

15.0 ENERGY

15.1 Introduction

The proposed project would be constructed in compliance with the New York State Energy Conservation Code, which reflects State and City energy policy. The energy supplier (Con Edison) will be notified of the potential increase in energy usage and location of the proposed project to confirm the suitability of the additional load and determine if extensions or upgrading of energy transmission facilities would be necessary. No significant adverse impacts to energy supply are expected from the proposed project, therefore an energy assessment was not required.

15.2 Existing Conditions

15.2.1 Energy Use

In September of 1882, the first electrically lit street lamp was in New York City. Since that time electricity has contributed to the substantial growth of the City, which in turn has increased the demand for more electricity. In 2003, New York City's peak electricity demand reached 10,960 megawatts. The population has grown by 10 percent over the past decade, while energy usage has grown by 20 percent over the same period. The New York City Energy Policy Task Force report to the Mayor stated "to maintain its position as the financial, corporate and communications capital of the world, New York City must have a dependable source of electricity". Disruptions in the energy supply and distribution have occurred as recently as August 14, 2003, when an electrical blackout affected the Northeastern United States and Southern Canada and electricity was not restored for over a day. The blackout of 2003 resulted in economic losses, but was not accompanied by the rioting and looting of the blackout of July 13, 1977, where some 3,800 people were arrested.

On January 21, 2004, the Mayor announced that the Energy Policy Task Force report on the status of energy consumption in the City "concluded the city would need 2,600 megawatts of new electricity resources by 2010 to ensure continued reliability, promote economic growth and address environmental issues". The goals reported by the Energy Policy Task Force would be addressed through "a combination of generation plants (both new and repowered), transmission lines, and distributed resources—including clean on-site generation and various methods of energy efficiency and demand reduction". Included in these measures would be enhancements to natural gas pipelines and local electric, gas, and steam distribution systems. The major recommendations of the Energy Policy Task Force report include promoting increased investment in energy efficiency, supporting innovative financing for electricity projects, advocating state legislation to facilitate appropriate siting of power plants, establishing a formal planning process, and enhancing and expanding the City's energy efficiency programs such as Energy Cost Reduction Program (ENCORE).

In June 1998, the Public Service Commission designed a five-year program to facilitate deregulation of electricity. As a result of deregulation, most of the large New York State utilities were directed to sell their energy supply plants. Con Edison retained ownership of certain plants to supply its Manhattan steam system, but is primarily a distribution company of electricity, gas,

and steam. The primary owners of generators located within the City are KeySpan Energy, Reliant Resources, NRG Energy, and the New York Power Authority (NYPA).

Locally, energy in the vicinity of the project is distributed by Con Edison. HSS currently receives heat, hot water and autoclave service from New York Presbyterian Hospital steam plant, located between E. 70th Street and E. 71st Street, and Con Edison. It is anticipated that HSS would purchase both steam and electricity from Con Edison for the proposed project. Con Edison has an auxiliary oil feeder line underneath the FDR Drive and the Esplanade. This is a 13 kV line which starts at the Con Edison headhouse located in the northeast corner of the Main Hospital-West Wing and continues south to E. 70th Street.

Based on the foregoing, the proposed project would not have any significant adverse impacts related to energy.