PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING CENTER II
CHAPTER 17: PUBLIC HEALTH

A. INTRODUCTION

This chapter assesses the potential for public health related impacts associated with the Proposed Action. For determining whether a public health assessment is appropriate, the *City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) Technical Manual* lists the following as public health concerns for which a public health assessment may be warranted:

- Increased vehicular traffic or emissions from stationary sources resulting in significant adverse air quality impacts;
- Increased exposure to heavy metals (e.g. lead) and other contaminants in soil/dust resulting in significant adverse impacts;
- The presence of contamination from historic spills or releases of substances that might have affected or might affect ground water to be used as a source of drinking water;
- Solid waste management practices that could attract vermin and result in an increase in pest populations (e.g. rats, mice, cockroaches, and mosquitoes);
- Potentially significant adverse impacts to sensitive receptors from noise or odors;
- Vapor infiltration from contaminants within a building or underlying soil (e.g., contamination originating from gasoline stations or dry cleaners) that may result in significant adverse hazardous materials or air quality impacts;
- Actions for which the potential impact(s) result in an exceedance of accepted federal, state, or local standards.

The Proposed Action would facilitate the construction of the second Public Safety Answering Center II (PSAC II) on an approximately 8.75 site in the Pelham Parkway area of the northeastern Bronx. As the proposed development site does not have any linear frontage adjacent to a public street, the Proposed Action would also map an existing private access roadway (Industrial Street) as a public street (Marconi Street) to ensure permanent vehicular access and utility services to the proposed PSAC II development along a public right-of-way.

The proposed PSAC II development would be a parallel operation to the existing PSAC I in Brooklyn that would augment and provide redundancy to the current emergency 911 response services in the City. It is expected to improve voice and data communications infrastructures in the City of New York (the "City"), and therefore, public safety by heightening emergency response ability and disaster recovery capacity in the City using two load-balanced facilities (PSAC I and PSAC II). The proposed development is also expected to strengthen the City's ability to maintain communication in the event of a natural disaster or terrorist attack.

B. ASSESSMENT

The *CEQR Technical Manual* states that a public health assessment may not be necessary for many proposed actions but a thorough consideration of health issues should be documented. In determining whether the Proposed Action has the potential to adversely affect public health, the following has been considered:

- ***Whether increased vehicular traffic or emissions from stationary sources would result in significant air quality impacts.***

  The potential for these impacts was examined in Chapter 14, "Air Quality." One key intersection location (with multiple receptors) was selected for carbon dioxide (CO) microscale analysis, while a PM microscale analysis was not warranted, as the Proposed Action would not meet the preliminary threshold of adding emissions equivalent to the volume of 19 heavy duty diesel vehicles (HDDV) on a collector-type road with future daily volume over 5,000 vehicles.

  For conservative analysis purposes, the mobile source CO analysis considered the temporary Consolidated Operations of the proposed PSAC II development, when the staffs of both PSAC I and PSAC II (total of up to 1,700 employees) would work at the site on a temporary/emergency basis. CO modeling was conducted for the weekday midday peak period for the intersection of Waters Place and Industrial Street (future Marconi Street), which would experience the highest project-generated increment of traffic. As described in Chapter 14, the Proposed Action would not result in any violations of the CO standard and would not have any significant impacts at the receptor sites. Therefore, the results show that the development of the proposed PSAC II development associated with the Proposed Action would not result in any significant adverse air quality impacts from mobile sources for carbon monoxide (CO), PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$. The air quality analysis also determined that the proposed accessory parking facility would not result in significant adverse impacts.

  As also detailed in Chapter 14, there would be no potential significant adverse stationary air quality impacts. For HVAC emissions, there are no buildings that are taller than the proposed 350-foot tall (with an elevation of 374 feet) office building, where the boiler stack for the structure would be located. As such, according to the *CEQR Technical Manual* screening procedures, no significant air quality impacts of the proposed development's HVAC system emissions on nearby sensitive land uses are anticipated. For potential air toxic and industrial source emissions, an investigation of industrial sources identified that there are no industrial facilities of concern located within either 400 or 1,000 foot radii of the proposed development site and therefore, no air quality impacts from existing land uses is projected.

  As a result, the Proposed Action would not result in significant adverse impacts related to air quality.

