

PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING CENTER II

CHAPTER 10: SOLID WASTE AND SANITATION SERVICES

A. INTRODUCTION

According to the *City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) Technical Manual*, actions involving construction of housing or other development generally do not require evaluation for solid waste impacts unless they are unusually large (a generation rate of less than 10,000 pounds per week, for example, is not considered large). Compliance with applicable requirements generally eliminates possible significant adverse impacts. In accordance with these guidelines, this chapter analyzes the effects of the Proposed Action and subsequent development on solid waste and sanitation services. The results of the analysis indicate that the Proposed Action would not result in significant adverse impacts to existing solid waste and sanitation disposal services.

As discussed in Chapter 1, “Project Description,” the Proposed Action would facilitate the construction of a second emergency communications facility (Public Safety Answering Center II [PSAC II]) in the Pelham Parkway area of the northeast Bronx that would be a parallel operation to the existing PSAC I in Brooklyn. The proposed development would consist of an approximately 640,000 gsf building and a 500-space accessory parking garage structure. For conservative CEQR analysis purposes, this chapter analyzes two staffing level conditions at the proposed development, including typical day-to-day operations (“Typical Operations”), and an event when the personnel of the existing PSAC I facility would be temporarily relocated to the proposed development and the staffs of both PSAC I and PSAC II would be consolidated at the site (temporary “Consolidated Operations”).

In order to determine whether the increase in development due to the Proposed Action conforms to the City’s Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP), a quantitative assessment was conducted. This entails the calculation of the existing solid waste generation on the proposed development site, as well as a comparison of equivalent calculations in the future with and without the Proposed Action.

B. EXISTING CONDITIONS

Description of Current Sanitation Services

In New York City, the Department of Sanitation (DSNY) is the agency responsible for the collection and disposal of solid waste and recyclable materials generated by residences, some nonprofit institutions, tax exempt properties, and City agencies (including the Project Site). DSNY also collects waste from street litter baskets, and handles street-sweeping operations and lot cleaning activities. Commercial operations handle solid waste from other uses, e.g., commercial retail, office, and industrial operations. Fresh Kills Landfill, which was New York City’s last operating landfill, was officially closed in March 2001. DSNY continues to collect residential and institutional solid waste and recyclables (the municipal waste stream), which are now transported out of the City. Currently,

most of the City's municipal solid waste is collected and delivered to transfer stations for sorting and transfer to larger "hopper" trucks, and then transported out of the City. Likewise, municipal solid waste from the project area is collected and trucked via transfer stations to out-of-State landfills and waste-to-energy facilities. Private carters also consolidate solid waste from commercial and industrial operations and haul it to waste transfer facilities both inside and outside New York City, where it is then transported to out-of-City disposal facilities. It is estimated that DSNY collects more than 12,000 tons of residential and institutional refuse and recyclables (solid waste) per day. It is also estimated that the non-residential (commercial/industrial) waste stream is approximately 13,000 tons per day (tpd). The total solid waste generated in the City, therefore, averages approximately 25,000 tpd.

The City's solid waste management services are undertaken in accordance with the City's Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP). The DSNY developed a new Draft SWMP in October 2004 to address anticipated future demands for solid waste management for the City. The Draft SWMP was subsequently revised in July 2006 and approved by the New York City Council on July 19, 2006. The new SWMP is effective for the next 20 years and is expected to be fully operational by 2009. The new SWMP addresses and recognizes the interdependency of the systems for managing recycling, residential waste, and commercial waste. The new SWMP introduces a shift from the current mode of truck-based export to export by barge and/or rail. The City intends to commit to a long-term (20-year) contract with the Hugo Neu Corporation for the processing and marketing of metal, glass, and plastic (MGP). An MGP processing facility will be developed in the City at the 30th Street Pier in South Brooklyn Marine Terminal. The plant will be barge-fed from Hugo Neu Corporation sites in Queens and the Bronx and a potential DSNY location in Manhattan.

