

CHAPTER 19: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

As required by the NYSDEC Commissioner Policy 29, Environmental Justice and Permitting, demographic data was collected and the NYSDEC database of Potential Environmental Justice Areas¹ was consulted to determine whether the project area was an “environmental justice area” with significant proportion of low income or minority population which would then determine whether a full environmental justice analysis was required to be performed. Based on a review of the NYSDEC data, it was determined that the project study area does not comprise sensitive environmental justice analysis areas; as such, the Proposed Action would not be expected to adversely affect low-income or minority populations, and no environmental justice analysis would be required.

The proportion of low-income and minority residents in the primary study area is lower than that for Community District 2, and New York County as a whole, indicating a low potential for disproportionate impacts to communities of concern in the immediate vicinity of the Proposed Action. The No Action Alternative would not impact low-income or minority populations as no construction would occur. Construction and operation of the emergency ventilation facility would not produce disproportionately high or adverse effects on low-income or minority communities. This evaluation of environmental justice issues, based on impacts identified in other chapters of this DEIS, demonstrates that:

- The Build Alternatives would not result in disproportionately high or adverse human health or quality of life impacts to communities of concern in the secondary study area, an 800-foot-radius about the location of the alternative sites, coterminous the land use secondary study area.
- The Build Alternatives would not result in disproportionately high or adverse human health or quality of life impacts to communities of concern related to construction truck traffic off-site. Routes necessary for construction-related truck traffic pass through neighborhoods with both high and low proportions of low-income and minority persons.
- The Build Alternatives would not result in impacts to open space or community facilities and services in communities of concern.
- The Proposed Project would result in improvements to the overall safety of the subway system in the Greenwich Village area. The project would benefit area visitors, workers and transit riders. No single racial, ethnic or income group will be denied the overall benefits attributable to the project construction and operation. The operation of the emergency ventilation plant will not result in impacts to resources that would be borne disproportionately by low-income or minority communities of concern.

No adverse impacts with the potential to affect low-income or minority communities disproportionately would occur as a result of construction or operation of the emergency ventilation plant under Alternatives P1, SB1, or SB5. As no adverse impacts are identified, no mitigation measures would be required.

¹ New York State Department of Environmental Conservation web site, County Maps Showing Potential Environmental Justice Areas (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/public/899.html>).