

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

February 6, 2015

City Island Water Supply and Drainage Improvements

Emily Lloyd
Commissioner

CEQR number 11DEP006X

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This Negative Declaration has been prepared in compliance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act authorized by Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law establishing the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and its implementing regulations set forth in 6 NYCRR Part 617, and the New York City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) process, as set forth in Executive Order 91 of 1977 and its amendments. The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP), as lead agency, has determined that the proposed action described below would not have a significant effect on the environment and is herein publishing a Negative Declaration. An Environmental Assessment Statement (EAS) was distributed on December 19, 2014.

Project Description

The New York City Department of Design and Construction, on behalf of NYCDEP, is proposing improvements to water supply and storm water infrastructure in the City Island neighborhood of the Bronx. The proposed project involves the installation of two new water supply mains under Eastchester Bay using Horizontal Directional Drilling to replace the current City Island water supply mains. The new mains would connect to existing mains on both the mainland and City Island sides. The existing 16 inch main on the City Island Bridge and the secondary 12 inch main under the Eastchester Bay would be abandoned upon completion of the new mains.

In addition to the water mains the following work is proposed:

- Construction of a new outfall at Kilroe Street, which would extend approximately 40 feet from the center line of City Island Avenue, just beyond the existing shoreline and discharge into Eastchester Bay;
- Installation of approximately 500 linear feet of stormwater collection sewers along City Island Avenue that would drain to the proposed Kilroe Street outfall;
- Construction of a new outfall at Minnieford Avenue, which would be within an easement that the City would acquire across private property. The 35 foot wide and 300 feet long easement would extend northwest across the property from Minnieford Avenue to Eastchester Bay;
- Installation of approximately 1,400 linear feet of stormwater collection sewers along Minnieford Avenue that would drain to the proposed Minnieford Avenue outfall;

- Installation of approximately 1,380 linear feet of sanitary sewers in segments of Terrace and Bridge Streets and City Island and Minnieford Avenues. Water lines would also be replaced along these segments;
- Wetland restoration at the Kilroe Street site totaling approximately 4,260 square feet.

Potential Impact Assessment

As presented in detail in the December EAS, the proposed project would not result in the potential for significant adverse impacts to occur in any aspects of the environment. Detailed discussions of impact categories are presented in the EAS; key conclusions are below:

Natural Resources

Tidal wetlands are present at the sites of both proposed outfalls; the proposed project would result in a total 561 square feet of impacted tidal wetlands and adjacent area. To offset these tidal wetland impacts, the proposed project includes a tidal wetland restoration plan that would be implemented at the Kilroe Street site. This site is in a cove protected from waves and currents and therefore provides a location that is favorable for tidal wetland planting and habitat establishment and growth. There are also existing patches of saltmarsh cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) at this location which indicates the site can support wetland vegetation. Kilroe Street is therefore proposed as the location for a wetland restoration that would address the cumulative permanent and construction period impacts resulting from the proposed project. With this wetland restoration, the project would have no significant adverse impacts to Natural Resources.

Historic and Cultural Resources

The EAS for New York City Department of Transportation's City Island Bridge Replacement disclosed that there was potential for impacts on archeological resources. A Phase 1A archaeological documentary study identified these potential impacts due to the project's location along the western shoreline of Eastchester Bay and within a park of Pelham Bay Park where archaeological resources had been previously documented. It was the conclusion of the Phase 1A that the potential for Native American archaeological resources existed beneath the fill layer and may include shell middens and other archaeological resources. It was therefore the recommendation of the Phase 1A that archaeological monitoring be performed during construction to avoid potential impacts on these resources.

The site of the proposed water main drilling station in Pelham Bay Park is in close proximity to this identified area of sensitivity. Therefore, in order to avoid impacts to archaeological resources with the proposed water main installation, impact avoidance measures for this project also include pre-construction Phase 1B testing. This Phase 1B testing would involve several shovel tests that would be used to determine the presence or absence of any precontact archaeological resources at the proposed site and would be implemented prior to any site disturbance and in accordance with a testing protocol that is approved by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). All Phase 1B testing must be performed by a certified professional archaeologist and in accordance with a protocol that meets LPC's "Guidelines for Archaeological Work in New York City (2002)," the recommendations of the New York State Education Department,

Cultural Resources Survey Program, and SHPO standards. The archaeology team is also required to notify both LPC and SHPO when testing is scheduled to begin and it is anticipated that each agency's staff may visit the site during the testing process. Once the testing is completed, the archaeologist is also required to submit a Phase 1B report that documents the field investigations and their findings to LPC and SHPO. On July 3, 2014, LPC issued an environmental review technical memorandum stating that the proposed Phase 1B testing is an approved approach for this location. With the commitment to perform this pre-construction testing and any necessary measures to address any identified resources, it is concluded that the proposed project would not result in significant adverse impacts on Historic and Cultural Resources.

Statement of No Significant Effect

The NYCDEP has determined pursuant to 6NYCRR Part 617 and the City Executive Order 91 of the 1977 and its amendments that the proposed action will not result in any potential significant adverse effects on the quality of the environment. No potential significant adverse impact on hazardous materials, natural resources, or other impact categories would occur as a result of the proposed action. These conclusions are based on the analyses and determinations provided within the EAS.

Supporting Statements

The above determination is based on an environmental assessment which finds that the project, as proposed, would not result in significant effects on the environment that would require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

For Further Information Contact:

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