

APPENDIX H
CASE 10-T-0139
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN/COMPLIANT
RESOLUTION PLAN (CC41)
ASTORIA HVDC CONVERTER STATION - SEGMENT 22

CHAMPLAIN HUDSON POWER EXPRESS (CHPE)



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN ASTORIA CONVERTER STATION

JANUARY 20, 2023

Revision 10

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1 Project Overview

The Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE) is a renewable energy transmission project that will deliver clean power to the New York City metropolitan area. The energy brought to New York consumers through this project will be hydropower produced by Hydro-Québec in the Canadian Province of Québec utilizing natural water flows to generate electricity. The project will play a key role in New York's energy transformation by lowering greenhouse gas emissions while creating jobs and generating billions of dollars in new investments. CHPE will span nearly 339 miles from the U.S.-Canadian border to the heart of New York City (detailed in Figures 1 and 2). The project will deliver enough power for more than one million New York homes and supply power to Quebec sections. CHPE will also provide significant economic benefits to The Empire State, including an estimated \$1.7 billion in tax revenue for local municipalities.

CHPE will construct the high voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission line (two 400kV cables with a fiber optic cable) in both marine (192 miles or 56.6% of total alignment) and overland (147 miles, 43.4%) environments, with approximately three-quarters of the overland alignment within railroad (CP, CSX, and PA) right-of-way (ROW) and the balance of the overland miles (24.5%) in NYSDOT, Thruway Authority, local road ROWs, recreational sites, and private lands. CHPE will place the HVDC transmission line underground in both the marine and overland alignments. In addition to the transmission line, CHPE will construct an HVDC Converter Station in Astoria, Queens, and a high voltage alternating current (HVAC) system including a 0.3-mile overhead line, modification of the Astoria Annex Substation, and a nearly 3.5 mile (two 345kV cables) from the Astoria Annex to the Rainey Substation, a.k.a. the Astoria-Rainey Cable (ARC). CHPE will construct the Converter Station and HVAC system on the Astoria Annex and underground city streets in Queens.

1.1 Impacted Municipalities:

- **Washington County:** Town of Putnam, Town of Dresden, Town of Whitehall, Village of Whitehall, Town of Fort Ann, Village of Fort Ann, Town of Kingsbury, and Village of Fort Edward.
- **Saratoga County:** Town of Moreau, Town of Northumberland, Town of Wilton, Town of Greenfield, City of Saratoga Springs, Town of Milton, Town of Ballston, and Town of Clifton Park.
- **Schenectady County:** Town of Glenville, Village of Scotia, and Town of Rotterdam.
- **Albany County:** Town of Guilderland, Village of Voorheesville, Town of New Scotland, and Town of Coeymans.
- **Greene County:** Town of New Baltimore, Town of Coxsackie, Village of Coxsackie, Town of Catskill, and Village of Catskill.
- **Rockland County:** Town of Stony Point, Village of Haverstraw, Village of West Haverstraw, Town of Haverstraw, and Town of Clarkstown.

- **Bronx County:** Bronx
- **New York County:** Manhattan
- **Queens County:** Queens

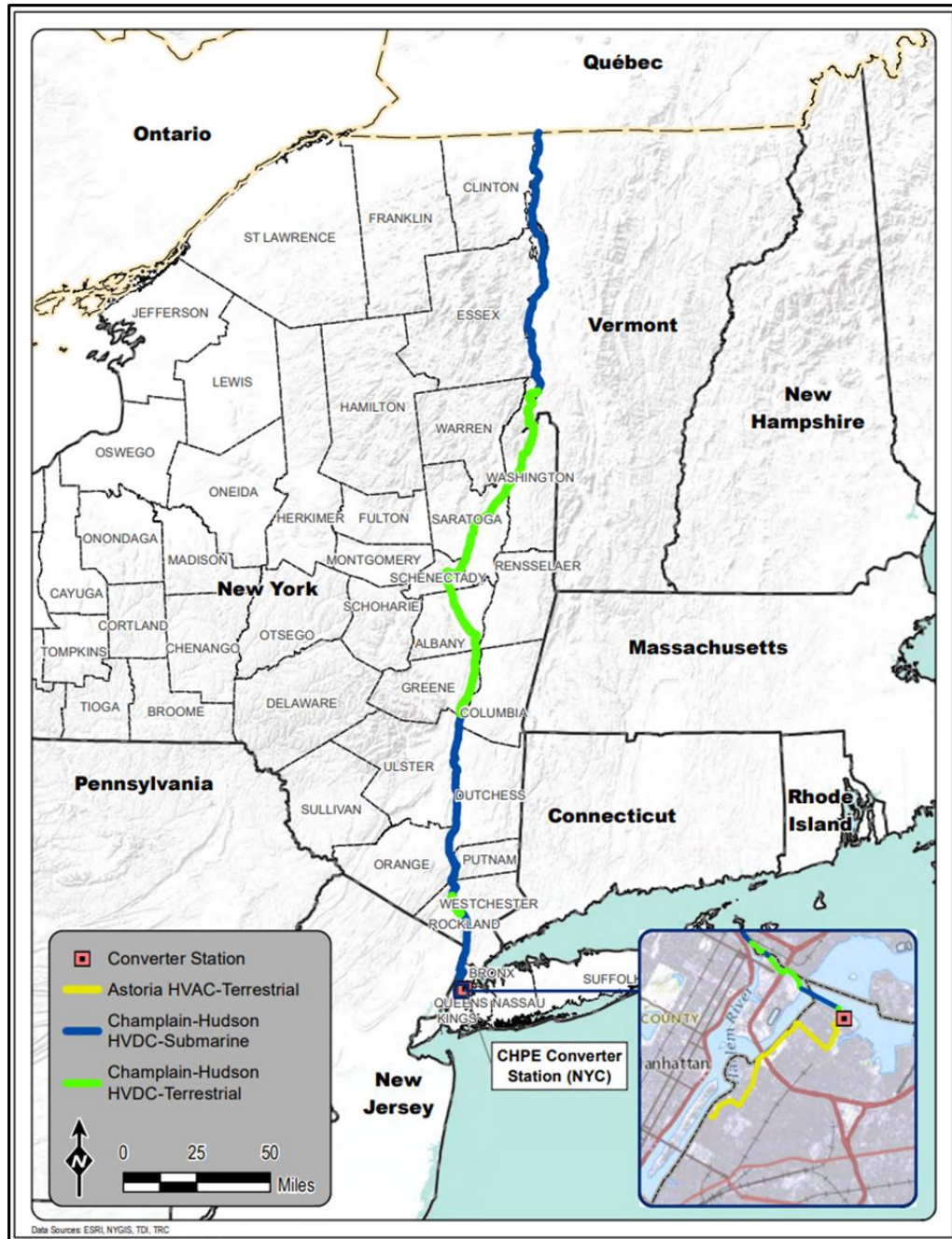


Figure 1 CHPE Project Route Map.

