

# GLOSSARY

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The following terms and acronyms are used throughout the CEQR Technical Manual and are separated into three categories:

1. Agency Acronyms
2. Key CEQR Terms
3. Technical Terms

## AGENCY ACRONYMS

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<b>BEPA:</b>	New York City Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Environmental Planning and Analysis
<b>BSA:</b>	New York City Board of Standards and Appeals
<b>CAU:</b>	Mayor’s Community Affairs Unit
<b>CPC:</b>	New York City Planning Commission
<b>DCAS:</b>	New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services
<b>DCLA:</b>	New York City Department of Cultural Affairs
<b>DCP:</b>	New York City Department of City Planning
<b>DDC:</b>	New York City Department of Design and Construction
<b>DEP:</b>	New York City Department of Environmental Protection
<b>DHCR:</b>	New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal
<b>DHS:</b>	New York City Department of Homeless Services
<b>DOB:</b>	New York City Department of Buildings
<b>DOC:</b>	New York City Department of Correction
<b>DOE:</b>	New York City Department of Education
<b>DOHMH:</b>	New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
<b>DOITT:</b>	New York City Department of Information Technology & Telecommunications
<b>DOT:</b>	New York City Department of Transportation
<b>DSNY:</b>	New York City Department of Sanitation
<b>DYCD:</b>	New York City Department of Youth & Community Development
<b>FDNY:</b>	New York City Fire Department
<b>FEMA:</b>	Federal Emergency Management Agency
<b>FHWA:</b>	Federal Highway Administration
<b>HDC:</b>	New York City Housing Development Corporation
<b>HHC:</b>	New York City Health + Hospitals
<b>HPD:</b>	New York City Department of Housing Preservation & Development
<b>HRA:</b>	New York City Human Resources Administration
<b>HUD:</b>	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
<b>LPC:</b>	New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission



<b>MOC+S:</b>	Mayor's Office of Climate and Sustainability
<b>MOEC:</b>	Mayor's Office of Environmental Coordination
<b>MOER:</b>	Mayor's Office of Environmental Remediation
<b>MTA:</b>	Metropolitan Transit Authority
<b>NMFS:</b>	National Marine Fisheries Service
<b>NOAA:</b>	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
<b>NPS:</b>	National Park Service
<b>NRC:</b>	Nuclear Regulatory Commission
<b>NRCS:</b>	United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service
<b>NYCEDC:</b>	New York City Economic Development Corporation
<b>NYCEM:</b>	New York City Emergency Management
<b>NYCHA:</b>	New York City Housing Authority
<b>NYCIDA:</b>	New York City Industrial Development Agency
<b>NYC PARKS:</b>	New York City Department of Parks & Recreation
<b>NYCT:</b>	New York City Transit
<b>NYPD:</b>	New York City Police Department
<b>NYPL:</b>	New York Public Library
<b>NYSDEC:</b>	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
<b>NYSDOH:</b>	New York State Department of Health
<b>NYSDEL:</b>	New York State Department of Labor
<b>NYSERDA:</b>	New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
<b>NYSESD:</b>	New York State Urban Development Corporation d/b/a New York State Empire State Development
<b>OPRHP:</b>	New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
<b>OSHA:</b>	United States Occupational Health and Safety Administration
<b>SBS:</b>	New York City Department of Small Business Services
<b>SCA:</b>	New York City School Construction Authority
<b>SHPO:</b>	New York State Historic Preservation Office
<b>TLC:</b>	New York City Taxi & Limousine Commission
<b>USACE:</b>	United States Army Corps of Engineers
<b>USDA:</b>	United States Department of Agriculture
<b>USEPA:</b>	United States Environmental Protection Agency
<b>USFWS:</b>	United States Fish and Wildlife Service



## KEY CEQR TERMS

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**ACTION SCENARIO OR CONDITION:** See *WITH-ACTION SCENARIO OR CONDITION*.

**ACTION:** That which is to be approved, funded, or undertaken at the discretion of a city agency. An action (or set of actions), if approved, would allow a project to proceed.

**ACTION-WITH-MITIGATION CONDITION:** Scenario of the future with the proposed project and any proposed mitigation measures in place that avoid or eliminate identified significant adverse impacts of the project.

**BUILD YEAR:** The year a proposed project would be substantially operational; this is the year for which the project's effects are predicted in environmental analyses.

**CEQR:** CEQR is New York City's (NYC) process for implementing SEQRA, and cannot be less stringent than its state counterpart. CEQR adapts and refines the state rules to take into account the special circumstances of New York City. CEQR is governed by SEQRA, NYC's Executive Order No. 91 ([43 RCNY Chapter 6](#)), and the CEQR Rules of Procedure ([62 RCNY Chapter 5](#)).

**CONDITIONAL NEGATIVE DECLARATION:** A lead agency's written statement and determination that a project may have a significant adverse effect on the environment, but that all such effects can be eliminated or avoided by specific changes in the project or mitigation imposed by the lead agency, if implemented. To issue a conditional negative declaration, the action must be unlisted and involve an applicant. [6 NYCRR 617.2\(h\)](#).

**DEIS: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.** See *ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT*.

**DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE:** Based on the information presented in an EAS, the decision made by the lead agency as to whether a project would significantly and adversely impact the environment. The three types are: a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION**, a **POSITIVE DECLARATION**, or a **CONDITIONAL NEGATIVE DECLARATION**.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT STATEMENT (EAS):** An environmental assessment statement is a form used to describe the proposed project and its location, and contains a first level of analysis of the environmental review impact areas to determine potential effects on the environment. It is used by a lead agency to inform the **DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE**.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS):** An environmental impact statement (EIS) is a disclosure document that provides a complete analysis of all appropriate impact areas and provides a means for agencies, project sponsors, and the public to consider a project's significant adverse environmental impacts, alternatives, and mitigations. An EIS facilitates the weighing of social, economic, and environmental factors early in the planning and decision-making process. A **DRAFT EIS (DEIS)** is the initial statement that is circulated for public review and comment, which are then responded to and incorporated (as appropriate) into the DEIS to produce a **FINAL EIS (FEIS)**. The FEIS is the disclosure document upon which the lead and involved agencies base their decisions as set forth in each agency's Statement of Findings.

**FEIS:** Final Environmental Impact Statement. See *ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT*.

**GENERIC ACTION:** A program or plan that has wide application or affects a large area or range of future policies. It may also be referred to as a "programmatic action."

**INCREMENT:** The difference(s) in conditions between the future without the project in place (**NO-ACTION CONDITION**) and the future with the project in operation (**WITH-ACTION CONDITION**). The environmental assessment or environmental impact statement examines this difference to determine whether a project has the potential to significantly and adversely impact the environment.

**INTERESTED AGENCY:** An agency requests or is requested to participate in the environmental review because of special concerns or expertise. Interested agencies do not directly approve, fund or undertake a discrete action.

**INVOLVED AGENCY:** An agency, other than the lead agency, with jurisdiction to fund, approve, or undertake an action.

**LEAD AGENCY:** The agency principally responsible for carrying out, funding, or approving an action; therefore, the agency responsible for determining whether an environmental review is required.

**MITIGATION:** Measures to minimize or avoid a project's significant adverse impacts to the fullest extent practicable.



**MOEC (MAYOR'S OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION):** The Mayoral Office that coordinates the environmental review process in New York City. MOEC provides assistance to all City agencies in fulfilling their environmental review responsibilities and maintains a repository of City environmental review documents.

**NEGATIVE DECLARATION:** A written document issued when the lead agency determines that there would not be a significant impact on the environment as a result of the project. See [6 NYCRR 617.2\(z\)](#).

**NEPA (NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT OF 1969):** If a federal agency funds part of a project, approves a permit, or undertakes a project, that agency must comply with NEPA before taking its action. NEPA requires all federal agencies to evaluate the environmental consequences of proposed projects and to consider alternatives.

**NO-ACTION SCENARIO OR CONDITION:** Scenario of the future without the proposed project, used as a baseline against which incremental changes generated by a project are evaluated in environmental review.

**NOTICE OF COMPLETION:** A written document issued by the lead agency when a *DEIS* or *FEIS* has been completed that contains prescribed information about the environmental review, and, for a *DEIS*, information about the public comment period.

