Chapter 9: Solid Waste and Sanitation Services

A. INTRODUCTION

This chapter considers the proposed development's effects on solid waste and sanitation services.

According to the *City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) Technical Manual*, a solid waste and sanitation services assessment should be conducted if a project enacts regulatory changes affecting the generation or management of the City's waste or if the action involves the construction, operation, or closing of any type of solid waste management facility. The manual also states that projects with a generation rate of less than 10,000 pounds per week are not considered large and do not warrant detailed analysis.

The proposed actions would not enact regulatory changes affecting the generation or management of city waste nor would it result in the construction, operation, or closing of any solid waste management facility. Therefore, this chapter simply discloses the proposed development's solid waste generation. This chapter concludes that because the proposed development would result in only a minimal increase in New York City's waste stream, there would be no potential for significant adverse impacts on solid waste and sanitation services.

PRINCIPAL CONCLUSIONS

The proposed project would increase the volume of solid waste generation at the Brooklyn Bay Center site ("project site"). It also would be required to comply with the City's recycling program. While the proposed development would create new demands on solid waste and sanitation services, the sanitation systems serving the project site would have adequate capacity to meet the projected increases in solid waste generation. The analysis concludes that the proposed actions would not result in any significant adverse impacts on these services.

B. EXISTING CONDITIONS

The City's solid waste management services are undertaken in accordance with the existing Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP), which is the responsibility of the New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY). The existing SWMP, which was approved in 1992 and amended in 1996 and 2000, remained in effect until the Draft New SWMP (October 2004) was approved by the City Council on July 19, 2006, and adopted by New York City on July 27, 2006. The SWMP was approved by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) in a letter received by DSNY on October 27, 2006. The SWMP establishes a hierarchy of preferred solid waste management methods to reduce and process solid waste generated within the City. The objectives of the SWMP are, in order of importance: waste minimization; reuse, recycling, or composting; and export for out-of-City disposal.

In the City of New York, residential and institutional refuse is handled by DSNY, while solid waste from commercial and manufacturing uses is collected by private carters. DSNY collects

approximately 16,500 tons per day of refuse and recyclables, of which approximately 5,000 tons are recycled.

Commercial carters pick up solid waste from businesses, manufacturers and offices and take the waste materials to transfer stations where the recyclable materials are separated from the solid waste. The solid waste is consolidated into larger trucks for transport and disposal in landfills outside of New York City. The recyclable materials are sold and transported to manufacturing facilities. Private carters handle about 14,830 tons per week of recyclables and solid waste. In addition, private carters handle about 19,070 tons per day of construction debris and excavated materials.

The project site is currently occupied by a bus storage company with approximately 5 employees and two buildings of approximately 10,400 square feet. Because most of the site is used for bus storage, solid waste generation on the project site is low. The bus storage use is a private commercial use; therefore, solid waste from the project site is handled by private carters. Using the *CEQR Technical Manual* solid waste generation of 9 pounds per week per employee for single office uses,[1] it is estimated that existing uses on the project site generate approximately 45 pounds per week of solid waste.

C. THE FUTURE WITHOUT THE PROPOSED PROJECT

In the future without the proposed project, the existing bus storage uses will remain on the project site. Therefore, the solid waste generation on the project site will remain approximately 45 pounds per week, the same as in existing conditions. Solid waste from the project site will continue to be handled by private carters.

D. PROBABLE IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The proposed project would comply with the City's recycling program. The proposed development would be designed to accommodate source separation of recyclables in conformance with city recycling regulations.

The proposed project would result in an approximately 214,000-gross-square-foot retail building; a three-level parking garage with approximately 690 parking spaces; and approximately 2.4 acres of publicly accessible waterfront open space on the project site. Of these program elements, only the retail use would be expected to generate a substantial amount of solid waste. Because it would be a commercial use, private carters would continue to handle solid waste from the project site. Based on the general retail solid waste generation rate of 79 pounds per week per employee and an estimated 323 full-time equivalent employees, the proposed development would generate solid waste at a rate of approximately 2,528 pounds per week. This would be an incremental increase of 2,483 pounds per week over the continuation of the bus storage uses in the future without the proposed project. This would represent a minimal increase in New York City's waste stream. As a result, the proposed project would not be expected to adversely affect solid waste streams or recycling in the City. ✷

[1] 2010 *CEQR Technical Manual*, Table 14-1, "Solid Waste Generation Rates."