



GOWANUS CANAL COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP (CAG)

your local voice for Superfund

For more information: www.GowanusCAG.org

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: Support of EPA's Nov 6, 2020 Letter addressed to Honorable Vincent Sapienza, Commissioner NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regarding DEP's request for an extension to complete the future construction of the two Gowanus Canal CSO Tanks.

TO: Walter Mugdan, Acting Regional Administrator, USEPA Region 2

DATE: January 26, 2021

Resolved:

The Gowanus Canal Community Advisory Group (CAG) strongly supports the position EPA states in its November 6th letter to the NYC DEP regarding DEP's request for a 12 month extension to complete the future construction of the RH-034 CSO Tank and a 18 month extension to complete the future construction of the OH-007 CSO tank. The DEP's proposed delays are of great concern to the community because of the "impacts to the Canal cleanup that may occur if contaminated CSO solids discharges continue as a result of further delays to DEP's completion of the CSO solids controls component of EPA's September 2013 Record of Decision (ROD) for the site."

Background:

The EPA clarifies for DEP that "Based on the above, it is EPA's conclusion that the requested extensions are not justified. EPA would like to meet with DEP to discuss in more detail our evaluation of DEP's extension request, a resolution of DEP's significant ongoing noncompliance, and the issuance of an enforcement instrument which memorializes DEP's CSO remedy implementation obligations." "Even as the upcoming dredging begins to cure the Canal's century and a half of pollution, EPA is cognizant that the CSO portion of the Canal remedy is of equal significance to the community."

Cc: Christos Tsiamis, Senior Project Manager, USEPA Region 2

Brian Carr, Legal Council, USEPA Region 2

Natalie Loney, Gowanus Canal CIC, USEPA Region 2

Basil Seggos, Commissioner, NYSDEC

Vincent Sapienza, Commissioner, NYCDEP

Marisa Lago, Director, NYCDCP

Congresswomen Nydia Velazquez

Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon

Please direct responses and inquiries to both gowanuscag@gmail.com and doug@forumfg.com