**NYCRR:** The official compilation of New York Codes, Rules and Regulations.

**POSITIVE DECLARATION:** A written document issued when the lead agency determines there is the potential for significant adverse impacts in one or more technical areas as a result of the project. A positive declaration leads to the preparation of a DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (DEIS). See [6 NYCRR 617.2\(ad\)](#).

**PROJECT:** The result of an action or set of actions that is approved, funded, or undertaken at the discretion of a city agency.

**PROJECT SITE:** The site that would be directly affected by a proposed project.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** The period of time that must elapse after the issuance of a draft document when the public may review and comment on the draft. It generally must be a minimum of thirty (30) calendar days.

For a draft scope of work, the public comment period begins at the issuance of the draft scope. A public meeting must be held between thirty (30) and forty-five (45) calendar days after its issuance and the comment period remains open for a minimum of ten (10) calendar days after the public meeting.

For a *DEIS*, the public comment period begins at the issuance of the Notice of Completion for the *DEIS*. A public hearing must be held between 15 and 60 calendar days after the issuance of the Notice of Completion and the comment period must remain open for at least thirty (30) calendar days or for a minimum of ten (10) calendar days after the public hearing, whichever is later.

**RCNY:** Rules of the City of New York.

**REASONABLE WORST CASE DEVELOPMENT SCENARIO (RWCDs):** This is a development scenario that is reasonably likely to occur given conditions at the projected project site. From the range of possible scenarios that are considered reasonable and likely, the scenario with the worst environmental consequences should be analyzed in an environmental assessment. The use of a RWCDs ensures that, regardless of which scenario actually occurs, a project's actual impacts would be no worse than those considered in the environmental review.

**SCOPE OF WORK:** A document that identifies in detail all topics to be addressed in the EIS, including the methods for study, possible alternatives to the proposed project, and mitigation measures.

**SITE-SPECIFIC ACTION:** Actions proposed for a specific location.

**STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT: (SEQRA):** Article 8 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law. SEQRA is implemented by [6 NYCRR Part 617](#). SEQRA requires that state and local governmental agencies assess environmental effects of discretionary actions before undertaking, funding, or approving such actions, unless they fall within certain statutory or regulatory exemptions from the requirements for review.

**STATEMENT OF FINDINGS:** A Statement of Findings is a written statement prepared by a Lead Agency and each involved agency after an *FEIS* has been filed that considers the relevant environmental impacts presented in an EIS, weighs and balances them with social, economic, and other essential considerations, provides a rationale for the agency's decision, and certifies that the CEQR requirements have been met.

**STUDY AREA:** The geographic area likely to be affected by the proposed project for a given technical criterion, or the area in which impacts of that type could occur. This is the area subject to assessment for that technical criterion.



**TYPE I ACTION:** An action that is more likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment than other actions or classes of actions. A list of Type I actions appears in the SEQRA regulations at [6 NYCRR 617.4](#) and is supplemented with a city-specific list, found at [43 RCNY 6-15](#).

**TYPE II ACTION:** An action that has been either found categorically not to have significant adverse impacts on the environment or statutorily exempted from review under SEQRA, and correspondingly, CEQR. Any action or class of actions listed as Type II in [6 NYCRR 617.5](#) requires no further review under CEQR. Additionally, subject to the prerequisites of [62 RCNY 5-05\(d\)](#), any action or class of actions listed as Type II at [62 RCNY 5-05\(c\)](#) requires no further review under CEQR.

**ULURP (UNIFORM LAND USE REVIEW PROCEDURE):** The procedure by which acquisition, disposition, uses, development, or improvement of real property subject to city regulation are reviewed pursuant to NYC Charter Section 197-c.

**UNLISTED ACTION:** An action that is neither a Type I Action nor a Type II Action.

**WITH-ACTION SCENARIO OR CONDITION:** Scenario of the future with the proposed project in place, used to compare with the No-Action condition to assess effects on the environment due to the project. It may also be referred to as the "Action Condition."



## TECHNICAL TERMS

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**A-WEIGHTING:** The system of modifying measured sound pressure levels to simulate the actual response of the human ear to different sound frequencies.

**AADT (AVERAGE ANNUAL DAILY TRAFFIC):** The total volume of traffic passing a point or segment of a highway facility, in both directions, for one year, divided by the number of days in the year.

**ABSOLUTE IMPACT CRITERION (NOISE):** An absolute noise level at a receptor, above which a significant impact would occur (see also Relative Impact Criterion).

**ACCESSORY PARKING:** Parking spaces restricted for use only by employees or patrons of specific local businesses, schools, or organizations, etc.

**ACOUSTICS:** The science or study of sound.

**ADAPTIVE REUSE:** The fitting of new requirements, functions, or uses into an existing historic space; may be a mitigation option.

**AERMOD:** A steady-state plume model that incorporates air dispersion based on planetary boundary layer turbulence structure and scaling concepts, including treatment of both surface and elevated sources, and both simple and complex terrain.

**AGC:** Annual Guideline Concentrations for noncriteria air pollutants listed in NYSDEC's Air Guide-1.

**AIR GUIDE-1:** 2007 Guidelines for the Control of Toxic Ambient Air Contaminants, published by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, in which maximum allowable guideline concentrations for certain air pollutants for which EPA has no established standards are listed.

**AMBIENT AIR:** The surrounding air, to which the public is exposed on a regular basis.

**AMBIENT NOISE LEVEL:** The total noise level in the acoustical environment, excluding the proposed project. When measurements are made, each noise source (e.g., traffic noise, aircraft noise) is measured separately.

**ANSI (AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARDS INSTITUTE):** A voluntary federation of U.S. organizations that oversees the development of standards. ANSI standards are drafted by committees of industry experts and published only after board review and determination of national consensus.

**ANNUAL REPORT ON SOCIAL INDICATORS:** Provides summary data for New York City, and, where available, for boroughs and community districts.

**AP-42:** Workbook of Atmospheric Dispersion Estimates, EPA document that provides air pollutant emission factors for many sources.

**AQUIFER:** A subsurface rock or sediment formation that contains sufficient saturated permeable material to transmit significant quantities of groundwater.

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL DOCUMENTARY STUDY:** A study of all relevant historic documents and maps pertaining to a project site to determine whether significant archaeological resources may be present. Also referred to as Phase 1A under federal regulations.

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURE:** Archaeological evidence that typically cannot be excavated or removed from the site, but must be recorded in place, such as floors, walls, pits, postholes, foundation walls, privies, and cisterns.

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL OR SENSITIVITY:** The likelihood that a location or site contains significant archaeological resources; potential is usually characterized as low, moderate, or high.

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE:** Physical remains, usually subsurface, of the prehistoric, Native American, and historic periods, such as burial hearths, foundations, artifacts, wells, and privies. Generally, archeological resources do not include 20th and 21st Century artifacts.

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTING:** Scientific probing through borings, hand excavated trenches, mechanical excavation, or other appropriate techniques to determine the presence and integrity of archaeological resources at a project site. This multi-step process includes a scope of work, the field testing itself, the analysis of what was found, and the creation of the final report. Under federal procedures, archaeological field testing may occur in two phases: Phase 1B which tests whether archaeological resources are present and Phase II which determines the significance of those resources. In New York City these phases are generally combined into a single phase.



