

Water Quality Agenda 12/1/2025

Housekeeping:

- 1) Victoria is looking for any map/image that shows where the legal outfalls are. Joan followed. No response yet.
- 2) Brian Carr reported no change on his discussions with PowerHouse regarding the walkway at TB1. PowerHouse was not part of the rezoning and so did not have to meet the 56 commitments. Suggest we request info from Topographical about the status of the streets abutting Power House. De-mapped and made private?
- 3) **Hydrology study for the entire neighborhood.** Emily is going to see if she can craft a question to pose to DEC that would ask for the right type of study so we can understand what is going on under the ground on which we live and work. Joan followed up with Victoria as to whether **climate change** can be taken into account in future studies. Likewise no response. Natalie said that DEC was doing one that should have been completed in 2024. I have asked Aaron Fischer for it and so has Steve from Land Use. No response yet.
- 4) Katia followed with Natalie Loney at EPA to find out when the **Operation and Maintenance Plan** (OMP) for the Gowanus Canal will be complete. Apparently the PRP's will be responsible for carrying out the OMP regarding the cap and the water quality. Katia to follow again with Natalie.
- 5) Can DEC **test groundwater pooling in basements** or on properties for contaminants? This was not addressed. We should craft an inquiry.

NEW ISSUES

- 1) State issued its water quality determinations for various water bodies, including the Canal. Result – Gowanus Canal is now a Class SC waterbody which is what we initially asked for (though we followed by asking for Class SB). Cup half full, I guess. There is some indication that SC will allow swimmable water quality standards to be legally enforceable in the canal. Riverkeeper will give an update. Deeper discussion with Em Rubin and Mike Dulong who said they can attend the December 1 meeting.
https://link.edgepilot.com/s/f6a68fad/8LGwi7kO_UGxhg38H5AVYQ?u=https://dec.ny.gov/regulatory/regulations/proposed-emergency-recently-adopted-regulations/water-revisions/saline-water-quality-standards-and-reclassification
- 2) Parcels 1 & 2 of Public Place are being divided up and DEC is planning to investigate using ISS and ISGS at the site. Comment period ends December 5. We put together a letter you could send to Aaron Fischer if you want asking for a public meeting and extension of time to comment. I will share if you want to put in your own comments. Feel free to edit.
- 3) *Natalie's Q&A's that affect WQ were shared in the meeting announcement. We discussed up to number 8. **If there is time**, go over Natalie's Q&A's to see if there are further questions.*
- 4) *Sewershed in Gowanus. Would like to have a discussion at our meeting. I think there are issues related to the Atlantic Yards Project and the BMT project. Our infrastructure cannot possibly take all that.*