Chapter 13: Energy

A. INTRODUCTION

The 2001 *City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) Technical Manual* outlines the following guidelines for the infrastructure, solid waste and sanitation services, and energy assessments:

- Energy. A detailed assessment of energy impacts is limited to actions that could significantly affect the transmission or generation of energy or that generate substantial indirect consumption of energy (such as a new roadway).

Because the proposed action (both the project and the potential development under the reasonable worst-case development scenario) would not trigger any of the CEQR thresholds, this chapter simply discloses the proposed action's energy consumption. This chapter concludes that because the proposed action would not significantly affect the transmission or generation of energy there would be no potential for significant adverse impacts on energy.

B. EXISTING CONDITIONS

Electric, gas, and steam service is delivered to customers in Manhattan by Con Edison. The existing energy use on-site and within the rezoning area is minimal.

C. THE FUTURE WITHOUT THE PROPOSED ACTION

As discussed above, in the future without the proposed action the project site will be remediated under the Brownfields Cleanup Program. Therefore, the site will be vacant.

In December 2004, the New York State Energy Planning Board released the Draft New York State Energy Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement. This plan set out the New York State policies and objectives for the next five years. The plan is to promote competition in the energy industries, secure reliable and reasonably priced energy supplies, reduce environmental impacts associated with energy generation and consumption, reduce vehicular congestion, and preserve energy-related public benefits programs. These are continuations of the policies developed in the 1998 Energy Plan that are currently in operation. Therefore, no large-scale changes in energy generation and consumption policies are foreseen within the next five years.

A number of power plant construction projects are planned or currently underway. While not all of the projects will likely be constructed, it is anticipated that sufficient additional generating capacity will be built to meet New York City's projected future demand for energy.

In the future without the proposed action, the project site and rezoning area is expected to continue to have a minimal energy demand.

D. PROBABLE IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed action would be required to comply with the New York State Energy Conservation Construction Code Act. This code governs performance requirements of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, as well as the exterior building envelope. The code, promulgated on January 1, 1979, pursuant to Article 11 of the Energy Law of the State of New York, requires that new and recycled buildings (both public and private) be designed to ensure adequate thermal resistance to heat loss and infiltration. In addition, it provides requirements for the design and selection of mechanical, electrical, and illumination systems. In compliance with the code, the basic designs would incorporate all required energy conservation measures, including meeting the code's requirements relating to energy efficiency and combined thermal transmittance.

Electricity, and possibly gas and steam, supplied by Con Edison or another power company, would be used to provide heating, cooling, and lighting to the project site. Various grades of petroleum fuel oils from commercial suppliers could also be used for heating. Energy consumption from the proposed action is not expected to result in any significant additional load for Con Edison or another power company and would not result in any adverse impacts. ✷