



MODIFIED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Determination of Non-Significance

October 22, 2019

Jerome Park Reservoir and Aqueduct Rehabilitation (JRAQ-REH)

CEQR No: 17DEP022X

This Modified Negative Declaration has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the New York City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) process as set forth in 62 RCNY Chapter 5 and New York City Executive Order 91 of 1977 and its amendments, Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law establishing the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and its regulations as set forth in 6 NYCRR Part 617, and the State Environmental Review Process (SERP) as required to obtain financing under the State Revolving Fund Program. As lead agency, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has determined that the proposed project changes to the Jerome Park Reservoir and Aqueduct Rehabilitation would not have a significant effect on the environment and is hereby publishing a Modified Negative Declaration. The previous Negative Declaration was issued on June 26, 2017.

Project Summary

As a part of the overall plan to upgrade the infrastructure of the Croton Water Supply System, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) is proposing a project known as Jerome Park Reservoir and Aqueduct Rehabilitation (JRAQ-REH) to improve the water quality, site safety, and maintain the functionality of the Jerome Park Reservoir (JPR).

The JPR is located in the Kingsbridge Heights section of the Borough of the Bronx, New York City. It is bounded on the north and west by Sedgwick Avenue, on the east by Goulden Avenue, and on the south by Reservoir Avenue. The JPR is located east of Interstate Highway 87, the Major Deegan Expressway, and west of Jerome Avenue. The JPR property (Block 3246, Lot 1) falls within the Bronx Community District 8.

Vincent Sapienza, P.E.
Commissioner

Angela Licata
*Deputy Commissioner
of Sustainability*

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Project Modifications

Since the time of issuance of the environmental determination of non-significance and Negative Declaration on June 26, 2017, the proposed project design has undergone several modifications. Firstly, the East Basin Outlet is no longer part of the project scope and no work is planned for it. In addition, due to a recent partial failure at the south basin and continued deterioration, the proposal would now encompass the entire east wall, in both the north and south basins, instead of just the north basin.

Also following the original environmental review, DEP activated the Croton Filtration Plant (CFP) and the north basin has been typically drained as a failsafe measure in the event of an unplanned or emergency shutdown of the CFP. Consequently, the liner wall would now be routinely exposed in the north basin instead of the original design intent to keep it below the water line. In addition, faux-stone finishes were found to be unable to successfully replicate the appearance of the existing rubble wall. In response to these concerns, DEP now plans to use a shotcrete installation method along the east wall instead of the original proposal to use cast-in-place concrete.

Finally, DEP plans to shore up an existing ramp entrance to the north basin to allow construction vehicles to use this route. The work here includes the repair and reinforcement of the ramp and the installation of a standard vehicular guardrail to meet public health and safety requirements.

Assessment of Potential Impact Assessment

As presented in the original EAS Impact Analysis and the Project Modifications section above, the proposed project would not result in the potential for significant adverse environment impacts. The focus of this updated assessment would be construction impacts and historic and cultural resources, which are described below.

Construction Impacts

Traffic

There would be a minor increase in truck trips compared to the original proposal, due to the north entrance ramp repairs and additional work at the south basin: from 10-15 trips per day in the original scope to approximately 15-22 trips per day. Therefore, no potential significant adverse impacts are anticipated on traffic.

Historic and Cultural Resources

To avoid impacts on the historic east wall, DEP plans to install a shotcrete liner with a plain, smooth finish that clearly demarcates the new from the historic wall sections. In an updated

letter dated June 7, 2019, New York State Office of Historic Preservation (SHPO) determined that the project would have no adverse impact. Therefore, no potential significant impacts are anticipated on historic and cultural resources.

Statement of No Significant Effect

DEP has determined that the proposed project would not result in any significant adverse impacts on the environment. No significant adverse impacts are anticipated to occur with respect to land use, zoning and public policy; open space; historic and archeological resources; urban design and visual resources; natural resources; hazardous materials; water and sewer infrastructure; neighborhood character; construction impacts; or other impact categories as a result of the proposed action. These conclusions are based on the analyses and information contained in the Jerome Park and Aqueduct Rehabilitation Environmental Assessment Statement dated May 16, 2017 and an updated consultation letter from New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) dated June 7, 2019.

Supporting Statements

The above determination is based on the environmental assessment issued on May 16, 2017 and an updated consultation letter from SHPO received on June 7, 2019, that finds that the proposed program would not result in significant effects on the environment. Thus, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would not be required.

For Further Information, Please Contact:

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Sincerely,



Mark Page, Jr., Managing Director
DEP – Environmental Impact Analysis & Technical Review

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