

Foreword

This document is the Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement (FGEIS) for the Fresh Kills Park project. The Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) for the proposed project was accepted as complete by the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) as lead agency on May 19, 2008. A public notice regarding the release of the DGEIS and the announcement of a public hearing on the DGEIS was published in the City Record, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Environmental News Bulletin, and was also placed in a local newspaper, the Staten Island Advance, on August 7th, August 8th, August 28th, and September 2nd, 2008. DPR held a public hearing on the DGEIS at P.S. 58 on Staten Island on September 4, 2008 at 7PM. The period for the public to submit written comments remained open until September 30, 2008.

This FGEIS reflects all substantive comments made on the DGEIS during the public hearing and subsequent comment period. The comments are summarized and responded to in Chapter 28, "Responses to Comments on the DGEIS." Changes to the text and graphics from the DGEIS were made in this FGEIS, as necessary, in response to these comments. Unless otherwise indicated by a footnote, with the exception of this Foreword, Chapter 28, and Appendix H (which contains comments from and responses to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation), all changes to text since publication of the DGEIS are marked by double-underlining the text in this FGEIS.

It should also be noted that a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) is being prepared. DPR has commenced with the preparation of this SEIS for the proposed roads across East Park for the purposes of further examining design details and the related impact analyses relative to those proposed roads as well as examining potential alternative alignments and their impacts. A scope of work for that SEIS was released February 24, 2009. A public hearing on this scope has been scheduled for March 25, 2009 at 7:00 PM at P.S. 58, 77 Marsh Avenue, Staten Island, New York.

Key changes between the DGEIS and FGEIS are as follows:

- Chapter 1, "Project Description," includes additional text on the landfill systems and the project site history including the Consent Order history; an expanded energy discussion; updated descriptions of the North Park Phase A Project; and edits to the ULURP discussion.
- Chapter 2, "Land Use," has been modified to address the regulations of the City's Special Natural Area District zoning currently mapped on portions of the Fresh Kills Park project site, as well as the impacts of the proposed removal of this zoning.
- Chapter 3, "Socioeconomic Conditions," was modified to address the relocation of a garden center formerly located on a portion of Block 6169 Lot 37; that business has already vacated the site.
- Chapter 4, "Community Facilities," was modified to note that the proposed roads would also provide for improved response times for fire and police emergencies, as the proposed roads

Fresh Kills Park GEIS

would provide a means of traversing the project site and would connect Richmond Avenue to the West Shore Expressway.

- Chapter 7, “Historic Resources,” was modified to reflect the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) determination that the September 11, 2001 materials on the West Mound are not eligible for listing on the State and National Registers. In addition, this chapter was modified to reflect comments received from OPRHP regarding the classification system used for archaeological sensitivity. This chapter in the FGEIS also includes a more detailed assessment of archaeological sensitivity in North Park and in the area of the proposed Arthur Kill Road parking lot.
- Chapter 10, “Natural Resources,” was modified in response to comments received from the DEC (as described in Appendix H).
- Chapter 15, “Energy,” was modified to include information on the positive impacts that could result from the construction of commercial wind turbines on the project site.
- Chapter 16, “Traffic and Parking,” was modified to include baseline conditions for four new intersections analyzed in the FGEIS; the results of a parking survey to determine future parking demand at the site; and responses to NYSDOT and NYCDOT comments.
- Chapter 19, “Noise,” was modified to include a discussion of the noise impacts that can potentially result from commercial wind turbines.
- Chapter 22, “Alternatives,” has been modified to add analysis of three additional alternatives including a modified alternative that increases use of existing haul roads at Fresh Kills (this alternative was presented by the Staten Island Borough President), a modification of that haul road alignment, and an alternative that assumes only one road in East Park, the Yukon Avenue Crossing.
- Chapter 23, “Impact Avoidance and Mitigation,” was modified to include an expanded discussion on traffic monitoring and compliance with the Post-Closure Construction Plan and additional impact avoidance measures with respect to habitat fragmentation and avoiding landfill impacts.
- Appendix B, “Phase 1A Report,” was modified to reflect comments received from OPRHP regarding the classification system used for archaeological sensitivity.
- Appendix H, “NYSDEC Response to Comments and Supporting Data,” is new to this FGEIS.
- Appendix I, “Written Comments Received on the DGEIS,” is new to this FGEIS.

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