



Michael R. Bloomberg, *Mayor*
Carter H. Strickland, Jr., *Commissioner*

**New York City Department of Environmental Protection
North River Wastewater Treatment Plant:
Cogeneration and Electrification Project**

Draft Public Participation Plan

April 2013

Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor

Carter H. Strickland, Jr.
Commissioner



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New York City Department of Environmental Protection North River Wastewater Treatment Plant: Cogeneration and Electrification Project Draft Public Participation Plan

Introduction

New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is proposing several upgrades to the North River Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), including the cogeneration facility in the existing engine room, and other plant infrastructure and equipment improvements. The cogeneration upgrades would consist of the replacement of the 10 existing tri-fuel (#2 fuel oil, natural gas, and digester gas) engines at the WWTP with 5 new dual fuel (natural gas and digester gas) spark ignited reciprocating engine generators. The existing engines are located within the engine room of the WWTP and are approaching the end of their useful life. Four of the five new engines would operate at any given time, with the fifth engine as a standby unit for emergencies or if one of the other engines requires service or repair. All five engines will be capable of operating during emergencies. The replacement of these engines represents a significant upgrade to the WWTP's co-generation facility, which supplies power for many of the operating systems at the WWTP. The state-of-the-art replacement engines, and the majority of the associated upgrades to piping and electrical systems, would be located within or adjacent to the engine room. The new engines would connect to the existing stacks located at the WWTP, just south of the plant's 145th Street connector. Additionally, improvements to the WWTP's electrical infrastructure and other related equipment would be made to allow the plant to operate based on digester gas, natural gas, electricity, or a combination of any of these energy sources. Thermal recovery systems would be upgraded to utilize the heat produced by the engine generators and distribute it throughout the North River WWTP. Digester improvements are also included with this project to increase digester gas production and to provide gas cleaning to improve air emissions. The proposed new engine generator units have higher energy efficiency, lower emissions and higher reliability.

The goals of the project are supportive of Mayor Michael Bloomberg's goals for New York City outlined in *PlaNYC*, and include:

- Improving local air quality
- Decreasing CO₂, particulate, and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions;
- Achieving energy efficiencies and cost savings;
- Encourage clean distributed energy generation;
- Foster renewable energy; and
- Use cleaner fuels.

Additionally, the project will meet several DEP strategic plan targets, including:

- Improving local air quality;
- Reducing greenhouse gasses by more than 30%;
- Improving Power Supply Reliability;
- Providing capability for Demand Side Management;

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- Decreasing Fuel Oil Usage; and
- Construction of Clean Energy facilities.

The cogeneration upgrade and electrification project is currently in the design phase. While the upgrade project is under construction, the existing engines would be taken off line gradually, and replaced with one new unit at a time, to allow for continued operation of the WWTP. Also during project construction, four diesel interim emergency generators may be installed to provide back-up power to the WWTP during blackouts or other ConEd emergencies; these would be removed when construction is complete and the upgraded cogeneration plant is operational. Construction and equipment installation is slated to begin in early 2015 with the startup of the new systems targeted for mid-2018.

This Public Participation Plan (PPP) is part of DEP's permitting application to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to renew and modify the existing Title V Facility Air Permit to include the operation of the new engines, as well as the temporary interim emergency generators to be used at the North River WWTP during the construction and installation of the new cogeneration facility engines and associated electrical equipment upgrades. In accordance with *Commissioner Policy-29 Environmental Justice and Permitting* (CP-29), NYSDEC requires the permit applicant to develop and execute a public participation plan targeting the local community, and conduct outreach as part of the environmental permit review process.