- ARCHAEOLOGY:** The study of prehistoric and historic cultures through excavation and analysis of physical remains.
- ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE:** Historically or architecturally important buildings, structures, objects, sites, or districts.
- AREA SOURCES:** Sources of air pollutants distributed over a large area such as a parking lot.
- ARTERIAL:** Signalized streets that serve primarily through traffic and provide access to abutting properties as a secondary function.
- ARTIFACT:** The physical or tangible result of human action or behavior, commonly associated with archaeological investigation; it may be complete, incomplete, intentional, or a by-product of the subject action or behavior.
- ASHRAE:** American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers.
- ASSIGNMENT:** The routing of vehicle trips to and from a project site.
- ASSOCIATIVE VALUE:** Attributes of an historic resource that link it with historic events, activities, or persons, and contribute to a property's significance.
- AST:** Above-ground storage tank.
- ASTM:** American Society for Testing of Materials.
- ATR (AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC RECORDER) COUNTS:** ATR traffic volume counts recorded by machines with connected tubes placed across the roadway being counted. These counts are generally recorded every 15 minutes for 24 hours per day.
- ATTENUATION (NOISE):** Reduction in noise level.
- AFC (AUTOMATIC FARE COLLECTION):** Is the system used by customers to enter the subway and bus network. AFC requires customers use either a MetroCard or an OMNY compatible device. The card/device is either swiped (MetroCard on subways), dipped (MetroCard on buses) or tapped (OMNY on subways or buses) when entering the subway fare array or entering the bus. For subways, payment through AFC releases the tripod turnstile, high entry exit turnstile or AFAS gate. Data regarding customer entries is also collected via the AFC system, which is used in various analyses.
- AVERAGE VEHICLE OCCUPANCY:** The total number of occupants in an automobile (or a taxi), on average.
- BACKGROUND AIR POLLUTANT CONCENTRATIONS:** Ambient air pollutant concentrations that are a function of regional emissions.
- BACKGROUND NOISE LEVEL:** Noise levels that exist much of the time and that individual occurrences intrude upon. Usually, this "background" is coming from many directions from a multitude of unrecognizable sources.  $L_{90}$  is considered a reasonable indication of this background noise (see also **STATISTICAL NOISE LEVELS** below).
- BACKGROUND TRAFFIC GROWTH FACTOR:** An annual traffic growth percentage to be applied to traffic volumes in an area to account for normal expected traffic volume increases. Generally, it does not account for major new developments that may be proposed for an area.
- BASE FLOOD:** See 100-year flood.
- BAY:** The space between architectural features, such as walls, piers, or columns; used in reference to the way in which windows, doors, and other openings relate to each other.
- BLUFFS:** Steep formations of soft erodible materials, such as sand and clay.
- BMP (BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES):** Source controls or technologies designed to improve the infiltration, retention, and detention of storm water runoff.
- BTU (BRITISH THERMAL UNIT):** The amount of heat required to raise one pound of water one degree Fahrenheit at one atmosphere. It is the unit of measurement used for heat inputs and outputs of boilers or other fuel burning equipment.
- BUILDING:** A structure created to shelter human activity.
- BULK:** The size and shape of a building, including height and floor area, relative to the size of its lot.
- CELSIUS OR (C):** The temperature scale in which the freezing point of water is assigned as 0° and the boiling point of water is assigned as 100°. The Celsius scale may also be termed Centigrade.
- C-WEIGHTING:** Electronic filtering in sound level meters that models a flat response (output = input) over the range of maximum human hearing sensitivity.



**CAA (CLEAN AIR ACT):** The federal law mandating air pollutant emissions standards for stationary and mobile sources.

**CAAA:** Clean Air Act Amendments.

**CAL3QHC:** Mathematical dispersion model for simulation of carbon monoxide concentrations near roadway intersections.

**CAPACITY:** For vehicular traffic, the maximum volume of vehicles that can pass a point on a street or highway during a specified time period, usually expressed as vehicles per hour. For pedestrians, the maximum volume of persons that can be accommodated along a given point of a sidewalk or transit corridor per hour, or that can be accommodated within a crosswalk, intersection corner reservoir, transit vehicle, or turnstile.

**CARBON MONOXIDE (CO):** An odorless, colorless gas that is a **CRITERIA AIR POLLUTANT**, principally associated with motor vehicle exhaust.

**CARBON DIOXIDE EQUIVALENT (CO<sub>2</sub>E):** A common measure that allows gases with different global warming potentials (potential to trap heat in atmosphere) to be added together and compared. According to standard GHG accounting protocols, projects should calculate emissions of all six **GREENHOUSE GASES**, where applicable.

**CAVITY:** Region of air recirculation adjacent to a solid structure.

**CEPO-CEQR (CITY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ORDER CITY ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW):** The NYC Department of Environmental Protection policy that sets standards on noise exposure and designates mitigation measures. The standards are used for evaluating the noise impact of the environment on the projects described in EASs and EISs. The numbers are in terms of absolute limits.

**CERCLA (COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY, COMPENSATION AND LIABILITY ACT; ALSO KNOWN AS SUPERFUND):** The federal law authorizing identification and remediation of sites contaminated by hazardous substances.

**CERCLIS (COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE, COMPENSATION, AND LIABILITY INFORMATION SYSTEM):** An EPA inventory of sites (including federal facilities) suspected to be contaminated by hazardous substances. It contains site identification data, financial expenditure data, and site tasks plans (if applicable). CERCLIS also includes some enforcement data on milestones and clean-up schedules (if applicable).

**CHANNELIZATION:** Physical roadway improvements that direct, or “channel,” the traffic flow into one or more lanes by either painted striping or by physical means such as curbs or raised “islands” in the roadway.

**CITY DRAINAGE PLAN:** A plan for the proper sewage and drainage of New York City, or any part thereof, prepared and adopted in accordance with Section 24-503 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York.

**COASTAL FRESH MARSH:** A **TIDAL WETLAND** zone consisting of the vegetated area of land located primarily along the tidal portions of rivers and streams and subject to inundation by tidal and freshwater flows every day.

**COASTAL SHOALS, BARS, AND FLATS:** A **TIDAL WETLAND** zone consisting of the unvegetated area along the shore that is covered by water at high tide and exposed or covered by water of less than 1 foot at low tide.

**COASTAL ZONE:** As mapped in the City's Coastal Zone Boundaries maps, a geographic area of NYC's coastal waters and adjacent shorelines, generally including islands, tidal wetlands, beaches, dunes, barrier islands, cliffs, bluffs, estuaries, flooding- and erosion-prone areas, port facilities, and other coastal features.

**COLD START:** Vehicle started after not operating within the last 12 hours (720 minutes).

**COMBINED SEWER:** A sewer system that collects both dry-weather wastewater and storm water.

**CSO (COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOW):** Wastewater in excess of the combined sewer system's capacity that is discharged into waters of the state rather than being sent to a **WASTEWATER RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY** for treatment.

**COMPREHENSIVE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN (SWMP OR PLAN):** A plan developed by the NYC Department of Sanitation pursuant to Article 27, Title 1, Section 27-0107 of the NYS Environmental Conservation Law and 6 NYCRR Section 360-15.9 that establishes the City's long-term strategy for solid waste management with certain required elements that include waste stream projections, a recycling analysis, determination of the appropriate sizing of solid waste management facilities, selection of an integrated system for managing various kinds of waste, certification of disposal capacity, and a timetable to implement the integrated system.

**COMPREHENSIVE WATERFRONT PLAN:** A report entitled [New York City Comprehensive Waterfront Plan: Reclaiming the City's Edge](#), prepared by the Department of City Planning that presents a detailed assessment of neighborhood conditions, principles



and recommendations to guide planning and development adjacent to NYC's shoreline. Revised in 2011, [Vision 2020: New York City's Comprehensive Waterfront Plan](#) builds on these policies and sets the stage for expanded use of the waterfront for parks, housing, and economic development, and the waterways for transportation, recreation, and natural habitats.

**CONFINED AQUIFER:** An aquifer bounded above and below by more impermeable materials in which the pore water pressure is greater than atmospheric pressure.

**CORDON LINE:** An imaginary line drawn around an area, usually used to define an area being studied or an area through which traffic volumes are being counted or surveyed.

**CORNER RESERVOIR:** The sidewalk area at the corner of an intersection within which pedestrians wait for a green light to cross the intersection.

**CORNICE:** A projecting horizontal band that tops the element to which it is attached, particularly above the frieze and below the roofline on a building.

**CRITERIA AIR POLLUTANTS:** Air pollutants with corresponding federal or state ambient air quality standards.

**CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL AREA:** A specific geographic area designated by a state or local agency as having exceptional or unique environmental characteristics.

**CYCLE LENGTH:** The length of time it takes a traffic light to pass through a full sequence of green, yellow, and red signal indications for all traffic movements.

**DATA RECOVERY:** Systematic retrieval of information from a cultural resource through excavation, analysis, recordation (*i.e.*, drawings, photographs), and reporting.

**DAY-NIGHT SOUND LEVEL (LDN OR DNL):** A 24-hour continuous  $L_{eq}$  with 10 dBA added to levels occurring between 10 PM and 7 AM to account for greater sensitivity during typical sleeping hours.

