

# Downtown Water Tunnel Goes from Blast to Bore

By Craig McGuire

The Department of Environmental Protection has completed blasting of the water tunnel shaft at 4th Avenue and is now preparing for the site for the boring phase of the operation.

When completed, City Tunnel Number 3 will connect with extensive tunnels from all five boroughs supplying water from upstate reservoirs.

According to Michael Greenberg, chief of waterworks construction for the city Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Environmental Engineering, the blasting which began in September was completed in early March. "We don't anticipate any more blasting will be required," he said.

The shaft at 4th Avenue and Sackett Street is one of four in Brooklyn (others are on Nelson Street in Red Hook, Fort Greene, and Bushwick) that will carry water from the new tunnel to water mains much closer to the surface.

trucked out to the Fresh Kills Sanitation Facility on Staten Island on a twenty-four-hour basis. Three shifts per day will remove the muck.

In February, the Community Board 6 Water Tunnel Subcommittee held a meeting inviting residents to question DEP officials.

Though no residents showed up, the subcommittee received an update on the progress of the upcoming

boring and the blasting, which was approaching a conclusion at the time.

Concerned with the round-the-clock removal of material by diesel-powered trucks, subcommittee member Jerry Arner said, "With these trucks operating 24 hours removing the muck, I'm concerned how that will affect residents."

Greenberg said, "We will comply with all regulations and comply with the

noise codes."

"What we are expecting is to work with the community and continue the dialogue with the community board," said Greenberg.

## "Die Hard"

### In Brooklyn?

In related news, Twentieth Century Fox has approached New York City and requested use of the tunnel, or the water tunnel currently being constructed in the Bronx, for filming in

the upcoming action movie "Die Hard 3."

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— Community Board Member**

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"There has been no approval, and the city's position is leaning towards not approving the proposal because of the effect on the

contractor," informed Greenberg.

"We are anticipating a successful project and continued cooperation with the community," he added.

Greenberg noted that the project is on-line for scheduled completion on July 4, 2002.

Residents with additional questions concerning the project should contact Community Board 6 at 643-3027.

## Boring Not Dull

According to Greenberg, the site is now being prepared for boring which is tentatively scheduled for mid-May, but may even begin earlier.

"Right now we are preparing the site for the boring mechanism which will be boring a tunnel 19 feet in diameter," informed Greenberg.

According to Greenberg, the massive boring machine, currently being refurbished in Easton, Pennsylvania, measures a few hundred feet in length and will be transported in four segments, the largest weighing 90 tons.

For the duration of the project, the majority of the work will be conducted underground once the boring mechanism is introduced.

When the machine is operational underground, the removed material will be