

SECTION VII

CONSULTATION WITH OTHER AFFECTED
FEDERAL, STATE, REGIONAL AND LOCAL AGENCIES

A. DESCRIPTION OF CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

1. Method

The City of Lackawanna has established and carried out several approaches for consulting with federal, State, regional and other local agencies that are affected by the development of a City of Lackawanna Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP). These approaches have been selected to facilitate understanding of the City's LWRP, promote information sharing, coordinate related City and agency activities, and resolve conflicts between the City's LWRP and the policies and/or programs of these governmental agencies.

The approaches used include: (1) establishment of the Erie County Waterfront Task Force; (2) technical assistance consultations; and (3) supportive written communications.

2. Erie County Waterfront Task Force Meetings

Description: Activities of the Task Force are detailed in Section VIII, Local Commitment. The Task Force was formed to assist in coordinating LWRP efforts among all waterfront municipalities in Erie County (including the Towns of Brant, Evans, Hamburg, Tonawanda, Grand Island and the Cities of Lackawanna, Tonawanda and Buffalo). Representatives from these municipalities serve on the Task Force, as well as representatives from all related agencies carrying out waterfront programs policies or projects in Erie County. Another major function of the Task Force is to provide for an information exchange among both agency and LWRP municipal officials regarding their waterfront concerns and interests.

Meeting Schedule: The Erie County Waterfront Task Force has met three times since the beginning of LWRP development in the waterfront municipalities. The first meeting was held on August 1, 1983, the second meeting on February 2, 1984, and a third meeting on September 26, 1984.

Accomplishments: The Erie County Task Force meetings provide a needed mechanism for information exchange and coordination of waterfront activities among agencies and governments. Just as important, it serves as an alarm system by which potentially controversial, inconsistent, or duplicating efforts can be identified. Attendance at the meeting has been excellent. The support demonstrated by Task Force participants has established the Task Force as a viable effective entity for coordinating waterfront planning on a county-wide basis. The media attention radio, TV, and newspapers have given these meetings is indicative of the Task Force's meaningful role in waterfront planning.

3. Technical Consultations

New York State Department of Transportation: Close coordination has continued throughout the development of the City's LWRP with NYSDOT due to the interrelationship of the State Department of Transportation's development of a transportation access plan in the Lackawanna area. The plan relates directly to determining the recreation potential of the Union Ship Canal, on the disposition of the Father Baker Bridge and the development of vehicular access routes from Route 5 into the Bethlehem Industrial Park.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Discussions have taken place with the Corps of Engineers concerning diked disposal area #4 offshore of the Bethlehem complex and the area's water quality. Also, issues have concerned projected use changes along the waterfront and possible effects of use changes on water quality in the diked disposal area.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation: Discussions have occurred concerning existing and projected air quality standards and controls due to the partial shutdown of the Bethlehem Steel complex.

Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority: As part of the City of Buffalo-NFTA Waterfront Master Plan development, the City of Lackawanna and Erie County are representatives on the City's Waterfront Planning Board. This involvement provides continuous review and coordination of such issues as the relocation of the Port of Buffalo to the City of Lackawanna.

Coordination with LWRP's in Adjacent Waterfront Municipalities - Town of Hamburg, City of Buffalo: As part of the waterfront program development in these municipalities, there has been as special emphasis placed on assessing impacts each program might have on the other. This is particularly important due to the relocation of the Port of Buffalo to the City of Lackawanna and the interest of Lackawanna in the development of Woodlawn Beach in the Town of Hamburg as a passive recreational park.

Elected Federal, State, Local Officials Representing City of Lackawanna Waterfront: Not only do these officials participate in Erie County Waterfront Task Force meetings, but they, and/or their representatives, usually attend waterfront committee meetings. A special briefing session on the LWRP was held for County Legislators on April 16, 1984.

Accomplishments: Consultation on the technical aspects of Lackawanna's program with all appropriate agencies and government representatives has proven necessary since few really understand the parameters of developing a LWRP. These conversations should help provide the basis for consistency with agency programs and policies.

4. Written Communication

In order to assure that all relevant waterfront agencies were kept informed of progress being made on the development of the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program, two methods were used as follows:

- o A technical memo was sent to appropriate federal, State and regional agencies on April 17, 1984, which reviewed all aspects of the City's local waterfront revitalization program, including an explanation of the City's waterfront policies and coastal area projects and program implementation techniques.
- o A quarterly information sheet "Waterfront News," provides a summary of ongoing activities concerning the development of the LWRP. The mailing list of approximately 250 includes all relevant waterfront agencies as well as elected representatives from waterfront municipalities.

Both techniques appear to be an effective way to transmit pertinent information on the development of the local waterfront revitalization programs. Responses to review of the technical memo have indicated understanding and acceptance of elements thus far.

5. Review of Draft LWRP by State, Federal, and Local Agencies

The Draft LWRP (with Draft EIS) was reviewed and approved by the City Council and forwarded to the NYS Department of State (DOS). The DOS then initiated a 60-day review of the Draft LWRP/DEIS pursuant to the Waterfront Revitalization and Coastal Resources Act and State Environmental Quality Review Act. Copies of the Draft LWRP and DEIS were distributed by DOS to all potentially affected State and Federal agencies, Erie County, adjacent waterfront municipalities, and the Erie and Niagara Counties Regional Planning Board. Comments received on the Draft LWRP/DEIS were reviewed by DOS and the City and resultant changes were made to the LWRP, which are detailed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement.