

**STATEMENT OF  
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER HARRY SZARPANSKI  
AT THE PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING FOR THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF THE PROPOSED  
NORTH SHORE CONVERTED MARINE TRANSFER STATION**

Good Evening. My name is Harry Szarpanski. I am the Assistant Commissioner for the Bureau of Long Term Export at the New York City Department of Sanitation. I welcome the opportunity to appear before you tonight. I am joined by members of my staff, Walter Czwartacky, Vaughan Arnold and Sarah Dolinar. I would also like to introduce Susan Raila from the firm of Henningson, Durham & Richardson Architecture & Engineering, P.C. or HDR. HDR is responsible for conducting the environmental review for the Department's projects. Representatives of the firm of Ecology and Environment helped organize this meeting and are also here tonight.

As you may know, the Department of Sanitation is preparing a new Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan for the City to replace the Plan that will expire at the end of October of this year. The new Solid Waste Management Plan or as we refer to it, the new SWMP, will plan for the management of all of the solid waste generated in the City over the next twenty years. We expect to issue a draft of the new SWMP in September. It will need to be approved by the City Council and by the State. The new SWMP will be supported by an Environmental Impact Statement.

The new SWMP will rely on current programs to recycle, compost and prevent or reduce waste. A key component of the new SWMP is the long-term export of solid waste managed by the Department of Sanitation through state-of-the-art Marine Transfer Station facilities that are proposed to be built at the City's eight existing Marine Transfer Station sites in Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and the Bronx. These facilities will containerize waste and transport it by barge for disposal. The proposed North Shore Converted MTS would handle the Department-managed waste from Queens Community Districts 7 through 14 only, as in the past. This program to build new Marine Transfer Stations is called the MTS Conversion Program.

Note that because Staten Island has no existing MTS, a truck-to-container-to- rail waste transfer station for Staten Island Department-managed waste is now being constructed on a former Fresh Kills landfill site. That facility is expected to be operational this November. Rail transport is expected to begin in 2006.

We are before you tonight to hear your comments on the environmental review of the proposed North Shore Converted Marine Transfer Station. In addition, we seek your comments on all of the proposed actions, including the MTS Conversion Program and alternatives, that were outlined in the Draft Scoping Document we issued on May 17<sup>th</sup>. The Draft Scoping Document was mailed to all of the elected officials and community boards, as well as to environmental organizations and to our regulators. It was placed on the Department's web site and in public repositories in your community and nine other communities that are the proposed sites for the new Marine Transfer Stations or for alternatives.

My comments tonight will be brief. I will make a short power point presentation before the public portion of the meeting begins. Copies of my statement and presentation will be available at the end of the meeting.

Because the real focus of this public meeting will be your comments, please make sure that you take a moment to complete a speaker sign up sheet if you plan to make a statement for the record. You will be assigned a number and I will call your name when it is your turn to speak. Note that elected officials will have an opportunity to speak first. We are interested to make a complete record of your comments so please state your name clearly and slowly for the stenographer.

So that we can hear everyone who wants to speak tonight we ask that you keep your statement to three minutes. If you do not wish to speak, but would like to provide us with written comments, please complete one of the comment cards we have provided for your use. Thank you for coming out tonight. I will now begin my short presentation.