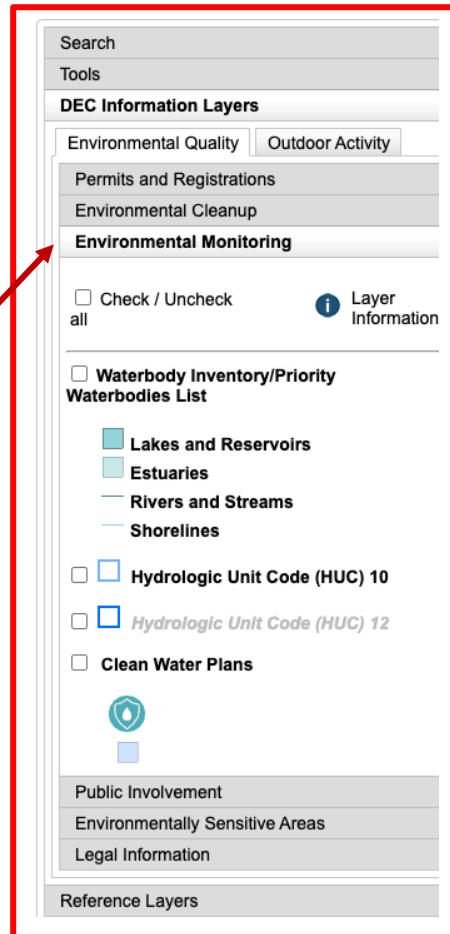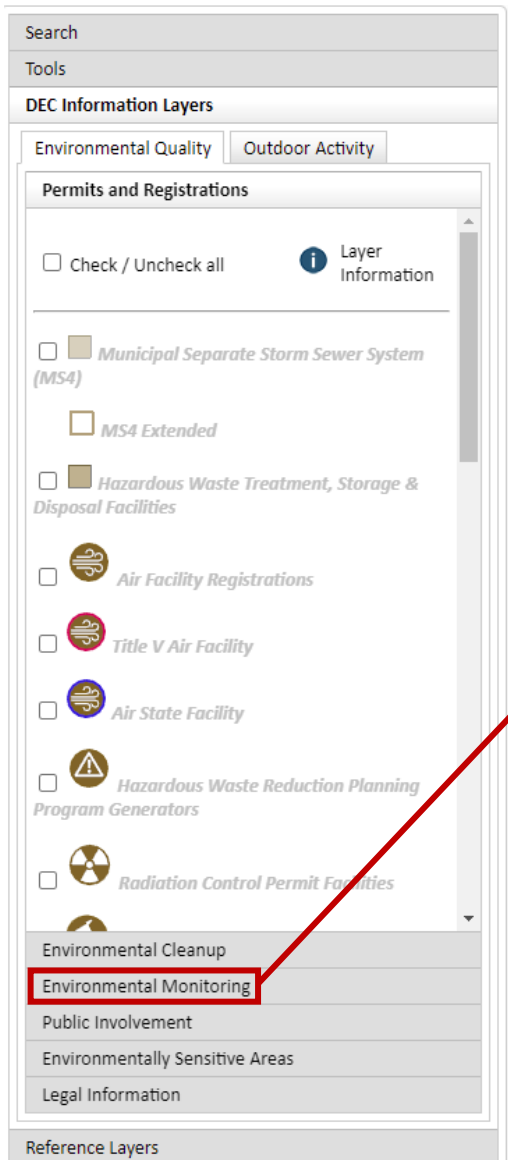
10. Next, click on the check box for Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 10. This will turn on the HUC 10 layer. Note that the layer only becomes visible once you've zoomed out sufficiently.

