

CHAPTER 4

GLOSSARY

A-Weighting: The system of modifying measured sound pressure levels to simulate the actual response of the human ear to different sound frequencies.

AADT: Average annual daily traffic, the total volume passing a point or segment of a highway facility, in both directions, for one year, divided by the number of days in the year.

Absolute impact criterion, noise: An absolute noise level at a receptor, above which a significant impact would occur (see also **relative impact criterion**).

Accessory parking: Parking spaces restricted for use only by employees or patrons of specific local businesses, schools, organizations, etc.

Acoustics: The science or study of sound.

Action condition: Scenario of the future with the proposed action in place, used for environmental assessment purposes. Also referred to as "build condition."

Adaptive reuse: The fitting of new requirements, functions, or uses into an existing historic space; may be a mitigation option.

AGC: Annual Guideline Concentrations for **noncriteria air pollutants** listed in DEC's **Air Guide-1**.

Air Guide-1: *Draft 1991 Guidelines for the Control of Toxic Ambient Air Contaminants*, published by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, in which are listed maximum allowable guideline concentrations for certain air pollutants for which EPA has no established standards.

Ambient air: The surrounding air, to which the public is exposed on a regular basis.

Ambient noise level: The total noise level in the acoustical environment, excluding the proposed project. Whenever measurements are made, each noise source (e.g., traffic noise, aircraft noise) is measured separately.

American National Standards Institute (ANSI): A voluntary federation of U.S. organizations concerned with the development of standards. ANSI standards are drafted by committees of industry experts and published only after board review and determination of national consensus.

Annual Report on Social Indicators: Provides summary data for the City, and, where available, for boroughs and community districts. Source: DCP, Housing, Economic, and Infrastructure Planning Division.

ANQZs: Ambient Noise Quality Zones established by the New York City Noise Code.

ANSI: American National Standards Institute.

AP-42: *Workbook of Atmospheric Dispersion Estimates*, EPA document that provides air pollutant emission factors for many sources.

Aquifer: A subsurface rock or sediment formation that contains sufficient saturated permeable material to transmit significant quantities of groundwater.

Archaeological testing: A systematic process, involving a controlled series of excavations, conducted to establish the physical presence or absence of the resource(s) identified during a Phase I evaluation; procedure of a Phase II archaeological assessment.

Archaeological potential or sensitivity: The likelihood that a location or site contains significant archaeological resources; potential is usually characterized as low, moderate, or high.

Archaeological resource: Physical remains, usually subsurface, of the prehistoric (Native American) and historic periods, such as burial hearths, foundations, artifacts, wells, and privies.

Archaeology: The study of prehistoric and historic cultures through excavation and analysis of physical remains.

Architectural resource: Historically or architecturally important buildings, structures, objects, sites, and districts.

Archival research: The retrieval and evaluation of historical documents, including local histories, cartographic materials, and deeds and other instruments. Archival research is necessary for predicting the existence and assessing the significance of a historic resource and determining archeological potential/sensitivity.

Area Sources: Sources of air pollutants distributed over a large area such as a parking lot.

Arterial: Signalized streets that serve primarily through traffic and provide access to abutting properties as a secondary function.

Artifact: The physical or tangible result of human action or behavior, commonly associated with archaeological investigation; it may be complete, incomplete, intentional, or a by-product of the subject action or behavior.

ASHRAE: American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers.

Assignment: The routing of vehicle trips to and from a project site.

AST: Above-ground storage tank.

ASTM: American Society for Testing of Materials.

ATR counts: ATR, or automatic traffic recorder, counts are traffic volume counts recorded by machines with connected tubes placed across the roadway being counted. These counts are generally recorded every 15 minutes for 24 hours per day.

Attenuation, noise: Reduction in noise level.

Automatic fare collection: A system, such as Metro Card, whereby entry to the transit system does not require a token or money, but is activated by a card in the possession of the transit rider that is "read" by a machine at the entry point to the station, either by inserting the card into and through the "reader" or "swiping" it through the reader. Also referred to as "AFC."

Average daily census: Term used by the Health Systems Agency for the annual percentage of hospital beds occupied at a given hospital.

Average vehicle occupancy: The total number of occupants in an automobile (or a taxi), on average.

Background concentrations, air pollutants: Ambient air pollutant concentrations that are a function of regional emissions.

Background noise level: Noise levels that exist much of the time and that individual occurrences intrude upon. Usually, this "background" is coming from many directions and from a multitude of unrecognizable sources. L_{90} is considered a reasonable indication of this background noise (see also **statistical noise levels** below).

Background growth factor, traffic: An annual traffic growth percentage to be applied to traffic volumes in an area to account for normal expected traffic volume increases. Generally, it does not account for major new developments that may be proposed for an area.

BAR: DEP's Bureau of Air Resources.

Base flood: See **100-year flood**.

Bay: The space between architectural features, such as walls, piers, or columns; used in reference to the way in which windows, doors, and other openings relate to each other.

Bluffs: Steep formations of soft erodible materials, such as sand and clay.

BTUs: British Thermal Units; unit of measurement used for heat inputs and outputs of boilers or other fuel burning equipment.

Build condition: See **action condition**.

Build year: The year a proposed action would be substantially operational; this is the year for which the action's effects are predicted in environmental analyses.

Building: Structure created to shelter human activity.

Bulk: The size and shape of a building, including height and floor area, relative to the size of its lot.

C: Celsius or Centigrade; temperature scale in which the freezing point of water is 0° and the boiling point of water is 100°.

C-Weighting: Electronic filtering in sound level meters that models a flat response (output=input) over the range of maximum human hearing sensitivity.

CAA: Clean Air Act; federal law mandating air pollutant emissions standards for stationary and mobile sources.

CAAA: 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments.

CAL3QHC: Mathematical dispersion model for simulation of carbon monoxide concentrations near roadway intersections.