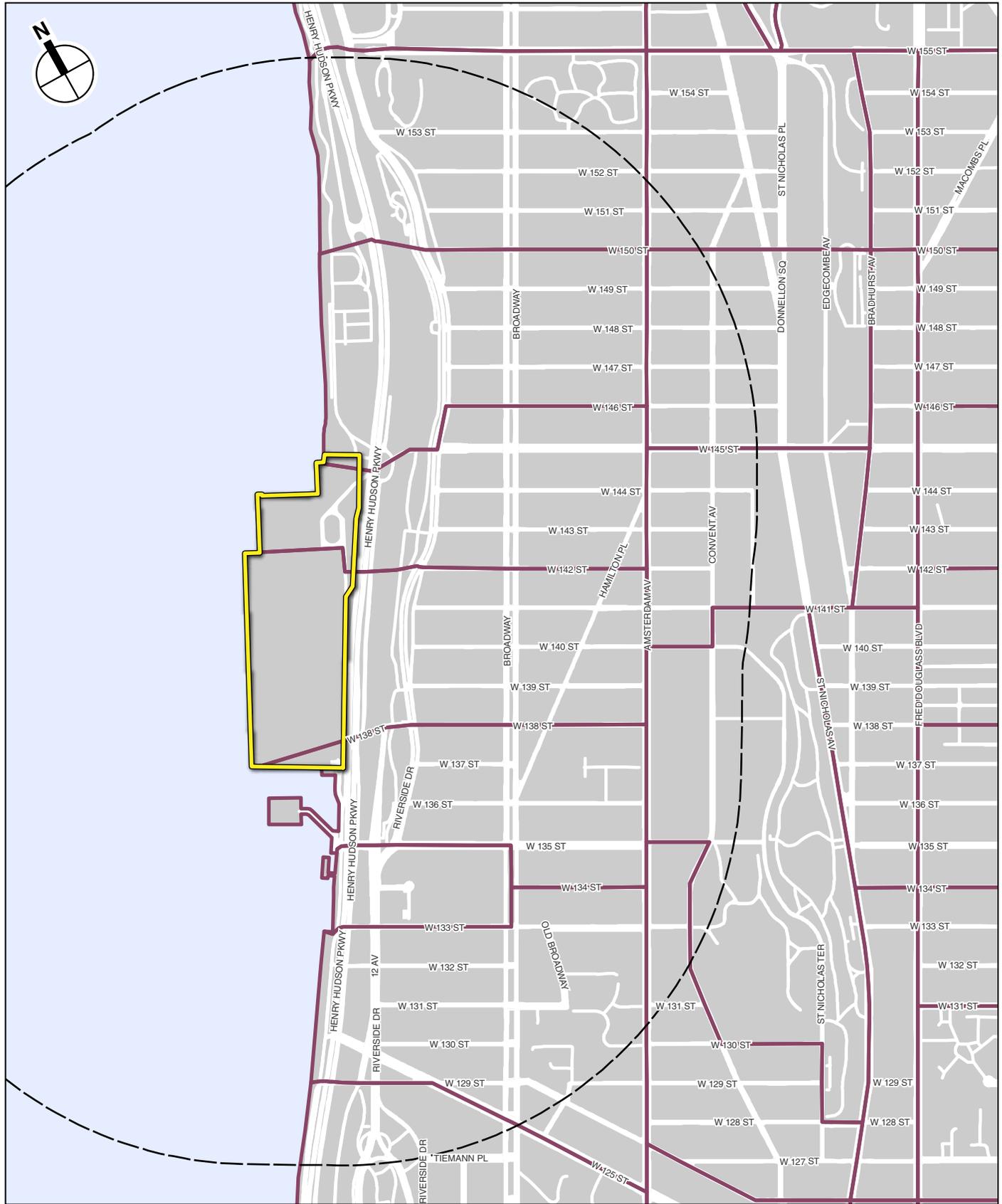
Public Participation Plan

The draft PPP for this permit application includes a number of activities and tasks that will be undertaken to inform stakeholders about the proposed project and the Title V Permit Modification being sought from NYSDEC. This will provide stakeholders access to information about the project and permit and encourage dialogue.

Task # 1 -- Identify Affected Area

Because of the project's location at the North River WWTP (in and adjacent to the existing engine room of the WWTP, located in Upper Manhattan, adjacent to the Henry Hudson Parkway and on the Hudson River waterfront, and in a densely developed residential area of the city), a ½-mile radius from the North River WWTP has been selected in consultation with NYSDEC staff, to ensure that outreach to an appropriate area and interested entities (stakeholders) is undertaken. As shown in **Figure 1**, attached, the ½-mile study area around the WWTP includes portions of Manhattan between Tiemann Place and West 155th Street, west of St. Nicholas Avenue. Particular emphasis will be placed on identifying stakeholders representing the area's minority and low-income populations for outreach during the public participation process.

Within this ½-mile radius of the proposed project site, the surrounding area is dominated by dense residential uses, along with open space/parkland, and to a lesser



-  Project Site Boundary
-  Study Area Boundary (1/2-Mile Perimeter)
-  2010 Census Tracts

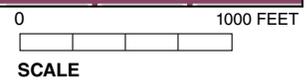


Figure 1
Public Participation Plan Outreach Area

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extent commercial uses. In addition, the study area also includes a portion of the Henry Hudson Parkway (Route 9A)—a major regional highway.