11. The map should now show all of the HUC 10 watershed boundaries in the map frame in blue.
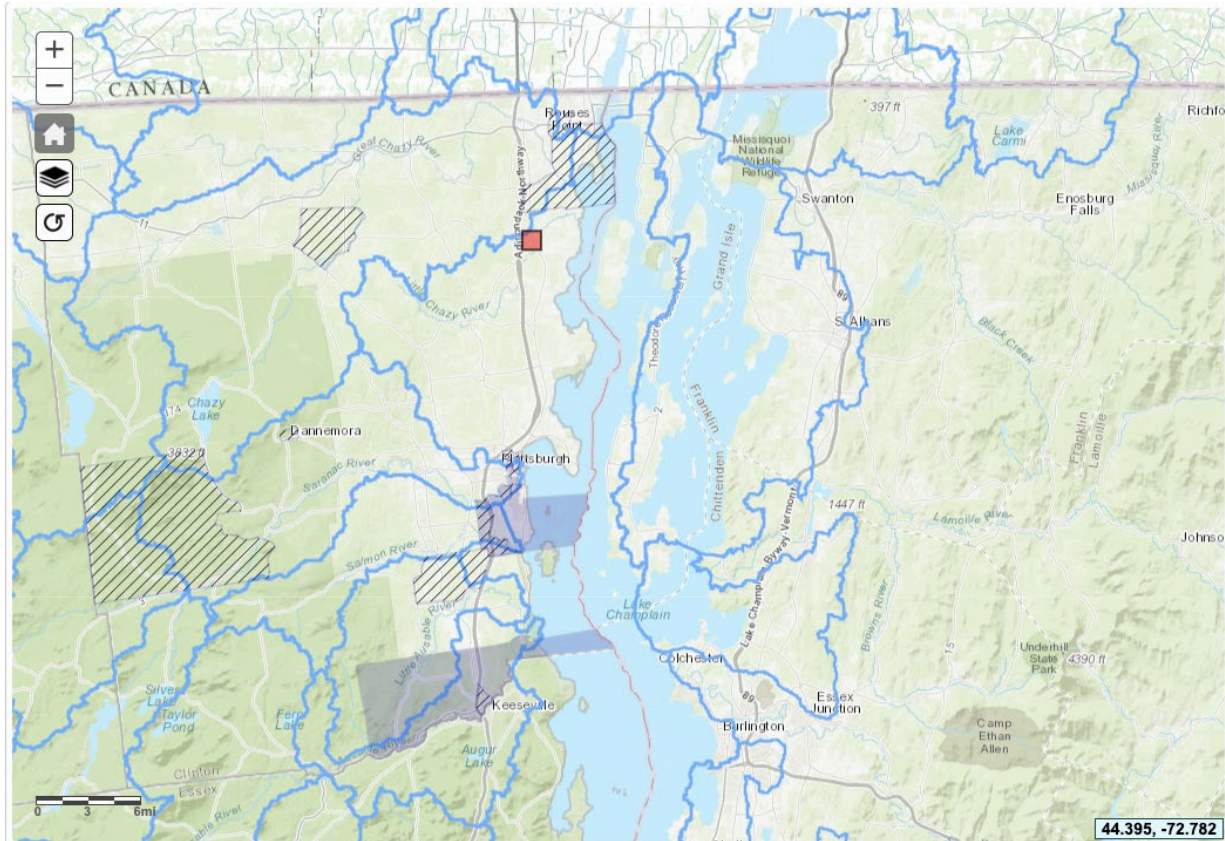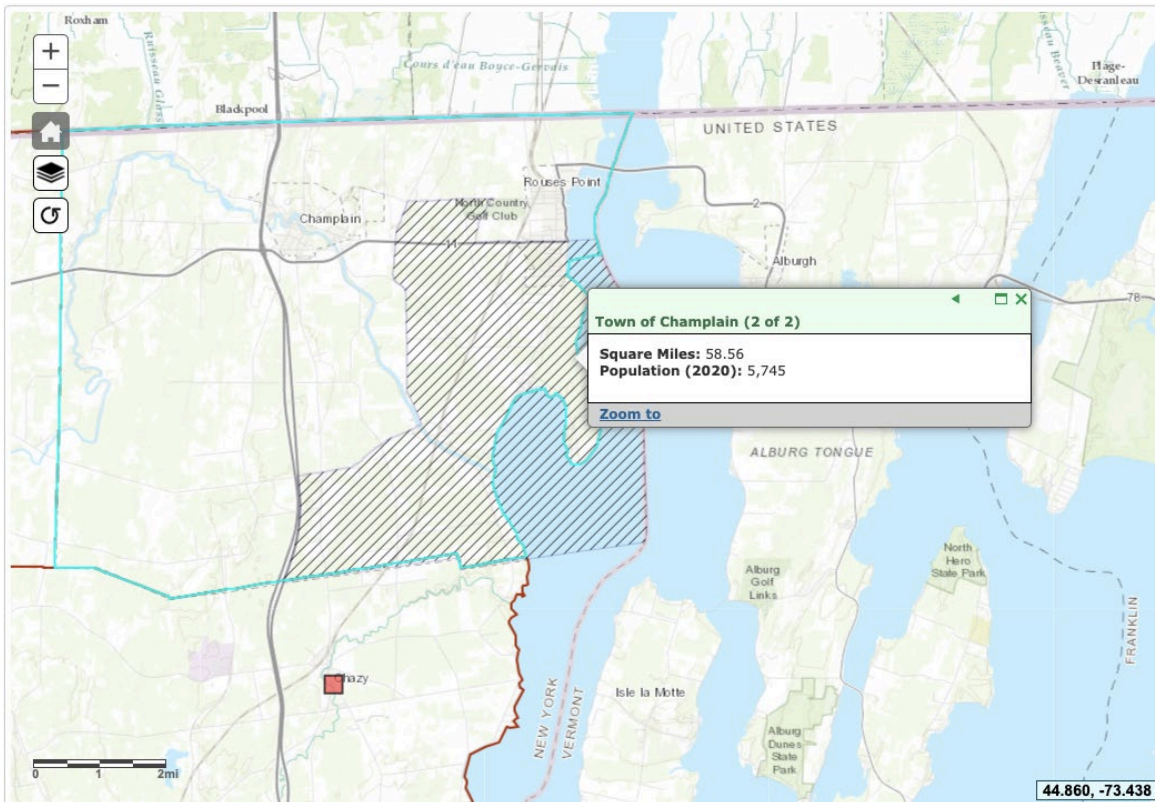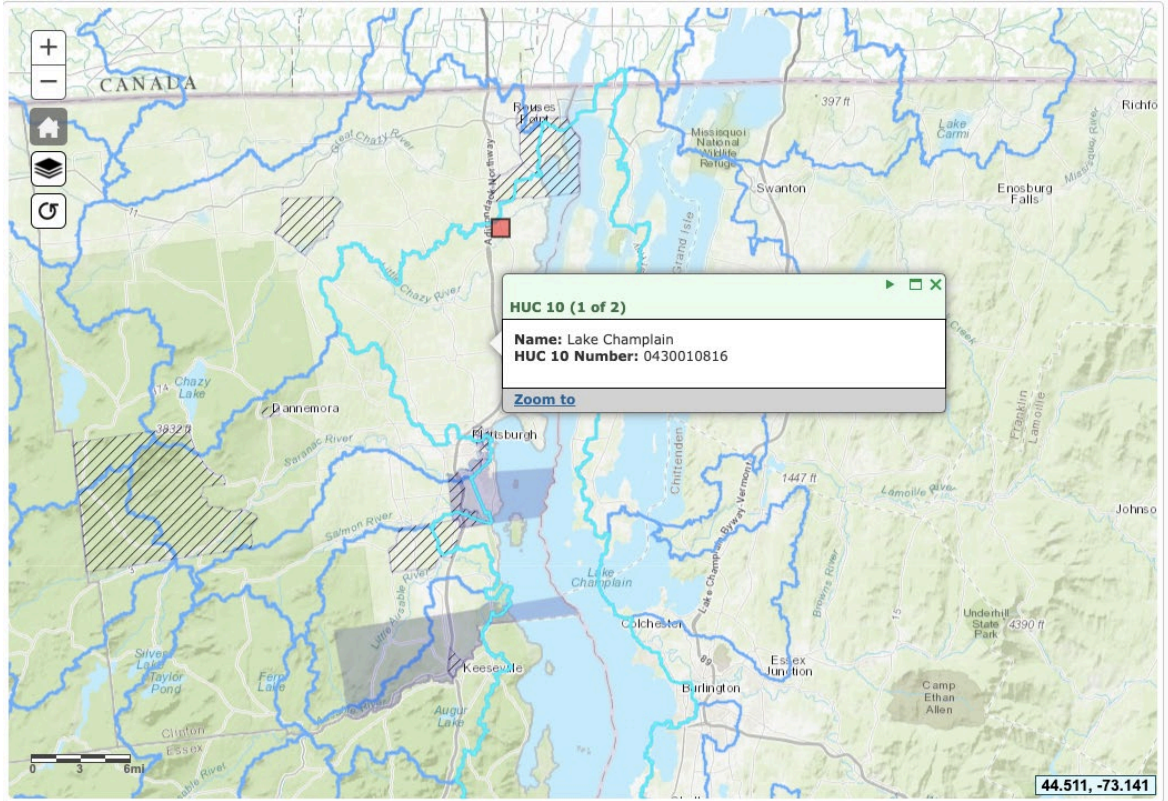