Capacity: For vehicular traffic, the maximum number of vehicles that can pass a point on a street or highway during a specified time period, usually expressed as vehicles per hour. For pedestrians, the maximum number of persons that can be accommodated along a given point of a sidewalk or transit corridor, or that can be accommodated within a crosswalk, intersection corner reservoir, transit vehicle, or turnstile.

Carbon monoxide (CO): An odorless, colorless gas that is a **criteria air pollutant**, principally associated with motor vehicle exhaust.

Cavity: Region of air recirculation adjacent to a solid structure.

CEPO-CEQR: City Environmental Protection Order-City Environmental Quality Review; the New York City Department of Environmental Protection has adopted a policy that sets standards on noise exposure and designates mitigation measures. The standards are used for evaluating

the noise impact of the environment on the projects described in EASs and EISs. The numbers are expressed as absolute limits.

CERCLA: Comprehensive Environmental Responsibility, Compensation and Liability Act; (also known as **Superfund**); federal law authorizing identification and remediation of sites contaminated by hazardous substances.

CERCLIS: Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System; an EPA inventory of sites (including Federal facilities) suspected to be contaminated by hazardous substances. It contains site identification data, financial expenditure data, and site tasks plans (if applicable). CERCLIS also includes some enforcement data on milestones and clean-up schedules (if applicable).

CFM: Cubic feet per minute, unit of measurement for flow rates through exhaust stacks.

Channelization: Physical roadway improvements that "channel", or direct, the traffic flow into one or more lanes via either painted striping or physical means such as curbs or raised "islands" in the roadway.

Coastal fresh marsh: A **tidal wetland** zone consisting of the vegetated area of land located primarily along the tidal portions of rivers and streams, and subject to inundation by tidal and freshwater flows every day.

Coastal shoals, bars, and flats: A **tidal wetland** zone consisting of the unvegetated area along the shore that is covered by water at high tide and exposed or covered by water of less than one foot at low tide.

Coastal Zone: As mapped in the City's *Coastal Zone Boundaries* maps, a geographic area of New York City's coastal waters and adjacent shorelines, generally including islands, tidal wetlands, beaches, dunes, barrier islands, cliffs, bluffs, estuaries, flooding- and erosion-prone areas, port facilities, and other coastal features.

Cold start: Vehicle started after not operating within the last hour.

Combined sewer: Sewer system that collects both dry-weather wastewater and storm water.

Combined sewer overflow (CSO): Wastewater in excess of the combined sewer system's capacity that is discharged into the nearest waterway rather than being sent to a water pollution control plant for treatment.

Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy: Published annually. Provides information on government-assisted housing. Source: DCP, Housing, Economic, and Infrastructure Planning Division.

Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (Plan): A plan developed by the New York City Department of Sanitation for the period of 1992 through 2002 that establishes a strategy for waste management.

Comprehensive Waterfront Plan: A report prepared by the Department of City Planning identifying goals and objectives for the City's waterfront.

Conditional Negative Declaration: A lead agency's determination that an action may have a significant adverse impact on the environment, but that all such impacts can be eliminated or avoided by specific changes in the action or mitigation that can be implemented.

Confined aquifer: An aquifer bounded above and below by more impermeable materials in which the pore water pressure is greater than atmospheric pressure.

Cordon line: An imaginary line drawn around an area, usually used to define an area being studied or an area through which traffic volumes are being counted or surveyed.

Corner reservoir: The sidewalk area at the corner of an intersection within which pedestrians wait for a green light to cross the intersection.

Criteria air pollutants: Air pollutants with corresponding federal or state ambient air quality standards.

Critical Environmental Area: A specific geographic area designated by a state or local

agency as having exceptional or unique environmental characteristics.

Cruise speed: Travel speed along a block without any stopped delay.

Cycle length: The length of time it takes a traffic light to pass through a full sequence of green, yellow, and red signal indications for all traffic movements.

Data recovery: Systematic retrieval of information from a cultural resource through excavation, analysis, recordation (e.g., drawings, photographs), and reporting.

Day-night sound level (L_{dn} or DNL): A 24-hour continuous L_{eq} with 10 dBA added to levels occurring between 10 PM and 7 AM to account for greater sensitivity during typical sleeping hours.

dB: Decibel.

dBA: A-weighted unit of sound pressure level in decibels.

dBc: C-weighted unit of sound pressure level.

DEIS: Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

DHCR: New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal.

De Minimis: Minimum incremental increase in 8-hour average carbon monoxide levels that would constitute a significant adverse air quality impact under CEQR.

Decibel (dB): A unit of sound level or pressure level. It implies 10 multiplied by a logarithmic ratio of power or some quantity proportional to power. The logarithm is to the base 10.

Decorative elements: Ornamental features of a structure, such as cornices, lintels, and bracketing. The existence or absence of a building's original decorative elements, particularly exterior features, is considered in the assessment of a building's significance.

Density, zoning: The number of dwelling units or zoning rooms permitted on a site.

Descriptors: Units of measurement for noise analysis, such as L_{eq} , L_{dn} , etc.

Designated resource: Resource or properties recognized and protected under local, state, and federal historic preservation programs.

Dispersion model: Mathematical model that estimates dissipation of air pollutant concentrations from line, area, or point sources.

Displacement, direct: Involuntary displacement of residents or businesses from the site of an action. Also referred to as "primary displacement."

Displacement, indirect: Involuntary displacement of residents, businesses, or employees that results from a change in socioeconomic conditions created by an action. Also referred to as "secondary displacement."

Diverted-linked trips: Trips attracted to a proposed project from streets near the project site but not immediately adjacent to the site. Thus, these trips need to "divert" to other streets to access the site.

Dormer: An opening, usually a window, that projects from the main roof of a building and has a separate roof.

Downstream: The direction toward which traffic is headed.

Downwash: Emissions from stationary sources that are rapidly transported toward the ground because of building-induced turbulence.