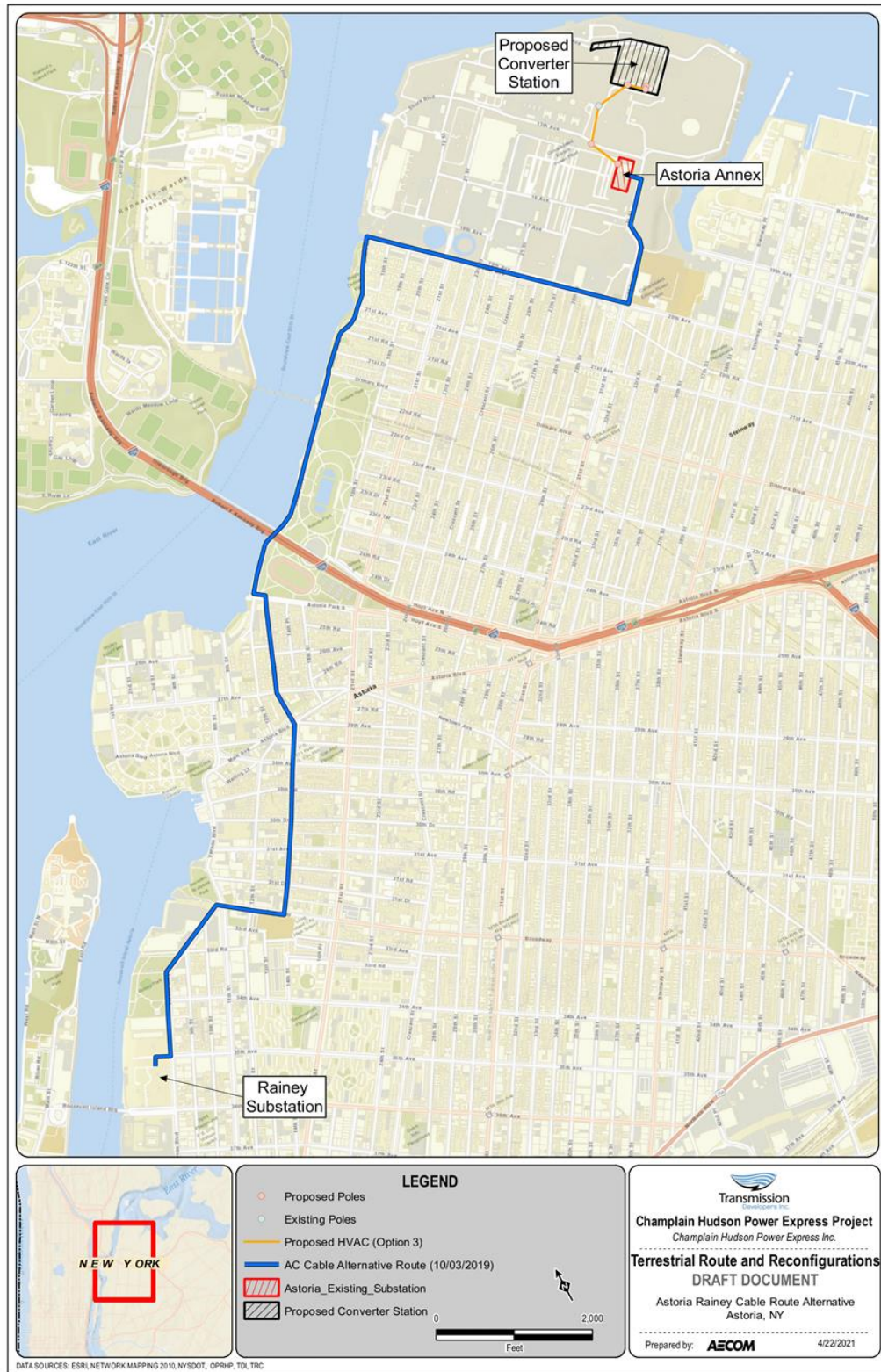


Figure 2 *New York City: Astoria Annex.*

2 Public Involvement Plan Overview:

The Public Involvement Plan (PIP) is a living document and serves as a proposed set of actions, strategies, methodologies, and overarching timeline to guide the outreach process throughout construction and post-construction site restoration. CHPE will update the PIP throughout the project entering commercial operation.

CHPE has developed The Public Involvement Plan to encourage public awareness and understanding of the CHPE project. The overall goal of the PIP is to promote two-way communication between the project and residents, public officials, and business owners in each affected community.

The PIP provides an overall framework for conducting a comprehensive and effective information exchange throughout the project. However, the framework is also flexible, scalable, and customizable, to meet the specific communication needs most effectively of each affected community. The PIP can also be modified based on suggestions from community members and officials.

CHPE has included specific public outreach activities and affected stakeholders for this segment, as well as a public meeting and notification information Attachment 1 at the end of this document.

2.1 Public Involvement Goals:

The goals of the construction-phase outreach program will be to:

- Communicate information, proposed schedules, and other matters to the public and stakeholders regarding Environmental Management and Construction Plans (EM&CPs) submitted for each segment and upcoming construction activities during the construction phase.
- Keep residents and officials in affected communities, local stakeholders, and interest groups; and the news media informed promptly of significant project activities.
- Provide a method for stakeholders to inquire and raise concerns with the project team.
- Work to create and maintain, through an active Public Involvement plan, a climate of understanding and trust aimed at providing information and responding to concerns promptly.
- Comply with Article VII public outreach requirements.

The term "stakeholders" includes a broad range of individuals and organizations, including agencies and community groups with specific interests in renewable energy, including elected and appointed officials, business owners, commercial entities, emergency responders, schools, transit companies, landowners (host and abutting), and others located within or having interests within the Project Area. This term also applies to the general public in the Project Area.

2.2 Public Involvement Team:

The Public Involvement Plan will complement previous and ongoing outreach efforts by the Certificate Holder, CHPE LLC. WSP will support CHPE's Outreach and include several project partners. WSP is one of the world's leading engineering, environmental, and professional services firms comprised of engineers, planners, technical experts, construction managers, and communications and public involvement professionals. A clear division of roles and responsibilities will maximize CHPE's Outreach team communication efforts and provide consistency of messages and approach. The following highlights the delineation of primary responsibilities:

- Public Outreach Program Oversight, Public Relations & Media Engagement - CHPE LLC
- Public Outreach Program – WSP, with support from CHPE LLC
- Public Relations & Media Engagement along with oversight of Public Outreach Program – CHPE LLC
- Public Relations/Tech Support – Mower
- Press & Media Engagement – Risa Heller
- Regulatory Compliance – Young/Sommer LLC

2.3 Community Outreach Stages and Schedule:

Outreach for the CHPE project will be ongoing and be adjusted depending on the stage of the project, the geographic segment, and the construction method. This project has been broken into multiple segments and will include overland and marine construction. See segments in Figure 3. CHPE has proposed the following outreach actions and strategies.

Lake Champlain

Construction Expected: April 2023 – July 2024

Outreach Anticipated: Q1 2023 – Q4 2024

Before the start of construction, CHPE will conduct Outreach at recreation centers, marinas, parks/visitors' centers, and ferry terminals. CHPE will post flyers and signage to notify recreators of potential access restrictions. CHPE will send official notice of construction to mariners, local officials, host/abutting property owners in the area, and relevant state and federal regulators. Although construction is on the New York side of Lake Champlain, Outreach may also be conducted on the Vermont side since construction will likely be visible from both shorelines at times and construction may impact access to Vermont recreators.

