

## **21.0 PUBLIC HEALTH**

### **21.1 Existing Conditions**

Infectious waste is incinerated off site. Specimens and body parts removed during surgery are forwarded to Pathology for examination, and subsequently retrieved (and hence, disposed of) by a representative of the New York City Medical Examiner's Office.

HSS has clearly identifiable centralized areas to contain bio-waste. Step-on disposable cans marked "Dressings Only" are located in each of the areas that produce bio-waste. Any infectious waste from these areas and patient rooms is packed up by Housekeeping or Building Service Aide Departments. Each floor's utility room has containers for double red-bagged bags. Daily, after the housekeeping routine is complete the red-bags are collected as a separate event. The HSS Animal Care Department is the only entity that incinerates, animal remains.

Based on the construction dates for the West Wing (1954 and 1980) and Caspary Research Building (1958) there is a potential for asbestos containing materials and lead based paint that can be disturbed during construction activities. This work would be done in accordance with the Hospital for Special Surgery's existing Operations and Maintenance Plan. Based on the construction dates for the Belaire Building (1987) and the East Wing (1995) there are no potential concerns relating to asbestos containing materials and lead based paint in these buildings.

A review of Federal and State environmental databases (see Attachments) indicates that the Hospital for Special Surgery at 535 East 70<sup>th</sup> Street is registered (*PBS # 2-095702*) as having an active 1,600 gallon aboveground storage tank (AST) that is permitted until May 7, 2007. A site inspection by Ethan C. Eldon Associates, Inc. on October 9, 2004 confirmed that the AST is present in the basement of the West Wing, is used for the storage of diesel fuel for the emergency generator, and is in good condition with no evidence of leaks.

### **21.2 The Future Without the Proposed Project - 2010**

#### **21.2.1 Future Conditions**

Vehicular traffic emissions would not constitute a significant adverse air quality impact.

Stationary source emissions would not constitute a significant adverse air quality impact.

There would be no significant increase in solid waste that would cause an impact on the public health.

There would be no significant increase in noise anticipated.

No conditions were identified that would be likely to cause the attraction of, or increase in, vermin/pest populations.

No Federal, State or City health standards would be likely to be exceeded by the project.

## **21.3 The Future With the Proposed Project - 2010**

### **21.3.1 Future Conditions**

It is anticipated that the proposed HSS modernization program would not produce significant additional quantities of hazardous materials.

The existing procedures and systems currently in effect at HSS would continue with the proposed project's build year and beyond. The Department of Engineering at HSS has produced Policy and Procedure Manuals and Hazardous Materials Manuals which describe the procedures and systems used to ensure the safety of the surrounding community and internal staff. These manuals have established guidelines for HSS's Hazardous Communication Program, the Training Program, the listing of hazardous materials, and ongoing related medical examinations.

HSS Policies establish the special handling and storage procedures for hazardous materials. These procedures apply to solvents and any materials that can be combustible, flammable, explosive, poisonous, corrosive, under pressure, or some combination of these physical attributes.

The proposed project does not pose the potential for significant adverse impacts to traffic.

The proposed project would be below the CEQR screening level of 100 vehicular trips. Vehicular traffic related emissions from the Proposed Project would not constitute a significant adverse air quality impact.

There would be no Storage Tanks, historic petroleum spillage, or heavy metal usage at the site. There are no indications of odors infiltrating from impacted soil, groundwater, or spills into the hospital spaces.

Stationary source related emissions from the proposed project would not constitute a significant adverse air quality impact.

There would be no significant increase in solid waste that would cause an impact on the public health. There would be no significant increase in operational noise anticipated. No conditions were identified that would be likely to cause the attraction of or increase in vermin/pest populations. No Federal, State or City health standards would be likely to be exceeded by the project. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts to public health are anticipated..