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July 11, 2008

Commissioner Emily Lloyd
NYC Department of Environmental Protection
59-17 Junction Boulevard
Flushing, NY 11373

Dear Commissioner Lloyd:

I am writing in response to the New York City Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) recent proposal to conduct blasting near the Jerome Park Reservoir in relation to construction of the Croton water filtration plant in the Bronx. My concerns about this proposal and the process by which this excavation alternative has been selected and shared with the public are as follow.

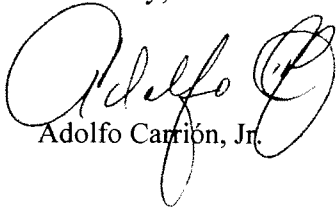
I realize that DEP has extensive experience blasting for excavation purposes, including work on the Croton filtration plant site and tunnels, as well as the Third Water Tunnel project. However, the community has not yet received a full explanation of the safety procedures and neighborhood protection measures that would be implemented with any blasting activities at the reservoir. The DEP staff presentation at the June 19, 2008 Croton Filtration Monitoring Committee meeting was the first public discussion of this issue and did not fully address all the safety issues or the legitimate concerns about other possible impacts to the neighborhood, such as truck traffic, noise and vibrations. It is incumbent on DEP to thoroughly explain how the agency would minimize impacts on the neighborhood and ensure that all detonations would be performed in a safe manner.

Furthermore, I must express my dismay that the DEP did not bring this issue to the public sooner. The agency has clearly been contemplating the scope and methods of the reservoir area work for some time, and has already included a portion of this excavation work in the tunneling contract (CRO 312). Yet blasting is a change of method from what was described in the FSEIS issued by your agency in 2004, and one that is understandably of great interest to the community. It may be that the impacts of blasting would be less than that of mechanical excavation, but the community has not yet had the opportunity to see the evidence of this.

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Therefore, I urge you to disseminate, as soon as possible and before proceeding to blast, a precise explanation of how the current proposal differs from the work described in the FSEIS along with all related assessments, including costs, duration, community and environmental impacts, and feasible mitigation measures. Although DEP may already have entered into at least one related contract, I believe that transparency of process and full disclosure must be prioritized and the public must receive a full explanation of DEP's decision prior to work proceeding.

Sincerely,



Adolfo Carrión, Jr.

cc: Hector Aponte, NYCDPR
Anne Canty, NYCDEP
Jeffrey Dinowitz, Assembly District 81
Gregory Faulkner, Bronx CB7
Fr. Gorman, Bronx CB12
Oliver Koppell, City Council District 11
Damian McShane, Bronx CB8

AC:p&d/l