

## **DEC Statement to WaterFront on July 15, 2022**

### **Statement for attribution to NYSDEC**

DEC is committed to enhancing transparency and access to public records and will continue to build upon the significant progress underway to make important information available to New Yorkers. DEC continues to improve the coordination of our Freedom of Information Law request process, and helped cut in half the average time to completion, averaging 17 business days to close requests over the last five years, and 11 business days for the first three quarters of 2021. While the majority of FOIL requests are processed within 20 business days, many responses take longer due to the complexity and scope of the records requested and the volume of potentially responsive records requiring review. As in the case of Mr. Campbell's FOIL, the agency ensures timely updates to requesters to advise them of the status of the process.

### **ON BACKGROUND**

The County Line permit application and supporting records were made available to the public during the public comment period, which was extended and closed in April 2021. DEC values public input and thoroughly reviewed all public comments and application materials prior to making the determination to approve the application. DEC will continue to monitor compliance with the permit to ensure protection of public health and the environment.

DEC is required by the Uniform Procedures Act to post a notice in the ENB when a major permit application is determined complete, along with the public comment period specifics. DEC is not required to post a notice in the ENB when a decision on a permit application is made. For the County Line MRF application, those who submitted public comments during the comment period were also notified of DEC's decision on June 15, 2022, and provided with DEC's responsiveness summary and a copy of the permit.