Chapter 18: Public Health

A. INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

This chapter assesses the potential for public health related impacts associated with the proposed Farley Post Office/Moynihan Station Redevelopment Project.

For determining whether a public health assessment is appropriate, the *CEQR Technical Manual* lists the following as public health concerns for which a public health assessment may be warranted:

- Increased vehicular traffic or emissions from stationary sources resulting in significant adverse air quality impacts;
- Increased exposure to heavy metals (e.g. lead) and other contaminants in soil/dust resulting in significant adverse impacts;
- The presence of contamination from historic spills or releases of substances that might have affected or might affect ground water to be used as a source of drinking water;
- Solid waste management practices that could attract vermin and result in an increase in pest populations (e.g. rats, mice, cockroaches, and mosquitoes);
- Potentially significant adverse impacts to sensitive receptors from noise or odors;
- Vapor infiltration from contaminants within a building or underlying soil (e.g., contamination originating from gasoline stations or dry cleaners) that may result in significant adverse hazardous materials or air quality impacts;
- Actions for which the potential impact(s) result in an exceedance of accepted federal, state, or local standards; or
- Other actions, which might not exceed the preceding thresholds, but might nonetheless result in significant public health concerns, including projects such as the New York City Adult Mosquito Control Programs, the Williamsburg Bridge Lead Removal Project, and the New York City Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan.

The key technical analyses of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that identify potential impacts related to the concerns identified above are Chapter 11, "Hazardous Materials," Chapter 12, "Infrastructure and Solid Waste," Chapter 15, "Air Quality," Chapter 16, "Noise", and Chapter 17, "Construction." As set forth below, these chapters have been reviewed and summarized to determine if additional or more detailed analyses of potential public health risks associated with the proposed project were required. No additional or specific public health concerns were identified during the public scoping process.

PRINCIPAL CONCLUSIONS

Chapter 11, "Hazardous Materials" concludes that with the implementation of appropriate measures, including pre-construction surveys and Health and Safety Plans during demolition and construction, no significant adverse impacts related to hazardous materials would be expected to occur as a result of the proposed project. Following construction of the proposed redevelopment, although hazardous materials would likely still remain in both the Farley Complex and the subsurface, with the continued implementation of appropriate procedures (to properly manage asbestos, lead paint, etc.), there would be no further potential for adverse impacts.

In terms of potential solid waste disposal issues creating a public health hazard, Chapter 12, "Infrastructure, Solid Waste, and Energy" indicates that the proposed project would conform to standards appropriate for commercial and residential facilities in New York City, including participation in mandatory recycling and waste reduction programs. Overall, no impacts on solid waste management are expected with the proposed Moynihan Station and no public health concerns would be generated.

Chapter 15, "Air Quality," indicates that the proposed project would not result in any significant adverse impacts and would not cause the exceedances of National Ambient Air Quality Standards and as a result there would be no significant adverse impact on public health.

Chapter 16, "Noise" indicates that no adverse noise impacts are anticipated with the proposed project, and no adverse health effects on the general public would be generated.

In terms of construction-related impacts, Chapter 17, "Construction" indicates that no significant adverse impacts on air quality would be expected as a result of construction activities. With no large-scale or open-air demolition of buildings as part of the proposed project, there is a diminished risk of particulate emissions. Therefore, most new emissions would be generated by construction vehicles and equipment that might be used on site. In this regard, and as part of the larger comprehensive redevelopment program associated with the Hudson Yards Rezoning (and as analyzed in the Hudson Yards Final Generic EIS), it is assumed that potential construction activities would not exceed $PM_{2.5}$ threshold criteria based on the utilization of Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel fuel for all construction equipment. With this mitigation, there would be no exceedances of the Significant Threshold Values established by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection and as a result there would be no significant adverse impact on public health.

In summary, this screening analysis indicates that no significant impact to public health is expected as a result of the proposed project. ✷