Chapter 21: Public Health

The City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) Technical Manual states that a public health assessment is not necessary for many proposed actions, but a thorough consideration of health issues should be documented in the EIS. In determining whether a public health assessment is appropriate for the proposed Jamaica Plan, the following has been considered:

• Air Quality This public health analysis considers whether the increased air emissions from vehicular traffic or stationary sources (heating systems and industrial sources) would result in significant air quality impacts or the exceedance of air quality standards for the protection of public health. The potential for these impacts was examined in detail and is described in Chapter 18, "Air Quality." A total of 8 receptor locations were selected for the analysis of carbon monoxide (CO) microscale analysis, and two of these receptors were analyzed for particulate matter (PM) PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} microscale analysis. As described in Chapter 18, the proposed actions would not result in any violations of the CO or PM standards and would not have any significant impacts at the receptor sites. Additionally, the predicted annual and daily (24-hour) PM increments are below the interim guidance criteria, and therefore the proposed action would not result in significant impacts at the analyzed receptor locations. As such, the results show that the development under the proposed actions would not result in any significant adverse air quality impacts from mobile sources. The air quality analysis also determined that parking facilities associated with projected development sites would not result in significant adverse air quality impacts.

For HVAC emissions, the majority of the development sites were determined to pass an HVAC screening analyses. As discussed in Chapter 18, "Air Quality," 42 of the sites did not meet the standards specified in the *CEQR Technical Manual*, and a more refined analysis was performed. In all cases, if fuel types (e.g., natural gas) or minimum disturbances between buildings are proposed, no significant adverse impacts are predicted. To preclude the potential for significant adverse air quality impacts on future residents from the HVAC emissions, an (E) designation would be incorporated into the rezoning proposal for each of the affected sites (see Appendix C).

In addition, an analysis of the cumulative impacts of industrial sources on projected and potential development sites was also performed. As detailed in Chapter 18, at most of the sites the maximum concentration of pollutants were below the guideline levels and health risk criteria established by regulatory agencies. However, at certain projected and potential development sites in the vicinity of existing industrial sources, concentrations of individual air toxic pollutants were found to result in potential significant impacts. Therefore, at these locations an (E) designation for air quality would be incorporated into the text of the zoning proposal. With these protection measures in place, the proposed action would not result in significant adverse impacts related to air quality.

• **Hazardous Materials** As described in detail in Chapter 11, "Hazardous Materials," the proposed actions have the potential to result in an increased human exposure to potential contaminants in soil or dust during construction and potentially during occupancy at a

number of projected and potential development sites. In most cases these sites have potentially been impacted by prior or current uses (e.g., manufacturing, auto-related uses). The hazardous materials assessment presented in Chapter 11 identifies each of the projected and potential development sites where it has been concluded that there is this potential impact due to the concern regarding environmental conditions. Therefore, at these sites, prior to construction, site-specific investigations would be performed to determine the potential presence and nature of such contamination and the proper remedial and/or health and safety measures that would be employed during redevelopment. To avoid the impacts, the proposed actions include the mapping of (E) designations for all projected and potential development sites where it has been determined that there is the potential for such impacts. The mapping of (E) designations mitigates these potentially significant adverse impacts. The (E) designation, which would be mapped as part of the proposed zoning, requires that the fee owner of such a site conduct a testing and sampling protocol and remediation where appropriate, to the satisfaction of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) as part of the building permit approval at the Department of Buildings. The (E) designation also includes a mandatory construction-related health and safety plan that must be approved by NYCDEP. If areas are found to be contaminated, remediation would be performed in accordance with all city, state, and federal regulations and protocols. With these measures in place, the proposed action would not result in significant adverse impacts related to hazardous materials. In addition, the City would impose its own restrictions on a City-owned site (site 469-JC1).

- No solid waste management practices are proposed beyond those that already occur at residential and commercial uses throughout the City and within the study area. These practices include all contemporary solid waste collection and containment practices and conformance with the laws of the New York City Board of Health. Development under the proposed actions would occur in an area that is currently served by the New York City Department of Sanitation residential trash and recycling pickups and privates services that handle commercial operations. The proposed actions would not affect the delivery of these services or place a significant burden on the city's solid waste management system.
- No new odor sources would be created as a result of the proposed action.
- The proposed action would facilitate residential and commercial development in an area with high ambient noise levels. In addition, as part of the proposed action, a public open space is proposed to be built within the proposed Urban Renewal Area (URA). No new significant stationary sources of noise would be created under the proposed action. With respect to mobile sources, traffic generated by the proposed action would not produce any significant adverse noise impacts.

Based upon the $L_{10(1)}$ values measured and projected at monitoring locations in the project area, a maximum of either 30 or 35 dBA of window/wall attenuation would be necessary for certain projected and potential developments to comply with CEQR guidelines. These sites are identified in Chapter 19, "Noise." To achieve the level of noise attenuation necessary to comply with CEQR guidelines, an (E) designation would be placed on the properties. To achieve 30 to 35 dBA of building attenuation, double-glazed windows with good sealing properties must be used as well as alternate means of ventilation, such as well sealed through-the-wall air conditioning or central air conditioning. The maximum 35 dBA of building attenuation can be met through a combination of double-glazed windows with good sealing properties as well as alternate ventilation, such as central air conditioning.

With the attenuation measures specified above, the proposed action would not have any significant adverse noise impacts and would meet CEQR guidelines. In no case are the proposed actions expected to result in noise conditions that would affect the public health of current or future residents.

For the reasons stated above, a full assessment of potential impacts on public health is not necessary and no significant adverse impacts are expected as a result of the proposed actions.*