Task #2 -- Identify Stakeholders and Create an Outreach Contact List

Stakeholders who may be affected by the operation of the upgraded cogeneration facility and electrification at the North River WWTP will be identified. This will be done in coordination with Community Board representatives and with input from DEP. It is expected that the stakeholders for this plan will include, but may not be limited to:

- DEP employees who work at or visit portions of the North River WWTP facility,
- Residents/neighborhood groups who reside or are active in the vicinity of the proposed project
- Community boards, local community and civic organizations, environmental and business groups, and any entities recommended by these groups
- Neighborhood religious establishments
- Elected officials
- Other appropriate state and local government officials.

A preliminary outreach contact list of stakeholders is being assembled, including names, addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses (if available) of individuals and organizations (as described above) with a possible interest in the proposed project. This list will be updated regularly to include new stakeholders identified as the public participation process continues. The preliminary outreach contact list that has been developed to date for this plan is included in **Attachment A**.

Task #3 -- Prepare Written Information

Written information on the proposed action and the environmental permit review process will be prepared for posting and distribution. The following written materials will be prepared and made available to the public as part of this outreach effort:

- Project Fact Sheet* (An outline of the contents of the Fact Sheet has been developed, and is included in the draft PPP as **Attachment B**.)
- Information Availability Notices*
- Title V Permit Modification Application
- Limited Project Engineering Drawings (Draft)
- Draft Environmental Justice Analysis
- Draft Public Participation Plan

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Prepared materials will be written in clear, concise language, avoiding legal or overly technical terminology. Materials will be prepared in English; translation into Spanish will be undertaken for the selected materials indicated by a (*).

Additional project information and materials will be added to the Document Repositories (and the website) as it becomes available, and before NYSDEC issues a draft permit.

Task #4 -- Establish Document Repositories/Distribute Project Information

Easily accessible public Document Repositories will be established at locations close to the proposed project and easily accessible to stakeholders. It is anticipated that these will include local Libraries and Community Board offices in or near the outreach area (defined above), as well as at DEP's administrative offices in Queens, and postings on the DEP website (<http://www.nyc.gov/DEP>). The proposed locations of these repositories are shown in **Attachment C**. The availability of any additional public Document Repositories, if they are established, will be noted on DEP website, when they become active.

The repositories will contain a copy of the written information prepared for the proposed project's PPP, (as outlined above in Task #3) as well as copies of the permit applications, and draft permits, once they are available. The contents of the repositories will be checked and updated regularly to ensure that no documents are missing. A list of document contents will be prepared and updated, to help keep the repositories organized.

The locations and web address of the physical and web-based Document Repositories will be included in the Project Fact Sheet and in any project notices and/or flyers distributed publicly.

It is envisioned that information will be distributed or made available to DEP North River WWTP staff by the following means: i) an official memorandum would be circulated at the North River WWTP facility containing a brief explanation of the project to provide information to on-site staff; and ii) the project Fact Sheet would be posted in employee meeting and notice areas. With the implementation of these measures, adequate notification would be provided to DEP North River WWTP staff to learn about the proposed project, and thus afford them the opportunity to provide comments.

Task #5 -- Conduct Public Information Meeting/Informational Briefings

One Public Information Meeting will be held at a publicly accessible location in the outreach area to provide information about the proposed cogeneration upgrade and electrification project, and the associated NYSDEC permitting process. (It is currently envisioned that this meeting will be held in conjunction with Manhattan Community Board #9, as a distinct agenda item with its own time allotment, as part of another regularly scheduled Community Board meeting.) In addition, project information will

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be sent to elected officials and the Manhattan Community Board #9, to provide information about the proposed project and the associated NYSDEC Title V permitting process. Stakeholders will also be invited to the Public Information Meeting and will be invited to provide comments on project materials and the draft PPP, in writing to a specified DEP representative. DEP and consultant team staff members will be available to receive and answer questions about the project at the Public Information Meeting.

The Public Information Meeting will be scheduled after consulting the Community Board calendar and with municipal and agency officials. This will help to avoid conflicts with important meetings or events that are regularly held or already scheduled within the community. The Public Information Meeting will be held after the draft permit application has been submitted to NYSDEC for review.

