



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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JEAN-DANIEL NOLAND

Chair

ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.

District Manager

April 15, 2008

Ms. Alexis Waleski:
DMS Consultant Services, Inc.
65 Ramapo Road, Suite 4
Mahwah, NJ 07430

Re: Request for Historic Comments 450 West 15th Street

Dear Ms. Waleski:

Manhattan Community Board 4 is writing in response to your request for historic comments with regards to the proposed telecommunications site at 450 West 15th Street, New York, as part of due diligence in connection with regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The Board believes the proposed installation is excessively conspicuous and should be modified to reduce its visibility.

The location of the proposed modifications to antennas of the Sprint Telecommunications site is within the National/State Historic Register Gansevoort Market Historic District and close to and visible from the smaller New York City Historic District of the same name. It is also very close to the High Line, also on the National/State Register. The High Line dates from approximately 1930, and the industrial buildings that create the distinctive part of the Gansevoort Market Historic District date from that period or earlier. Many of the buildings at this point were constructed to connect with the High Line, and this industrial complex dominates the character of the immediate surroundings of the proposed antennas.

The proposed antennas will be clearly visible from nearby streets within the Gansevoort Historic District, especially West 15th Street and Tenth Avenue, as well as from such public resources just to the west as the existing West 14th Street (Sapohanikan) Park and the large Hudson River Park currently under construction. They will be very visible from the High Line itself, and will thus form part of the significant views from this major historic resource. These views are a major component of the High Line's character and their historic character is particularly significant in this area where the largest buildings are those constructed in connection with the elevated structure while it was being built.

The antennas are of a type clearly of the present day, and therefore would tend to diminish the historic visual character of this portion of the Gansevoort Historic District and of views from the High Line nearby. Their conspicuous presence at the top of the street walls and on the water tanks should be minimized to the greatest feasible extent compatible with their safety and efficient functioning. The Board believes that the new antennas should be set back from the street wall of the buildings as far as possible, and if possible not be attached to the conspicuous water tanks which are a kind of signature of New York City. Ideally the proposed remodeling of the installation would include as well making the presently visible antennas as inconspicuous as feasible; but at the very least the new installations should be designed to minimize their visual impact on the area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the letters 'Jd' in a cursive, stylized font.

Jean-Daniel Noland
Chair, Manhattan Community Board 4

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Edward S Kirkland' in a cursive script.

Edward Kirkland
Chair, Landmarks Task Force

c.c.
Chair of CB2 Landmarks Committee
Friends of the High Line