Outreach Tactics: Meetings with all key elected officials and other stakeholders (as guided by elected officials), direct mail, flyers, text messaging, and signage. Tactics are described in more detail in section 3.

Sequence of Outreach:

Pre-construction: Outreach to property owners and affected stakeholders; virtual meetings with local officials; Any required notifications sent according to regulations as outlined in Section 3.1.

Construction – Continued communication with the community through outreach tactics as construction progresses

Capital Region (Putnam Station to Catskill)

Construction Expected: November 2022 – August 2025

Outreach Anticipated: Q4 2022 – Q4 2025

Overland construction is primarily within railroad right of way in this corridor and traverses various rural, residential, and industrial areas. Overland construction has the potential to impact roadways as deliveries and equipment may need traffic control, which could impede the normal flow of traffic.

Outreach Tactics: Meetings with key elected officials and stakeholders identified through meetings, direct mail, flyers, text messaging, door hangers, variable message boards, and public meetings. Tactics are described in more detail in section 3.

Sequence of Outreach

Pre-construction – Individual Outreach to host property owners and meetings with local officials.

Two weeks before site preparation – Official notice to local officials and host/abutting property owners.

Construction – Kick-off open house public meeting; continued communication with the community through outreach tactics as construction progresses.

Upper Hudson River (Catskill to Stony Point)

Construction Expected: April 2023 – August 2025

Outreach Anticipated: Q1 2023 – Q4 2025

This project's Upper Hudson marine portion has many marinas, docks, parks, recreational sites, and businesses along the river.

Outreach Tactics: Direct mail, flyers, text messaging, signage. Tactics described in more detail in section 3

Sequence of Outreach:

Pre-construction – Individual Outreach to host property owners and meetings with local officials.

Two weeks before site preparation – Official notice to mariners, local officials, and host/abutting property owners.

Construction – Continued communication with the community through outreach tactics as construction progresses.

Rockland County (Stony Point to Clarkstown)

Construction Expected: May 2023 – August 2025

Outreach Anticipated: Q1 2023 – Q4 2025

As population density increases, the closer the project is to New York City, it will be essential to leverage relationships with local governments and community organizations to disseminate project messaging and updates. Overland construction in Rockland County will likely affect local traffic and access to businesses and residences. In addition to notifying individual businesses and homes, communication channels through local government and business or neighborhood organizations will help relay project notifications and construction impacts, reaching a larger audience. The project will coordinate step-by-step with those stakeholders that have previously been involved in project development.

Outreach Tactics: Direct mail, flyers, text messaging, variable message boards, public meetings. Tactics are described in more detail in section 3.

Sequence of Outreach:

Pre-construction – Individual Outreach to host property owners and virtual meetings with local officials.

Two weeks before site preparation – Official notice to local officials and host/abutting property owners.

Construction – Kick-off open house public meeting; continued communication with the community through outreach tactics as construction progresses.

Lower Hudson River and Harlem River (Clarkstown to New York City)

Construction Expected: April 2023 – August 2025

Outreach Anticipated: Q1 2023 – Q4 2025

Communications to local marinas, parks, piers, businesses, and environmental groups will continue to play an essential role in the project's success as submarine construction begins in the Lower Hudson River.

Outreach Tactics: Direct mail, flyers, text messaging, signage. Tactics are described in more detail in section 3.

Sequence of Outreach:

Pre-construction – Individual Outreach to host property owners and meetings with local officials.

Two weeks before site preparation – Official notice to mariners, local officials, and host/abutting property owners.

Construction – Continued communication with the community through outreach tactics as construction progresses.

New York City (Randall's Island and Queens)

Construction Expected:

Harlem River – May 2023 – July 2025

Randall's Island – June 2023 – November 2024

Queens – TBD

Overland construction on Randall's Island will require close coordination with Randall's Island Park Alliance and the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. Communicating through their channels will be beneficial to provide construction updates and impacts to a broad audience.

Coordination and communication with businesses, docks, and marinas along the Harlem and East Rivers are crucial in a dense area. Understanding the access needs of the businesses and waterways will help mitigate potential issues due to access constraints.

Overland construction in Astoria will require direct mailers, signage, and flyers to notify businesses, residents, and passersby of upcoming construction impacts.

Outreach Tactics: Direct mail, flyers, text messaging, signage, social media, public meetings, variable message boards. Tactics are described in more detail in section 3.

Sequence of Outreach:

Pre-construction – Individual Outreach to host property owners and meetings with local officials.

Two weeks before site preparation – Official notice to local officials and host/abutting property owners.

Construction – Kick-off open house public meeting; continued communication with the community through outreach tactics as construction progresses.

3 Public Involvement Outreach:

Throughout the project design and construction project, the Certificate Holders' Outreach team will create informational materials to be disseminated to the public during public meetings and events and as needed. Materials produced by the Certificate Holders' Outreach team will include materials for the existing project website www.chpexpress.com and project factsheets, project plans, and other materials deemed necessary by the project team with the Certificate Holders' approval. In addition, communication with affected communities will continue throughout construction as work progresses.

CHPE will translate materials into the most prevalently spoken languages in the community and additional languages as needed and upon request. In addition, virtual and in-person meetings have been held with officials to introduce the project, discuss the route through affected communities, answer questions and establish ongoing communication between municipalities and the project.

A total of nine virtual meetings have been held, with 59 local officials participating.

3.1 Notices and Public Inquiries:

Before beginning construction within a segment, CHPE will mail notifications to the following groups at least two weeks before the beginning of site preparation for construction:

- Local emergency personnel and local officials in the area where construction will occur
- Owners and occupants of properties within 100 feet of construction
- Public and private utilities within the construction area

In addition to mailed notifications to property owners, local officials, and emergency personnel listed in Attachment 1, notices will be posted in local media and displayed in public places also listed in Attachment 1. (Post offices, community centers, libraries, and bulletin boards) no less than two weeks before the beginning of site preparation. If site work is delayed significantly, CHPE will provide additional notice to the public before site work resumes. Notification materials will include a map of the construction zone, an anticipated date for the start of

construction, a statement that the Facility is under the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission and which residents and stakeholders can contact directly, and the following information for stakeholders to inquire or express a concern about the project:

3.1.1 Toll-Free Phone Number

To provide the public and interested stakeholders with a direct line to the project, the Certificate Holders' Outreach team established a 1-800 number that will record calls and alert team members when that they have received a concern or comment. The established number for the project is 1-800-991-CHPE (2473).

CHPE will respond to messages received through the toll-free project number will be responded to within two business days. The voicemail box message acknowledges receipt of the message.

3.1.2 Project Email Address

To address comments and concerns from the public, the Certificate Holders' Outreach team has arranged for a project email address. The email account will receive public input and be accessible by members of the Public Involvement Team. The established project email address is publicoutreach@chpexpress.com

CHPE will respond to inquiries, comments, or concerns sent to the Project Email Address will be responded to within two business days. An automated reply acknowledges receipt of the message.

