

November 8, 2002

The Honorable Christopher Ward
Commissioner
NYC Department of Environmental Protection
59-17 Junction Boulevard
Corona, NY 11368

Re: Construction Staging Area for Third Water Tunnel Shaft 27B

Dear Commissioner Ward:

Manhattan Community Board No. 4 thanks you for sending your agency representatives to our 14th Street Area Committee meeting to discuss your plans for using half of 9th Avenue and part of the eastern sidewalk between Gansevoort and West 13th streets for approximately 4 years starting in 2006. We are concerned, however, that the issues this raises are not being adequately addressed by your agency.

As we and others have stated, including our elected representatives, using 9th Avenue as a construction staging area and surrounding it with a 12 foot high concrete wall for 4 years will have significant impacts on the area businesses. Many of those businesses sent representatives to our 14th Street Area Committee meeting to hear of DEP's plans. For many, this was the first time they had heard about this plan.

While there seems to be some confusion over whether DEP ever made a presentation to the community in the past prior to changing its plans for the staging area, it was generally agreed that not enough community outreach has been done throughout the planning process. We therefore respectfully request the following:

- That DEP inform both Manhattan Community Board Nos. 2 and 4 through our 14th Street Area Committee if there is a proposal to change the location of the staging area or shaft again;
- That the notification be made early enough in the process so that our committee can have meaningful input in this decision;
- That DEP complete an archeological and landmark buildings survey of the area as required by the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission in accordance with their approval of DEP's Environmental Assessment Statement before construction commences;
- That DEP return all the cobblestones/Belgian pavers they remove in the course of their construction of the shaft to their original location and pattern;
- That DEP provide a Pest Control (i.e., rat abatement) plan to the 14th Street Area Committee;

- That DEP outline in writing how the blasting for the shaft will take place, what vibrations and decibel levels will be considered acceptable, how the blasting will be monitored, the length of time the blasting will occur during the day, and the number of days it will occur during the life of the project. Many of the buildings in the area date back to the mid 19th Century, and were built on land fill. Therefore extra precautions need to be taken to ensure their structural integrity;
- That DEP will work with the MTA New York City Transit to come up with a plan for addressing the impact to its M11 bus service; and
- That DEP will work with the New York City Department of Transportation and any other agency dealing with business retention and development to insure that area businesses using Ninth Avenue as a truck staging area or access point to their businesses will not be unduly impacted by your construction plans.

Our community understands the need for water tunnel shafts throughout the city and are willing to work with your agency in the siting of them. However, the siting has to be done in a way that will have the least amount of impact on our community and we believe your agency's current plan does not accomplish this goal. We look forward to working with you to find a mutually satisfactory solution to this problem.

Sincerely,



Simone Sindin
Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 4

Thomas Lunke
Chair
14th Street Area Committee

cc: Elected Officials
Honorable Andrew Alper, President, Economic Development Corporation
Honorable Amanda Burden, Chair, City Planning Commission
Honorable Patricia Lancaster, Commissioner, Department of Buildings
Sherida Paulsen, Chair, Landmarks Preservation Commission
Honorable Robert Walsh, Commissioner, Department of Business Services
Honorable Iris Weinshall, Commissioner, Department of Transportation
Honorable Carol Yankay, Manhattan Community Board 2
Andrew Berman, Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation
Maurice Benos, M & W Packing
Irwin Cohen, Chelsea Market
Damen Dell, The Hog Pit
Michelle Dell, Hogs and Heifers
Karla Krasner, Dufour Pastry Kitchens
Keith McNally, Pastis
Richard Meilman, Meilman Management and Development
Florent Morellet, Florent
Diamond Meat Packers

