Chapter 14: Public Health

A. INTRODUCTION

The *City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) Technical Manual* states that a public health assessment may not be necessary for many proposed actions, but a thorough consideration of health issues should be documented.

As detailed below, a screening assessment was performed to examine the proposed development's potential to significantly impact public health concerns related to its construction and operation. The initial screening assessment determined that a full assessment of the proposed development's potential impacts on public health is not necessary: the proposed project would not be expected to exceed accepted City, State, or Federal public health standards in the areas of air quality, construction, solid waste management practices, odors, and noise. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in significant adverse impacts on public health.

PRINCIPAL CONCLUSIONS

The proposed project would not result in significant adverse public health impacts related to air quality, noise, hazardous materials, groundwater, or unusual solid waste management practices that could attract vermin or be a source of odors. In addition, the proposed project would not result in any exceedances of accepted federal, state, or local standards. For informational purposes, the public health assessment also considers potential health concerns related to air quality during the construction and operation of the proposed actions. The proposed project does not include any actions that would result in significant public health concerns, and therefore would not result in potentially significant adverse public health impacts.

B. ANALYSIS

In determining whether a public health assessment is appropriate, the following has been considered:

- Whether increased vehicular traffic or emissions from stationary sources would result in significant air quality impacts. The potential for these impacts from the proposed project is examined in Chapter 12, "Air Quality." The results show that construction of the proposed development would not result in any potentially significant adverse air quality impacts from mobile sources. In addition, the proposed parking lot would not result in any significant adverse impacts due to CO concentrations, and no stationary source air quality impacts would result from the proposed development's heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment. Finally, there would be no potential impacts on the proposed actions from industrial sources nearby.
- Whether there is an increased potential for exposure to contaminants in soil or dust during construction. The proposed project has this potential; however, the magnitude of the impact is not expected to be substantially different from that at most other urban sites. As noted in

Chapter 7, "Hazardous Materials," measures would be employed to avoid adverse impacts during excavation for the proposed development. A Health and Safety Plan would be implemented during all earthwork to ensure that any subsurface disturbance does not result in unnecessary or unacceptable hazards to the workers or those in the surrounding community. All appropriate federal, state, and local regulations and engineering controls would be closely followed to ensure that there would be no impacts from any potential contaminants (e.g., petroleum-contaminated soil and excess fill, including demolition debris) encountered before and during all construction activities. With implementation of all these measures, no significant adverse impacts related to hazardous materials are expected to occur.

- Whether the proposed project could result in solid waste management practices that could attract vermin and result in an increase in pest populations (e.g., rats, mice, cockroaches, and mosquitoes). No solid waste management practices are proposed beyond those at most residential and commercial uses in the City. These practices would include all contemporary solid waste collection and containment practices and conformance with the laws of the New York City Board of Health.

  Whether new odor sources would be created. The proposed project would not result in new odor sources.

  Whether the proposed project would result in potentially significant adverse impacts on sensitive receptors from noise. As discussed in Chapter 13, "Noise," the proposed project would not result in any significant adverse noise impacts. The proposed project would result in a retail development with a parking garage and publicly accessible open space in an area with moderate to high noise levels. The proposed project would not generate sufficient traffic to have the potential to cause a significant noise impact. Noise levels in the proposed publicly accessible open space would be relatively high, but would be comparable to noise levels in a number of New York City open space areas that are also located adjacent to roadways.

  The proposed development building's façade design, which would include a minimal amount of windows/glass, would include double glazed windows and central air conditioning (i.e., alternate means of ventilation). The proposed building's facades, including these elements, would be designed to provide a composite Outdoor-Indoor Transmission Class (OITC) rating greater than or equal to 30**.** The OITC classification is defined by the American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM E1332-90 [Reapproved 2003]) and provides a single-number rating that is used for designing a building façade including walls, doors, glazing, and combinations thereof. The OITC rating is designed to evaluate building elements by their ability to reduce the overall loudness of ground and air transportation noise. By adhering to these design requirements, the proposed developments' building facades will thus provide sufficient attenuation to achieve the CEQR interior noise level guideline of 50 dBA L_{10} for commercial uses.

Overall, no activities are proposed that would exceed accepted City, State, or Federal public health standards.

For the reasons discussed above, a full assessment of the proposed project's potential impacts on public health is not necessary, and no significant adverse impacts are expected as a result of the proposed project. ✷