**DB:** See Decibel.

**DBA:** A-weighted unit of sound pressure level in decibels.

**DBC:** C-weighted unit of sound pressure level in decibels.

**DE MINIMIS:** Minimum incremental increase in 8-hour average carbon monoxide levels that would constitute a significant adverse air quality impact under CEQR.

**DECIBEL (DB):** A unit of sound level or pressure level. It implies 10 multiplied by a logarithmic ratio of power or some quantity proportional to power. The logarithm is to the base 10.

**DECORATIVE ELEMENTS:** Ornamental features of a structure, such as cornices, lintels, and bracketing. The existence or absence of a building's original decorative elements, particularly exterior features, is considered in the assessment of a building's architectural significance.

**DESCENDANTS:** May include a biological relative or a responsible entity, such as a religious organization or successor organization in the case of a former graveyard, that should be consulted for any actions that may impact burial grounds or sites with great religious or cultural significance.

**DESCRIPTORS:** Units of measurement for noise analysis, such as  $L_{eq}$ , Ldn, *etc.*

**DESIGNATED RESOURCE:** Resource or properties recognized and protected under local, state, and federal historic preservation programs.

**DISPERSION MODEL:** Mathematical model that estimates dissipation of air pollutant concentrations from line, area, or point sources.

**DISPLACEMENT (DIRECT):** The involuntary displacement of residents or businesses from the site of a project.

**DISPLACEMENT (INDIRECT):** The involuntary displacement of residents, businesses, or employees that results from a change in socioeconomic conditions created by a project.

**DIVERTED-LINKED TRIPS:** Trips attracted to a proposed project from streets near the project site, but not immediately adjacent to the site. Thus, these trips need to "divert" to other streets to access the site.

**DORMER:** An opening, usually a window, which projects from the main roof of a building and has a separate roof.



**DOWNSTREAM:** The direction toward which traffic is headed.

**DOWNWASH:** Emissions from stationary sources that are rapidly transported toward the ground because of building-induced turbulence.

**DUNES:** Recent accumulations of sand formed by sea winds and waves.

**(E) DESIGNATED SITE:** An area designated on a zoning map pursuant to Section 11-15 of the Zoning Resolution of the City of New York within which no change of use or development requiring a NYC Department of Buildings permit may occur without approval of MOER. (E) designated sites require MOER's review to insure protection of human health and the environment from known or suspected hazardous materials, air quality, or noise conditions associated with the site.

**ECL:** New York State Environmental Conservation Law.

**EFFECTIVE WIDTH:** The width of a walkway that is usable by pedestrians; the total walkway width minus the width of physical obstacles and unusable buffer zones at such obstacles.

**ELEVATION:** A straight-on view of the exterior face of a building on a vertical plane showing a building's external components.

**ELIGIBLE RESOURCE:** Historic resource meeting the criteria for listing on the State and/or National Registers of Historic Places or for designation as a New York City Landmark.

**EMISSION MODEL:** Mathematical model that estimates emissions from vehicle exhaust systems.

**ENTERING ANGLE:** A shadow's angle from true north when it enters an open space.

**EPA:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**EQUIVALENT SOUND LEVEL ( $L_{eq}$ ):** The level of continuous sound containing the same amount of acoustical energy as the fluctuating sound over the same period of time. The reference time period is usually specified in terms of hours in parentheses (*i.e.*,  $L_{eq}(1)$  refers to a 1-hour  $L_{eq}$  value).

**EROSION:** The loss or displacement of land along the coastline because of the action of waves, currents running along the shore, tides, wind, runoff of surface waters, or groundwater seepage, wind driven water or waterborne ice, or other effects of coastal storms.

**EROSION HAZARD AREAS:** Erosion-prone areas of the shore designated under the State Erosion Hazard Areas Act that are likely to be subject to erosion within a 4-year period and that constitute natural protective features (*i.e.*, beaches, dunes, shoals, bars, spits, barrier islands, bluffs and wetlands, natural protective vegetation).

**ESTUARY:** Any area where fresh and salt water mix and tidal effects are evident, or any partially enclosed coastal body of water where the tide meets the current of any stream or river.

**EXIT VELOCITY:** Rate at which exhaust gas passes through a stack.

**EXITING ANGLE:** A shadow's angle from true north when it exits an open space.

**EXTREME HIGH WATER:** The extreme high water of spring tides is the highest tide occurring during a lunar month, usually near the new or full moon. This is equivalent to extreme high water of mixed semidiurnal tides.

**FABRIC:** The juxtaposition of the physical components of a building.

**FACADE:** The exterior of a building, usually pertaining to the front.

**FAHRENHEIT (F):** The temperature scale in which the freezing point of water is assigned as 32° and the boiling point of water is assigned as 212°.

**FAIR SHARE CRITERIA:** Criteria to guide the siting of city facilities so as to further the fair distribution of the burdens and benefits associated with such facilities. [Fair Share Criteria: A Guide for City Agencies](#) was developed by DCP pursuant to City Charter Section 203.

**FEDERAL STYLE:** A style of architecture dating to ca. 1790-1820, found in New York City on town houses in Greenwich Village and Brooklyn Heights.

**FENESTRATION:** The arrangement of the window and door openings of a building.



**FLOODPLAIN:** The lowlands adjoining the channel of a river, stream, or watercourse, or ocean, lake, or other body of standing water, which have been or may be inundated by floodwater (as established by the National Flood Insurance Act).

**FLOOR AREA RATIO (FAR):** The total floor area on a zoning lot divided by the area of that zoning lot.

**FOOTPRINT:** The area of the ground occupied by a building.

**FORM:** The shape or ground plan of a building.

**FORMERLY CONNECTED TIDAL WETLANDS:** A **TIDAL WETLAND** zone consisting of lowland areas whose connections to tidal waters have been limited by construction of dikes, roads, or other structures.

**FREQUENCY OF SERVICE:** The frequency with which bus or subway service is provided (e.g., 10 buses per hour).

**FRESHWATER WETLAND:** Wetland associated with freshwater systems.

**FRIEZE:** A horizontal band placed above a wall, but below the cornice. It may appear in both the interior and exterior of a building.

**G/SEC:** Grams per second.

**GEP (GOOD ENGINEERING PRACTICE):** Reference to stacks of sufficient heights so that no downwash occurs.

**GOTHIC STYLE:** A style of architecture that first became popular in the 1840s, commonly used for residential buildings, schools, and churches.

**GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS (GHG):** There are six internationally-recognized greenhouse gases regulated under the Kyoto Protocol: carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>). These atmospheric gases are the key contributors to climate change.

**GROUNDWATER:** The water contained beneath the surface in soils and rock.

**HAZARDOUS WASTES:** Substances regulated under the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Hazardous wastes are solid wastes that meet one of the four characteristics of being chemically reactive, ignitable, corrosive, or toxic, or are otherwise listed as hazardous wastes.

**HEADWAY:** The amount of time elapsing between the arrival of buses or subway trains on a given route. For example, a bus route may operate at a headway of 6 minutes, meaning buses are scheduled to arrive at a given stop every 6 minutes.

**HEAVY TRUCK:** A truck with three or more axles weighing more than 25,000 pounds gross weight.

**HIGH MARSH:** A **TIDAL WETLAND** zone consisting of the area periodically flooded by spring and storm tides, usually dominated by salt hay and spike grasses. It may also be called "salt meadow."

**HISTORIC LANDSCAPE:** A geographic area, including both cultural resources and natural resources therein, that has been influenced by or reflects human history, and for which form, layout, and/or designer, rather than significant events or persons, are the primary reasons for its importance.

**HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCE:** Districts, buildings, structures, sites, and objects of historical, aesthetic, cultural, and archaeological importance, including designated resources and eligible resources.

**HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE:** An historic and cultural resource that retains integrity and has important and meaningful **ASSOCIATIVE VALUES**.

**HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY:** Archaeological study of cultures after the advent of written records.

**HISTORIC DISTRICT:** A geographically definable area that possesses a significant concentration of associated buildings, structures, objects, or sites, united historically or aesthetically by plan and design or historical and/or architectural relationships. This may include historic districts listed on the State or National Register of Historic Places or New York City Historic Districts. New York City Historic Districts are further defined as distinct sections of the City that contain buildings, structures, places, or objects that have a special character or special historical or aesthetic interest or value, and that represent one or more periods or styles of architecture typical of one or more eras in the history of New York City.

**HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCE OR PROPERTY:** Buildings, structures, sites, or objects that provide, or may potentially yield, important cultural and/or archaeological information.



**HOUSEHOLD MEDICAL WASTE:** Items that are used in the course of home health care such as intravenous tubing and syringes with needles attached.

**HOV (HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE) LANE:** Lanes reserved for the exclusive use of buses and other vehicles carrying a minimum of generally two, three, or more occupants.

**HSWA (HAZARDOUS AND SOLID WASTE AMENDMENTS, 1984):** Amendments to RCRA establishing a timetable for landfill bans and more stringent UST requirements.

**HUMAN REMAINS:** Physical remains of human bodies. This can include: (a) complete skeletons (burials); (b) single bones or bone fragments; and (c) other soft parts of human bodies which may (rarely) be preserved.

**HVAC:** Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning.

**HYDRAULIC ANALYSIS:** A study of how much flow (or capacity) the City's sanitary and stormwater pipes currently have and which sewer segments can accommodate extra flow from new development.

**HERTZ (HZ):** A measurement of frequency for sound waves and is the same as cycle per second.

**IDEAL SATURATION FLOW RATE:** The maximum rate of flow at which passenger cars can pass through an intersection under a set of ideal operating conditions.

**INCREMENTAL SHADOW:** The additional shadow a building would cast, beyond the shadows that would be cast by surrounding buildings.

**INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY:** The study of sites and structures reflecting changing industrial technology, processes, and practices.

**INDUSTRIAL PRETREATMENT PROGRAM (IPP):** A federally authorized city program administered by the DEP, that identifies and monitors industrial uses that discharge pollutants of concern into the sewer system.

**INTEGRITY:** The unimpaired ability of a property to convey its historic or archaeological significance, evidenced by the survival of physical attributes that existed during the property's historic or prehistoric period.

**INTERCEPTORS:** Large sewers that connect the sewer system via **REGULATORS** to treatment plants and are designed to deliver two times design dry weather flow to **WASTEWATER RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITIES**.

**INTERIOR LANDMARK:** An interior, or part thereof, any part of which is thirty (30) years old or older, and that is customarily open or accessible to the public, or to which the public is customarily invited, and that has a special historical or aesthetic interest or value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the city, state, or nation, and that has been designated as an Interior Landmark pursuant to the New York City Landmarks Law.

**INTERMODAL TRANSFER:** The transfer of passengers between travel modes, *e.g.*, from bus to subway or from railroad to subway, *etc.*

**INTERTIDAL MARSH:** A **TIDAL WETLAND** zone consisting of the vegetated area of land subject to inundation by tidal flows every day; the area between average high and low tides.

**INVASIVE TESTING:** Testing of groundwater and soils in which the soil surfaces are penetrated for subsurface sample collection.

**ITALIANATE STYLE:** A style of architecture that first came into fashion in the mid-19th century in New York City; many buildings in New York City, including tenements, town houses, and commercial structures, are designed in this style.

**KELVIN (K):** The temperature scale in which absolute zero is assigned as 0°K, and the degree size is the same as in the **CELSIUS** scale.

**LDN:** Day-night sound level.

**L<sub>EQ</sub>:** Equivalent sound level.

**L<sub>EQ</sub>(1):** The one-hour equivalent sound level (see **EQUIVALENT SOUND LEVEL**).

**L<sub>EQ</sub>(24):** The 24-hour equivalent sound level.

**LANDMARK:** Any building, structure, work of art, or object, any part of which is thirty (30) years old or older, that has a special character or special historical or aesthetic interest or value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the city, state, or nation, and that has been designated a Landmark pursuant to the New York City Landmarks Law.



- LAND USE:** The activity occurring on land and within the structures that occupy it (e.g., residential, commercial, industrial).
- LEVEL OF SERVICE (LOS):** A qualitative measure describing operational conditions within a vehicular or pedestrian traffic stream.
- LIGHT-DUTY TRUCK:** For noise analysis purposes, a truck weighing less than 9,400 pounds gross weight; for air quality analysis purposes, a truck with four wheels, including vans and ambulances.
- LINE SOURCES:** Sources of air pollutant emissions that can be simulated as a group of lines in a mathematical model, such as a roadway.
- LINE-HAUL CAPACITY:** The capacity of a subway or rail line to transport passengers past a given point.
- LINK:** The section of roadway between traffic signals.
- LINKED TRIPS:** The multi-destination characteristic of trips in downtown type areas.
- LINTEL:** A decorative feature of a building's exterior, placed horizontally above a window; corresponds to the sill, a similar horizontal element located underneath a window.
- LITTORAL ZONE:** A **TIDAL WETLAND** zone consisting of that portion of a tidal water that is shallow enough (usually less than 6 feet deep) to let sunlight penetrate to the land on the bottom; in New York City, the land under water adjacent to nearly all the City's shoreline is considered littoral zone.
- LOAD FACTOR:** The number of passengers occupying a transit vehicle divided by the number of seats on the vehicle.
- LOW-SULFUR OIL:** Number 2 distillate oil with a sulfur content of 500 PPM, commonly used for boilers.
- M/S:** Meter(s) per second.
- MESOSCALE ANALYSIS:** Analysis of air pollutant sources and levels over a very large region.
- MALODOROUS:** Ill-smelling; with an offensive odor.
- MAXIMUM LOAD POINT:** The geographic location of a subway or bus line that has the highest ridership level.
- MAXIMUM SURGE CONDITION:** The point at which the maximum number of pedestrians are in a crosswalk; usually occurs shortly after pedestrian signals change to green, when the lead pedestrian in each opposing crossing platoon reaches the opposite corner.
- MEAN LOW WATER LINE:** The line where the arithmetic mean of the low water heights observed over a specific 19-year Metonic cycle (the National Tidal Datum Epoch) meets the shore and shall be determined using hydrographic survey data of the National Ocean Survey of the U.S. Department of Commerce.
- MEAN HIGH WATER LINE:** The line where the arithmetic mean of the high water heights observed over a specific 19-year Metonic cycle (the National Tidal Datum Epoch) meets the shore and shall be determined using hydrographic survey data of the National Ocean Survey of the U.S. Department of Commerce.
- MEDIUM TRUCK:** A truck with two axles and six wheels, weighing between 9,400 and 25,000 pounds gross vehicle weight.
- METEOROLOGICAL DATA:** Measurements of atmospheric parameters such as temperature, wind speed, and wind direction.
- MG/KG:** One microgram per kilogram, which is equal to one part per billion, ppb.
- MG/L:** One microgram per liter, which is equal to one part per billion, ppb.
- μG/M<sup>3</sup>:** Micrograms per cubic meter.
- μM:** A micrometer, which is a unit of length equal to one millionth of a meter.
- MG/KG:** Milligrams per kilogram, which are equal to parts per million, ppm.
- MG/L:** Milligrams per liter, which are equal to parts per million, ppm.
- MG/M<sup>3</sup>:** Milligrams per cubic meter.
- MICROSCALE:** Analysis of air pollutant sources and levels on a localized basis.
- MIXED USE DISTRICT:** A mixed use district is a special zoning district in which new residential and non-residential (commercial, community facility, and light industrial) uses are permitted as-of-right. In these districts, designated on zoning maps as MX with a numerical suffix, an M1 district is paired with an R3 through R9 district.



**MOBILE SOURCES:** Sources of air pollutant emissions such as motor vehicles, planes, boats, *etc.* **MODAL SPLIT:** The extent to which persons traveling to or from a site or an area utilize specific travel modes, such as autos, taxis, subways, buses, commuter rail, ferries, bicycles, or walking. It is usually expressed as a percentage of all travel.

**MONITORING WELL:** A tube or pipe set in the ground, open to the atmosphere at the top and to water at the bottom, usually along an interval of slotted screen, used for taking groundwater samples.

**MOVES:** A series of air pollutant emissions simulation models prepared by EPA and periodically updated and adjusted for use in New York City.

**MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET (MSDS):** Documentation provided by manufacturers that details the constituent compounds and their relative proportions in trade products.

**MSW:** Municipal solid waste.

**MUNICIPAL PARKING:** Parking spaces available to the public within a facility (parking lot or garage) operated by, or on behalf of, the City of New York.

**MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM (MS4):** Those portions of the City of New York served by separate storm sewers and separate stormwater OUTFALLS owned or operated by the City of New York or areas served by separate storm sewers owned or operated by the City of New York that connect to COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOW pipes downstream of the regulator owned or operated by the City of New York, and areas in which municipal operations and facilities drain by overland flow to waters of the state, as determined by DEP.

**MW:** Megawatt(s).

**NAAQS:** National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

**NATIONAL AND STATE REGISTERS OF HISTORIC PLACES:** The State and National Registers of Historic Places are the official lists of buildings, structures, districts, objects, and sites significant in the history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture of New York and the nation. The same eligibility criteria are used for both the State and National Registers. The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the New York State Historic Preservation Act of 1980 established the National and State Registers programs. In New York, the Commissioner of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, who is also the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), administers these programs.

**NATURAL RESOURCE:** Any area capable of providing habitat for plant and animal species or capable of functioning to support environmental systems—*e.g.*, surface and groundwater, natural drainage systems, wetlands, dunes and beaches, grasslands, woodlands.

**NEW HOUSING MARKETPLACE PLAN:** Annual reports and database for new housing completions.

**NEW YORK CITY NOISE CONTROL CODE:** The noise ordinance for New York City that establishes limits and regulations for the enforcement of noise levels within city limits. For construction activity, it requires that all exhausts be muffled, prohibits all unnecessary noise adjacent to schools, hospitals, or courts, and limits construction activity to weekdays between 7 AM and 6 PM. The Noise Code also defines the Ambient Noise Quality Zones (ANQZ), which sets limits on the noise impact of a project on the environment.

**NESHAP:** National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants.

**NIOSH:** National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

**NOISE:** Unwanted, disturbing sound.

**NOISE ABATEMENT CRITERIA (NAC):** Noise level limits, in terms of  $L_{eq}(1)$  or  $L_{10}(1)$ , promulgated by Federal Highway Administration regulations for vehicular traffic noise generated by the construction of new highways or the expansion of existing ones.

**NOISE LEVEL REDUCTION (NLR):** The outdoor to indoor attenuation of noise levels afforded by a building's exterior wall. NLR is used only in FAA mitigation recommendations.

**NOISE REDUCTION COEFFICIENT (NRC):** A single number rating system for absorption coefficients over the speech frequency range. NRC is defined mathematically as the arithmetic average of the absorption coefficients at 250, 500, 1000, and 2000 Hz.

**NONCRITERIA AIR POLLUTANTS:** Air pollutants that lack criteria standards by EPA, but are listed by the DEC in Air Guide-1.



**NONPOINT SOURCES:** Sources of air pollutants that are not emitted from one small, restricted area; these include line sources and area sources.

**NON-PUTRESCIBLE SOLID WASTES:** Solid wastes that do not contain organic matter.

**NO<sub>x</sub>:** Nitrogen oxides—a class of compounds that includes NO and NO<sub>2</sub>, which are of concern in their roles as ozone precursors and are **CRITERIA AIR POLLUTANTS**.

**NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST (NPL):** The official list of uncontrolled hazardous wastes sites to be remediated under **CERCLA**.

**OBJECT (HISTORIC OR ARCHAEOLOGICAL):** Item of functional, aesthetic, cultural, historical, or scientific value that may be movable but is related to a given environment or setting.

**OCTAVE BAND:** A frequency band with an upper limit that is twice the lower limit, and is identified by a geometric mean frequency, called the center frequency. Standard octave band center frequencies are defined in ANSI Standard S1.6 - 1984 (R2006), entitled "Preferred Frequencies, Frequency Levels, and Band Numbers for Acoustical Measurements."

**100-YEAR FLOOD:** The flood having a 1 percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in a given year.

**OPEN SPACE (DESIGNATED):** Includes both mapped parkland and other land that, although not officially mapped, is under the jurisdiction of DPR or another official body and has been set aside for public open space purposes. It excludes vacant land not designated for open space purposes.

**OPEN SPACE (IMPROVED):** Open space that is developed to its intended potential such as a playground, ball field, or promenade.

**OPEN SPACE (MAPPED):** See **PARKLAND (MAPPED)**.

**OPEN SPACE (PRIVATE):** Property designated for open space use that is under private ownership and that may or may not be publicly accessible.

**OPEN SPACE RATIO (OSR):** The median open space ratio (OSR) at the Citywide Community District level is 1.5 acres of open space per 1,000 residential.

**OPEN SPACE (UNDEVELOPED):** Natural areas not intended for development, such as wetlands.

**OPEN SPACE (UNIMPROVED):** Open space that has been acquired or mapped and is planned for further development but has not yet been developed for open space use.

**ORIGIN/DESTINATION (O/D):** The beginning and end points of a trip, used in determining the routing of vehicle trips to and from a project site.

**OSHA:** U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

**OUTFALL:** During wet weather, the point of discharge for separate storm sewer flows or, for combined sewers, if flows greater than two times the average design dry-weather flow reach the **REGULATOR**, the excess flow is discharged to outfalls, located in the city's waterways (e.g., Hudson River).

**OZONE (O<sub>3</sub>):** A **CRITERIA AIR POLLUTANT** formed by the reaction of hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides with sunlight over long time periods and large regions.

**PACKAGE TREATMENT PLANT:** Small, non-municipal wastewater treatment plant.

**PARK:** Mapped open space under federal, state, or city jurisdiction.

**PARKING ENFORCEMENT AGENT (PEA):** New York City Police Department personnel with the responsibility to maintain clear curb lanes where posted parking regulations mandate it.

**PARKLAND (MAPPED):** Public open space that is denoted as parkland on official city maps and as such cannot be "alienated" from park and open space use without city review and state legislative action.

**PARKING SHORTFALL:** The amount by which the parking demand generated by a proposed project exceeds the amount of parking it is proposing to provide.

**PASS-BY TRIPS:** Trips attracted to a proposed project from the streets immediately adjacent to the project site; these trips are usually intermediate stops being made en route from the vehicle's trip origin to its ultimate destination.

**PCE:** Passenger Car Equivalent



**PEAK HOUR FACTOR:** A measure of traffic volume demand fluctuation within the peak hour. It is the peak hour volume divided by four times the peak 15-minute period within that hour.

**PEDESTRIAN WIND:** Channelized wind pressure from between tall buildings and downwashed wind pressure from parallel tall buildings may cause winds that jeopardize pedestrian safety.

**PERCENTILE LEVELS ( $L_N$ ,  $0 < N < 100$ ):** The percentage of observation time that a certain SPL has been exceeded. For example,  $L_{10}$  corresponds to the SPL exceeded 10 percent of the observation time. The observation time is usually specified in terms of hours in parentheses (*i.e.*,  $L_{10}(1)$  refers to a 1-hour  $L_{10}$  value).

**PERSISTENCE FACTORS:** Empirical constants that relate 1-hour air pollutant concentrations to longer time averaging periods.

**PESTICIDES:** Substances or mixtures of substances used to destroy or mitigate insects, rodents, fungi, weeds, or other plant life. Many pesticides are also toxic to humans and animals.

**PIEZOMETER:** A tube or pipe, open to the atmosphere at the top and to water at the bottom, and sealed along its length, used to measure the hydraulic head in a geologic unit to determine ground water flow direction.

**PLATOON:** A group of vehicles traveling together as a group, either voluntarily or involuntarily, due to signal control, geometrics, or other factors; or the movement of a large group of pedestrians through an area, which often occurs when a large volume of bus or subway riders exit from those travel modes.

**$PM_{10}$ :** A criteria air pollutant comprised of particulates that are equal to or less than 10  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter.

**$PM_{2.5}$ :** A criteria air pollutant comprised of particulates that are equal to or less than 2.5  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter.

**POINT SOURCES:** Sources of air pollutants that are discharged from a small, restricted area, such as boiler exhaust stacks.

**POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS (PCBS):** Pathogenic (disease-causing) and teratogenic (causing developmental malformations) industrial compounds formerly used as heat-transfer agents.

**POLYCHLORINATED DIBENZODIOXINS AND DIBENZOFURANS (ALSO REFERRED TO AS DIOXINS):** Materials that have never been commercially manufactured for use. Their main sources are from combustion processes, and chemical industries.