Meeting logistics will be publicized at least fourteen (14) days ahead of the meeting date, in order to give stakeholders reasonable notification, and will include announcements (in English and Spanish) published in newspapers of local distribution.

A general mailing (bilingual English/Spanish) will be prepared for the project for delivery to all interested parties on the Contact List (see Attachment A). This mailing will include Project Notices announcing the project's Public Information Meeting, as well as a copy of the Project Fact Sheet (written in English and Spanish), which will also be sent to the local organizations and all other stakeholders identified on the Contact List for posting at those locations. These Project Information Notices will include:

- the name of the project sponsor;
- the name and address of the proposed project;
- a brief description about the project information available for review;
- the description of why the project information is being sent;
- the comment period being provided for submitting comments on the project, and when the comment period will end;
- contact information for any questions about the project information, or how and where to provide comments (written or via website); and
- where answers to any questions or comments submitted will be made available, and approximately by when, after the comment period has concluded.

An agenda will be prepared and distributed when the Public Information Meeting is held. Attendees will also be informed of where they can obtain answers to any questions they may have after the meeting has concluded. Outreach documents related to this cogeneration upgrade and electrification project will be available at the following website:

<http://www.nyc.gov/DEP>

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Task #6 - Prepare Participation Plan Outreach Summary/Certification Document

A written summary of the outreach conducted under the PPP will be prepared and submitted to the NYSDEC. This report will serve as the participation plan's Certification Document, and will include:

- A summary of PPP milestones, outlining plan implementation;
- Methods used to engage the public and solicit outreach;
- Time and date of the Public Information Meeting;
- Time and date of project informational briefings undertaken (if any);
- Any substantive concerns/issues raised during outreach activities or received during the public comment period from stakeholders or the public at large;
- Descriptions of how the issues raised were addressed; and
- A description of any unresolved or outstanding issues.

The written Certification Document will confirm that the applicant has complied with the PPP, and will include a summary detailing the activities that occurred pursuant to the plan. The Certification Document will become part of the permit application and will be made available to the public at the document repositories for a period of four (4) months after the final permit modification is issued by NYSDEC, in accordance with NYSDEC procedures. The Certification Document will also include several appendices as follows:

- Copies of written information such as notices, flyers, newspaper notices, and briefing invitations;
- Copies of meeting agendas
- Meeting summary of the Public Information Meeting; and
- Names of attendees at the Public Information Meeting and at any other project informational briefings, if any are held (copies of sign-in sheets).

*

**North River Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)
Cogeneration & Electrification Project
Draft Public Participation Plan
Attachment A – Preliminary Contact List**

COMMUNITY BOARD OFFICES

Manhattan Community Board #9

16-18 Old Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Phone: [212-864-6200](tel:212-864-6200)
Fax: 718-266-8821
Email: info@cb9m.org or eprince@cb9m.org
Chair: Rev. Georgiette Morgan-Thomas, Chair
District Manager: Eutha Prince

NEW YORK STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

**Thirteenth Congressional District, New York
Congressman Charles Rangel**

District Office
163 West 125th St., Suite #737
New York, NY 10027
Tel: 212-663-3900
Email: Rangel@mail.house.gov
Chief of Staff: George Henry
Email: George.henry@mail.house.gov

**New York State 31st Senate District
State Senator Adriano Espaillat**

District Office
5030 Broadway, Suite 701
Suite 701
New York, NY 10033
Tel: (718) 523-3069
Attn: Martin Smith
Email: msmith@adrianoespailat.org

**New York State 30th Senate District
State Senator Bill Perkins**

District Office
163 West 125th Street Harlem State Office Bldg.
Suite 912
New York, NY 10027
Tel: 212-222-7315
Email: perkins@nysenate.gov
Attn: Cordell Cleare
Tel: 646-326-6601
Email: cordellcleare@gmail.com

**New York State Assembly District 70
Assemblyman Keith L. T. Wright**

District Office
Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Building
163 West 125th Street
Suite 911
New York, NY 10027
Tel: 212-866-5809
Email: wright@assembly.state.ny.us
Attn: Maurice Cummings
Email: Mauricecummings70th@gmail.com

**New York State Assembly District 71
Assemblyman Herman D. Farrell, Jr.**

District Office
751 West 183rd Street
New York, NY 10033
Tel: 212-234-1430 or 212-568-2828
Email: farrelh@assembly.state.ny.us
Attn: Earnestine Bell-Temple
Email: belle@assembly.state.ny.us