- ***If there is an increased potential for exposure to contaminants in soil or dust or vapor infiltration from contaminants within a building or underlying soil that may result in significant adverse hazardous materials or air quality impacts.***

  The Proposed Action has this potential, although the magnitude of the impact is not expected to be substantially beyond what occurs at most urban sites. The hazardous materials assessment presented in Chapter 7, "Hazardous Materials" identified the presence of subsurface contamination due to historic and existing uses at the Project Site and the surrounding area that

require remediation in the future with the Proposed Action. The Phase II Environmental Subsurface Investigation (ESI) results indicated fill soil throughout the Project site has elevated levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and Target Analyte List (TAL) Metals, which are characteristic of urban fill. The Phase II ESI results also indicated elevated levels of PAHs and TAL Metals in the groundwater, which can be attributed to the fill and the turbid nature of the groundwater samples that were collected.

Standard measures for addressing areas of contamination identified thus far are outlined in Chapter 18, "Mitigation." Typical mitigation measures include remedial activities (remediation) such as excavation of contaminated soil or installation of a groundwater pump and treat system, as well as institutional and engineering controls that may already be in place or may be inherent to the planned redevelopment (e.g., paving an area for parking results in a "cap" that prevents direct contact with contaminated soil below). Intrusive activities (construction) at most previously developed urban sites would involve mitigation in the form of proper soil handling and management, preparation and adherence to a site-specific Health and Safety Plan (HASP) that considers the presence of contaminants, and implementation of a Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP). NYCDEP must approve any Remedial Action Plans and construction HASPs prior to undertaking mitigation (remedial) activities at the Project Site. NYSDEC must also approve any remedial plans related to spill cleanup. Any necessary remediation would be performed in accordance with all City, state, and federal regulations and protocols prior to the commencement of construction. As a result, the Proposed Action would not result in significant adverse impacts related to hazardous materials.

- ***Whether solid waste management practices could attract vermin and result in an increase in pest populations.***

  No solid waste management practices are proposed beyond those that occur at most commercial and other non-residential uses found in the City. These practices would include all contemporary solid waste collection and containment practices and conformance with the laws of the New York City Board of Health. The proposed development would occur in an area that is currently served by private commercial carters (for non-residential uses) and the New York City Department of Sanitation residential and municipal trash and recycling pickups. The Proposed Action would not affect the delivery of these services, or place a significant burden on the City's solid waste management system.

- ***Potentially significant adverse impacts to sensitive receptors from odors.***

  No new odor sources would be created as a result of the Proposed Action.

- ***Potentially significant adverse impacts to sensitive receptors from noise.***

  The potential for these impacts was examined in Chapter 15, "Noise." A total of three noise receptor locations were analyzed within and immediately adjacent to the Project Site, including two locations along Industrial Street (future Marconi Street) and one within the boundaries of proposed development site. The Proposed Action would result in changes to noise conditions in the study area, due to proposed PSAC II development and the establishment of a new public street, which would generate increases in traffic. The Proposed Action would generate no new significant sources of noise.

As detailed in Chapter 15, no significant adverse noise impacts are anticipated for Monitoring Locations 2 and 3. Build conditions noise levels at Monitoring Location 1 would remain in the Marginally Unacceptable II category, and at Monitoring Location 2 would be placed in the Marginally Unacceptable II category, as compared to the Marginally Unacceptable I category in the No-Build condition. Although noise levels at Monitoring Location 2 (the little league ball fields) would increase by 3.0 dBA during the peak AM period (6:30 AM to 7:30 AM), the ball fields are not in use at this time, so no impact would occur to users of the ball fields. During the afternoon period, when the fields could be in use, the relative increase between the No-Build and Build conditions is below 3.0 dBA, and therefore, no impact would occur.

Substantial noise level increases would occur at the proposed development site (Monitoring Location 3) due to traffic from the proposed PSAC II development. However, this would not constitute a significant adverse noise impact as no sensitive receptors are or would be present at this location. Traffic generated by the proposed development would enter the accessory parking garage at the southwestern boundary of the proposed development site. This garage would extend along the southern boundary of the proposed development and would be approximately 125 feet wide with a separate vehicular access/egress points on its western façade. The proposed PSAC II building would be positioned near the center of the proposed development site, setback from the northern façade of the garage by approximately 100 feet. Therefore, the approximate distance from the garage entrance to the PSAC II building is about 170 feet, which would provide for some attenuation of the traffic noise. Noise levels at the proposed PSAC II building are expected to fall below 65.0 dBA, which is within the Marginally Acceptable category and would be comparable to Existing and No-Build noise levels. The relative increase in noise would be below 4.4 dBA and would not exceed the CEQR impact criteria, and therefore, not be considered a significant impact.

In addition, mechanical equipment such as heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems would be designed to meet all applicable noise regulations and requirements, and would be designed to produce noise levels which would not result in any significant increases in ambient noise levels.

- No activities are proposed that would exceed accepted City, state, or federal standards with respect to public health.

For the reasons stated above, no significant adverse impacts on public health are expected as a result of the Proposed Action.