3.1.3 Website

CHPE will establish a comment form on the project website. CHPE will direct comments, concerns, and general feedback submitted through the website form to the project email account listed above, which will be checked regularly by the Public Outreach Team. The project webpage is <https://chpexpress.com/>

CHPE will respond to inquiries, comments, or concerns forwarded to Project Email Address from the website comment form within two business days.

3.1.4 Points of Contact

CHPE has appointed Molly Hollister as the primary point of contact for the Project.

CHPE: Molly Hollister

WSP USA, One Pennsylvania Plaza, New York, New York 10119

Phone: 800-991-CHPE (2473)

Email: publicoutreach@chpexpress.com

DPS: Michelle L. Phillips, Secretary to the Commission, New York Department of Public Service

Phone: 518-474-4520

Email: secretary@dps.ny.gov

DPS: Matthew Smith

Office of Electric, Gas and Water, New York State Department of Public Service, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223

Phone: (518)474-8702

Email: Matthew.Smith@dps.ny.gov.

Molly Hollister is the point of contact overseeing the Certificate Holders' Outreach team members assigned to check the toll-free phone number and project email address daily. WSP will be responsible for confirming receipt of the inquiry within two business days, routing it to the appropriate project team member for a response, following up on a resolution, and logging the communication in the stakeholder database.

CHPE will log communications with stakeholders in a database. The database will include any inquiries or comments received via the toll-free number, project email, or website and the project team's response and outgoing communication efforts, like construction notices. For complaints, CHPE will maintain a log that lists at least the date of any complaint, identity and contact information for the complaining party, the date of the Certificate Holders' response, and a description of the outcome. Call logs will be maintained and reported to the DPS in accordance with the Article VIII Certificate.

3.1.5 Test Message Alerts

CHPE will coordinate with NYS DOT and NY511.gov to provide to allow the public to sign up for text message notifications of construction activities in their region.

3.1.6 Website Materials:

To aid in public awareness of the CHPE project, the Certificate Holders' Outreach team will collaborate with the larger project team to develop relevant materials to keep the public and identified stakeholders apprised of project activities, both past, and future. The website includes maps of the project area, construction schedule, and complaint resolution procedures.

Materials produced by the Certificate Holders' Outreach team will not be limited to informational materials.

3.1.7 Informational Pamphlets and Factsheets:

The Certificate Holders' Outreach team will develop informational material throughout construction. A project factsheet has been created that explains the entire project and its impacts and benefits at the local level. It also includes project contact information and Frequently Asked Questions from the public about how construction will proceed. In addition, CHPE will deliver informational materials to points of interest along the corridor, including

libraries and other community centers. Materials will be available in multiple languages based on the most frequently used languages in the host community.

3.1.8 Flyers:

CHPE will develop flyers to notify the public of upcoming construction. Based on the needs of specific project segments and communities within the segment, these flyers will be distributed to local marinas, bait and tackle shops, recreation facilities, libraries, post offices, community bulletin boards, and other public facilities to provide notice of construction. CHPE will include applicable contact information on the flyer.

3.1.9 Doorhangers:

CHPE will develop door hangers for use in the field if contact needs to be made with a resident or business that other methods cannot reach. The Outreach Team can attach notification materials and a written note on the door hanger. Doorhangers will include applicable contact information.

3.1.10 Contact Cards:

Contact cards, the business card size, will be developed and printed for use in the field. The contact cards will include:

- The toll-free number,
- Project email address, and
- Website for field personnel to distribute to the public if inquiries or concerns arise.

All inquiries and concerns need to be routed to the Certificate Holders' Outreach team to be responded to and cataloged in accordance with Article VII.

3.1.11 Signage:

CHPS will develop and print yard signs with applicable contact information and place them at construction sites. These signs will provide additional notice to the public and allow contact information to be easily accessed should questions or concerns arise.

3.1.12 Variable Message Boards:

As necessary, the Certificate Holders' Outreach team will work with the construction team to post variable message boards in advance of traffic impacts and in areas where ingress/egress may be affected.

3.1.13 Social Media:

CHPE will use social media to increase awareness, promote the project, and provide construction updates and notifications. The Certificate Holders' Outreach team will have accounts and develop content for use on social media channels like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. In addition, CHPE will use the hashtag #CHPE to make it easy for the public to find and engage with posts.

The Certificate Holders' Outreach team will identify related organizations, such as local municipalities and community organizations, and request their participation in sharing the CHPE social media posts to increase reach.

4 Media:

Due to the size and reach of the project, CHPE anticipates considerable media attention throughout the project's construction phases. The project Certificate Holders' Outreach team will coordinate media requests and availability with the Certificate Holders.

4.1 Media Opportunity Availability:

The project Certificate Holders' Outreach team will accept media requests and work with the larger project team to determine the appropriate project representative to respond to media availability requests.

Media requests will be evaluated case-by-case by the Certificate Holders' Outreach team to determine if members from the larger project team need to be involved in the response.

5 Open House Public Meetings:

The Certificate Holders' Outreach team will coordinate and support open house public meetings for the overland construction areas to re-acquaint the public with the project, provide a timeline of upcoming construction, and inform the local community about what to expect during construction. There will be a series of in-person meetings in an open house format with informational boards, collateral materials like project factsheets, and project team members available to talk to the public and answer questions about the project. In addition, CHPE will link an online virtual open house to the website with the same collateral available at the in-person open houses for members of the public who could not attend. CHPE will provide translators and translated materials for these meetings as necessary. Public meeting notifications will also allow community members to request translators for their specific language needs.

For each overland project Segment, CHPE will hold at least one public meeting at a location convenient to residents of the affected communities. In addition, CHPE will advertise meetings in local print and online outlets, social media, and municipal calendars.

5.1 Meeting Coordination:

The Certificate Holders' Outreach team will arrange for meeting venues, secure a virtual platform and manage all aspects of virtual meetings, advertise meetings in print and online, organize meeting materials, attend meetings to oversee and take notes, as well as work with the larger project team on relevant meeting aspects.

5.2 Meeting Materials:

The Certificate Holders' Outreach team will develop meeting materials ahead of each public meeting. Meeting materials will primarily include traditional meeting materials like sign-in sheets, comment cards, wayfinding signs, factsheets, and presentation boards, as applicable.

6 Complaint Resolution and Reporting:

CHPE will use a stakeholder management database to log calls, complaints, and inquiries received from the toll-free phone number, email address, and website, as outlined in Section 3.1. CHPE will log each correspondence listing the date of the inquiry, contact information for inquiring party, inquiry or complaint, and description of the outcome. The inquiry log will be made available to Certificate Holders upon DPS request. The Certificate Holders' Outreach team will notify Certificate Holders if they cannot resolve a complaint after reasonable attempts, so Certificate Holders can report to DPS within three business days, as required by the Certificate.

The Certificate Holders' Outreach team will do its best to address all claims, track responses, and make the best effort to resolve all complaints. However, a resolution may not be possible in every circumstance.

The Certificate Holders' Outreach team will regularly report public outreach activities to Certificate Holders monthly or as requested. The public involvement report will include information tracked by each project partner supporting the public involvement plan. In addition, at the end of each year of construction, the Certificate Holders' Outreach team will provide a report of public outreach activities that year, as well as a look ahead for the next year until the Facility reaches commercial operation and any concerns that might arise during construction.