Dunes: Recent accumulations of sand formed by sea winds and waves.

"E" designated site: Area designated on the zoning map pursuant to Section 11-15 of the New York City Zoning Resolution within which no change of use or development requiring a New York City Department of Buildings permit may be issued without approval of DEP. "E" designated sites require DEP's review to insure protection of human health and the environment from known or suspected hazardous materials associated with the site.

ECL: New York State Environmental Conservation Law.

EDC: New York City Economic Development Corporation.

Effective width: The width of a walkway that is usable by pedestrians; the total walkway width minus the width of physical obstacles and unusable buffer zones at such obstacles.

Elevation: A straight-on view of the exterior face of a building on a vertical plane showing a building's external components.

Eligible resource: Historic resource meeting the criteria for listing on the State and/or National Registers of Historic Places or for designation as a New York City Landmark.

Emission model: Mathematical model that estimates emissions from vehicle exhaust systems.

Entering angle: A shadow's angle from true north when it enters an open space.

EPA: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Equivalent sound level (L_{eq}): The level of continuous sound containing the same amount of acoustical energy as the fluctuating sound over the same period of time. The reference time period is usually specified in terms of hours in parentheses (e.g., $L_{eq(1)}$ refers to a 1-hour L_{eq} value).

Erosion: The loss or displacement of land along the coastline because of the action of waves, currents running along the shore, tides, wind, runoff of surface waters, groundwater seepage, wind driven water or waterborne ice, or other effects of coastal storms.

Erosion hazard areas: Erosion-prone areas of the shore designated under the State Erosion Hazard Areas Act that are likely to be subject to erosion within a four-year period and that constitute natural protective features (i.e., beaches, dunes, shoals, bars, spits, barrier islands, bluffs, wetlands, and natural protective vegetation).

Estuary: Any area where fresh and salt water mix and tidal effects are evident, or any partially

enclosed coastal body of water where the tide meets the current of any stream or river.

Exit velocity: Rate at which exhaust gas passes through a stack.

Exiting angle: A shadow's angle from true north when it exits an open space.

Extraction well: Pumped well used to remove contaminated groundwater.

Extreme high water: The extreme high water of spring tides is the highest tide occurring during a lunar month, usually near the new or full moon. This is equivalent to extreme high water of mixed semidiurnal tides.

Fabric: The juxtaposition of the physical components of a building.

Facade: The exterior of a building, usually pertaining to the front.

Fair Share Criteria: Criteria to guide the siting of City facilities so as to further the fair distribution of the burdens and benefits associated with such facilities.

Feature, archaeological: Archaeological evidence that typically cannot be excavated or removed from the site but must be recorded in place, such as floors, walls, pits, postholes, foundation walls, privies, and cisterns.

Federal style: A style of architecture dating to ca. 1790-1820, found in New York City town houses in Greenwich Village and Brooklyn Heights.

FEIS: Final Environmental Impact Statement.

Fenestration: Arrangement of the window and door openings of a building.

Floodplain: The lowlands adjoining the channel of a river, stream, or watercourse, or ocean, lake, or other body of standing water, which have been or may be inundated by floodwater (as established by the National Flood Insurance Act).

Floor area ratio (FAR): The total floor area on a zoning lot divided by the area of that zoning lot.

Footprint: The area of the ground occupied by a building.

Form: The shape or ground plan of a building.

Formerly connected tidal wetlands: A **tidal wetland** zone consisting of lowland areas whose connections to tidal waters have been limited by construction of dikes, roads, or other structures.

Frequency of service: The frequency with which bus or subway service is provided; for example, 10 buses per hour.

Freshwater wetland: Wetland associated with freshwater systems.

Frieze: A horizontal band placed above a wall but below the cornice. Can appear in both the interior and exterior of a building.

g/sec: Grams per second.

Generic action: Program or plan that has wide application or affects a large area or range of future policies. Also referred to as "programmatic actions."

GEP: Good engineering practice—usually refers to stack heights high enough so that no **downwash** occurs.

Gothic style: A style of architecture that first became popular in the 1840's, commonly used for residential buildings, schools, and churches.

Groundwater: The water contained beneath the surface in soils and rock.

Hazardous wastes: Substances regulated under the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. Hazardous wastes are solid wastes that meet one of the four characteristics of being chemically reactive, ignitable, corrosive, or toxic.

Headway: The amount of time elapsing between the arrival of buses or subway trains on a given route. For example, a bus route may operate at a headway of 6 minutes, meaning buses are scheduled to arrive at a given stop every 6 minutes.

Heavy Truck: A truck with three or more axles weighing more than 25,000 pounds gross weight.

High marsh: A **tidal wetland** zone consisting of the area periodically flooded by spring and storm tides, usually dominated by salt hay and spike grasses. Also called "salt meadow."

Historic landscape: A geographic area, including both **cultural resources** and **natural resources** therein, that has been influenced by or reflects human history, and for which form, layout, and/or designer, rather than significant events or persons, are the primary reasons for its importance.

Historic resource: Districts, buildings, structures, sites, and objects of historical, aesthetic, cultural, and archaeological importance, including designated resources and eligible resources.

Historic significance: A historic resource that retains **integrity** and has important and meaningful **associative values**.

Historic archaeology: Archaeological study of cultures after the advent of written records.

Historic district: A geographically definable area that possesses a significant concentration of associated buildings, structures, objects, or sites, united historically or aesthetically by plan and design or historical and/or architectural relationships. This can include historic districts listed on the State or National Register of Historic Places, and New York City Historic Districts. New York City Historic Districts are further defined as distinct sections of the City that contain buildings, structures, places, or objects that have a special character or special historical or aesthetic interest or value, and that represent one or more periods or styles of architecture typical of one or more eras in the history of New York City.

Historic resource or property: Buildings, structures, sites, or objects that provide or may potentially yield important cultural and/or archaeological information.

