

## CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

This Environmental Evaluation of the MTS Conversion Program (MTS Environmental Evaluation) evaluates whether there are any potentially unmitigatable adverse impacts associated with the conversion of the existing sites where the City's existing Marine Transfer Stations (MTS) are located. These eight facility sites would be redeveloped as Converted Marine Transfer Stations (Converted MTSs) that would be designed to:

- Receive collection vehicle deliveries of Municipal Solid Waste;
- Containerize waste in sealed leak-proof intermodal containers; and
- Load flat deck barges with 48 containers per barge that would be towed to an intermodal facility for long haul transport by either barge or rail to disposal sites or towed directly to a waste processing facility.

The designs for the Converted MTSs are being prepared by DSNY's Design Consultant Team, and provide the basis for the environmental evaluation prepared by DSNY's Consultant of the use of the Converted MTSs for Long Term Export of DSNY-managed Waste (all waste generated by City households, as well as waste from City, state and federal agencies and not-for-profit institutions in the City).

The eight Converted MTSs would require the issuance of a number of permits from Federal, State and City agencies; the permits and issuing agencies are summarized herein. The methods used in this environmental evaluation conform to the environmental review procedures that would be applicable of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) regulations (6NYCRR Part 617) and City Environmental Quality Review procedures set forth in Executive Order 91 of 1977, as amended and the Rules of Procedure for City Environmental Quality Review found in Section 6, Title 62 of the Rules of the City of New York (CEQR).

This document is not a DEIS because the City has not made final decisions on the combination of facilities and long-term service arrangements that will comprise its Long Term Export Program. When that decision is made and to the extent the Long-Term Export Program

incorporates one or more Converted MTS, the applicable analyses presented herein will be released, with any necessary revisions, in the DEIS prepared in support of the City's new Solid Management Plan (New Plan).

In the interim, this document is provided as a supporting Appendix A to the Commercial Waste Management Study. Appendix A of the Commercial Waste Management Study, responding to a requirement of Local Law 74, is a Summary Report presenting analyses of:

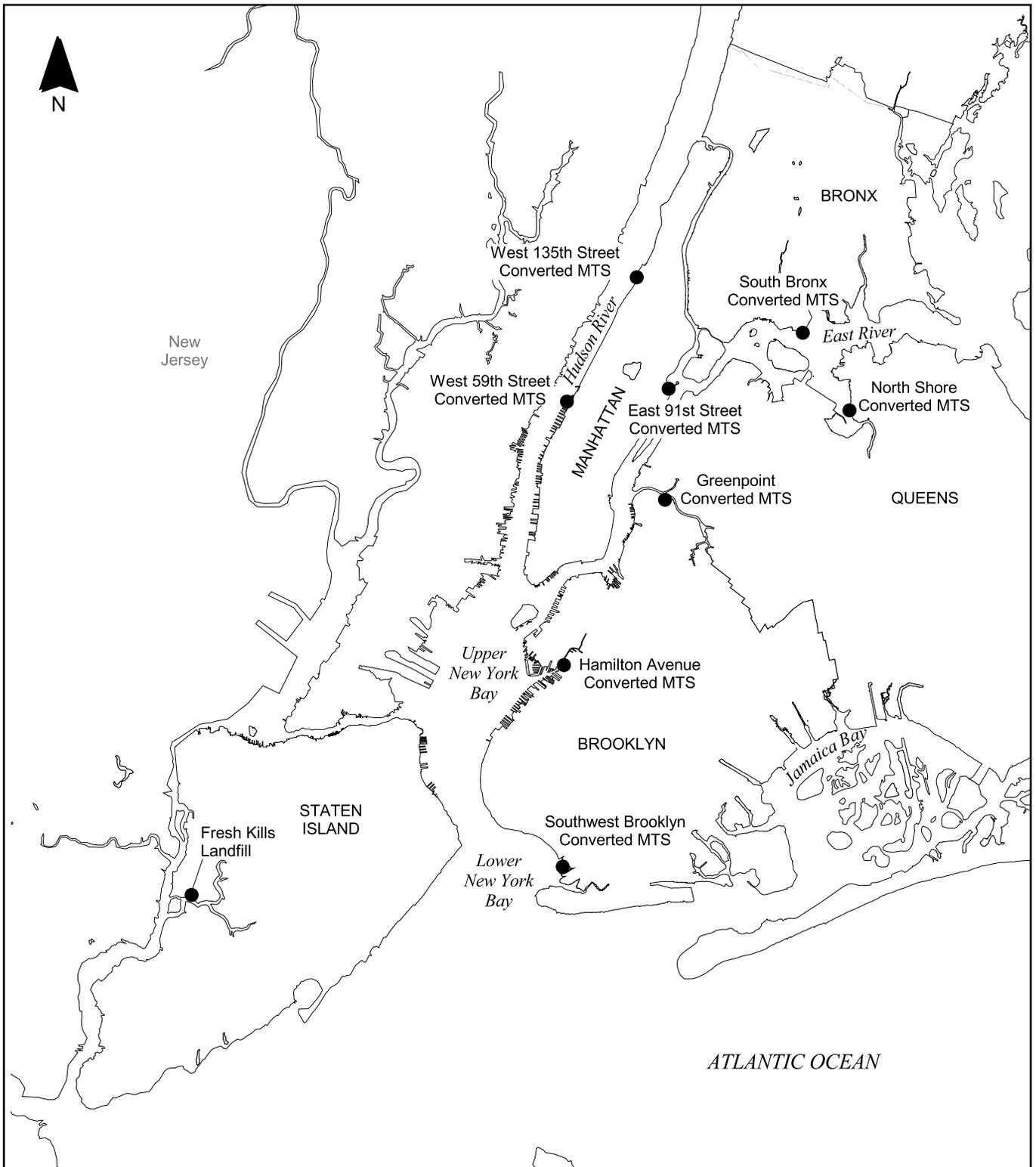
- The waste processing capacity at each Converted MTSs that would potentially be available to process deliveries of commercial waste by the City's private carters after providing for sufficient capacity to assure that DSNY's needs for processing DSNY-managed Waste under a wide range of operations conditions are met; and
- Whether the incremental processing of this commercial waste would cause any potentially significant adverse unmitigatable environmental impacts, beyond those predicted in this MTS Environmental Evaluation of processing DSNY-managed Waste only.

