Chapter 27: Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

There are a number of resources, both natural and built, that would be expended in the construction and operation of the Proposed Actions. These resources include the materials used in construction; energy in the form of gas and electricity consumed during construction and operation of the project; and the human effort (time and labor) required to develop, construct, and operate various components of the program. They are considered irretrievably committed because their reuse for some purpose other than the project would be highly unlikely. The Proposed Actions constitute an irreversible and irretrievable commitment of the development potential of the air rights above the Western Rail Yard, thereby rendering other uses infeasible. The Proposed Actions retain the existing Caemmerer Rail Yard which would remain fully operational below the platform level of the new development.

These commitments of land resources and materials are weighed against the purpose and benefits of the Proposed Actions: to realize additional funds for MTA's capital program; to develop a mix of uses on the Development Site that would contribute to the economic, social, and recreational life of the Hudson Yards area and the City; to create affordable housing; to introduce new open space and enhanced connections to existing and proposed open space; to facilitate the redevelopment of the High Line as public open space; and to develop the Development Site and the Additional Housing Sites in accordance with sustainable design principles. ✷