

BATTERY PARK BROADSHEET DAILY – DEC. 15, 2008

Monitoring noise at Lower Manhattan construction sites

LMCCC is all ears



The World Trade Center site. (photo: Robert Simko)

Since January 2006, the Lower Manhattan Construction Command Center (LMCCC) has been monitoring noise levels along construction site fence lines in Lower Manhattan, with improvements to the program planned for early in 2009.

Noise readings are collected over a period of time and averaged. What constitutes "too much" noise is dictated by city, state and federal laws. The program operates under Environmental Performance Commitments, which can be found at lowermanhattan.info/extras/pdf/lmrp_environmentalperfcommitments.pdf.

BEM Systems, a consultant to the LMCCC, performs the noise monitoring. The firm, which is located in New Jersey, has also worked for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the Long Island Railroad, the Port Authority and other agencies.

BEM Systems checks noise at each site at least once per month. Readings are evaluated by

LMCCC and its environmental staff. The information is documented, filed and reviewed each month or as needed.

When problems arise, LMCCC coordinates between regulators, project sponsors, contractors and community groups to find a solution. LMCCC does not have enforcement capabilities but will engage an agency that does, if warranted.

Enhancements to the program are planned for the first quarter. "We're working on funding, procedures and contracts right now," said Deborah Wetzel, an LMCCC spokesperson.

- Terese Loeb Kreuzer