ATTACHMENT 1 *Targeted Public Outreach and Complaint Resolution Plan*

CHPE Astoria HVDC Converter Station

Summary

The purpose of the Public Involvement Plan for the CHPE Astoria HVDC Converter Station is to increase public understanding of the project in the adjacent Astoria community and address any 1 Project Overview:

Although construction of this segment will only occur within the Con Edison footprint and will have a very limited, if any, impact on the adjacent community, CHPE will continue to conduct a robust and proactive outreach program to keep Astoria residents and stakeholders informed about the progress of the entire project and respond to any questions or concerns they might have during its construction.

The Public Involvement Plan describes the processes for public outreach and complaint resolution the Public Outreach Team will use throughout the 339-mile CHPE Project. For the Astoria HVDC segment of the project, this attachment describes:

- How CHPE recognizes that Astoria is a vibrant multicultural, multilingual, engaged urban community that pays close attention to environmental issues and related health concerns and the activities at the power generation complex and its future.
- How CHPE has considered the ever-changing demographics of the Astoria community when developing this plan.
- How CHPE will tailor outreach will be tailored to engage all potentially affected residents and stakeholders living and doing business within the greater Astoria community.

In addition to project-wide public outreach activities, CHPE will plan and conduct targeted activities to keep the Astoria community informed. These have and will include:

- Continued personal engagement with community leaders, stakeholders, and environmental organizations via telephone, email, and virtual as well as in-person meetings.
- Preparing and disseminating a plain language fact sheet and FAQ about the converter station to stakeholder groups, including area religious, educational business, and civic groups, translated into the most common languages among Limited English Proficient area residents.
- Preparing and delivering required notices and any necessary updates in both English and the most common languages among Limited English Proficient Astoria area residents, including paid announcements in non-English media outlets that reach the most common area languages.

- Identifying a project language coordinator who will be available throughout the duration of the construction to coordinate efforts to assist Limited English Proficiency community members with their questions, comments, and requests related to the project.
- Establishing easily accessible document repositories within the Astoria community to make pertinent project information available to the community.

CHPE Involvement with the Astoria Community



Since 2018, CHPE has worked closely with Astoria community leaders, elected officials, and environmental activists to find common ground to help reduce the need to burn fossil fuels in New York City by 25 percent. This involvement has included numerous meetings, events, and partnerships with educational and community service institutions.

Throughout the year, the CHPE team joins Queens Together and local volunteers to address food insecurity issues in the local community exacerbated by COVID-19 and inflation.



Urban Upbound facilitated several CHPE and resident meetings at NYCHA properties in Queens to ensure complete awareness of the project, answer any questions, and create an open line of communication.

The CHPE team is also working with local schools on programs related to reducing the negative impacts of poverty, including a free laundry program supported by Zone 126.

In addition, the CHPE team has spent two years meeting with stakeholders throughout Queens, including museums, public parks, businesses, Community Boards, civic organizations, and residents, ensuring awareness and the intake feedback well before construction.

CHPE has provided \$1.25M to the Variety Boys & Girls Club of Queens to build a STEM lab and run programming to prepare the next generation of Astoria's engineers & scientists.



Established in 1955, the VBGC became a nonprofit organization that inspires children to discover their passions and cultivate their futures through a diverse array of youth development programs.



CHPE's clean energy supplier, Hydro-Québec, hosted students from Queens, New York, in Montréal to tour a hydropower generating station and a research center. The students are participating in the College Access Program managed by Urban Upbound, a New York nonprofit organization that provides underserved youth with resources to achieve economic prosperity and self-sufficiency.

The land use near the proposed converter station is primarily transportation and utilities in a highly urban industrial-zoned area. The East River lies to the east and north of the Con Edison property.

The nearest main public thoroughfare is 20th Avenue which runs northwest and southeast and forms the southwestern boundary of Con Edison property. Residential areas that makeup Astoria lie outward from 20th Avenue and southeast from Luyster Creek.

Queens is one of the most diverse urban spaces in the world, and one of the most diverse neighborhoods in Queens is Astoria. It has a reputation as New York City's Greektown, but it's more like an urban United Nations. According to 2020 U.S. Census data, people from nearly 100 countries now call Astoria home.

Attachment Figure 1 Location of Proposed Converter Station

Astoria has been a multicultural and multilingual neighborhood of single-family and low-rise residences and small businesses for generations. However, thanks mainly to its proximity to Manhattan, it has also experienced several years of transformation and gentrification. Given the current affordable housing crisis, Astoria, with its easy access to Manhattan and diversity of cultures and commerce, continues to evolve into one of the more desirable residential areas in New York City.

For example, in November 2022, the New York City Council approved a massive \$2 billion housing development known as Innovation Queens. It will span five city blocks and add more than 3,000 homes to Astoria. Approval, however, was subject to controversy.

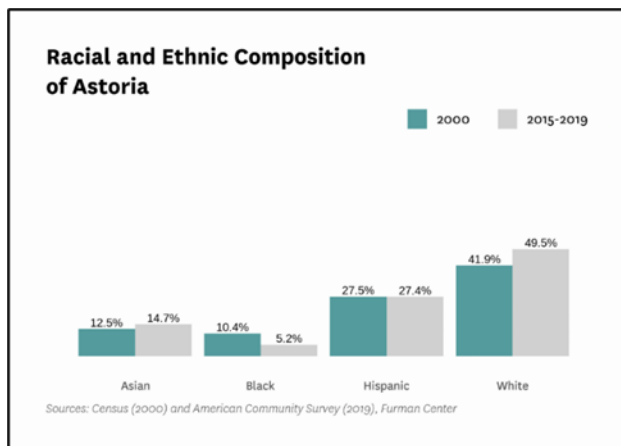
Housing advocates and community activists opposed the project because they believed it did not balance the critical need for housing against neighborhood concerns of affordability and gentrification that are forcing lower-income Astoria residents to move elsewhere. Nevertheless, the Council approved the project after the developer agreed to designate 1,400 as affordable units.

By decreasing CO₂ emissions by an average of 3.9 million metric tons annually, CHPE will help make Astoria and the entire region a healthier place to live and work for current and future residents, regardless of ethnicity or income. The Astoria HVDC converter station is the enabling technology that makes CHPE and this transformative leap from fossil fuels to renewable energy possible.

The converter site construction will be the first transformation of a former fossil generating site to a clean energy site in New York City.

