

State Environmental Quality Review

**POSITIVE DECLARATION**

Notice of Intent to Prepare a Draft EIS  
Determination of Significance

**NYSDEC ID #: 2-6102-00116**

**December 19, 2007**

This notice is issued pursuant to Part 617 of the implementing regulations pertaining to Article 8 (State Environmental Quality Review Act) of the Environmental Conservation Law.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, as Lead Agency, has determined, based on the information and analysis below and any supporting documentation, that the proposed action described below may have a significant adverse impact on the environment and that a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) will be prepared.

Prior to preparation of a DEIS, public scoping will be conducted. A draft scoping document is currently being circulated for public comment and is available on the DEC website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6061.html>

**Name of Action:** South Pier Improvement Project at the Gowanus Generating Station

**SEQRA Class:** Type I Action [ ] **Unlisted Action** [X]

**Description of Action:**

The proposed action consists of two components; the installation of one GE LMS 100 combustion turbine operating in simple-cycle mode on the industrially zoned, existing south pier at the Gowanus Generating Station (GGS), and an emissions reduction strategy for the existing electric generating equipment. Natural gas would be utilized as the primary fuel with ultra low sulfur distillate fuel oil (ULSD) as a backup fuel for up to 720 hours annually. The new combustion turbines will have the following emission control technologies: selective catalytic reduction (SCR), and a CO oxidation catalyst (if required).

The new combustion turbine will be electrically connected into the adjacent Con Edison Gowanus Substation which is the same substation to which the existing GGS facility is already connected. The GGS has a functioning gas transmission and distribution system interconnect with sufficient capacity for the new turbines. No new electric and gas transmission infrastructure is required to construct and operate the Project. ULSD supply would be provided by barge delivery to the existing storage facilities located at the GGS.

**Location:**

The project is located on the south pier of the existing GGS, with the entrance on 29<sup>th</sup> Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Brooklyn, New York

**Contact Person:**

Kevin A. Kispert, Environmental Analyst II  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Environmental Permits  
SUNY at Stony Brook  
50 Circle Road  
Stony Brook, NY 11790-3409  
(631) 444-0302

**Reasons Supporting This Determination:** In accordance with Section 617.7 ( c ) of 6 NYCRR 617 (the SEQRA regulations) regarding the criteria for determining significance, it has been determined that the project named herein has the potential to result in significant adverse environmental impacts. The project sponsor indicates these impacts can be mitigated sufficiently, but since a high level of interest from the surrounding community is anticipated, has agreed to prepare a DEIS to address environmental and community concerns.

Currently, the existing GGS combustion turbines are utilized to meet peak-load demands and maintain the electric grid stability. The new turbine proposed for the GGS will relieve a portion of the load from the older GGS units, allowing them to run less often. These newer, cleaner, and more efficient units should be able to meet the current demand with less fuel, and therefore have reduced air emissions, while providing increased capacity to meet growing electric demand within the sub-load pocket.

However, it is recognized that the local community has strong concerns about air pollution and it is anticipated that air quality is likely to be a major concern for this project. An enhanced Public Participation Plan is currently being implemented to inform the local community and the public about the project and invite participation in the environmental review process.

As indicated in the draft Scoping Document, the DEIS will extensively analyze potential environmental impacts of the project related to Geology/Soils/Topography, Water Resources, Biological/Terrestrial/Aquatic Ecology, Climate and Air Quality, Aesthetic/Visual Resources, Historic, Cultural and Archeological Resources, Noise, Traffic/Transportation, Socioeconomics, Environmental Justice, Public Safety, Communication Facilities, Land Use and Zoning, Unavoidable Adverse Impacts, Alternates, Irreversible Commitment of Resources, Cumulative Impacts, Growth Inducing Aspects and Use of Energy Resources.

A copy of this notice sent to:

- David Perri, Astoria Generating Company
- Attached Service list
- Environmental Notice Bulletin