Accordingly, this document provides the baseline for the incremental evaluation of potential impacts related to processing commercial waste at the Converted MTSs.

The locations of the MTS sites are depicted in Figure 1.1-1, Location of MTSs and Fresh Kills Landfill. Section 2.1 provides descriptions of the sites where these facilities will be developed. Figure 1.1-2 graphically illustrates the collection districts or wastesheds that will be served by each facility.

## **1.2 Required Actions, Permits and Approvals**

Should the City proceed with development of the Converted MTSs, the following lists potential major permit approvals that may be required. The list may or may not be a comprehensive list of permits or approvals required at specific sites. The environmental evaluation of the Converted MTSs was prepared at a level detail to support these permit applications. If subsequent approvals or permit actions are identified, a determination will be made by DSNY and the respective interested/involved agency(s) as to what subsequent environmental assessments and determinations are required, if any.



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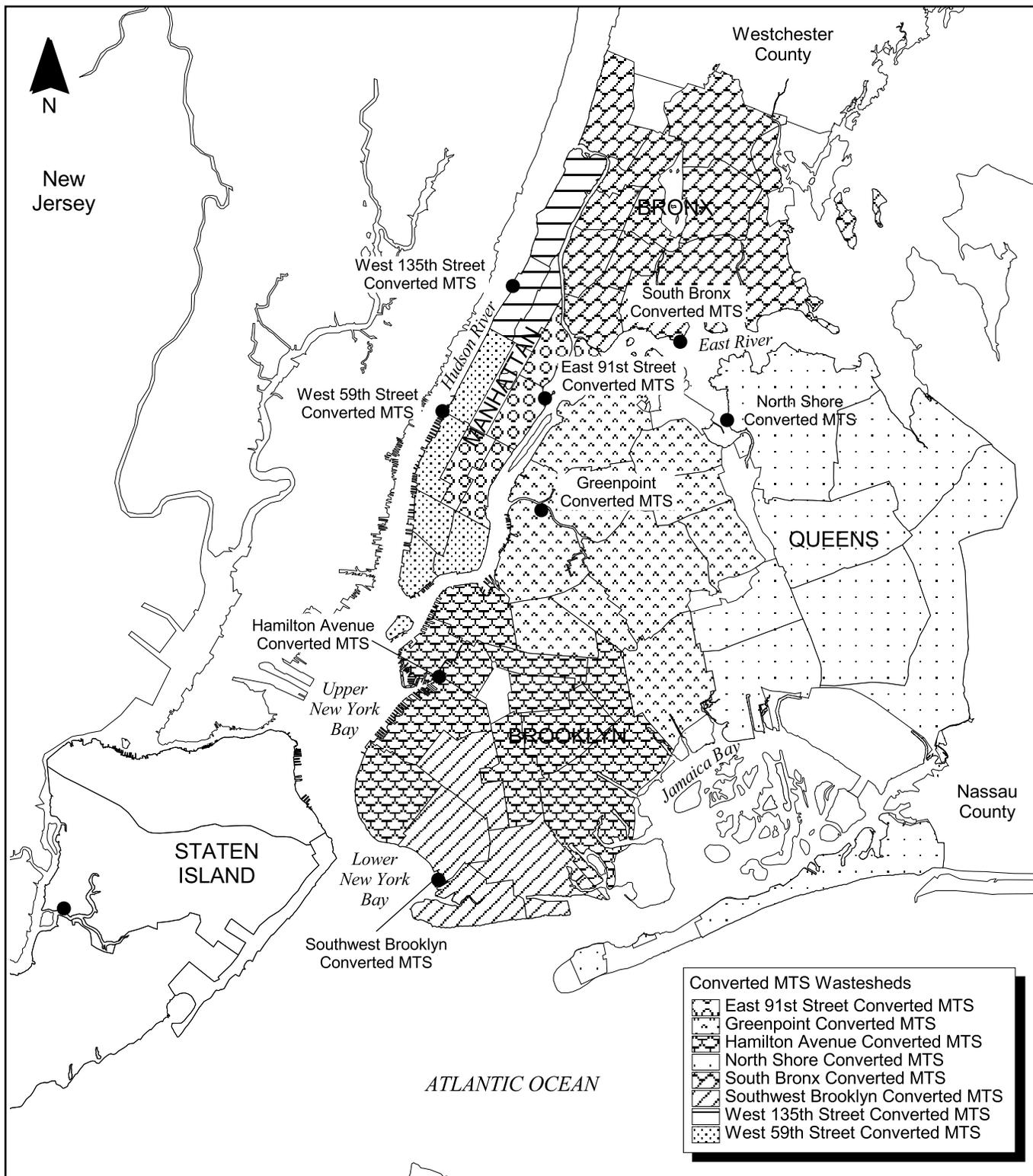


