

Chapter 25: Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

In accordance with the 2021 *City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) Technical Manual*, this chapter includes an evaluation of any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of environmental resources that would be associated with the Proposed Project or the Alternative Scenario, should it be implemented. A summary of the impacts from the Proposed Project or the Alternative Scenario on the loss of environmental resources and the extent to which it precludes future options or involves trade-offs between short- and long-term environmental losses or gains is provided.

Resources, both natural and human-made, would be expended in the construction and operation of the Proposed Project or the Alternative Scenario. These resources include the materials used in construction; energy in the form of fuel and electricity consumed during construction and operation of the project; and the human effort (e.g., time and labor) required to develop, construct, and operate various components of the Proposed Project or the Alternative Scenario.

These resources are considered irretrievably committed because their reuse for some other purpose would be highly unlikely. The Proposed Project or the Alternative Scenario constitutes an irreversible and irretrievable commitment of the Development Site as a land resource, thereby rendering land use for other purposes highly unlikely in the foreseeable future. The Proposed Project and the Alternative Scenario also would require the commitment of resources to construct a platform over approximately two-thirds of the Development Site, enclosing the Long Island Rail Yard; however, this commitment of resources would also be made in the future without the Proposed Actions, for the No Action scenario development.

The commitments of resources and materials are weighed against the benefits of the Proposed Actions. As described in Chapter 1, "Project Description," the Proposed Actions would provide opportunities for jobs and economic development, generate opportunities for world-class architecture, and expand the City's tax base, all while respecting the previously approved development densities and key planning principles and commitments for the Site. The Proposed Actions would transform the Site from what is currently an open-air rail yard and barrier to the connectivity between West Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen into a new development that generates economic benefits for New York City and New York State and reinforces the Hudson Yards neighborhood's defining features. Specifically, the Proposed Actions would create substantial new amenities for local residents, including restaurants, a public school, and open space. The Proposed Actions would help advance neighborhood and city-wide planning initiatives including stimulating economic development, recovery, and resilience, supporting mixed use development, increasing access to affordable housing, and establishing projects that benefit the neighborhood as well as the City as a whole.*