

4.17 UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS

4.17.1 Introduction

Unavoidable significant adverse impacts are defined as those that meet the following two criteria:

- There are no reasonably practicable mitigation measures to eliminate the impacts; and
- There are no reasonable alternatives to the proposed project that would meet the purpose and need of the action, eliminate the impact, and not cause other or similar significant adverse impacts.

As described in Section 4.16, “Mitigation Measures,” potential significant noise impacts would remain partially unmitigated. These unavoidable impacts are summarized here and detailed further in Section 4.16, “Mitigation Measures.”

4.17.2 Noise

On-site construction activity at the preferred Shaft Site would result in potential significant impacts during most of the 52 month construction period at certain residential receptors within two apartment buildings across E. 59th Street. Typically, construction related impacts are considered to be temporary and not practical to mitigate. The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) investigated and committed to implementing many measures to reduce noise at these affected receptors. NYCDEP will continue to investigate measures and will work with New York City Department of Design and Construction (NYCDDC) to implement measures to further reduce noise during Stage 4B. However, because the construction related noise would persist for a lengthy time period and would require loud construction activities such as blasting, concrete operations, and excavation work, and due to the proximity of sensitive receptors to the site, the potential significant noise impacts cannot be fully mitigated. Therefore, these potential significant noise impacts would be unavoidable.

