



The City of New York

Manhattan Community Board 1

Julie Menin CHAIRPERSON | **Noah Pfefferblit** DISTRICT MANAGER

**The New York City Department of Environmental Protection
Public Hearing on**

**Proposed Amendments to Chapter 2 of Title 15
of the Rules of the City of New York Pertaining to
Emissions from the Use of #4 and #6 Fuel Oil
in Heat and Hot Water Boilers and Burners**

**Testimony by Catherine McVay Hughes, Vice Chairperson
Manhattan Community Board 1**

**Monday, February 28, 2011 at 10 a.m.
59-17 Junction Boulevard, 6th Floor, Flushing, NY**

Good morning. I am Catherine McVay Hughes, Vice Chairperson for Manhattan Community Board 1.

Air quality has long been a significant issue for our Community Board. Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, we have been especially concerned about the long-term impacts of poor air quality on the health of residents and workers.

At the same time, our neighborhoods have had a special emphasis on clean energy and other superior environmental practices. For example, in order to minimize the impact of rebuilding Lower Manhattan which includes over 60 major public, private and infrastructure projects in 1 square mile, we advocated for the creation of the Lower Manhattan Construction Command Center. It's Environmental Compliance and Coordination department enforces the implementation of the Environmental Performance Commitments which includes a large air quality component to minimize air pollution. All the key components of the future World Trade Center site are designed to obtain a LEED rating and will be the largest green complex in New York City. The Downtown Alliance, our local Business Improvement District, has promoted green roofs, and the Battery Park City Authority, which manages Battery Park City, established and follows Green Guidelines and has promoted the construction of our nation's first LEED-certified residential buildings.

We were therefore extremely disturbed to learn that there are six buildings in Battery Park City that use so-called dirty heating oils number 4 and number 6, and as many as 74 buildings in our Community District. Please see attached summary report.

While we appreciate the financial constraints small buildings can face, what types of heating oils buildings choose to use have an impact on the entire community. Because of this, we feel that it is important that the city take a bold step in regulating the use of dirty heating oil. To address the financial conversion costs, we urge the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and the City to establish financial incentives for this conversion from dirty heating oil to cleaner heating oil alternatives available in Lower Manhattan including

natural gas, heating oil #2 and Con Edison steam. To this end, last year on February 23, 2010 our Community Board passed a resolution calling for the City and State to issue rules that would phase out use of dirty heating oil city-wide by 2020, and we are very pleased today to support the city's efforts to eliminate use of these fuels.

As the ten year anniversary of the terrorist attacks approach and there may be even more tour buses in our neighborhood along with the approximate 15,000 construction truck deliveries per month expected for peak WTC construction, along with MTA and computer buses, taxis, black cars, we appreciate every step to cleaning up air in Lower Manhattan.

We strongly support the Department of Environmental Protection's proposal to eliminate dirty heating oil for the good of public health.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.