**POPS:** Privately Owned Public Spaces

**PPB:** Parts per billion.

**PPM:** Parts per million.

**PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY:** Archaeological study of aboriginal cultures before the advent of written records.

**PROTECTED TURNS:** Left or right turns made at a signalized intersection with no opposing or conflicting vehicular or pedestrian flows.

**PSD:** Prevention of Significant Deterioration—Federal permit required for new or significant modifications to major stationary sources of air pollution.

**WATERFRONT PUBLIC ACCESS:** Any area of publicly accessible open space on a waterfront property, as well as pedestrian ways that provide a route from a waterfront public access area to a public street, public park, public place, or public access area.

**PUBLIC PARKING:** Parking spaces available to the public, rather than restricted to employees or patrons of specific local businesses, schools, or organizations.

**PUMP STATION:** Stations that direct combined and separate flow to downstream locations in the City's sewer infrastructure when gravity cannot direct the flow.

**PUMP TEST:** Test for estimating the values of various hydrogeologic parameters in which water is continuously pumped from a well and the consequent effect on water levels in surrounding piezometers or monitoring wells is monitored.

**PUTRESCIBLE SOLID WASTES:** Solid wastes containing organic matter having the tendency to decompose with the formation of malodorous by-products.

**QUEUE:** A line of delayed vehicles.

**RECEPTOR:** Location to which the public has access on a more or less continuous basis used for air quality predictions.

**RECEPTOR (SENSITIVE):** See **SENSITIVE RECEPTOR**.



**RECIRCULATION:** Entrapment of exhaust plumes into operable windows or air intakes.

**REFLECTION:** The act of sound bouncing off a partition, usually occurring from smooth, flat, hard surfaces.

**REGULATORS:** Chambers set to divert two times the average design dry-weather flow into the interceptor during storms; if a greater amount of combined flow reaches the regulator, the excess is directed to **OUTFALLS** into the nearest waterway (e.g., the Hudson River, East River).

**RELATIVE IMPACT CRITERION (NOISE):** A change in noise level at a receptor that is great enough to be considered a significant impact.

**RELEASE:** Any occurrence in which a regulated substance is emitted into air, soil, or water.

**REPOSITORY:** An appropriate facility that curates the artifact collection from significant archaeological sites to professional standards; see LPC's 2002 The Guidelines for Archaeological Work in New York.

**RESERVE CAPACITY:** The capacity of a traffic lane at an unsignalized intersection minus the volume using that lane. It is the determinant of level of service at unsignalized intersections.

**RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND RECOVERY ACT (RCRA):** The federal law regulating management and disposal of hazardous wastes.

**RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND RECOVERY INFORMATION SYSTEM (RCRIS):** An inventory of registered hazardous waste generators, transporters, and treatment, storage, and disposal facilities.

**REVERBERATION:** The amplification of sound within an enclosed space caused by multiple reflections off of reflective terminations (i.e., walls, ceilings, floors, or obstacles) of the room.

**RIDESHARING:** Also referred to as carpooling; a means of reducing vehicle trips by increasing the **AVERAGE OCCUPANCY** of vehicles traveling in a given area.

**RISK ASSESSMENT:** Evaluation of the magnitude of effect to human health and the environment posed by the presence of hazardous substances and proposed controls to limit or eliminate effects.

**SALINITY:** The total amount of solid material in grams contained in 1 kg of water when all the carbonate has been converted to oxide, the bromine and iodine re-placed by chlorine, and all the organic matter completely oxidized.

**SALT MEADOW:** A **TIDAL WETLAND** zone consisting of the area periodically flooded by spring and storm tides, usually dominated by salt hay and spike grasses. It may also be called "high marsh."

**SARA TITLE III:** Section of **SARA** requiring public disclosure of chemical information and development of emergency response plans.

**SATURATED ZONE:** A subsurface area that contains sufficient water to fill all interconnected voids or pore spaces.

**SCENIC LANDMARK:** Any **LANDSCAPE FEATURE** or aggregate of landscape features, any part of which is thirty (30) years old or older, which has or have a special character of special historical or aesthetic interest or values as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the city, state, or nation, and that has been designated a Scenic Landmark pursuant to the New York City Landmarks Law.

**SCFM:** Standard cubic feet per minute.

**SCREEN:** An EPA mathematical model that estimates air pollutant impacts from stationary sources.

**SENSITIVE RECEPTOR:** A defined area where human activity may be adversely affected when noise levels exceed predefined thresholds of acceptability or when levels increase by predefined thresholds of change, used for noise analyses. Examples include, but are not limited to, residences, hotels, motels, health care facilities, nursing homes, schools, houses of worship, court houses, public meeting facilities, museums, libraries, parks, outdoor theaters, golf courses, zoos, campgrounds, beaches, etc.

**SEPARATE SEWER:** A sewer system in which dry-weather wastewater is sent to a water pollution control plant for treatment and storm water is sent through separate pipes into the nearest waterway.

**SETBACK:** A recession or stepping back of a building's facade.

**SGC:** Short-term Guideline Concentrations for **NONCRITERIA AIR POLLUTANTS**, listed in DEC's **AIR GUIDE-1**.

**SHORT-TERM NOISE IMPACT:** An impact caused by a temporary noise source, such as construction activity.



**SIGNAL PHASING:** The allocation of a signal cycle into phases that are used by different traffic movements passing through an intersection.

**SIGNAL WARRANT ANALYSIS:** An analysis of traffic volume, pedestrian volume, and safety conditions at an intersection to determine whether the installation of a traffic signal is warranted.

**SIGNIFICANT COASTAL FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITATS:** Habitats designated by the New York State Department of State, on the recommendation of DEC, because they (a) are essential to the survival of a large portion of a particular fish and wildlife population; (b) support populations of protected species; (c) support fish and wildlife populations that have significant commercial, recreational, or educational value; and/or (d) are habitat types not commonly found in the state or region.

**SIP:** New York State Implementation Plan. The Clean Air Act requires each state to demonstrate in a SIP the manner in which it will attain compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

**SITE (HISTORIC OR ARCHAEOLOGICAL):** Location or place where a significant event or sequence of events took place.

**SLOT:** Space for one child in a day care center.

**SLUG TEST:** A test for estimating hydraulic conductivity values in which a rapid water-level change is produced in a piezometer or monitoring well, usually by introducing or withdrawing a "slug" of water or a weight. The resultant rise or decline in the water level is monitored.

**SOFT SITE:** A site where no particular development is planned or proposed, but where development can reasonably be expected to occur (for example, a property that is underbuilt with respect to its zoning in an area with high development demand).

**SOIL GAS SURVEY:** A technique used to obtain air from subsurface cavities (*i.e.*, using a soil gas probe); the soil gas sample is analyzed and used as an indicator of volatile organic compounds in groundwater or soil.

**SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL PLANS:** Plans for construction that can prevent adverse impacts by incorporating measures that prevent the transport of sediments off-site and that prevent increased turbidity or pollution from affecting surface water or wetlands.

**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES:** See **TRANSFER STATION**.

**SOUND EXPOSURE LEVEL (SEL):** A rating, in dB, of discrete events, such as aircraft flyovers or train passbys, that compresses the total sound energy of the event into a 1 second time period.

**SOUND LEVEL:** The weighted sound pressure level measured by use of a metering device.

**SOUND LEVEL METER (SLM):** An instrument used to measure sound pressure levels.

**SOUND POWER LEVEL (LW):**  $10 \log (W/W_{ref})$ , where  $W$ =power and  $W_{ref}$ = $1 \times 10^{-12}$  Watts.

**SOUND PRESSURE LEVEL (SPL OR LP):**  $20 \log (p/p_{ref})$ , where  $p$ =root mean square acoustic pressure and  $p_{ref}$ = $2 \times 10^{-5}$  Newtons/meter<sup>2</sup>.  $p_{ref}$  corresponds to the pressure at the threshold of hearing.

**SOUND TRANSMISSION CLASS (STC):** A single-number rating for a TL spectrum of a partition matched to a standard curve.

**SPECTRUM ANALYZER:** A device that measures and manipulates spectra, available in many bandwidth possibilities. Octave band analyzers are the most common types of spectrum analyzers.