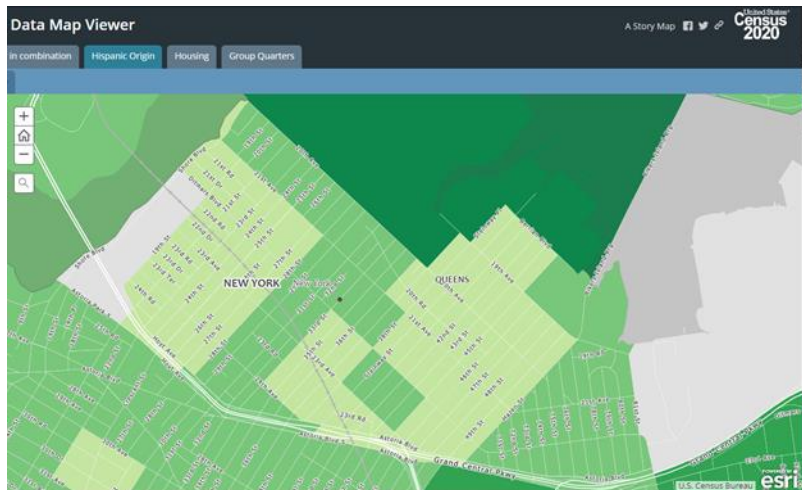
A Diverse Community with Shifting Demographics

In 2019, there were an estimated 166,069 people in Astoria, of which 14.7% of the population identified as Asian, 5.2% identified as Black, 27.4% identified as Hispanic, and 49.5% identified as White. Astoria remains the focal point of Greek American life in New York. It also boasts vibrant Italian, Irish, Asian, Middle Eastern, and Eastern European communities, commerce, and culture.

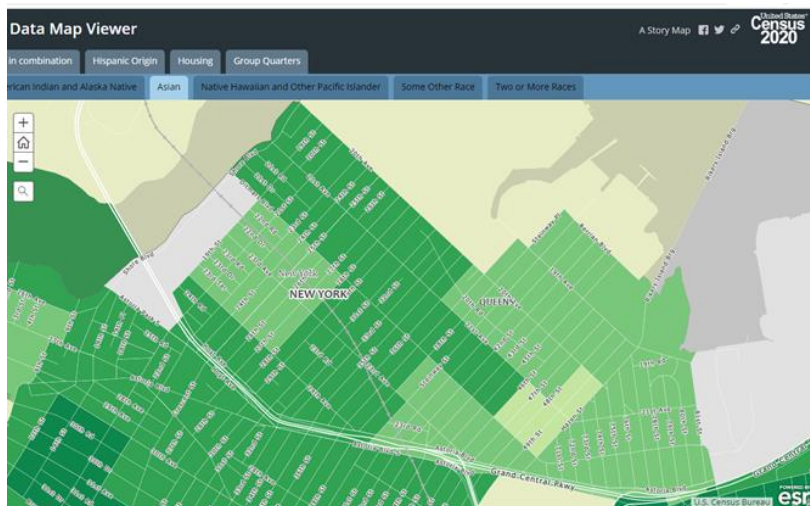
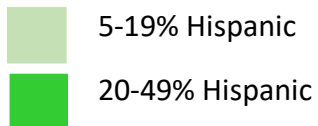


**Attachment Figure 2 Racial and Ethnic Composition of Astoria
2019 US Census Data**

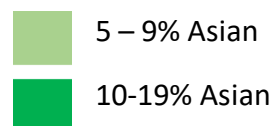
Since 2000, the gentrification of Astoria has resulted in higher rents and home prices, attracting higher wage earners able to afford them. In addition, newcomers to the area cite easy access to public transportation, recreational areas along the East River, and a wide variety of ethnic eating establishments, as Astoria has experienced a significant increase in its white and Asian populations. In contrast, the percentage of Black residents has been cut in half. The Hispanic population has remained essentially constant.



Attachment Figure 3 The percentage by nearby Census Block of the total population that reported their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino for the 2020 Census.



Attachment Figure 4 The percentage by Census Block of the total population reported their race as Asian alone.

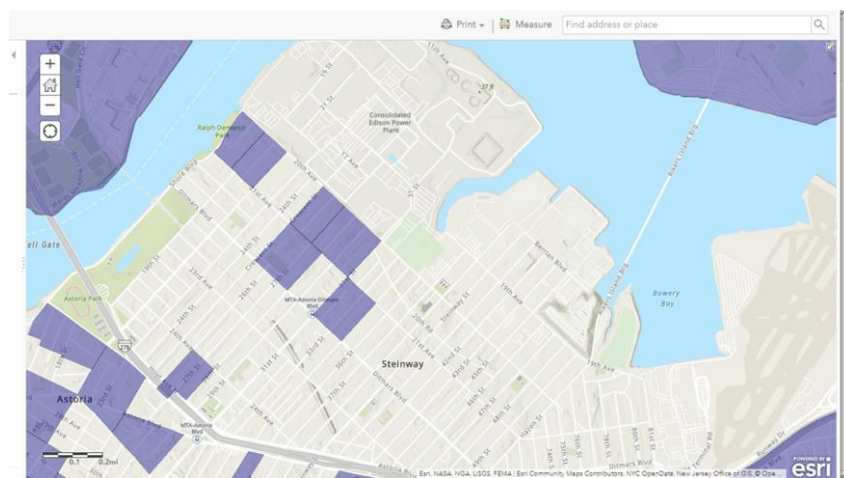


Potential Environmental Justice Communities

Some sections of Astoria have some of the highest home prices in New York City (median price of \$1.15 million in 2020). However, The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) has identified parts of the Astoria community as a Potential Environmental Justice Area (PEJA). These are areas that include U.S. Census block groups of 250 to 500 households with populations that meet or exceed at least one of the following statistical thresholds: At least 52.42% of the people in an urban area reported themselves as members of minority groups or at least 22.82% of the population area have household incomes below the federal poverty level.

Six potential E.J. Census Blocks are located within one-half mile of the project. The minority population in these Blocks ranges from 53 to 67 percent. In addition, the percentage of residents living below the poverty line ranges from 5 to 33 percent.

Census Block	Total Population	Percentage Below Poverty Level	% Minority Population
15000US360810105001	611	21.45%	53.50%
15000US360810105002	498	33.15%	53.768%
15000US360810105004	673	16.83%	67.03%
15000US360810111001	1,238	17.8%	67.8%
15000US360810113002	1,448	9.04%	63.54%
15000US360810103004	432	4.46%	64.9%



Attachment Figure 5 Potential Environmental Justice Census Blocks Within One-Half Mile of Proposed Converter Site

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines Environmental Justice as "the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies." CHPE recognizes that this project will occur adjacent to a

community where residents have long felt unfairly burdened by air and noise pollution resulting from power generation and that their concerns about health and safety have been ignored.

The area is often referred to as part of "Asthma Alley" since studies report higher-than-average rates of asthma and respiratory illnesses. According to the New York City Department of Health, "Although NYC air quality is improving, air pollution, such as fine particles (PM2.5), can cause health problems, particularly among the very young, seniors, and those with preexisting health conditions. In Long Island City and Astoria, levels of PM2.5, the most harmful air pollutant, are 8.9 micrograms per cubic meter, compared with 8.4 in Queens and 8.6 citywide."

