

K. Air Quality/Noise

1. Existing Conditions

The US Environmental Protection Agency has circulated National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for the protection of public health and welfare. The Proposed Action is located in the Westchester County NYSDEC, Region 3, New York-New Jersey-Connecticut Air Quality Control Region (AQCR). Various air quality monitors for Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂), Inhalable Particles (PM-10), fine Particulates (PM_{2.5}), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Ozone (O₃), and Lead (Pb) are operated by NYSDEC's Bureau of Air Surveillance.

NYS DEC maintains an Air Quality Index (AQI) for reporting the daily air quality for particular regions throughout the State of New York. The AQI provides a method to correlate the different levels of pollutants to one scale. A copy of the DEC Air Quality Index is provided in Appendix M, and is broken down as follows: 0 to 50 Good; 51 to 100 Moderate; 101 to 150 Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups; and 151 to 200 Unhealthy.

An air quality index report was recently prepared, the results of which indicate that the air quality for the White Plains portion of the region was classified as good.

Ambient background noise levels proximate to the Project Site are related to the presence of the Taconic State Parkway, a multi-lane regional highway system. Existing activities on the Project Site are consistent with the surrounding residential neighborhood.

2. Anticipated Impacts and Proposed Mitigation

The standard methodology for determining whether there will be air quality impacts relates to roadway conditions, specifically failed conditions at critical intersections. As there are no failed intersections reported as a result of the Proposed Action, there is no other specific threshold to warrant the preparation of further air quality analysis.

As noted in the Construction Section of this DEIS (Section III.L), there will be some temporary noise and air quality related impacts to site improvements and residential construction. Construction activities will conform to Section 139 of the Code of the Town of Mount Pleasant, related to construction activities.

The carbon footprint for the proposed development was calculated using the EPA Household Emissions Calculator¹. The calculator takes into account the location, amount and type of home heating consumption, electricity consumption, vehicular travel, and recycling behavior. For this calculation, the average figures for nationwide consumption provided by the EPA were used (weekly oil consumption, weekly electricity consumption, miles per gallon, weekly miles traveled). In addition, it was assumed that aluminum and steel cans, plastic, glass, newspapers and magazines were to be recycled, per Westchester County mandatory recycling law. The result of the calculation is that

¹ http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ind_calculator.html, 11/17/09.

each house is expected to have approximately 49,434 pounds of CO₂ emissions per year. This comes to a total of 790,944 pounds of CO₂ emissions per year for the proposed development. These figures are lower than the national average for individual homes which is calculated to be 52,558 pound of carbon per household per year. These impacts can be further reduced through the use of energy saving appliances, reduction in driving, and improvement of vehicle's miles per gallon rating, as well as other energy saving techniques.

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