**Figure 1.1-1**  
**Location of MTSs and Fresh Kills Landfill**

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**Figure 1.1-2**  
**Proposed Plan Wastesheds and Facilities**

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**DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION**



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## 1.2.1 Federal

### *1.2.1.1 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

- Section 10 (River and Harbors Act) for structures and work in navigable waters of the United States;
- Section 103 of the Marine Protection Research & Sanctuaries Act;
- Section 404 (Clean Water Act) for discharging of dredged or fill material in waters of the United States; and
- Section 401 (Clean Water Act) Water Quality Certification.

## 1.2.2 New York State

### *1.2.2.1 Department of Environmental Conservation*

- Article 27, Title 7 (6 NYCRR 360) Environmental Conservation Law solid waste permit to construct and operate a solid waste management facility;
- Article 15, Title 5 (6 NYCRR 608 – Protection of Waters) Environmental Conservation Law permit for the disturbance of a streambed or banks or excavation in or fill of navigable waters;
- Article 15, Title 5 (6 NYCRR 608 – Protection of Waters) Section 401 Water Quality Certification;
- Article 25, (6 NYCRR 661 – Tidal Wetlands Act) Environmental Conservation Law;
- Article 36 (6 NYCRR 500 – Flood Plain Management) Environmental Conservation Law permit for a facility located in a floodplain;
- Article 17, SPDES General Permit (Section 402 of Clean Water Act) for stormwater discharges from construction activities; and
- Coastal Zone Consistency Certification (19 NYCRR 600).

### *1.2.2.2 Department of State*

- Article 42 of the State Executive Law;
- Consistency with Federal Coastal Zone Management Act (15 CFR Part 930);
- New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP); and
- Consultation under Section 106 (National Historic Preservation Act) and New York State Historic Preservation Act Section 14.09 compliance requirements.

### 1.2.3 New York City

#### *1.2.3.1 Department of City Planning*

- Consistency with Local Waterfront Revitalization Program; and
- Conformance with the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) for a Site Selection Action will be required in connection with the development of Converted MTSs at the existing MTS sites.

#### *1.2.3.2 Department of Environmental Protection*

- Sewer connection permit under Title 24 of the New York City Administrative Code and Title 15 of the Rules of the City of New York; and
- Industrial Pre-Treatment Approval.

## **1.3 Organization of the Environmental Evaluation**

The document is organized to present the following:

- Chapter 2, Description of facility sites. Sections 2.2 through 2.9 provide a description of the important characteristics of each of the sites at which potential export facilities were considered, and describes the proposed facility options at these sites for which detailed environmental reviews were conducted. Section 2.10 provides a preliminary summary of potentially applicable permits for these sites.
- Chapter 3, Overview of Study Methodologies. Sections 3.4 through 3.21 describe the analytical methods that were applied, consistent with CEQR/SEQRA requirements, to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the alternative facilities. The site-specific methodology sections address the following:
  - Analysis Years and Existing Conditions;
  - Definition of Sites and Study Areas;
  - Land Use, Zoning and Public Policy;
  - Socioeconomic Conditions;
  - Community Facilities and Services;
  - Open Space and Parklands;
  - Cultural Resources;

- Urban Design and Visual Quality;
- Neighborhood Character;
- Traffic and Transportation;
- Air Quality;
- Odor;
- Noise;
- Infrastructure and Energy;
- Natural Resources;
- Water Quality;
- Waterfront Revitalization Program; and
- Hazardous Materials.

Site-Specific Environmental Analyses, inclusive of Chapters 4 through 11, is organized by site and reports on the results of the environmental reviews for each of the above categories of the sites/facility options, including potential impacts and proposed mitigation measures.

Chapter 12, Public Health, assesses the significance of site-specific results.

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