HIWAY-2: An air pollution roadway dispersion model.

Hot start: A vehicle that has been not operating for less than an hour, and was previously hot stabilized before it had stopped operating.

Hot stabilized: A vehicle that has been on and operating for more than 505 seconds.

Household medical waste: Items that are used in the course of home health care such as intravenous tubing and syringes with needles attached.

HOV lane: HOV, or high occupancy vehicle, lanes are reserved for the exclusive use of buses and other vehicles generally carrying a minimum of three, four, or more occupants.

HSWA: Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (1984); amendments to **RCRA** establishing a timetable for landfill bans and more stringent UST requirements.

HUD: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Human Remains: see LPC's 2001 *The Guidelines for Archaeological Work in New York*.

HVAC: Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning.

Hz: Hertz, a measurement unit for sound waves.

I&M: Inspection and maintenance.

Ideal saturation flow rate: The maximum rate of flow at which passenger cars can pass through an intersection under a set of ideal operating conditions.

Incremental shadow: The additional shadow a proposed building would cast, beyond the shadows cast by surrounding buildings.

Industrial archaeology: The study of sites and structures reflecting changing industrial technology, processes, and practices.

Industrial Pretreatment Program (IPP): City program administered by the Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Clean Water, Division of Drainage Basin Management, that identifies and monitors industrial uses that discharge pollutants of concern into the sewer system.

INPUFF: Mathematical model used to simulate spills and short-term releases of toxic chemicals.

Integrity: The unimpaired ability of a property to convey its historic or archaeological significance, evidenced by the survival of physical attributes that existed during the property's historic or prehistoric period.

Interior Landmark: An interior, or part thereof, any part of which is 30 years old or older, and that is customarily open or accessible to the public, or to which the public is customarily invited, and that has a special historical or aesthetic interest or value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the City, state, or nation, and that has been designated as an interior landmark pursuant to the New York City Landmarks Law.

Intermodal transfer: The transfer of passengers between travel modes, e.g., from bus to subway or from railroad to subway.

Intertidal marsh: A **tidal wetland** zone consisting of the vegetated area of land subject to inundation by tidal flows every day; the area between average high and low tides.

Invasive testing: Testing of groundwater and soils in which the soil surfaces are penetrated for subsurface sample collection.

Inverse square law: The condition in open spherical sound propagation from a point source that intensity drops off as the reciprocal of the square of the distance from the source. This translates to the ideal condition that SPL drops off at a rate of 6 dB per doubling of distance from the source.

Involved agency: Agencies, other than the lead agency, with jurisdiction to fund, approve, or undertake an action.

IPIS: Property management data. Inventory of City-owned property. Source: Department of Citywide Administrative Services, Division of Real Estate Services.

ISC2: Industrial Source Complex dispersion model, an EPA air pollutant stationary source dispersion model.

Italianate style: A style of architecture that first came into fashion in the mid-19th century in New York City; many buildings in New York City,

including tenements, townhouses, and commercial structures, are designed in this style.

K: Kelvin; temperature scale in which absolute zero is 0°K, and the degree is the same as a Celsius degree.

L_{dn}: Day-night sound level.

L_{eq}: Equivalent sound level.

L_{eq(1)}: The one-hour equivalent sound level (see **Equivalent sound level**).

L_{eq(24)}: The 24-hour equivalent sound level.

Landmark: Any building, structure, work of art, or object, any part of which is 30 years old or older, that has a special character or special historical or aesthetic interest or value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the City, state, or nation, and that has been designated a landmark pursuant to the New York City Landmarks Law.

Landscape, historic: See **historic landscape**.

Land use: The activity occurring on land and within the structures that occupy it; e.g., residential, commercial, industrial.

Lead agency: The agency principally responsible for carrying out, funding, or approving an action; therefore, the agency responsible for determining whether an environmental review is required and conducting it.

Level of service (LOS): A qualitative measure describing operational conditions within a vehicular or pedestrian traffic stream.

Light-duty truck: For noise analysis purposes, a truck weighing less than 9,400 pounds gross weight; for air quality analysis purposes, a truck with four wheels, including vans and ambulances.

Line sources: Sources of air pollutant emissions that can be simulated as a group of lines in a mathematical model, such as a roadway.

Line-haul capacity: The capacity of a subway or rail line to transport passengers past a given point.

Link: The section of roadway between traffic signals.

Linked trips: The multideestination characteristic of trips in downtown type areas.

Lintel: A decorative feature of a building's exterior, placed horizontally above a window; corresponds to the sill, a similar horizontal element located underneath a window.

Littoral zone: A **tidal wetland** zone consisting of that portion of a tidal water that is shallow enough (usually less than 6 feet deep) to let sunlight penetrate to the bottom; in New York City, the land under water adjacent to nearly all the City's shoreline is considered littoral zone.

Load factor: The number of passengers occupying a transit vehicle divided by the number of seats on the vehicle.

Loop detector: A physical electrical loop embedded within a street that allows it to monitor the volume and/or speed of traffic passing over it and which can often communicate with a traffic control system to alter signal timing patterns.

Low-sulfur oil: Number 2 distillate oil, commonly used for boilers.

m/s: Meter(s) per second.

Macroscale: Analysis of air pollutant sources and levels over a very large region.

Malodorous: Ill-smelling; with an offensive odor.

Maximum load point: The geographic location of a subway or bus line that has the highest ridership level.

Maximum surge condition: The point at which the maximum number of pedestrians are in a crosswalk; usually occurs shortly after pedestrian signals change to green, when the lead pedestrian in opposing crossing platoons reaches the opposite corner.