**North River Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)
Cogeneration & Electrification Project
Draft Public Participation Plan
Attachment A – Preliminary Contact List**

NEW YORK CITY OFFICIALS & COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

**Manhattan Borough President
*Honorable Scott Stringer***

Main Office
1 Centre Street, 19th Floor
New York, NY 10007
212-669-8300
Email: bp@manhattanbp.org

Northern Manhattan Office
163 West 125th Street
New York, NY 10027
212-531-1609

Director of Northern Manhattan Office
Shanifah Rieara
Email: srieara@manhattanbp.org

**New York City Council, District 7
*Council Member Robert Jackson***

Washington Heights District Office
751 West 183rd Street
New York, NY 10033
Tel: 212-928-1322 | Fax: 212-928-4177
Attn: Juan Rosa

Email: Jrosa@council.nyc.ny.us

Hamilton Heights District Office
425 West 144th Street
New York, NY 10031
Tel: 212-234-0551 | Fax: 212-234-0552

Legislative Office
250 Broadway, Suite 1747
New York, NY 10007
Tel: 212-788-7007 | Fax: 212-788-9190
Email: rjackson@council.nyc.gov

RIVERBANK STATE PARK

Oscar Smith, Deputy Director
Riverbank State Park
679 Riverside Drive
New York, NY 10031
Tel: 212-694-3608 or 212-694-3600 (general #)
Email: Oscar.smith@parks.ny.gov

Reginald Magwood, Park Director
Riverbank State Park
679 Riverside Drive
New York, NY 10031
Tel: 212-694-3637

RELIGIOUS & COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
435 West 141st Street
New York, NY 10031
Tel: 212-926-2713

Church-Christian Fellowship
1763 Amsterdam Avenue
New York, NY 10031
Tel: 212-281-3766

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Attachment A – Preliminary Contact List**

Day Spring Baptist Church
1788 Amsterdam Avenue, # 1
New York, NY 10031
Tel: 212-281-4606

Well Living Water Ministries
535 W 151st Street, #6D
New York, NY 10031
Tel: 212-491-7978

Macedonia Baptist Church
452 West 147th Street
New York, NY 10031
Tel: 917-507-9520

Interreligious Foundation for Community
Organization (IFCO)/Pastors for Peace
418 W 145th Street, #3
New York, NY 10031
Tel: 212-926-5757
Fax: 212-926-5842
Email: ifco@igc.org

Ministry Eagles Nest Restoration
1662 Amsterdam Avenue
New York, NY 10031
Tel: 347-758-9001

Our Lady of Lourdes Church
463 West 142nd Street
New York, NY 10031
Fr. Fabian Lopez
Tel: 212-862-4380
Fax: 212-862-4126

Convent Avenue Baptist Church
425 West 144th Street
New York, NY 10031
Tel: 212-234-4673

Broadway Spanish Baptist Church
7 Hamilton Terrace
New York, NY 10031
Tel: 212-862-1186

Christian Church – El Dios Vivo
601 West 139th Street, #24
New York, NY 10031
Tel: 347-839-0300

Christian Science Church
555 West 141st Street
New York, NY 10031
Tel: 212-283-5158

Travellers Rest Baptist Church
1650 Amsterdam Avenue, #2F
New York, NY 10031
Tel: 212-281-7777

Greater Tabernacle Baptist Church
340 Convent Avenue
New York, NY 10031
Tel: 212-368-4754

First Calvary Baptist Church
469 West 148th Street
New York, NY 10031
Tel: 212-281-2192

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
562 West 150th Street
New York, NY 10031
Tel: 212-234-5630
Fax: (212) 234-1201

Congregation – Jehovah Witness
3654 Broadway
New York, NY 10031
Tel: 212-862-0945

The Church of Saint Catherine of Genoa
506 West 153rd Street
New York, NY 10031
Tel: 212-926-0252
Fax: (212) 491-6272
Contact: Rev. Msgr. Kenneth J. Smith
Email: rsmithken@aol.com

**North River Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)
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Draft Public Participation Plan
Attachment A – Preliminary Contact List**

Splendor of Glory Church
1812 Amsterdam Avenue
New York, NY 10031
Tel: 212-694-8010

Jehovah-Jireh Baptist Church
536 West 148th Street
New York, NY 10031
Tel: 212-234-5422

Meeting with God Pentecostal
3581 Broadway
New York, NY 10031
Tel: 212-234-3564

St. Luke A.M.E. Church
1854 Amsterdam Avenue
New York, NY 10031
Tel: 212-870-1349

