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**DIAL  
311** Government Information  
and Services for NYC

February 24, 2006

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

**Project: Tallman Island TI-2/TI-3 Water Pollution Control  
Plant Upgrade Program CEQR No. 06DEP009Q**

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) believes it is the appropriate lead agency and wishes to conduct a coordinated review of the above referenced project. An Environmental Assessment Statement (EAS) has been prepared by NYCDEP, acting as lead agency, in accordance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act, as set forth in 6NYCRR Part 617, authorized by Article 8 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law, the City Environmental Quality Review process, as set forth in Executive Order 91 of 1977 and its amendments, and the State Environmental Review Process, as required by the State Revolving Fund Program. Attached for your review is a copy of the project's EAS form and attachments.

The Bureau of Environmental Planning and Assessment (BEPA), on behalf of NYCDEP, is reviewing the potential for significant impacts from the Tallman Island TI-2/ TI-3 Water Pollution Control Plant Upgrade Program at the Tallman Island Water Pollution Control Plant (Tallman Island WPCP and/or plant) located at 127-01 Powell Cove Road at the western edge of Powell's Cove in the College Point section of Queens, New York.

The proposed action consists of two phases, Contract TI-2: Emergency Main Sewage (EMS) Pumping System Modification & Replacement, and Contract TI-3: Plant Upgrade Program (PUP). The PUP would provide for Biological Nutrient Removal (BNR) by improving the aeration system including the replacement of the diffusers, baffle walls, froth hoods, surface wasting system, and mixers for basic step feed BNR. The PUP will also include the replacement of the aged main sewage pumps, blowers and drive engines with electric motors. The facility requires upgrading to ensure continued compliance with wastewater permit limitations, to maintain a safe working environment for the future, and meet the recently mandated citywide nitrogen removal program. Accordingly, NYCDEP has instituted this action to provide more efficient and reliable wastewater treatment, which would ultimately benefit the quality of East River and Powell's Cove water bodies and associated aquatic habitats. The proposed action would remedy near-term and long-term plant deficiencies to allow the plant to continue to meet its State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit, improve operations, and maximize treatment plant flow rates. Equally important, the program would identify and remedy safety and health issues, and evaluate and upgrade the plant's infrastructure to support all systems and functions.

The proposed action would also include a set of mechanical (e.g., covers and stacks) and operational components (e.g., active carbon-based control technologies) that would control operational odors. At the present time, it is anticipated that at least two facilities within the plant would be involved – the grit building and preliminary settling weirs west. Studies are being conducted to determine the appropriate odor control system and the potential for other facilities within the plant for implementing odor control.

To satisfy the goals and objectives of the proposed action, the proposed action would be implemented as a three phased approach. The three phases are supported by two separate contracts (two phases under Contract TI-2 and the third phase under Contract TI-3) that address the near-term and long-term needs of the Tallman Island WPCP. Each of these contracts are described below:

**Contract TI-2: Emergency Main Sewage (EMS) Pumping System Modification & Replacement (EMS Pumping System)**

The EMS Pumping System Modification & Replacement consists of two stages. Stage I would provide sufficient pumping capacity for the facility to pump at least the average dry-weather flow (66 million gallons per day [mgd]) in the case of a complete main sewage pump and/or engine drive unit failure. Power for the Stage I Pumping System would be provided by the existing Consolidated Edison (Con Ed) service to the facility. In the actual event of a main sewage pump failure and the need to run the Stage I Pumping System, existing electrical loads at the facility would be disconnected (or de-loaded from the existing Con Ed service) so that sufficient power would be available.

Once the Stage I Pumping System is installed, installation of the Stage II Pumping System would take approximately six months. The Stage II Pumping System would provide dry-weather and wet-weather pumping capacity for the facility up to 120 mgd or 1.5 times the dry-weather flow (required for secondary treatment). It would be located in the existing Pump and Blower Building. Power for the Stage II Pumping System would be provided by two new on-site 1.6 megawatt (MW) diesel generators. The Stage II Pumping System would only be used in case of a complete failure of the existing main sewage pumps. The Stage II Pumping System would stay in place until February 2010.

**Contract TI-3: Plant Upgrade Program (PUP)**

The Plant Upgrade Program consists of the removal and replacement of the existing main sewage pumps, their associated engine drive units and the force mains to the east and west battery preliminary tanks. Power for the new equipment installed under the PUP would be provided by Con Ed's 27 kV service via a new substation that would be built on site. To provide pumping of sewage during the main sewage pump and forcemain replacement, pumps from TI -2 Stages I and II will be used to pump 160 mgd (required for primary treatment). This is known as the "pump around", which would be in service on a full-time basis for a period of about 1 year starting in January 2009. Once the 27 kV service is available, the two Stage II diesel generators would be relocated to the substation, and an additional new standby generator would be added, to serve as standby power. The EMS

Pumping System would then be removed once the new main sewage pumps were tested and accepted by NYCDEP.

Additional work within the boundaries of the facility would involve the replacement of the existing primary screen conveyor system and the modification of the Secondary Bypass System to reroute, measure the excess flow (above 120 MGD) from the East Battery and West Battery to the Bypass Channel and automatically adjust to meet the maximum required overflow during storm events. The replacement of the existing primary screen conveyor system includes the removal and replacement of frame, rollers, belt, motors, and electrical control. The Powell's Cove Pumping Station within the Tallman Island WPCP would also undergo modifications to replace pumps, motors, piping, associated valves, controls and associated electrical equipment, replace mechanical bar screen, install a removable grinder, install duplex sump pumps and associated piping, and install new lighting.

The proposed work may require the following permits and/or approvals:

- The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Title V Permit Modification;
- The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation State Facility Permit;
- The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Long Island Well Permit;
- The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Fuel Oil Tank Registration;
- The New York State Revolving Fund program;
- The City of New York Department of Business Services Notice of Permit;
- The City of New York Fire Department Permit;
- The City of New York Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (Waterfront Program Consistency);
- Con Edison Gas Line Modifications;
- Con Edison Electrical Conduit/ Manholes; and,
- NYNEX Telephone Lines/ Manholes.

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

Sincerely,



Angela Licata  
Deputy Commissioner

cc: Helen Marshall, Queens Borough President  
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