Mean low water line: The line where the arithmetic mean of the low water heights observed over a specific 19-year metonic cycle (the National Tidal Datum Epoch) meets the shore and shall be

determined using hydrographic survey data of the National Ocean Survey of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Mean high water line: The line where the arithmetic mean of the high water heights observed over a specific 19-year metonic cycle (the National Tidal Datum Epoch) meets the shore and shall be determined using hydrographic survey data of the National Ocean Survey of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Medium truck: A truck with two axles and six wheels, weighing between 9,400 and 25,000 pounds gross vehicle weight.

Meteorological data: Measurements of atmospheric parameters such as temperature, wind speed, and wind direction.

µg/kg: One microgram per kilogram, which is equal to one part per billion, ppb.

µg/L: One microgram per liter, which is equal to one part per billion, ppb.

µg/m³: Micrograms per cubic meter.

µm: A micrometer, which is a unit of length equal to one millionth of a meter.

mg/kg: Milligrams per kilogram, which are equal to parts per million, ppm.

mg/L: Milligrams per liter, which are equal to parts per million, ppm.

mg/m³: Milligrams per cubic meter.

Microscale: Analysis of air pollutant sources and levels on a localized basis.

MISLAND: Database for land use, housing, demographics, and assessed values. Source: DCP Planning Support and Computer Service.

Mitigation: Measures to minimize or avoid an action's significant adverse impacts to the fullest extent practicable.

Mobile sources: Sources of air pollutant emissions such as motor vehicles, planes, boats, etc.

MOBILE: A series of air pollutant emissions simulation models prepared by EPA and periodically updated, adjusted for use in New York City.

Modal split: The extent to which persons traveling to or from a site or an area utilize specific travel modes, such as autos, taxis, subways, buses, commuter rail, ferries, bicycles, or walking. Usually expressed as a percentage of all travel.

Monitoring well: A tube or pipe set in the ground, open to the atmosphere at the top and to water at the bottom, usually along an interval of slotted screen, used for taking groundwater samples.

MSDS: Material safety data sheets; documentation provided by manufacturers that details the constituent compounds and their relative proportions in trade products.

MSW: Municipal solid waste.

Municipal parking: Parking spaces available to the public within a facility (parking lot or garage) operated by or on behalf of the City of New York.

mw: Megawatt(s).

NAAQS: National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Natural resource: Any area capable of providing habitat for plant and animal species or capable of functioning to support environmental systems—e.g., surface and groundwaters and drainage systems, wetlands, dunes and beaches, grasslands, woodlands, etc.

Negative Declaration: See SEQRA Part 617.2 (y).

New Housing in New York City: Annual reports and database for new housing completions.

New York City Noise Control Code: The noise ordinance for New York City that establishes limits and regulations for the enforcement of noise levels within the city limits. For construction activity, it requires that all exhausts be muffled, prohibits all unnecessary noise adjacent to schools, hospitals, or courts, and limits construction activity to weekdays between 7 AM and 6 PM. The Noise Code also defines the Ambient Noise Quality Zones

(ANQZs), which set limits on the noise impact of a project on the environment.

NESHAPS: National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants.

NIOSH: National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

No action condition: Scenario of the future without the proposed action, used as a baseline against which incremental changes generated by an action can be evaluated in environmental review. Also referred to as "no build" condition.

No build condition: See **no action condition**.

Noise: Unwanted, disturbing sound.

Noise abatement criteria (NAC): Noise level limits, in terms of $L_{eq(1)}$ or $L_{10(1)}$, promulgated by Federal Highway Administration regulations for vehicular traffic noise generated by the construction of new highways or the expansion of existing ones.

Noise level reduction (NLR): The outdoor to indoor attenuation of noise levels afforded by a building's exterior wall. NLR is used only in FAA mitigation recommendations.

Noise reduction coefficient (NRC): A single number rating system for absorption coefficients over the speech frequency range. NRC is defined mathematically as the arithmetic average of the absorption coefficients at 250, 500, 1000, and 2000 Hz.

Noncompliance, zoning: The situation of a building that does not comply with one or more of the zoning district bulk regulations.

Nonconformance, zoning: The situation of a use that does not conform to one or more of the use regulations of the zoning district.

Noncriteria air pollutants: Air pollutants that lack criteria standards promulgated by EPA, but are listed by the DEC in **Air Guide-1**.

Nonpoint sources: Sources of air pollutants that are not emitted from one small, restricted area; these include **line sources** and **area sources**.

Non-putrescible solid wastes: Solid wastes that do not contain organic matter.

NO_x: Nitrogen oxides; a class of compounds that includes NO and NO₂, which are of concern as ozone precursors and are **criteria air pollutants**.

NPL: National Priorities List; official list of most significantly contaminated hazardous substances sites to be remediated under **CERCLA**.

NYSDEC: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

NYSDOH: The New York State Department of Health.

Object, Historic or Archaeological: Item of functional, aesthetic, cultural, historical, or scientific value that may be movable but is related to a given environment or setting.

Octave band: A frequency band with an upper limit that is twice the lower limit, and is identified by a geometric mean frequency, called the center frequency. Standard octave band center frequencies are defined in ANSI Standard S1.6-1984, titled "Preferred Frequencies, Frequency Levels, and Band Numbers for Acoustical Measurements."

OEC: Mayor's Office of Environmental Coordination; Mayoral office that coordinates the environmental review process in New York City. MOEC provides assistance to all City agencies in fulfilling their environmental review responsibilities and maintains a repository of City environmental review documents.

100-year flood: The flood having a one percent chance of being equalled or exceeded in any given year.

Open space, designated: Includes both mapped parkland and other land that, although not officially mapped, is under the jurisdiction of the DPR or another official body and has been set aside for public open space purposes. It excludes vacant land not designated for open space purposes.

Open space, improved: Open space that is developed to its intended potential such as playgrounds, ball fields, or promenades.

Open space, mapped: See **parkland, mapped**.

Open space, private: Property designated for open space use that is under private ownership and that may or may not be publicly accessible.

Open space ratio, zoning: The percentage of total floor area of a building that must be provided as open space on a lot within certain residential districts.