Most Worshiper Grand Temple
474 West 141st Street
New York, NY 10031
Tel: 212-283-4651

Episcopal Church of the Crucifixion
459 West 149th Street
New York, NY 10031
Tel: 212-281-0900
Fax: 212-694-1116
Email: coc@churchofthecrucifixion.org

Community of the Holy Spirit
St. Hilda's House
454 Convent Avenue
New York, NY 10031
Tel: 212-666-8249, x200
Email: NY@CHSSisters.org

The Holy Apostles Church/
Holy Fathers Russian Orthodox Church
524 West 153rd Street
New York, NY
Tel: 212-281-3992

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

North River Community Environmental Review
Board, Inc. (NRCERB)
Ann Rocker, Chairperson
626 Riverview Drive
1st Floor Prof. Suite
New York, NY 10031
Tel: 212-491-3590
Email: Nrcerb_org@juno.com

Mirabal Sisters Cultural & Community Center
618 West 142nd Street
Ground Level
New York, NY 10031
Tel: 212-234-3002 or 212-234-3423
Fax: 212-234-3005
Email: info@mirabalcenter.org
Contact: Luis Manuel Tejada, Executive Director
Email: luistejada@mirabalcenter.org

Hamilton Heights-West Harlem Community
Preservation Organization
502 West 142nd Street
Ground Floor
New York, NY 10031
Tel: 212-939-9201
Contact: Ron Melichar, President, Executive Board

**North River Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)
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Draft Public Participation Plan
Attachment A – Preliminary Contact List**

GOVERNMENT AGENCY

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION (NYSDEC)
Region 2 – Division of Environmental Permits
Contact: Elizabeth A. Clarke, Project Manager
1 Hunters Point Plaza
47-40 21st Street
Long Island City, NY 11101-5407
(718) 482-4997

**New York City Department of Environmental Protection
North River Wastewater Treatment Plant:
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Draft Public Participation Plan
Attachment B – Fact Sheet Outline**

The following is an outline of the proposed contents of the Fact Sheet to be distributed for the North River WWTP Cogeneration facility upgrade Title V facility permit modification, as part of the outreach materials for the project.

Title of Fact Sheet

We proposed to use:

**New York City Department of Environmental Protection
North River Wastewater Treatment Plant:
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Project Fact Sheet**

The DEP North River Wastewater Treatment Plant

A brief description of the North River Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and its basic operations will be provided under this heading. A figure showing the location of the plant will be included.

Issues/Project Goals

This section would provide a brief outline of the issues with the North River WWTP's existing systems and the engines and other equipment that are to be replaced, the project's overall goals, and how they relate to and support the city-wide *PlaNYC* goals, as well as DEP's strategic plan targets.

The Solution/Project Benefits

This section will include a brief description of the proposed cogeneration facility and the other related electrification improvements, their proposed locations, and their associated benefits. There will be figures showing the conceptual layout of the proposed equipment.

Public Outreach

This section mentions that this is part of the permit review process, refers to the Public Participation Plan, and indicates where project information is being made available to the public.

Document Repositories

There will be a special "Information Box" on the Fact Sheet that shows the addresses and locations of the document repositories for the project. There will also be a line indicating a DEP project contact and a web address for more information.

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Attachment C – Proposed Document Repositories**

LIBRARIES

New York Public Library—Hamilton Grange Library

503 West 145th Street (at Amsterdam Avenue)
New York, NY 10031
212-926-2147

New York Public Library—George Bruce Library

518 West 125th Street (at Amsterdam Avenue)
New York, NY 10027-3407
212-662-9727

COMMUNITY BOARD OFFICES

Manhattan Community Board #9

16-18 Old Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Phone: [212-864-6200](tel:212-864-6200)
Fax: 718-266-8821
Email: info@cb9m.org or eprince@cb9m.org
Chair: Rev. Georgiette Morgan-Thomas, Chair
District Manager: Eutha Prince

GOVERNMENT OFFICES

New York City Department of Environmental Protection

Bureau of Communications & Intergovernmental Affairs
59-17 Junction Boulevard
Flushing, NY, 11373
Contact: Shane Ojar, Director, Community Partnerships
718-595-4148

ON-LINE WEBSITE

Outreach documents related to this boiler upgrade and replacement project will be available at the following NYCDEP website:

<http://www.nyc.gov/DEP>