

Chapter 23: Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

There are a number of resources, both natural and built, that would be expended in the construction and operation of the proposed project. These resources include the building materials used in construction of the project; energy in the form of gas and electricity consumed during construction and operation of the arena and related development; and the human effort (time and labor) required to develop, construct, and operate various components of the proposed project. They are considered irretrievably committed because their reuse for some purpose other than the proposed project would be highly unlikely. The land use changes associated with the development of the proposed project site may also be considered a resource loss. The proposed actions constitute an irreversible and irretrievable commitment of the site as a land resource, thereby rendering land use for other purposes infeasible. However, these current land uses are dilapidated, vacated, and underutilized. The rehabilitation of the rail yard would be helpful in modernizing LIRR operations, and the renovated and reopened subway entrance would improve access to and flow within the station. Meanwhile, the new land uses associated with the proposed project would be similar to, and compatible with, those in the surrounding primary and secondary study areas. *