



DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION

Steven W. Lawitts  
Acting Commissioner

Tel. (718) 595-6576  
Fax (718) 595-3557

Angela Licata  
Deputy Commissioner

Bureau of Environmental  
Planning & Analysis

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



[www.nyc.gov/dep](http://www.nyc.gov/dep)

DIAL 311 Government Information  
and Services for NYC

December 15, 2008

## Lead Agency Declaration and Notice of Intent to Conduct an Environmental Review

**Project: Gowanus Facilities Upgrade (CEQR No. 01DEP087)**

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) proposes to upgrade the flushing tunnel system and wastewater pumping station at the Gowanus Facilities located at 201 Douglass Street, south of Butler Street and northwest of the head of the Gowanus Canal in Brooklyn, New York. Improvements at other associated sites are also required as part of the proposed action. The Gowanus Facilities Upgrade is proposed to improve the capacity, function, efficiency, and reliability of the Gowanus Canal flushing tunnel system and wastewater pumping station with the aim of improving the water quality in the Gowanus Canal over the long term.

The proposed action consists of upgrades and improvements to the Gowanus Canal flushing tunnel system and wastewater pumping station, both of which are vitally important in the effort to improve the water quality in the Gowanus Canal over the long term. The upgrade of the Gowanus Canal flushing tunnel system incorporates significant modifications to increase the peak flow and the average daily flow of the existing system, and includes the construction of a reinforced concrete intake chamber and discharge channel; installation of three pumps; installation of a hoisting system and associated electrical and heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) work; reconstruction of the existing static bar screen at the Buttermilk Channel inlet structure; and installation of a new static bar screen within the portion of the Gowanus Canal flushing tunnel beneath the Butler Street site. In addition, the proposed action would include the installation of a temporary interim canal centralized oxygen transfer system (OTS) to help maintain acceptable dissolved oxygen (DO) levels in the Gowanus Canal during the construction period for the proposed action.

The proposed action also includes mechanical upgrades at the Gowanus Canal wastewater pumping station to increase the flow capacity of the station and enclosure of the influent chamber. In addition, the Gowanus Facilities wastewater pumping station building and the service building would be replaced by the proposed combined Gowanus Facilities service building/wastewater pumping station building and include the removal and replacement of all mechanical, electrical and HVAC equipment. The proposed action also includes the installation of a combined sewer overflow (CSO) screening system, the replacement of the wastewater force main and the construction and operation of an interim Gowanus Canal wastewater pumping system and force main to maintain wastewater flow throughout the duration of construction.

The proposed construction period is expected to be approximately 4 years. While the majority of the proposed action would take place within the boundaries of the Gowanus Facilities property between Butler and Douglass Streets, off-site work associated with the proposed action would be required adjacent to Butler Street, at the intersection of Tompkins Place and Degraw Street, and at the property adjacent to and at the intersection of Degraw and Columbia Streets (including a portion of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey property and at the Buttermilk Channel bulkhead).

The proposed work may require specific permits and/or approvals including, but not limited to, the following:

- United States Army Corps of Engineers Section 10 - Dredge & Fill; Nationwide Permit 5 - Scientific Measurement Devices; and Nationwide Permit 33 - Temporary Construction, Access and Dewatering
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Part 608 - Protection of Waters; Part 661 - Tidal Wetlands; Long Island Well/Dewatering Permit; and Part 401 - Water Quality Certification
- New York State Department of Health Backflow Prevention Device Approval
- New York State Department of State Federal Coastal Consistency Certification
- New York State Historic Preservation Office Approval
- New York City Art Commission Approval
- New York City Department of Environmental Protection Fuel Oil Burning Notice of Application/Plans Approval and Certificate of Operations
- New York City Department of Transportation Construction Activity Permit; Sidewalk Construction Permit; Sidewalk, Curb and Roadway Permit; Street Opening Permit; and Revocable Consent
- New York City Department of Parks and Recreation Tree Work and Tree Planting Permits
- New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission Approval

In accordance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act authorized by Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law and its implementing regulations as set forth in 6NYCRR Part 617, the State Environmental Review Process (SERP) as required by the State Revolving Loan Fund Program, and the City Environmental Quality Review process as set forth in Executive Order 91 of 1977 and its amendments, this Department believes it is the appropriate lead agency and assumes responsibility for conducting a coordinated review for the above-referenced project. Attached for your review is a copy of the project's Environmental Assessment Statement (EAS).

If you have any questions or comments please contact Julie Stein at (718) 595-4397.

Sincerely,



Esther Siskind  
Assistant Commissioner

cc: Marty Markowitz, Brooklyn Borough President  
Richard S. Bashner, Community Board 6 Chairperson  
Craig R. Hammerman, Community Board 6 District Manager  
Robert Kulikowski, NYC Office of Environmental Coordination  
Victor Robles, NYC City Clerk/City Record  
John Cyran, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (Region 2)  
Timothy Burns, Environmental Facilities Corporation  
Robert Dobruskin, NYC Department of City Planning  
Kathleen Howe, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
Ed Campbell, NYC Department of Transportation  
Loncey Conyers, NYCDEP  
Kevin Clarke, NYCDEP  
Stanley Joseph, NYCDEP  
Denzil Taffe, NYCDEP  
Julie Stein, NYCDEP