



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

DEC 5 2007

Robert F. Meehan
Town Supervisor
Town of Mt. Pleasant
One Town Hall Plaza
Valhalla, New York 10595

Dear Mr. Meehan:

This is in response to the Town of Mt. Pleasant's request for a categorical exclusion (CATEX) from substantive environmental review requirements, pursuant to 40 CFR Part 6, for its proposed Brady Avenue Drainage Project. This project is being partially funded through a federal Special Appropriations Act grant (Grant No. **XP972605-06**).

The project consists of stormwater drainage improvements in the Brady Avenue area, where frequent flooding causes sewer surcharging and wastewater overflows. When complete, the project will properly manage stormwater and, thereby, protect public health by decreasing basement flooding and sewage backups.

Based on our review of the supporting documentation, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approves the request for the CATEX. Please be reminded that EPA may revoke this CATEX if any of the following conditions occur:

- changes in the proposed action render it ineligible for exclusion;
- new evidence indicates that serious local or environmental issues exist; or
- federal, state, or local laws would be violated.

This CATEX is available for public viewing on EPA Region 2's **website**, at <http://www.epa.gov/region02/spmm/r2nepa.htm#r2docs>. Should you have any questions regarding this decision, please address them to John **Filippelli**, Chief, Strategic Planning and Multi-Media Programs Branch, at the above address.

Sincerely,

Alan J. Steinberg
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: **James J. Vancoli, P.E.**
Susan Maskiell-Closi, Engineering Department

ENCLOSURE

Brady Avenue Drainage Project Town of Mt. Pleasant Westchester County, New York

Special Appropriation Act Grant Project No. XP992291-01

Background

The study area is the 13.4 acre portion of the hamlet of Hawthorne, in the Town of Mt. Pleasant, New York, which experiences modest to severe flooding during various intensities of storm events. Flooding has resulted in damage to residential and commercial properties along Brady Avenue. In addition, it often results in surcharging of sanitary sewers, causing backups and overflows of sewage.

Currently, stormwater runoff from the area is collected and conveyed under the Metro-North Railroad embankment by Fly Kill Brook, which extends to the Saw Mill River approximately one half-mile away. Hydrologic and hydraulic analyses have demonstrated that the single 36-inch diameter drainage culvert which crosses under the railroad tracks does not have sufficient capacity to convey the peak rates of stormwater generated by the study area's watershed, resulting in the ongoing flooding conditions.

Proposed Action

The proposed project consists of the following:

1. **Upgrading/replacing** the existing inadequately sized culvert under the Metro-North Railroad embankment
2. Clearing the existing downstream drainage channel of debris and placing rip-rap for bank stabilization

Alternative Considered

In addition to the proposed action, "No Action" was considered. However, this would result in continued flooding, sanitary sewer backups **and/or** overflows of untreated sanitary sewage. Furthermore, it would mean that residents would continue to be subject to property damage and sewage-related health hazards. Consequently, "No Action" is not a viable option.

Criteria for Granting a Categorical Exclusion

The project meets the general Categorical Exclusion (**CATEX**) eligibility criteria found in 40 CFR 6.107(d)(1). The regulations allow **CATEXs** for activities involving "actions which are solely directed toward minor rehabilitation of existing facilities, functional replacement of equipment, or toward the construction of new ancillary facilities adjacent or appurtenant to existing facilities."

Additionally, the available information on the proposed action indicates that the specific criteria for not granting a **CATEX**, found in 40 CFR 6.505(c)(1), are not present. Specifically, the project will not result in a new or relocated discharge to surface or ground waters; will not increase the amount of pollutants discharged to receiving waters; nor will it provide capacity to serve a population significantly greater than the existing population. Furthermore, there will be no significant adverse effects on **cultural** resources, endangered or threatened species, environmentally sensitive areas, or other environmentally important natural resource areas.

Conclusion

The proposed action conforms to the category of actions eligible for exclusion under 40 CFR 6.107(d)(1). Accordingly, EPA approves this request for a **CATEX** from detailed environmental review pursuant to our procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act.