12. Click on the blue HUC 10 watershed boundary lines to determine which HUC 10 watershed the project lies in. In this example, the project is within the Lake Champlain HUC 10 watershed boundary, which also contains a portion of the Town of Champlain, a Potential Environmental Justice Area. The examples below show the HUC 10 watershed boundaries in the graphic and the identification of the Potential Environmental Justice Area so the Town name can be included in the application.

Lake Champlain flows north and is a drinking water source. Since the project is upstream and within the same HUC 10 watershed of a Potential Environmental Justice Area, in this case the Town of Champlain, the applicant should submit a map showing this and answer the corresponding CFA questions.

HUC 10 (1 of 2)

Name: Lake Champlain
HUC 10 Number: 0430010816

Zoom to

44.511, -73.141

Town of Champlain (2 of 2)

Square Miles: 58.56
Population (2020): 5,745

Zoom to

44.860, -73.438

13. To save the Potential Environmental Justice Area or Disadvantaged Community map, click on the Tools Tab and then click on the Activate Printer Tool button.

14. This will open the Print Map Tool. You will use this tool to generate a PDF map.
    a. The Printout Title should be your municipality name and type and project title
    b. The Author Information should be the person responsible for the grant application.
    c. The Printout Template should be 8.5 x 11.0 Portrait, which is the default setting. (Other sizes are acceptable if you are unable to capture the needed area using this setting.)
    d. Click Generate Map and the DECinfo Locator will generate a PDF map in another tab.

    e. It is common for the map to appear in a new tab and to be blocked by a spam blocker. Check your spam blocker settings or click on the first option to "always allow pop-ups" if you are notified like in the example below.
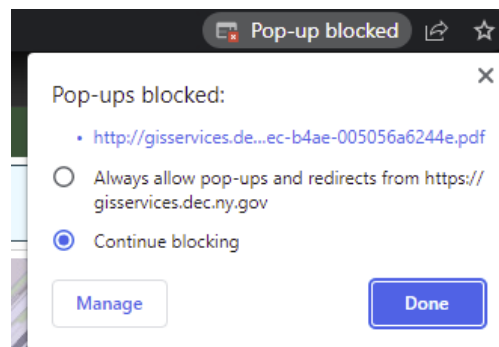
    f. Attach this map to your application