

August 2011 Update

Replacement of the Existing Water Siphons between Brooklyn and Staten Island “Siphon Project”

The New York City Economic Development Corporation (EDC) is administering the “Replacement of the Existing Water Siphons between Brooklyn and Staten Island” project (“Siphon Project”), which is being funded by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey (PANYNJ). The project is designed to accommodate access to New York Harbor by larger ships once the Panama Canal Expansion Project is completed in 2014. In order to achieve this goal, New York’s Anchorage Channel must be dredged to a depth that is currently precluded by the location of two DEP water siphons. These siphons will be removed and replaced by a larger siphon at a lower depth.

Major components of the project include the following:

- use of a tunnel boring machine (TBM) to install a new 72” water siphon; the two existing siphons (36” and 42”) will be abandoned once the new siphon is operational
- installation of land piping (new water mains and sewers) in Staten Island and Brooklyn using open cut and microtunneling techniques
- construction of a new “green building” chlorination station in Staten Island
- implementation of an extensive community outreach program, including development of informational materials and ongoing liaison with residents, businesses and other stakeholders

In order to keep you up-to-date on construction activities, monthly summaries of completed and projected work will be prepared. In addition, as part of the ongoing community outreach program, construction notices will be prepared for distribution to residents, businesses and other stakeholders, to announce upcoming work and potential impacts, as needed.

To date, the contractor’s (Tully/OHL Joint Venture) work has focused on mobilization activities and collection of data. Construction is scheduled to begin in August at the Staten Island shaft site. Installation of land piping (in Staten Island) and construction at the Brooklyn shaft site will begin after Labor Day.

Work Completed to Date

- Project mobilization and site preparation, including installation of temporary fencing around the work area, delivery of construction trailers/establishment of field offices and surveying (Staten Island)
- Coordination with utility companies regarding relocation of cable and gas lines, as needed, in advance of construction
- Installation of piezometers (instruments used to measure water pressure) and inclinometers (instruments used to measure angles or elevation)/initial collection of baseline data (Staten Island)

- Drilling of dewatering wells (Staten Island)
- Application for permits and development of detailed work schedules
- Digging of test pits (Staten Island and Brooklyn)
- Collection of baseline noise and vibration data (Staten Island)
- Construction of a TBM that is being built specifically for the Siphon project (scheduled for delivery in January 2012)

In addition, the project team met with Staten Island Community Board #1, Brooklyn Community Board #10 and other interested and affected stakeholders, including residents of Bay Street Landing, to introduce the project, provide an overview of the proposed schedule, and begin to identify critical issues and concerns.

Work Projected for August

- Initiation of construction of the slurry wall for the Staten Island shaft
- Design work related to construction of the slurry wall for the Brooklyn shaft
- Continuation of TBM construction
- Preparatory work (drawings, permit applications and other submittals) prior to initiation of land piping activities in Staten Island [**NOTE:** Work related to land piping is scheduled to begin in early September, in compliance with contract provisions prohibiting work in the vicinity of the Lyons Pool between Memorial Day and Labor Day.]

For additional information concerning these activities or other aspects of the Siphon construction project, please contact:

Anita Wright
Community Liaison
Helen Neuhaus & Associates Inc.
355 Front Street
Staten Island, NY 10304
(516) 712-5864 [cell phone]

Or visit the project website at:

<http://www.nycedc.com/ProjectsOpportunities/CurrentProjects/Citywide/Siphon/Pages/Siphon.aspx>