

A. INTRODUCTION

The 2012 *City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) Technical Manual* defines as its goal with respect to public health “to determine whether adverse impacts on public health may occur as a result of a proposed project, and if so, to identify measures to mitigate such effects.” According to the *CEQR Technical Manual*, for most proposed projects, a public health analysis is not necessary where no significant unmitigated adverse impact is found in other CEQR analysis areas, such as air quality, water quality, hazardous materials, or noise. If an unmitigated significant adverse impact is identified in one of these analysis areas, the lead agency may determine that a public health assessment is warranted for that specific technical area.

As described in the relevant analyses of this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), upon completion of construction, the proposed project would not result in significant adverse impacts in any of the technical areas related to public health.

PRINCIPAL CONCLUSIONS

As described in the preceding chapters of this EIS, the proposed project would not result in significant adverse impacts in the following technical areas: air quality, water quality, hazardous materials, or noise.

As a result of traffic noise from the adjacent Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) Drive, noise levels within the proposed project’s second and sixth floor terrace open spaces are predicted to exceed the 55-dBA L₁₀₍₁₎ threshold contained in the *CEQR Technical Manual* noise exposure guidelines for outdoor areas requiring serenity and quiet, but would be comparable to other parks around New York City. Therefore, there would be no significant adverse noise impacts with respect to the newly created open spaces. Furthermore, the CEQR noise thresholds are based on quality of life considerations and not on public health considerations. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in significant adverse public health impacts.

B. PUBLIC HEALTH ASSESSMENT—HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

As described in Chapter 7, “Hazardous Materials,” the potential for significant adverse impacts associated with the contamination identified in the Phase I Environmental Site Assessment and the Subsurface (Phase II) Investigation would be avoided by placing an (E) designation for hazardous materials on Block 1485, Lot 15 to ensure that appropriate procedures for any necessary subsurface disturbance are followed prior to, during, and following construction as delineated in that chapter.

C. PUBLIC HEALTH ASSESSMENT—NOISE

As stated in Chapter 12, “Noise,” according to the *CEQR Technical Manual* noise exposure guidelines, noise levels for outdoor areas requiring serenity and quiet should not exceed 55 dBA $L_{10(1)}$. The CEQR noise thresholds are based on quality of life considerations and not on public health considerations. In terms of public health, significance is not determined based upon the incremental change in noise level, but is based principally upon the magnitude of the noise level and duration of exposure.

The analysis presented in Chapter 12, “Noise,” shows that, as a result of traffic noise from the adjacent FDR Drive, noise levels within the proposed project’s terrace open spaces on the second and sixth floors are expected to exceed the 55-dBA $L_{10(1)}$ threshold recommended in the *CEQR Technical Manual* noise exposure guidelines. In the future with the proposed project, $L_{10(1)}$ values at the proposed open space would be in the upper-70s dBA on the second floor terrace and the lower-70s dBA on the sixth floor terrace. Because the dominant noise at the project site results from traffic noise, there are no practical and feasible mitigation measures that could be implemented to reduce noise levels to below the CEQR 55-dBA $L_{10(1)}$ guidelines within the proposed open space. Although noise levels in these areas would be above the guideline noise levels, they would be comparable to noise levels in a number of existing open space areas that are located adjacent to roadways, including Hudson River Park, Riverside Park, Bryant Park, Fort Greene Park, and other urban open space areas. Further, noise levels in the proposed open spaces would be expected to be less than noise levels at the waterfront esplanade on the east side of FDR Drive, which is at the same elevation as the roadway. The CEQR guidelines are a worthwhile goal for outdoor areas requiring serenity and quiet. However, due to the level of activity present at most New York City open space areas and parks, a relatively low noise level is often not achieved. Therefore, the future projected noise levels would not constitute a significant adverse noise impact to the proposed project’s open space areas.

Overall, while noise levels within the proposed project’s open spaces would exceed recommended CEQR thresholds, significant adverse noise impacts to the proposed project’s open space areas would not result in significant adverse public health impacts.

In addition, in order to meet CEQR interior noise level requirements, the CEQR building-attenuation analysis concludes that up to 38 dBA of building attenuation for the project building would be required by placement of an (E) designation for noise on Block 1485, Lot 15. Because the project building would be designed to satisfy these specifications, there would be no significant adverse noise impact with respect to building attenuation. *