



**DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

59-17 Junction Boulevard
Flushing, New York 11373

**Emily Lloyd
Commissioner**

Tel. (718) 595-6565
Fax: (718) 595-3525
elloyd@dep.nyc.gov

**Angela Licata
Deputy Commissioner**

**Bureau of Environmental
Planning & Assessment**

Tel. (718) 595-4398
Fax: (718) 595-4479
alicata@dep.nyc.gov



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**NOTICE OF COMPLETION
FOR THE
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**SHAFT 33B TO CITY TUNNEL NO. 3, STAGE 2
MANHATTAN LEG
CEQR NO. 05DEP010M**

January 20, 2006

Acting as lead agency in the environmental review process, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP or Department) publicly distributed a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on November 7, 2005 for the proposed Shaft 33B to City Tunnel No. 3, Stage 2 - Manhattan Leg in order to enable close examination of the potential for environmental impacts associated with construction of the shaft and to assess alternative sites for the proposed shaft.

NYCDEP is hereby issuing a Final EIS. A public hearing was conducted on December 5, 2005 at the High School of Art and Design Auditorium at 1075 Second Avenue in Manhattan, New York to accept public comments on the Draft EIS. The public comment period concluded on December 22, 2005. A public notice advertising the availability of the Draft EIS and the date, time, and location of the public hearing on the Draft EIS was published in the *City Record* and in newspapers of general circulation in the affected area, including *The New York Post*, *New York Daily News*, and *Our Town*, a local weekly newspaper that is distributed in the Midtown area. The availability of the Draft EIS and information on the public hearing was also published in the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's *Environmental Notice Bulletin*. The Draft EIS, on CD-ROM, was mailed directly to each member of the public who provided comments on the Draft Scope of Work and who had submitted comments on the project. In addition, the Draft EIS was posted on the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) web page and hard copies of the document were made available in local libraries and Community Board offices.

The testimony received at the public hearing and the written comments submitted on the Draft EIS have been reviewed and the Final EIS has been modified to reflect these comments where appropriate. The Final EIS contains a new chapter, Chapter 15 "Comments and Responses". This Chapter considers and responds to substantive written comments and testimony submitted to the Department. The Final EIS is being distributed to interested and involved agencies and to each member of the public who is on the project mailing list (via attendance at public hearings or submission of written comments on the project, as described above).

During the Draft EIS public comment period, NYCDEP also met with the local Community Boards, Community Boards 6 and 8, to present the Draft EIS to each Board on November 14, 2005. NYCDEP also hosted two informational forums to present the Draft EIS methodologies and analyses to the public. These informational forums, held on November 17 and November 21, 2005, were intended to assist the public understanding the scope of the project and to assist the public in its review of the Draft EIS and included a substantial question and answer component. Copies of information presented at these sessions were posted on the NYCDEP website.

The environmental review has been conducted pursuant to the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) (Section 8-0113, Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law) and implementing regulations as set forth in 6NYCRR Part 617, and the City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) process as set forth in Executive Order 91 of 1977 and its amendments creating the Rules of Procedure for CEQR, adopted by the City Planning Commission on June 26, 1991 and revised in October 2001.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) is proposing to construct a water supply shaft, Shaft 33B and associated water mains, on the upper east side of Manhattan. Shaft 33B would be the last shaft to be sited for the City Tunnel No. 3 project that is currently under construction. As a water supply shaft, Shaft 33B would connect City Tunnel No. 3 to the water distribution system that serves East Midtown and the Upper East Side. A new water supply shaft for City Tunnel No. 3 is critical for these two areas, to address water distribution needs, provide adequate supply to meet the neighborhoods' heavy demand, maintain sufficient pressure and to provide redundancy to the existing water supply system. City Tunnel No. 3 is being constructed in part to facilitate inspection and repair of City Tunnel No. 1, which was activated in 1917 and has been in continuous operation for almost 90 years. Before the inspection of City Tunnel No. 1 can begin, City Tunnel No. 3 must be activated.

The preferred site for Shaft 33B is on E. 59th Street and First Avenue, adjacent to the Queensboro Bridge. Three feasible alternative sites for the shaft are evaluated in the Final EIS including: the E. 59th Street/Second Avenue Shaft Site; the E. 61st Street between First and Second Avenue Shaft Site and the E. 54th Street/Second Avenue Shaft Site. Three different potential water main connection routes are also assessed in the Final EIS, these include: the First Avenue route (the reasonable worst-case route); (2) the Sutton Place route (an additional representative route); and (3) the E. 59th Street/E. 61st Street route (an additional representative route).

A detailed description of the proposed Shaft 33B project is provided in the Executive Summary and the body of the Final EIS.

REQUIRED APPROVALS

The proposed Shaft 33B project may require state and City discretionary actions and approvals. A detailed list of the potential discretionary actions and approvals for

construction of Shaft 33B at each potential site and for the water mains is listed in the Executive Summary.

SIGNIFICANT AND TEMPORARY IMPACTS AND MITIGATION

No potential significant adverse impacts were identified from the operation of the proposed Shaft 33B at any of the four sites evaluated in the Final EIS. However, during the construction of Shaft 33B, the following potential significant adverse impacts have been identified:

- At each of the four feasible shaft sites evaluated in the Final EIS potential significant adverse noise impacts are anticipated.
- At the E. 54th Street/ Second Avenue Shaft Site, a potential significant adverse open space impact is anticipated to occur at the Connaught Tower plaza because high noise levels would detract from the use and enjoyment of this space throughout the construction period.
- At the E. 61st Street Shaft Site, a potential significant land use impact is anticipated to occur to the Manhattan Center for Early Education and Manhattan Center for Early Intervention due to intrusive noise levels that are anticipated to occur to this noise sensitive land use throughout the construction period.