Open space, undeveloped: Natural areas not intended for development, such as wetlands.

Open space, unimproved: Open space that has been acquired or mapped and is planned for further development but has not yet been developed for open space use.

Origin/destination (O/D): The beginning and end point of a trip, used in determining the routing of vehicle trips to and from a project site.

OSHA: U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Ozone (O₃): A **criteria air pollutant** formed by the reaction of hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides with sunlight over long time periods and large regions.

Package treatment plant: Small, nonmunicipal wastewater treatment plant.

Park: Mapped open space under federal, state, or City jurisdiction.

Parking enforcement agent (PEA): New York City Department of Transportation personnel, one of whose responsibilities it is to maintain clear curb lanes where posted parking regulations mandate it.

Parkland, mapped: Public open space that is denoted as parkland on official City maps and as such cannot be "alienated" from park and open space use without extensive City review and state legislative action.

Parking shortfall: The amount by which the parking demand generated by a proposed action exceeds the amount of parking it is proposing to provide.

Pass-by trips: Trips attracted to a proposed project from the streets immediately adjacent to the project site; these trips are usually intermediate stops being made en route from the vehicle's trip origin to its ultimate destination.

PCBs: Polychlorinated biphenyls; pathogenic (disease-causing) and teratogenic (causing developmental malformations) industrial compounds formerly used as heat-transfer agents.

PCE: Passenger Car Equivalent.

Peak hour factor: A measure of traffic volume demand fluctuation within the peak hour. It is the peak hour volume divided by four times the peak 15-minute period within that hour.

Percentile levels (L_n , $0 < n < 100$): The percentage of observation time that a certain SPL has been exceeded. For example, L_{10} corresponds to the SPL exceeded 10 percent of the observation time. The observation time is usually specified in terms of hours in parentheses (e.g., $L_{10(1)}$ refers to a 1-hour L_{10} value).

Persistence Factors: Empirical constants that relate 1-hour air pollutant concentrations to longer time averaging periods.

Pesticides: Substances or mixtures of substances used to destroy or mitigate insects, rodents, fungi, weeds, or other plant life. Many pesticides are also toxic to humans and animals.

Piezometer: A tube or pipe, open to the atmosphere at the top and to water at the bottom, and sealed along its length, used to measure the hydraulic head in a geologic unit to determine groundwater flow direction.

Platoon: A group of vehicles traveling together as a group, either voluntarily or involuntarily, due to signal control, geometrics, or other factors; or the movement of a large group of pedestrians through an area, which often occurs, for example, when a large number of bus or subway riders exit.

PM₁₀: A criteria air pollutant comprised of particulates that are less than 10 μm in diameter.

Point sources: Sources of air pollutants that are discharged from a small, restricted area, such as boiler exhaust stacks.

Polychlorinated dibenzodioxins and dibenzofurans: (also referred to as dioxins) have never been commercially manufactured for use. Their main sources are from combustion processes, and chemical industries.

Positive Declaration: See SEQRA Part 617.2 (a c).

ppb: Parts per billion.

ppm: Parts per million.

Prehistoric archaeology: Archaeological study of aboriginal cultures before the advent of written records.

Primary displacement: See **displacement, direct**.

Programmatic action: See **generic action**.

Project site: The site that would be directly affected by a proposed action.

Protected turns: Left or right turns made at a signalized intersection with no opposing or conflicting vehicular or pedestrian flows.

PSD: Prevention of Significant Deterioration; federal permit required for new or significant modifications to major stationary sources of air pollution.

Public access, waterfront: Any area of publicly accessible open space on a waterfront property, as well as any pedestrian way that provides a route from a waterfront public access area to a public street, public park, public place, or public access area.

Public parking: Parking spaces available to the public, rather than restricted to employees or patrons of specific local businesses, schools, or organizations.

Pulsed pumping: Pump-and-treat enhancement where extraction wells are periodically not pumped to allow concentrations in the extracted water to increase.

Pump test: Test for estimating the values of various hydrogeologic parameters in which water is continuously pumped from a well and the consequent effect on water levels in surrounding piezometers or monitoring wells is monitored.

Putrescible solid wastes: Solid wastes containing organic matter having the tendency to decompose with the formation of malodorous by-products.

Queue: A line of delayed vehicles.

RCRA: Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; federal law regulating management and disposal of hazardous wastes.

RCRIS: Resource Conservation and Recovery Information system; an inventory of registered hazardous waste generators, transporters, and treatment, storage, and disposal facilities.

Receptor: Location to which the public has access on a more or less continuous basis used for air quality predictions; or a defined area where human activity may be adversely affected when noise levels exceed predefined thresholds of acceptability or when levels increase by predefined thresholds of change, used for noise analyses.

Recirculation: Entrapment of exhaust plumes into operable windows or air intakes.

Reflection: The act of sound bouncing off a partition, usually occurring from smooth, flat, hard surfaces.

Release: Any occurrence in which a regulated substance is emitted into air, soil, or water.

Relative impact criterion, noise: A change in noise levels at a receptor that is great enough to be considered as a significant impact.

Repository: An appropriate facility that curates the artifact collection from significant archaeological sites to professional standards; see LPC's 2001 *The Guidelines for Archaeological Work in New York*.

Reserve capacity: The capacity of a traffic lane at an unsignalized intersection minus the volume using that lane. It is the determinant of level of service at unsignalized intersections.

Reverberation: The amplification of sound within an enclosed space caused by multiple reflections off reflective terminations (i.e., walls, ceilings, floors, or obstacles) of the room.

Ridesharing: Also referred to as carpooling; a means of reducing vehicle trips by increasing the average occupancy of vehicles traveling in a given area.

Risk assessment: Evaluation of the magnitude of effects on human health and the environment posed by the presence of hazardous substances and any proposed controls to limit or eliminate such effects.