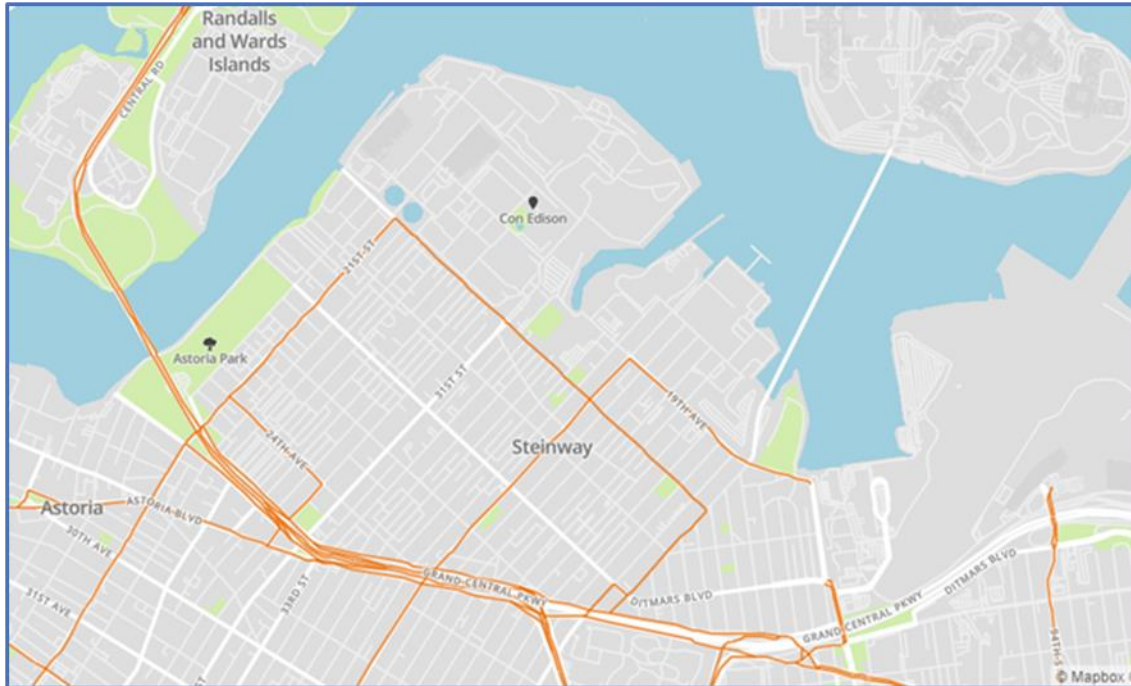
Potential Community Concerns During Construction

Construction will be within the Con Edison footprint and have a minimal impact on the adjacent community.



Attachment Figure 5 Public Transportation routes with one mile of proposed converter site.

CHPE does not anticipate construction will impact MTA Bus Routes 19, 69, 100, 101 or Subway lines N and W.



Attachment Figure 6 NYC DOT Truck Routes within two miles of the proposed converter site.

Contractors will only make deliveries via NYC DOT Truck Routes with no significant impacts on traffic anticipated.

Robust and Proactive Outreach

Although construction will not occur on any public or private property (other than within the Con Edison footprint) and will have a minimal impact on the adjacent community, CHPE will continue to conduct a robust and proactive outreach program to keep residents and other stakeholders informed about the project's progress and respond to any questions or concerns they have during its construction. The unique demographics of the Astoria community and a high level of awareness and active engagement regarding environmental and related health issues will guide CHPE to deliver a meaningful and effective outreach program.

- CHPE will continue to work with stakeholders, including residents, business owners, civic and environmental organizations, emergency service agencies, elected officials, and educational and religious institutions within the Astoria community. CHPE has developed the attached stakeholder list to provide complete coverage of a community that is ethnically, socially, and religiously diverse but will continue to be updated as needed.

(Schools and faith-based organizations are focal points of community life and trusted sources of information for many in the Astoria community – especially LEP individuals and New Americans. CHPE will make a special effort to work with these stakeholder groups to ensure all in the community are served.)

- CHPE will prepare and distribute a plain language fact sheet and FAQ about the project, translated into the most common languages among Limited English Proficient Astoria area residents. In addition to the most common languages identified in the Public Service Commission Language Access Plan, CHPE will translate outreach materials into Greek. CHPE will continue to reassess the need for additional languages of translation on an ongoing basis. CHPE will post translated fact sheets will on the project website, www.chpexpress.com
- CHPE will identify a project Language Access Coordinator (LAC) who will be available throughout the construction to assist Limited English Proficiency (LEP) community members with questions, comments, and requests related to the project. The LAC will be responsible for determining the LEP individual's language and coordinating a response by a technical expert with the assistance of a bi-lingual staff member or using Language Line. CHPE will locate the LAC close to the project should language access challenges arise.
- CHPE will establish easily accessible document repositories within the Astoria community to make pertinent project information available, including but not limited to the Environmental Management and Construction Plan and Appendixes, studies, reports, meeting presentation materials, fact sheets, and Frequently Asked Questions. CHPE has identified potential repositories in the stakeholder list that follows. CHPE has already established a repository on its website: www.chpexpress.com

ASTORIA AREA STAKEHOLDERS

Organization	Contact	Address	Telephone/Email
Local Community Board & City Agencies			
Queens Community Board 1	Marie Torniali, Chair	45-02 Ditmars Boulevard Suite 1025 Astoria, NY 11105	718-626-1021
Queens Community Board 1	Florence Koulouris, Manager	45-02 Ditmars Boulevard Suite 1025 Astoria, NY 11105	718-626-1021
Queens Community Board 1	Antonella Di Saverio Environmental Committee Chairperson	45-02 Ditmars Boulevard Suite 1025 Astoria, NY 11105	718-626-1021
NYPD 114th Precinct	Deputy Inspector Kenneth S. Gorman	34-16 Astoria Blvd. Queens, NY 11103- 4425	Precinct: (718) 626-9311 Community Affairs: (718) 626-9327
FDNY Battalion 49 Engine 312		22-63 35th St, Queens, NY 11105	718-476-6249
NYC Housing Authority			
FDNY EMS Station 49		1940 42nd St, Queens, NY 11105	(718) 728-1867
Community and Business Organizations			
Central Astoria Local Development Corp.	George Stamatiades	2569 38th Street Astoria, NY 11104	718-728-7820

Astoria Homeowners, Tenants & Business Civic Association	Luigi Farina, Chairman	21-20 49th Street Astoria, 11105	betterastoria@gmail.com
Bangladesh American Association		2363 Steinway Street Astoria, NY 11105	718 278-8181
BFFY 5teinway Senior Center		20-43 Steinway Street Astoria, NY 11105	718-728-8473
Catholic War Veterans of the USA Inc		21 43 29th 5treet Astoria, NY 11105	
Cephalonian Association Aenos Inc		23 17 29th Street Astoria, NY 11105	
Sons of Italy in America		20-37 28th Street Astoria, NY 11105	
Demetres Beryeles Greek Cultural Center		26-80 30th Street Astoria, NY 11102	718-726-7329
Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York Inc		2251 29th Street Astoria, NY 11105	718-204-6500
Queens Chamber of Commerce	Thomas J. Grech, President	75-20 Astoria Blvd Suite 140, East Elmhurst, NY 11370	718-898-8500
Federation of Italian-American Organizations of Queens Inc.		29-21 21st Avenue Astoria, NY 11105	
Giannitsa Association Megas Alexandros Inc		2226 23rd Street Astoria, NY 11105	
Greater Astoria Historical Society		35-20 Broadway, 4th Floor long Island City, NY 11106	