The new SWMP includes a Long-Term Export Program for waste handled by the DSNY. The City's Long-Term Export Program is anticipated to be implemented through: (1) the development of four new converted marine transfer stations (MTS); (2) the award of up to five contracts with private transfer stations for barge or rail export of DSNY-managed waste for disposal; and (3) an intergovernmental agreement to dispose of a portion of Manhattan's DSNY-managed waste at a Port Authority waste-to-energy facility in New Jersey. Solid waste would be consolidated, containerized, and barged or railed out of the City from the converted MTSs or the five existing private transfer stations. The barges currently used at MTS facilities will be replaced or retrofitted with new sealed containers or "intermodal containers" capable of being transported on barge or rail. The four converted MTS facilities will be designed to each process up to 4,290 tons per day and accommodate 30 collection vehicles per hour. In the interim, all municipal solid waste will be trucked out of the City.

Local Law 19 of 1989 requires that DSNY and private carters collect recyclable materials and deliver them to material recovery facilities. New York City residents are required to separate aluminum foil, glass, plastic and metal containers, and newspapers and other paper wastes from household waste for separate collection. The SWMP also mandates that commercial and industrial establishments be subject to recycling requirements. Businesses must source-separate certain types of paper wastes, cardboard, metal items, and construction wastes. Food and beverage establishments must recycle metal, glass, and plastic containers, and aluminum foil, in addition to meeting the commercial recycling requirements.

The proposed PSAC II development site is located within the DSNY service area covering Bronx Community District 11, and the Proposed Action is only expected to affect municipal solid waste services in this service area. DSNY trucks serving this service area are housed and maintained at a garage located at 800 Zerega Avenue between Herman and Lafayette Avenues.

The existing accessory parking lots occupying the southern portion of the proposed development site generate a negligible amount of solid waste compared to the capacity of the system. The northern portion of the site is entirely vacant. As the accessory parking lots are provided for the adjacent

Hutchinson Metro Center (HMC) office complex, the DSNY does not currently collect or dispose of any solid waste generated at the site, and private carters serve the site.

C. FUTURE WITHOUT THE PROPOSED ACTION (NO-BUILD CONDITIONS)

The changes to the solid waste handling system mandated by the new SWMP are described above. As the proposed development site is not expected to be redeveloped in the absence of the Proposed Action and would continue to function in its present capacity, it is assumed that the volumes of solid waste generated at the site would also not change and would remain negligible. Private carters would continue to serve the HMC site.

D. FUTURE WITH THE PROPOSED ACTION (BUILD CONDITIONS)

The Proposed Action and subsequent public facility development would increase the volume of solid waste generation at the site. The proposed development would be required to comply with the City's recycling program. This includes source separation of solid waste in conformance with City recycling regulations and state solid waste laws. Materials to be separated include paper, cardboard, metal, and certain plastics, all of which reduces stream of wastes to landfills. The analysis below conservatively does not include that reduction.

As described in Chapter 1, "Project Description," the Proposed Action would facilitate the construction of a new public facility ("PSAC II") that would serve as a second emergency communications 911 center and accommodate command control center operations for the New York City Police Department (NYPD) and the Fire Department of New York City (FDNY). The proposed development would consist of an approximately 640,000 gsf office building and an accessory parking garage of 500 spaces. For conservative CEQR analysis purposes, two staffing level conditions have been analyzed for the proposed development, including typical day-to-day operations ("Typical Operations"), and an event when there are temporary increases of staff levels from combined facilities of PSAC I and PSAC II at the proposed development ("Consolidated Operations").

On a typical day, the proposed development is expected to have a staff size of approximately 850 employees that would work in three primary overlapping shifts with a maximum of 315 employees per shift ("Typical Operations"). There are expected to be a number of circumstances when the proposed development would handle emergency communications for the entire City and the staff of PSAC I would be temporarily relocated to the proposed development. During an event when the operations of PSAC I and PSAC II would temporarily consolidate at the proposed development, up to approximately 1,700 employees would work in overlapping shifts at the proposed development site ("Consolidated Operations"). A maximum of 630 employees per shift are expected to work at the proposed development site when PSAC I and PSAC II operations are combined.