RVP: Reid Vapor Pressure, a measurement of gasoline volatility.

Salinity: The total amount of solid material in grams contained in 1 kg of water when all the carbonate has been converted to oxide, the bromine and iodine replaced by chlorine, and all the organic matter completely oxidized.

Salt meadow: A **tidal wetland** zone consisting of the area periodically flooded by spring and storm tides, usually dominated by salt hay and spike grasses. Also called "high marsh."

SARA: Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (1986); Federal law reauthorizing and expanding and jurisdiction of **CERCLA**.

SARA Title III: Section of **SARA** requiring public disclosure of chemical information and development of emergency response plans.

Saturated zone: A subsurface area that contains sufficient water to fill all interconnected voids or pore spaces.

Scenic Landmark: Any **landscape feature** or aggregate of landscape features, any part of which is 30 years old or older, and which has or have a special character of special historical or aesthetic interest or values as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the City, state, or nation, and that has been designated a scenic landmark pursuant to the New York City Landmarks Law.

Scope of Work: A document that identifies in detail all topics to be addressed in the EIS, including the methods for study, possible alternatives to the proposed action, and mitigation measures.

scfm: Standard cubic feet per minute.

SCREEN: EPA mathematical model that estimates air pollutant impacts from stationary sources.

Secondary displacement: See **displacement, indirect**.

Separate sewer: Sewer system in which dry-weather wastewater is sent to a water pollution control plant for treatment, and storm water is sent through separate pipes into the nearest waterway.

SEQRA: See **State Environmental Quality Review Act**.

Setback: A recession or stepping back of a building's facade.

SGC: Short-term guideline concentrations for **noncriteria air pollutants**, listed in DEC's **Air Guide-1**.

Short-term impact, noise: An impact caused by a temporary noise source, such as construction activity.

Signal phasing: The allocation of a signal cycle into phases that are used by different traffic movements passing through an intersection.

Signal warrant analysis: An analysis of traffic volume, pedestrian volume, and safety conditions at an intersection to determine whether the installation of a traffic signal is warranted.

Significant coastal fish and wildlife habitats: Habitats designated by the New York State Department of State, on the recommendation of DEC, because they: (a) are essential to the survival of a large portion of a particular fish and wildlife population; (b) support populations of protected species; (c) support fish and wildlife populations that have significant commercial, recreational, or educational value; and/or (d) are habitat types not commonly found in the state or region.

SIP: New York State Implementation Plan. The Clean Air Act requires each state to demonstrate in a SIP the manner in which it will attain compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Site, historic or archaeological: Location or place where a significant event or sequence of events took place.

Site-specific action: Actions proposed for a specific location.

Slot: Space for one child in a day care center.

Slug test: A test for estimating hydraulic conductivity values in which a rapid water-level change is produced in a piezometer or monitoring well, usually by introducing or withdrawing a "slug" of water or a weight. The resultant rise or decline in the water level is monitored.

Soft site: A site where no particular development is planned or proposed, but where development can reasonably be expected to occur (for example, a property that is underbuilt with respect to its zoning in an area with high development demand).

Soil gas survey: A technique used to obtain air from subsurface cavities (e.g., using a soil gas probe); the resulting soil gas samples are analyzed as indicators of volatile organic compounds in groundwater or soil.

Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plans: Plans for construction that can prevent adverse impacts by incorporating measures that prevent the transport of sediments off site and that prevent increased turbidity or pollution from affecting surface water or wetlands.

Solid waste management facilities: See transfer stations.

Sound exposure level (SEL): A rating, in dB, of discrete events, such as aircraft flyovers or train passbys, that compresses the total sound energy of the event into a 1 second time period.

Sound level: The weighted sound pressure level measured by use of a metering device.

Sound level meter (SLM): An instrument used to measure sound pressure levels.

Sound power level (L_w): $10 \log (W/W_{ref})$, where W =power and $W_{ref}=1 \times 10^{-12}$ Watts.

Sound pressure level (SPL or L_p): $20 \log (p/p_{ref})$, where p =root mean square acoustic pressure and $p_{ref}=2 \times 10^{-5}$ Newtons/meter². p_{ref} corresponds to the pressure at the threshold of hearing.

Sound transmission class (STC): A single-number rating for a TL spectrum of a partition matched to a standard curve.

SPDES permit: State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit, issued by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Special Mixed Use Districts: Zoning districts established to allow mixed residential and industrial neighborhoods by permitting expansion and new development of a variety of uses.

Spectrum analyzer: A device that measures and manipulates spectra, available in many bandwidth possibilities. Octave band analyzers are the most common types of spectrum analyzers.

SRO: Single-room occupancy hotel.

Stability: Description of the rate at which air pollutants are dispersed, depending on atmospheric conditions.

Stack: Structure through which concentrated airborne pollutants are emitted.

State Environmental Quality Review Act: (SEQRA): Article 8 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law. SEQRA is implemented by Part 617 of Title 6 of the Official Compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York.

State Historic Preservation Officer: Official within the State, authorized by the state at the request of the U.S. Secretary of the Interior, to act as liaison for purposes of implementing federal historic preservation requirements and programs, or such official's designated representative.

Statistical noise levels/percentile levels (L₁, L₅, L₁₀, etc.): The practice to describe several important features of fluctuating or time-varying noise using

statistical quantities. These percentile levels represent the percentage of the observed time period during which a given noise level is exceeded. For example, L₉₀, the noise level exceeded 90 percent of the time, is often considered to be the background noise level, while L₁₀ gives some indication of the intrusive nature of the noise.

Stationary sources: Sources of airborne emissions from fixed facilities.

STEL: Short-Term Exposure Limits for air pollutants in the workplace, promulgated by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Stopped delay: Average vehicle delay at signalized intersections.

Streetscape: The character and urban design features of a street or block, including such features as setbacks, architectural styles, and materials.

Streetwall: The wall created by the front face or faces of a building or several buildings.

