



Earlier today I received confirmation specific to the Empire State Development (“ESD”) position as it relates to essential construction. The official ESD statement reads as follows:

“Local governments, including municipalities and school districts, are allowed to continue construction projects at this time as government entities are exempt from the essential business restrictions. However, to the greatest extent possible, local governments should postpone any non-essential projects and only proceed with essential projects when they can implement appropriate social distancing and cleaning/disinfecting protocols. Essential projects are those that have a nexus to health and safety of the building occupants or to support the broader essential services that are required to fulfill the critical operations of government or the emergency response to the COVID-19 public health crisis.”

This language has not yet been included on the official guidance page posted by ESD, however, such comes from ESD and is their official position.

I strongly encourage contractors to work closely with the public project owner as it will be the project owner who will determine whether the project is essential or nonessential. Please keep in mind, if the project is determined to be essential, then those businesses performing work on that essential project, or those who are supplying material to that essential project, may therefore be exempt from the business restrictions.

ESD continues to evolve their positions, and as they do the Syracuse Builders Exchange will advise our members. Stay tuned as I am sure Monday will bring us more questions and new challenges.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Earl R. Hall', is written in a cursive style.

Earl R. Hall
Executive Director