During water main connection construction, the following potential temporary adverse impacts have been identified:

- Each water main connection route evaluated in the Final EIS would result in temporary adverse traffic, noise, and urban design impacts. The severity and duration of the potential adverse impacts differ among the potential routes as detailed in the Final EIS.

For the Water Main Only alternative, the following potential significant or temporary adverse impacts have been identified:

- The Water Main Only alternative would result in temporary adverse noise and urban design impacts.
- For the Water Main Only alternative adverse impacts to key traffic corridors would be expected to persist along and adjacent to the route for much of the entire five-seven year construction period and thus would be considered potential significant adverse traffic impacts.

NYCDEP has examined feasible and practicable mitigation measures to reduce the potential significant adverse impacts from Shaft construction to criteria listed above and to address potential temporary adverse impacts from water main construction. For noise during the construction period, even with the mitigation measures that have been incorporated in to the project and with NYCDEP's commitment to continuing evaluation of noise attenuation strategies throughout the construction period, all potential significant adverse noise impacts can not be practicably fully mitigated at any potential site. With respect to the temporary adverse impacts during water main

construction, potential noise impacts can not be practicably fully attenuated. Although aggressive impact attenuation techniques would be employed during the water main construction period, because of the reductions in roadway capacities described for busy Manhattan roadways in the Final EIS, it is anticipated that these impacts can not be feasibly fully attenuated. The potential temporary adverse impact on urban design would be offset by additional tree planting in the community.

No less than ten days following distribution of the Final EIS, the NYCDEP will issue the Statement of Findings for the project, identifying the selected location for the proposed Shaft 33B.

The Final EIS will be available for review at local repositories (see attached Repositories List) and will be posted on the NYCDEP website (www.nyc.gov/dep). Requests for CD-ROM copies of the Final EIS may be submitted by calling 718-595-4409.

Contact Person:

Constance Vavilis, EIS Project Manager
New York City Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Environmental Planning and Assessment
59-17 Junction Boulevard, 11th Floor
Flushing, New York 11373



Angela Licata
Deputy Commissioner

Attachments:

Final EIS
Distribution List
Repository List

Distribution List

Hon. Scott Stringer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Carolyn B. Maloney, U. S. Congress, 14th District, New York
Hon. Jonathan L. Bing, New York State Assembly 73rd District
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, New York State Assembly, 66th District
Hon. Richard N. Gottfried New York State Assembly, 75th District
Hon. Elizabeth Kruger, New York State Senate 26th District
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Hon. Jessica Lappin, NYC Council District 5
Hon. Christine Quinn, NYC Council District 3
Hon. Daniel Garodnick, NYC Council District 4
Hon. Gale A. Brewer, NYC Council District 6
Hon. Alan J. Gerson, NYC Council District 1
Manhattan Community Board 6: Carol A. Schachter (Chairperson); Toni Carlina (District Manager)
Manhattan Community Board 8: Charles S. Warren (Chairperson); Elizabeth McKee (District Manager)
Mayor's Community Assistance Unit: Jonathan Greenspun
Gifford Miller
Eva S. Moskowitz
C. Virginia Fields

Involved/ Interested Agencies

Metropolitan Transportation Authority/ New York City Transit: Rajeh Udeshi, Ted Orosz
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation: Denise M. Sheehan (Acting Commissioner)
Jeff Sama
New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation: Timothy Burns
New York State Office Of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation: Ruth Pierpont
New York City Art Commission: Joyce Frank Menschel; Jackie Snyder
New York City Department of City Planning: Robert Dobruskin; Laurence Parnes
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation: William T. Castro (Manhattan Borough Commissioner)
Jane Cleaver
New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services: Randal Fong
New York City Department of Design and Construction: John Pusz; George Cowan
New York City Law Department: Susan Amron, Heidi Rubinstein
New York City Department of Sanitation: Joseph Andrews
New York City Department of Transportation: Micheal Primeggia; Henry Perahia; Naim Rasheed
Joseph Noto
New York City Fire Department: Captain Paul Conlon
New York City Police Department: Lieutenant Jessica Corey
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission: Amanda Sutphin; Gina Santucci
New York City Office of Environmental Coordination: Robert Kulikowski
Consolidated Edison: Donald Soldiviero
New York City Clerk: Victor Robles

**Shaft 33B Final EIS
Repositories**

Manhattan Community Board 6 Office
866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 308
New York, New York 10017

Manhattan Community Board 8
505 Park Avenue at E. 59th Street, Suite 620
New York, New York 10022

New York Public Library
E. 58th Street Branch Library
127 E. 58th Street at Lexington Avenue
New York, New York 10022

New York Public Library
Terence Cardinal Cooke – Cathedral Branch
560 Lexington Avenue at E. 50th Street
New York, New York 10022

New York Public Library
Donnell Library Center
20 W. 53rd Street
New York, New York 10019

New York Public Library
Mid-Manhattan Branch
455 Fifth Avenue at 40th Street
New York, New York 10016

Manhattan Borough President's Office
Municipal Building
One Centre Street, 19th Floor
New York, New York 10007

NYCDEP
59-17 Junction Boulevard, 11th Floor
Flushing, New York 11373