Structure: Built work made up of interdependent parts or elements in an organized pattern.

Study area: The geographic area likely to be affected by the proposed action for a given technical area of analysis, or the area in which impacts of that type could occur. This is the area subject to assessment for that technical area.

Superfund: See CERCLA.

Sympathetic contextual design: A plan for a new building or development that takes into account the setting, landscaping, shadow, and the visual impact that the proposed construction may have on an nearby existing historic resource; a mitigation option.

TCL: Target compound list; list of analytes prepared by EPA, with a variety of corresponding analytical methods.

TCLP: Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure; toxicity test required under RCRA to determine if a waste is considered hazardous.

Temporal distribution: The distribution of trips by hour or by 15-minute periods over the course of a given day.

Thermal state: Term used to describe how long a vehicle has been turned on and operating.

Thermal Treatment Technologies: Methods that use heat to thermally separate the contaminants from the media they are found in. These technologies do not destroy the contaminants, so typically these technologies include off-site disposal of a concentrated amount of the original contaminants.

Threshold of hearing (0 dBA): The SPL below which sound cannot be heard by the average person with a healthy hearing mechanism.

Tidal wetland: Wetlands found in and around tidal zones; tidal wetlands can be grouped according to characteristic ecological zones—**littoral zone; coastal shoals, bars, and flats; intertidal marsh; coastal fresh marsh; high marsh or salt meadow; and formerly connected tidal wetlands.**

Time-space analysis: A methodology for evaluating pedestrian level of service for station platforms, waiting areas, street plazas, and other open space areas.

TPY: Tons per year.

Traffic enforcement agents (TEAs): New York City Department of Transportation personnel generally responsible for maintaining proper traffic flow through problem intersections.

Transfer stations: Facilities at which solid wastes are received for the purpose of subsequent transfer to another location, regardless of whether these solid wastes are subject to any processing or reduction in volume.

Transit share: The percentage of all person trips made to a given project or area by public transportation.

Transmission Loss (TL): A measure of the sound attenuation effectiveness of a partition, in units of dB.

TRI: Toxic Release Inventory; annual report on chemical releases regulated industries must file with **EPA** under **SARA Title III.**

Trip assignment: The assumed routing, or "assignment," of trips (either vehicular or pedestrian) through an area en route to their destinations.

Trip generation: The volume of trips generated, or produced, by a particular land use or project. Trip generation can be specified in terms of person trips or vehicular trips.

TSCA: Toxic Substances Control Act; federal law authorizing **EPA** to gather information on chemical risks. **TSCA** regulates **PCBs** and certain other toxic substances.

Type I action: An action that is likely to have a significant environmental impact. **See Type I action** as defined in SEQRA and Executive Order 91.

Type II action: According to SEQRA, an action that is not likely to have a significant impact on the environment; such actions do not require preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment Statement.

UDC: New York State Urban Development Corporation.

Unlisted action: According to SEQRA, actions that are neither Type I nor Type II.

Unsaturated zone: That subsurface region that lies above the **saturated zone** or **water table.**

Upstream: The direction from which traffic is coming.

Use: Any activity, occupation, business, or operation carried on, or intended to be carried on, in a building or on a tract of land.

Use Group: Uses that have similar functional and/or nuisance characteristics, as listed in the Zoning Resolution.

UST: Underground storage tank regulated under **RCRA**; a tank with 10 percent or more of its volume underground, with connected piping, and

used to store petroleum products or **CERCLA**-regulated hazardous chemicals.

Vacuum extraction: Extraction of subsurface gases including advective-vapor transport by withdrawing or injecting air through wells screened in the **unsaturated zone**.

Vadose zone: See **unsaturated zone**.

Vanpool: A grouping of individuals traveling together in a vehicle with a higher occupancy than an automobile, such as a van.

Vehicle Classification: Mix of vehicular traffic segmented into autos, taxis, light-duty gas trucks, heavy-duty gas trucks, and heavy-duty diesel trucks.

View corridor: See **visual corridor**.

Visual corridor: An open area (including streets) providing a continuous view from a public place of the sky or focal object, such as the waterfront. A visual corridor is generally linear and unobstructed from its base to the sky.

VOC: Volatile organic compound; family of highly evaporative organic materials used in a variety of industrial applications. Paints and solvents typically contain VOCs.

Volatilization: The change of a chemical from liquid to gas.

Volume sources: Sources of air pollutants distributed over a large volume of space.

Volume-to-capacity (v/c) ratio: The ratio of the vehicular or pedestrian volume passing a point on a street (or transit line) to the capacity of the street (or line).

Wake: Region of air flow that is disturbed by a solid structure.

Waste-to-energy facilities: Facilities that recover usable energy (in the form of steam) from the incineration process.

Water table: The surface in an aquifer at which pore water pressure is equal to atmospheric pressure.

Water table aquifer: An aquifer in which the water table forms the upper boundary.

Water-dependent uses: Uses that require direct access to a body of water to function or that use waterways for transport of materials, products, or people.

Water-enhancing uses: Primarily recreational, cultural, entertainment, or retail uses that, when located at the water's edge, add to the public use and enjoyment of the waterfront.

Waterfront Revitalization Program: New York City's Local Waterfront Revitalization Program, adopted as a local plan in accordance with Section 197-a of the City Charter, which applies to all projects in a designated coastal zone.

Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP): Plant used to treat wastewater, including sanitary sewage.

Weaving analysis: An analysis of traffic conditions at a location (generally a length of highway) where different traffic streams cross each other's path without the aid of traffic signals.

Wildlife: All mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians, and all vertebrate and invertebrate animal species.

Wind tunnel: Fluid dispersion modeling using physical scale representations.

Zone of influence: Area surrounding a pumping or recharging well within which the water table of an unconfined aquifer or water pressure of a confined aquifer has been changed due to the well's pumping or recharge.