

3.20 PUBLIC HEALTH

INTRODUCTION

The proposed action would not result in significant adverse impacts to public health.

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

Whether increased vehicular traffic or emissions from stationary sources would result in significant air quality impacts.

The potential for these impacts was examined in Chapter 3.17, “Air Quality.” A total of four receptor locations were selected for carbon monoxide (CO) microscale analysis. The highest project-generated CO increment would occur at the intersection of East 125th Street and Second Avenue during the PM peak period. The NYCDEP CO *de minimis* values would not be exceeded at this site or any other analysis site, indicating that the proposed action does not have the potential to cause CO impacts that are considered to be significant. The proposed action would also not result in any violations of the CO standard and therefore would not result in significant CO impacts at the analyzed locations. Additionally, the total number of heavy duty diesel vehicles (HDDV) would not approach the 95 HDDV screening limit calculated for PM_{2.5} and thus, combined with the fact that there are few project-induced trucks, both PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ from mobile sources are not pollutants of concern for this project. As such, the results show that the development of the projected development sites would not result in any significant adverse air quality impacts from mobile sources for CO, PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀.

No exceedances of the NAAQS are predicted as a result of emissions from projected and potential development site HVAC systems (project-on-project impacts and impacts on existing land uses) with the implementation of (E) designations on several of the projected and potential development sites. These (E) designations would require a specific fuel type and/or a minimum offset distance for stack locations. The result of analysis provided in Chapter 3.17, “Air Quality,” is that, with the proposed (E) designations, the heating emissions of these developments do not have the potential to significantly impact existing or future anticipated nearby land uses. In addition, the analysis determined that heating emissions from existing land uses do not have the potential to result in significant adverse air quality impacts on projected and potential developments.

An analysis of the cumulative impacts of industrial sources on projected and potential development sites was also performed, as detailed in Chapter 3.17. The result of the screening level air toxic analysis is that no exceedance of a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) SGC or an AGC acceptable limit was predicted, and that the total hazard index impact of the non-carcinogenic toxics pollutants emitted from all of sources combined is 7.408×10^{-2} , which is well below the level of 1.0 that is considered by USEPA to be

significant. In addition, the one carcinogen emitted by the identified facilities, tetrachloroethylene would result in a cancer threshold risk of 9.1509×10^{-7} which is below the USEPA acceptable risk value of one in one million (i.e., 1.0×10^{-6}).

If there is an increased potential for exposure to contaminants in soil or dust or vapor infiltration from contaminants within a building or underlying soil that may result in significant adverse hazardous materials or air quality impacts.

As described in detail in Chapter 3.10, “Hazardous Materials,” the proposed action has 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. Prior to construction, further investigation would be performed on each development site to determine the presence and nature of contamination of concern and the proper remedial and/or health and safety measures that would be employed during redevelopment.

For all privately owned sites, as listed in Appendix D, (E) designations are recommended as part of the proposed zoning. Recommendations for (E) designations are based on whether the projected and potential development sites may have been adversely affected by current or historical uses at, adjacent to, or within 400 feet of these sites. By placing (E) designations on sites where there is a known or suspect environmental concern, the potential for an adverse impact to human health and the environment resulting from the proposed action is avoided. The (E) designation provides the City with the mechanism for addressing environmental conditions so that significant adverse impacts do not occur as a result of site development.

The (E) designation requires that pre-development activities at each site include a Phase 1 environmental site investigation, and, if necessary, a sampling protocol and remediation to the satisfaction of NYCDEP before the issuance of a building permit. Appendix D presents the complete list of privately-owned projected and potential development sites for which (E) designations are proposed (Appendix Table 1, “Projected and Potential Sites Requiring (E) Designations for Hazardous Materials”).

In addition to the sites receiving (E) designations, there are City owned properties that have been identified as having the potential for hazardous materials contamination. Because these sites are under City ownership, they are not subject to the regulations governing (E) designations. The agencies that own and control these sites will enter into Memoranda of Understanding or other agreements with NYCDEP to ensure that any testing and remediation activities, as deemed necessary by NYCDEP in accordance with NYCDEP requirements, are performed prior to and/or during development of or a change in use on these sites. (See Table 2 in Appendix D “City Owned Sites with Potential Hazardous Materials.”)

Solid waste management practices that could attract vermin and result in an increase in pest populations.

No solid waste management practices are proposed beyond those which occur at most residential and commercial uses found in the City. These practices would include all contemporary solid waste collection and containment practices and conformance with the laws of the New York City Board of Health. Development pursuant to the proposed action would occur in an area which is currently served by the NYC Department of Sanitation residential trash and recycling pickups. As discussed in Chapter 3.13, “Solid Waste and Sanitation Services,” the proposed action would not affect the delivery of these services, or place a significant burden on the City’s solid waste management system.

Potentially significant adverse impacts to sensitive receptors from noise.

The proposed action would facilitate residential and commercial development in an area with high ambient noise levels, due to the presence of commercial, industrial, and transportation land uses and proximity to the busy 125th Street traffic corridor. No new significant sources of noise would be generated by the proposed action. Traffic generated by the proposed action would not produce any significant adverse noise impacts.

The existing noise levels at 14 of the 15 monitoring sites and the future noise levels at all of the projected and potential development sites with residential, commercial and community facility uses would exceed 70 dBA. These sites would be suitable for residential, commercial and community facility uses only by providing window-wall attenuation ranging from 30 dBA to 40 dBA for the exterior facade of the affected developments in order to achieve a 45 dBA interior noise level. An (E) designation for these sites would preclude the potential for significant adverse noise impacts. The closed window condition at these sites can be maintained only by providing an alternate means of ventilation for the interior spaces. Details of window insulation are as follows.

- Sound attenuation of 30 dBA would be needed for sites where future noise levels would be between 70 and 75 dBA. This can be achieved through installing ¼ inch laminated single-glazed window or double-glazed windows with 1/8 inch glass panes with ¼ inch air space between them mounted in a heavy frame.
- Sound attenuation of 35 dBA would be required for sites where future noise levels would be between 75 and 80 dBA. This can be achieved through installing double glazed windows on a heavy frame in masonry structures or windows consisting of laminated glass.
- Sound attenuation of 40 dBA would be required where future noise levels would be between 80 and 85 dBA. This level of attenuation requires the use of measures that typically exceed standard practice for new construction. Achieving the 40 dBA attenuation would require the placement of acoustically

well-sealed ¼” laminated storm sash 1.5” to 3” from single glazed window on wood or metal frame.

To ensure an interior noise environment of 45 dBA or less, an (E) designation for noise would be placed on the zoning map for the projected and potential development sites.

With the attenuation measures specified above, the proposed action would not have any significant adverse noise impacts, and would meet CEQR guidelines.

Potentially significant adverse impacts to sensitive receptors from odors.

No new odor sources would be created as a result of the proposed action.

No activities are proposed that would exceed accepted City, State, or federal standards with respect to public health or result in activities which result in significant public health concerns. 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 action.