Table 10-1 provides solid waste projections for the two staffing level conditions at the proposed development in the future with the Proposed Action (Build Condition). These projections are based on the citywide average rate for waste generation of an office building, at a rate of 13 pounds per week per employee, which is listed in Table 3M-1 of the *CEQR Technical Manual*. As shown in Table 10-1, the typical day-to-day operations at the proposed development would generate approximately 11,050 pounds of solid waste per week (approximate 5.52 tons), whereas under the consolidated operations,

the proposed development would double its solid waste generation, amounting to approximately 22,100 pounds of solid waste per week (approximate 11.05 tons).

**TABLE 10-1
Projected Solid Waste Generation on the
Proposed Development Site in the Future With the Proposed Action**

	2012 Build Condition	
	“Typical Operations” (PSAC II only) ¹	“Consolidated Operations” (PSAC I & II) ²
Number of Estimated Employees ³	850 employees	1,700 employees
Generation Rate (Pounds per week)	13 lbs/week per employee	13 lbs/week per employee
Generation (Pounds per week)	11,050 lbs/week	22,100 lbs/week

Notes:

¹ The proposed development would typically have a staff size of approximately 850 employees for day-to-day operations that would work in overlapping shifts throughout a 24-hour period (maximum of 315 workers per shift).

² During an event when the operations of PSAC I and PSAC II would consolidate at the proposed development site, all of the PSAC I personnel would temporarily relocate from Brooklyn to the proposed development and approximately 1,700 employees would work in overlapping shifts throughout a 24-hour period at the site (maximum of 630 workers per shift).

³ Includes NYPD, FDNY, Emergency Medical Services, and support personnel.

Source: Rates from the *CEQR Technical Manual*, December 2001

Given that the proposed development is a public facility, it is expected that the DSNY would handle any generated waste. The proposed development is expected to generate a maximum of 11.05 tons of solid waste per week with PSAC I and PSAC II combined at the site. This represents only a very small percentage of the estimated 84,000 tons of refuse collected by the DSNY per week in the City. According to the *CEQR Technical Manual*, the typical DSNY collection truck carries approximately 12.5 tons of waste material. Under the typical day-to-day operations, the proposed development would be expected to generate solid waste equivalent to approximately 0.06-truck load per day (assuming a seven-day week). When the proposed development is operating in backup mode or under emergency condition, the consolidated operations of the proposed development would be expected to generate solid waste equivalent to approximately 0.13-truck load per day (assuming a seven-day week). Neither staffing level condition of the proposed PSAC II development is expected to burden the DSNY’s solid waste handling services, nor would the Proposed Action have a significant adverse impact on the City’s solid waste and sanitation services.

It is expected that the proposed development would be served by existing DSNY collection routes with the DSNY adjusting appropriate collection levels to meet the additional demand and adequately service the community. It should be noted that the staff of the proposed development would also be required to participate in the City’s ongoing recycling program for paper, metals, and certain types of plastics, and glass, which would reduce the stream of waste generated. The analysis above conservatively does not include that reduction.

E. CONCLUSION

The Proposed Action is not expected to result in significant adverse solid waste impacts. Development pursuant to the Proposed Action would occur in an area that is currently served by DSNY trash and recycling pick-ups. The proposed action would not affect the delivery of these services, or place a significant burden on the City’s solid waste management system. The proposed development would normally generate approximately 5.52 tons of solid waste per week under typical day-to-day

operations, and a maximum of up to 11.05 tons of solid waste per week when the facilities of PSAC I and PSAC II would temporarily consolidate at the site under emergency conditions.

Under either staffing level condition of the proposed PSAC II development, the increase in solid waste to be picked up by the DSNY is relatively small (a maximum of 1.58 tons per day for the Consolidated Operations assuming a 7-day week) when compared to the estimated 12,000 tons of residential and institutional refuse and recyclables collected by the DSNY per day. Therefore, it is concluded that in the future with the Proposed Action in 2012, there would be no significant adverse impacts on residential or commercial solid waste collection and disposal services, nor would the Proposed Action conflict with, or require any amendments to, the City's solid waste management objectives as stated in the SWMP.