**SRO:** Single-room occupancy hotel.

**STABILITY:** Description of the rate at which air pollutants are dispersed depending on atmospheric conditions.

**STACK:** Structure through which concentrated airborne pollutants are emitted.

**STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER:** Official within the State, authorized by the state at the request of the U.S. Secretary of the Interior, to act as liaison for purposes of implementing federal historic preservation requirements and programs, or the said official's designated representative.

**STATE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT SPDES PERMIT):** Permit issued by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

**STATIONARY SOURCES:** Sources of airborne emissions from fixed facilities.



**STATISTICAL NOISE LEVELS/PERCENTILE LEVELS ( $L_1$ ,  $L_5$ ,  $L_{10}$ , ETC.):** The practice to describe several important features of fluctuating or time-varying noise using statistical quantities. These percentile levels represent the percentage of the observed time period during which a given noise level is exceeded. For example,  $L_{90}$ , the noise level exceeded 90 percent of the time, is often considered to be the background noise level, while  $L_{10}$  gives some indication of the intrusive nature of the noise.

**STEL:** Short-Term Exposure Limits for air pollutants in the workplace, promulgated by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

**STOPPED DELAY:** Average vehicle delay at signalized intersections.

**STREETScape:** The character and urban design features of a street or block, including such features as setbacks, architectural styles, and materials.

**STREETWALL:** The wall created by the front face or faces of a building or several buildings.

**STRUCTURE:** Built work made up of interdependent parts or elements in an organized pattern.

**SUPERFUND:** See CERCLA.

**SUPERFUND AMENDMENTS AND REAUTHORIZATION ACT (1986) (SARA):** Federal law reauthorizing and expanding and jurisdiction of CERCLA.

**SYMPATHETIC CONTEXTUAL DESIGN:** A plan for a new building or development that takes into account the setting, landscaping, shadow, and the visual impact that the proposed construction may have on a nearby existing historic resource; a mitigation option.

**SYTP:** Schoolyards to Playgrounds Program

**TARGET COMPOUND LIST (TCL):** A list of analytes prepared by EPA, with a variety of corresponding analytical methods.

**TOXICITY CHARACTERISTIC LEACHING PROCEDURE (TCLP):** The toxicity test required under RCRA to determine if a waste is considered hazardous.

**TEMPORAL DISTRIBUTION:** The distribution of trips by hour or by 15-minute periods over the course of a given day.

**THERMAL STATE:** Term used to describe how long a vehicle has been turned on and operating.

**THERMAL TREATMENT TECHNOLOGIES:** Methods that use heat to thermally separate the contaminants from the media they are found in. These technologies do not destroy the contaminants, so typically these technologies include off-site disposal of a concentrated amount of the original contaminants.

**THRESHOLD OF HEARING (0 DBA):** The SPL below which sound cannot be heard by the average person with a healthy hearing mechanism.

**TIDAL WETLAND:** Wetlands found in and around tidal zones; tidal wetlands may be grouped according to characteristic ecological zones—littoral zone; coastal shoals, bars, and flats; intertidal marsh; coastal fresh marsh; high marsh or salt meadow; and formerly connected tidal wetlands. Flat vegetated areas that are subject to regular flooding by tides.

**TIME-SPACE ANALYSIS:** A methodology for evaluating pedestrian level of service for station platforms, waiting areas, street plazas, and other open space areas.

**TPY:** Tons per year.

**TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT AGENT (TEA):** New York City Police Department personnel generally responsible for maintaining proper traffic flow through problem intersections.

**TRANSFER STATION:** Facility at which solid wastes are received for the purpose of subsequent transfer to another location, regardless of whether these solid wastes are subject to any processing or reduction in volume.

**TRANSIT SHARE:** The percentage of all person trips made to a given project or area by public transportation.

**TRANSMISSION LOSS (TL):** A measure of the sound attenuation effectiveness of a partition in units of dB.

**TRIBAL NATIONS:** Refers to the Native American (also referenced as Indian) entities recognized by the federal and state governments. Consultation with Tribal Nations is conducted government to government and under the purview of the lead agency.



**TOXIC RELEASE INVENTORY (TRI):** The annual report on chemical releases that regulated industries must file with EPA under *SARA TITLE III*.

**TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT (TSCA):** The federal law authorizing EPA to gather information on chemical risks; TSCA regulates PCB's and certain other toxic substances.

**TRIP ASSIGNMENT:** The assumed routing, or "assignment," of trips (either vehicular or pedestrian) through an area en route to their destination.

**TRIP GENERATION:** The volume of trips generated, or produced, by a particular land use or project. Trip generation may be specified in terms of person trips or vehicular trips.

**UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST):** A tank with 10 percent or more of its volume underground, with connected piping, regulated under *RCRA*; used to store petroleum products or *CERCLA*-regulated hazardous chemicals. **UNSATURATED ZONE:** That subsurface region that lies above the *SATURATED ZONE* or *WATER TABLE* and the soil surface.

**UPSTREAM:** The direction from which traffic is coming.

**USE:** Any activity, occupation, business, or operation listed in Use Groups 1 through 18 or identified in a special permit that occurs in a building or on a tract of land.

**USE GROUP:** Uses that have similar functional characteristics and/or impacts on the environment or neighbors and are listed in one or more of 18 groups within the Zoning Resolution.

**VACUUM EXTRACTION:** Extraction of subsurface gases including advective-vapor transport by withdrawing or injecting air through wells screened in the unsaturated zone.

**VADOSE ZONE:** See Unsaturated Zone.

**VANPOOL:** A grouping of individuals traveling together in a higher-occupancy vehicle other than an automobile, such as a van.

**VEHICLE CLASSIFICATION:** Mix of vehicular traffic segmented into autos, taxis, light-duty gas trucks, heavy-duty gas trucks, and heavy-duty diesel trucks.

**VIEW CORRIDOR:** See *VISUAL CORRIDOR*.

**VISUAL CORRIDOR:** An open area (including streets) that provides a continuous view from a public place of the sky or focal object, such as the waterfront. A visual corridor is generally linear and unobstructed from its base to the sky.

**VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUND (VOC):** A family of highly evaporative organic materials used in a variety of industrial applications, such as paints and solvents.

**VOLATILIZATION:** The change of a chemical from liquid to gas.

**VOLUME SOURCES:** Sources of air pollutants distributed over a large volume of space.

**VOLUME-TO-CAPACITY (V/C) RATIO:** The ratio of the vehicular or pedestrian volume passing a point on a street (or transit line) to the capacity of the street (or line).

**WAKE:** Region of air flow that is disturbed by a solid structure

**WASTE-TO-ENERGY FACILITIES:** Facilities that recover usable energy from the incineration process.

**WATER-DEPENDENT USES:** Uses that require direct access to a body of water to function or that use waterways for transport of materials, products, or people.

**WATER-ENHANCING USES:** Primarily recreational, cultural, entertainment, or retail uses that, when located at the water's edge, add to the public use and enjoyment of the waterfront.

**WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROGRAM:** New York City's Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (WRP), adopted as a 197a Plan, which applies to all projects in a designated Coastal Zone.

**WATER TABLE:** The surface in an aquifer at which pore water pressure is equal to atmospheric pressure.

**WATER TABLE AQUIFER:** An aquifer in which the water table forms the upper boundary.

**WASTEWATER RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY (WRRF):** Plant used to treat wastewater, including sanitary sewage; formerly known as a Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) or Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP).



**WEAVING ANALYSIS:** An analysis of traffic conditions at a location (generally a length of highway) where different traffic streams cross each other's path without the aid of traffic signals.

**WILDLIFE:** All mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians, and all vertebrate and invertebrate animal species.

**WIND TUNNEL:** Fluid dispersion modeling using physical scale representations.

**ZOLA:** NYC's Zoning and Land Use Map

**ZONE OF INFLUENCE:** Area surrounding a pumping or recharging well within which the water table of an unconfined aquifer or water pressure of a confined aquifer has been changed due to the well's pumping or recharge.

**ZONING DENSITY:** The maximum number of dwelling units or zoning rooms permitted on a zoning lot.

**ZONING NONCOMPLIANCE:** A non-complying building is any building that no longer complies with one or more of the bulk regulations of the applicable zoning district.

**ZONING NONCONFORMANCE:** A non-conforming use is any land use that no longer conforms to one or more of the use regulations of the applicable zoning district.