

A. INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

This chapter assesses the potential for the proposed action to cause public health-related impacts. To determine whether a public health assessment is appropriate for a proposed action, the *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;
- Presence of contamination from historic spills or releases of substances that might have affected or might affect groundwater 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; or
- Other actions that might not exceed the preceding thresholds but might nonetheless result in significant public health concerns, including such projects as the New York City Adult Mosquito Control Programs, the Williamsburg Bridge Lead Removal Project, and the New York City Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan.

The key technical analyses of this Draft Environmental Impact Statement that identify potential impacts related to the concerns identified above are Chapter 10, “Hazardous Materials,” Chapter 12, “Solid Waste and Sanitation Services,” Chapter 16, “Air Quality,” Chapter 17, “Noise”, and Chapter 18, “Construction.” As discussed below, these chapters have been reviewed and summarized to determine if additional or more detailed analyses of potential public health risks associated with the proposed action are required. No additional or specific public health concerns were identified during the public scoping process.

B. PRINCIPAL CONCLUSIONS

Chapter 10 concludes that there is little risk of contamination based on existing or former uses known to have been on the project site. With implementation of appropriate measures, including pre-construction surveys and implementation of Health and Safety Plans during demolition and

Flushing Commons

construction, no significant adverse impacts related to hazardous materials are expected to occur with the proposed action.

In terms of potential solid waste disposal issues creating a public health hazard, Chapter 12 determined that the proposed action would conform to standards appropriate for commercial and residential facilities in New York City, including participation in mandatory recycling and waste reduction programs. Overall, no impacts on solid waste management are expected with the proposed action, and no public health concerns would result.

Chapter 16 indicates that the proposed action would not result in any significant adverse impacts and would not cause exceedances of National Ambient Air Quality Standards. As a result, there would be no significant adverse impact on public health.

Chapter 17 found that no adverse noise impacts are expected with the proposed action, and no adverse health effects on the general public would result.

In terms of construction-related impacts, Chapter 18 concludes that no significant adverse impacts on air quality are expected as a result of construction activities. With no large-scale or open-air demolition of buildings as part of the proposed action, there would be a diminished risk of particulate emissions. Therefore, most new emissions would be generated by construction vehicles and equipment that would be used on site. It is assumed that potential construction activities would not result in exceedances of PM_{2.5} threshold criteria with the use of ultra-low sulfur diesel other clean technologies in all construction equipment. With these measures, there would be no exceedances of the significant threshold values established by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, and, as a result, there would be no significant adverse impacts on public health.

In summary, this screening analysis concludes that no significant impacts to public health are expected as a result of the proposed action. *