What triggers the City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) process?

New York City Mayor's Executive Order No. 91 of 1977, as amended, establishes an environmental review process (the CEQR process) for actions that are directly undertaken, funded, or approved by a City agency. It requires City agencies to assess, disclose, and mitigate the environmental consequences of such actions. Coordination and review of the CEQR process are the responsibility of the lead agency, which is the City agency directly responsible for determining whether the proposed action requires an environmental review.

How is the lead agency selected?

Under the "Rules of Procedure for CEQR" (62 Rules of the City of New York Section 5-03), agencies involved in a proposed action select the lead agency. When only one City agency is involved in a proposed action, that agency is selected as the lead agency for the CEQR environmental review.

What is a CEQR environmental review?

A CEQR environmental review involves a detailed study of the environmental consequences resulting from the implementation of a proposed action. Some proposed actions require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). An EIS will include the following:

- Purpose and need for action
- Proposed action and alternatives to be evaluated
- Site specific assessments of the proposed action
- Environmental consequences and necessary mitigation
- Required actions, permits and approvals

Which impact categories are considered in an EIS?

- Land use, zoning, and public policy
- Socioeconomic conditions
- Community facilities and services
- Open space
- Shadows
- Historic resources
- Urban design/visual resources
- Neighborhood character
- Natural resources
- Hazardous materials

- Waterfront revitalization program
- Infrastructure
- Solid waste and sanitation services
- Energy
- Traffic and parking
- Transit and pedestrians
- Air quality
- Noise
- Construction impacts
- Public health