

4.10.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter assesses the potential for the proposed Project to impact ecological resources within the study area. These resources include: water quality; flooding and floodplains; open water and wetlands; ecologically sensitive areas; vegetative, fish and wildlife communities; and threatened and endangered species. This chapter describes the existing conditions for each resource area and the impact assessment.

4.10.2 EXISTING CONDITIONS AND PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

WATER QUALITY AND COASTAL ZONE

The Farley Complex and Development Transfer Site are located approximately a ½ mile away from the Hudson River, the only open body of water near the Project sites. The proposed Project would not control or modify the Hudson River in any manner. Therefore, the Preferred Alternative would not result in significant adverse impacts to the water quality or aquatic biota of the Hudson River. The Farley Complex and Development Transfer Site are also not located within New York the City's Coastal Zone, and therefore New York City's Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) is not applicable.

WETLANDS

As described above, the closest water body is the Hudson River, located approximately a ½ mile away from the Farley Complex and Development Transfer Site.

The NYSDEC wetlands maps and United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps were reviewed and there are no freshwater wetlands mapped by the NWI or DEC on or near the Farley Complex and Development Transfer Site. The proposed Project would not require permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. Therefore, the Preferred Alternative would not result in significant adverse impacts to wetlands.

FLOODPLAINS

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) base floodplain maps, as delineated on Flood Insurance Rate Maps, were reviewed and the Farley Complex and Development Transfer Site and surrounding areas are not mapped with the 100-year floodplain (area with a 1 percent chance of flooding each year) or 500-year floodplain (area with a 0.2 percent chance of flooding each year). Moreover, no regulated floodplain is located in the vicinity of the Farley Complex or the Development Transfer Site. Therefore, the Preferred Alternative would not result in significant adverse impacts from flooding.

TERRESTRIAL RESOURCES

The entirety of the land surfaces on the Farley Complex site and Development Transfer Site are covered with impervious surfaces (buildings, sidewalks, and parking and loading areas), and there is little vegetation to provide habitat for wildlife. The only terrestrial resources are trees located within the private but publicly accessible open space (the plaza area adjacent to One Penn Plaza) on the Development Transfer Site. Therefore, there is no potential for any significant natural habitats or ecologically sensitive areas to be altered. The Preferred Alternative would not result in significant adverse impacts to terrestrial resources.

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SPECIAL CONCERN SPECIES

According to the USFWS list of threatened or endangered species for New York (http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public), there are no rare, special concern, threatened, endangered, or candidate species on or in the immediate vicinity of the Farley Complex and the Development Transfer Site. Therefore, the Preferred Alternative would not result in significant adverse impacts to endangered or threatened species. *