

Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) Coney Island Creek
Kickoff Meeting
Summary of Meeting and Public Comments

On November 4, 2015 DEP hosted the first public meeting for the water quality planning process for long term control of combined sewer overflows (CSOs) in Coney Island Creek. The two-hour event, held at the PS 90, Brooklyn, provided overview information about DEP's Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) Program, presented information on the Coney Island Creek watershed characteristics and status of waterbody improvement projects, obtained public information on waterbody uses in Coney Island Creek, and described additional opportunities for public input and outreach. The presentation can be found at <http://www.nyc.gov/dep/ltcp>.

Approximately fifteen people from the public attended the event as well as representatives from the Department of Environmental Protection and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The following summarizes the questions and comments from attendees as well as responses given.

Q. An attendee asked what is the rest of the City's sewer area besides 60% of combined sewer area?

A. DEP stated that the rest of the area is separate stormwater and direct drainage.

Q. An attendee asked if gravity and slope have influence on the CSO activation?

A. DEP stated that topography and slope of the area do impact how the CSO flows.

Q. An attendee expressed a concern about odor issues near Outfall OH-021 during dry weather?

A. DEP stated that they did not experience strong odors during a recent waterbody excursion some staff had taken. During the excursion, some dry weather flows were observed and were identified as potential illicit connections. Regarding illicit connections, DEP stated that over 30 establishments were dye tested and six were found to have illicit connections. The Sentinel Monitoring program abated these connections and continues to work on track down and abatement of illicit connections within the creek.

Q. An attendee asked what were the number of activations for Coney Island Creek obtained from the model?

A. DEP stated that flowmeters were installed and the data was used to calibrate the model and calculate the number of CSO events.

Q. An attendee asked what is DEC's input and does DEC approve/disapprove LTCP plans?

A. DEP stated that we conduct sampling, modeling and analytical work and then engineers develop alternatives and prepare an LTCP report which gets submitted for DEC for review and approval. There is a comment process between DEP and DEC until a final decision is made.

Q. An attendee asked if DEP has any coordination with EDC?

A. DEP stated that they and EDC coordinate closely.

Q. An attendee asked if DEP advocates eating fish?

A. DEP stated that recommended use for the Coney Island Creek is "Recreational Fishing" for sports not eating, as per the DEC fish advisory on the DEC website.

Q. An attendee asked if DEP collects benthic samples?

A. DEP stated that it tests only for water quality such as bacteria and dissolved oxygen (DO). There are other specific programs that sample for benthic but it is much more labor intense and therefore samples on less frequent bases.

Q. An attendee asked why DEP doesn't sample for other toxic chemicals in the Creek and who is going to test if this is not under DEP's mandate?

A. DEP stated that the LTCP CSO program is focused on pathogens and DO and as a result there are limits to what water quality tests are conducted for the process. Other agencies such as the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation conduct their own water quality tests and initiate water quality programs.

Q. An attendee asked why bacteria from dogs fecal matter that washes with stormwater is not addressed?

A. DEP stated that public education to encourage people to properly dispose of dog waste is part of the solution.

Q. An attendee asked what would cause DEP to dredge a waterbody?

A. DEP stated that one of the causes is exposed contaminated with heavy metals sediment mounds. CSO typically is not a source of heavy metals.