



# GOWANUS CANAL COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP (CAG)

*your local voice for Superfund*

For more information: [www.GowanusCAG.org](http://www.GowanusCAG.org)

*The Gowanus Canal Community Advisory Group (CAG) is the official community forum for dialogue between representatives of all segments of the community about the federal Superfund clean-up of the Gowanus Canal. The following CAG resolution requests formal consideration by the indicated parties to conduct activities related to the Gowanus Canal Cleanup with regard to the concerns and interests of the Gowanus community.*

- TITLE:** Independent Consultation regarding preservation of the entire building: City Of New York Water Supply - Distribution Gowanus Station, at 234 Butler Street, Gowanus, Brooklyn.
- TO:** Christos Tsiamis, Senior Project Manager, Gowanus Canal Project, U.S. EPA Region 2  
Kevin Clark, Department of Environmental Protection, Project Manager Gowanus Canal, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- DATE:** May 28, 2019

**Resolved,** the Community Advisory Group (CAG) that EPA engage independent consultants to conduct further site and engineering analysis investigations with respect to retention in place of the City Of New York Water Supply - Distribution GOWANUS STATION building, located at 234 Butler Street.

The CAG asks for an independent consultant to conduct its own analysis to determine whether DEP's 234 Butler analysis is on point, preferably a consultant familiar with historic preservation practices, such as, Jan Hird Pokorny. The CAG asks that the Gowanus Station building be preserved in its entirety.

**Background:** A previous resolution regarding the request for an independent engineering analysis of this building was passed by the CAG in March 2018.

The CAG was not able to provide direct section 106 consultation regarding the proposed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between June of 2018 and February, 2019.

The CAG offers some quotes regarding this building, from the Brooklyn Borough President, Eric Adams, in January 2018:

“Given this building’s significance to members of the community, if additional testing determines that the building’s walls are structurally sound, it would be worthwhile to consider retaining the walls, using creative architectural and engineering solutions, integrated into the facilities design.



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DEP should undertake investigation of structural design considerations that would facilitate retention of the exterior building walls facing Butler and Nevins Streets . . .  
. . . The Gowanus Distribution Building is the only surviving industrial building that bears the neighborhoods name. To many in the community, its pre-cast signage, which is on a parapet fronting its Nevins Street facade, it is a noted feature. The entire building is valid as a local resource and has been found to be significant by the State Office of Historic Preservation (SHPO) as part of the National Register Gowanus Historic District.”

However, according to the following excerpt from the EPA NEWS RELEASE, February 22, 2019:

“After further consultation with the DEP regarding building conditions and constructability, EPA modified its initial proposal, whereby DEP will be allowed to dismantle and subsequently reconstruct and incorporate in the new building a similar length of the Nevins and Butler Street façades. The last step in finalizing the draft MOA between EPA and SHPO is a consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in Washington, D.C.”

Demolition of the original building, built in 1913, will result in a negative cultural impact for the Gowanus Community!



Present-day 234 Butler Street. Photo: Courtesy of EPA

**Please direct responses and inquiries to [gowanuscag@gmail.com](mailto:gowanuscag@gmail.com).**