

Tenants Association presses for cleaner air

Electeds meet with NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation

Action on fossil fuel power plants on the property

At the Tenants Association's urging, five of our electeds met by telephone with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation regarding the Combined Heat and Power plants slated to be built in Stuyvesant Town. One plant would also serve Peter Cooper Village. Attending the February 11, 2021, meeting were Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, State Senator Brad Hoylman, Assembly Member Harvey Epstein, City Council Member Keith Powers, and Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer.

Purpose of the Meeting: to gather as much information as possible regarding the current status of Beam Living's permit application and the jurisdiction the DEC has over the CHPs. One plant has been constructed on Avenue C and another, much larger one is planned for 20th Street, underneath Garage #1.

Penalty for Management

The DEC informed the group that they are currently negotiating a penalty and settlement with management's legal team for previous violations on the Avenue C plant. The DEC inspected the plant in December 2020 to ensure that work has stopped, a requirement of the violation.

Air Quality Study

The agency is reviewing the air study modeling protocols submitted by management. Once that review is completed and the protocols approved, management will submit the actual air quality study. As part of its review, the DEC looks at whether the projected emissions will fall below certain thresholds, such as the cap on pollutant nitrogen oxide (NOx).

The DEC is aware that our community already has high levels of pollution, and they will take that into account. (For information regarding our poor air quality, see our [presentation](#) to Community Board 6.)

Construction

The DEC does not have jurisdiction over construction of the plants, only their operations. If the agency determines that the CHPs are not in compliance with

regulations, management might have to demolish the Avenue C plant and scrap plans for the 20th Street plant.

Public Hearing – Community Input

Our electeds asked the DEC for a public hearing on the permit. The DEC informed them that the determination on whether to hold a public hearing will be made depending on the public comments made during the public comment period. They were unable to provide details about the timing for the public comment period but will provide the electeds notice before it starts so that they and the Tenants Association can coordinate a response. These power plants also affect our neighbors within at least a half-mile radius, some of whom may already be suffering from health issues due to environmental factors.

DEC representatives on the phone call included Jane McLaughlin, Director, Legislative Affairs; Eileen Murphy, Director, Federal Affairs; Steve Zahn, Director, Region 2; Patrick Foster, Region 2 Attorney; and engineering staff.

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