Greek American Homeowners of NY		23-24 31st Street Astoria, NY 11105	
Kiwanis International		2131 Shore Boulevard Astoria, NY 11105	
Pancyprian Association Inc		2315 31st Street Astoria, NY 11105	718-278-9729
Astoria Restoration Association Inc		31-28 Ditmars Blvd, Queens, NY 11105	(718) 726-0034
Elected Officials			
NYC Council	Council Member Tiffany Cabán	30-83 31st Street Astoria, NY 11102	718-274-4500
NYC Council	Council Member Julie Won	37-06 Queens Boulevard, Suite 205 Long Island City, NY 11101	718-383-9566
NYS Assembly	Assemblyman Zohran K. Mamdani	24-08 32nd Street Suite 1002A Astoria, NY 11102	718-545-3889
NYS Senate	Senator Jessica Ramos	74-09 37th Ave, Jackson Heights, NY 11372	718-205-3881
NYS Senate	Senator Michael Gianaris	31-19 Newtown Avenue Suite 402 Astoria, NY 11102	718-728-0960
Queens County	Borough President Donovan Richards	120-55 Queens Boulevard Kew Gardens, NY 11424	718-286-3000
US House of Representatives	Congress Member Alexandria Ocasio- Cortez	74-09 37th Avenue, Suite 305 Jackson Heights, NY 11372	718-662-5970

City of New York	Hon. Eric Adams Mayor	1 Centre Street New York, NY 10007	
City of New York	Hon. Brad Lander New York City Comptroller	1 Centre Street New York, NY 10007	
City of New York	Hon. Jumaane Williams Public Advocate	1 Centre Street, 15th Floor North New York, NY 10007	
Environmental Organizations			
Astoria Residents Reclaiming Our World		35-38 35th St, Queens, NY 11106	
Astoria/LIC Waterfront Parks	Karn Overton	35-30 35th St. Astoria, NY 11106	718 706-8044
Earthjustice	Nydia Gutiérrez	48 Wall St 19th floor, New York, NY 10005	(212) 845-7376
Food & Water Watch	Laura Shindell		
League of Conservation Voters	Julia Tighe	30 Broad St #30, New York, NY 10004	(212) 361-6350
Natural Resources Defense Council		40 W 20th St #11th, New York, NY 10011	(212) 727-2700
New York Public Interest Research Group (NVPIRG)	Eric Wood	9 Murray Street, Lower-Level New York, NY 10007	(212) 349-6460
NY Communities for Change		470 Vanderbilt Ave. 9th Fl. Brooklyn, NY 11238	(347) 410-6919

NY Lawyers for the Public Interest	Erin Gaffney	151 West 30th Street New York, New York 10001-4017	212-244-4664
NYC Environmental Justice Alliance	Eddie Bautista, Executive Director	462 36th Street, 3F Brooklyn, NY 11232	
SANE Energy Project	Lee Ziesche	232 E 11th St, New York, NY 10003	(646) 387-3180
Sierra Club Beyond Coal Project	Jessica King		jessica.king@sierraclub.org
WE ACT for Environmental Justice	Peggy Shepard, Executive Director	1854 Amsterdam Avenue, 2nd Floor New York, NY 10031	(212) 961-1000
New York City Asthma Partnership		161-169 East 110th Street New York, NY 10029	212-996-8747
Media			
CYPRECO Of America, Inc	Greek On-line News	P.O. Box 5869, Astoria, N.Y. 11105	718-545-1151
El Diario La Presnsa	Spanish Language Newspaper	1 Metrotech Center, 18th Floor Brooklyn, NY 11201	
Hellenic News of America	Greek Language Newspaper	P.O. Box 465 Concordville PA 19331-0465	484-427-7446
LIC Astoria Journal			(718) 639-7000
World Journal	Chinese Language Newspaper	141-07 20th Ave. Whitestone, NY 11357	718-746-8889

Queens Chronicle	Sophie Krichevsky	71-19 80th Street, Suite 8-201 Glendale, NY 11385	sophie@qchron.com
Religious Institutions			
Free Apostolic Church of Pentecost		2047 Steinway Street Astoria, NY 11105	
Astoria Islamic Center		18-22 Astoria Blvd, Queens, NY 11102	
Astoria Islamic Center/Masjid Baitul Mukarram		22-21 33rd St, Queens, NY 11105	(718) 204-7562
Ekklesia New York		35-12 Astoria Blvd. South, 2nd Floor, Astoria NY 11104	
Family Church		2613 18th St, Queens, NY 11102	(718) 267-6419
Gawsiah Jame Masjid		25-86 31st St, Astoria, NY 11102	3477384714
Grace Lutheran Church		31-20 21st Ave, Queens, NY 11105	(718) 728-0093
Igreja Universal		25 -15 Steinway St, Astoria, NY 11103	
Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church		21-47 29th St, Queens, NY 11105	(718) 728-1613
Masjid Al-Iman		24-30 Steinway St, Long Island City, NY 11103	

Muslim American Society of Queens Ibn Sina Center		46-01 20th Ave, Queens, NY 11105	(718) 606-6025
New Beginnings Church of Astoria		40-11 23rd Ave, Astoria, NY 11105	718) 928-5119
Sacred Patriarchal and Stavropegial Orthodox Monastery of St. Irene Chrysovalantou		36-07 23rd Ave, Astoria, NY 11105	(718) 626-6225
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church		21-18 46th Street Astoria, NY 11105	718 728-7801
St. Markella Greek Orthodox Cathedral		22-68 26th St, Queens, NY 11105	(718) 932-1592
Steinway Reformed Church		4101 Ditmars Blvd, Queens, NY 11105	(718) 728-2948
Sts. Catherine & George Greek Orthodox Church		22-30 33rd St, Queens, NY 11105	
Schools			
The Alfred Zimberg School	Principal	75-10 21st Ave, Queens, NY 11370	(718) 728-1459
Astoria Lutheran School	Principal	31-20 21st Ave, Queens, NY 11105	(718) 721-4313
St. Irene's Daycare		42-11 Ditmars Blvd, Queens, NY 11105	(718) 626-6225
I.S. 141 The Steinway	Principal	37-11 21st Ave, Queens, NY 11105	(718) 278-6403

Immaculate Conception Catholic Academy	Principal	21-63 29th St, Astoria, NY 11105	(718) 728-1969
P.S. 84 Steinway School	Principal	22-45 41st St, Queens, NY 11105	(718) 278-1915
P.S. 85 Judge Charles Vallone	Principal	23-70 31st St, Queens, NY 11105	(718) 278-3630
PS/MS 122Q The Mamie Fay School	Principal	21-21 Ditmars Blvd, Queens, NY 11105	(718) 721-6410
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy	Principal	21-18 46th Street Astoria, NY 11105	(718) 726-9405
St. John's Preparatory School	Principal	21-21 Crescent St, Astoria, NY 11105	(718) 721-7200
Document Repositories			
Queens Public Library	Astoria Branch	14-01 Astoria Boulevard Astoria, NY 11102	(718) 278-2220
Queens Public Library	Ravenswood Branch	35-32 21 St. LIC, NY 11106	(718) 361-0253
Queens Public Library	Long Island City Branch	37-44 21 Street Long Island City, NY 11101	(718) 752-3700
Community Board 1		45-02 Ditmars Boulevard Astoria, NY 11105	718-626-1021

END