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Ruth Messinger releases report, Paterson calls meeting

By YVONNE DELANEY
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"The smell of success"...is it sweet?

This is what the press and concerned community leaders came to find out as they converged at the North River Water Pollution Control Plant, located at 137th - 145th streets and Riverside Drive, last Wednesday.

The North River plant has become an oasis to upper, Upper West Side Manhattan residents. With an Olympic-size swimming pool, ice skating rink and relaxing atmosphere, it's no surprise to see the multitude of people entering the front gates, as it stands as an escape from the city streets.

However, the front gates stood for another purpose on Wednesday, as they were the setting for Borough President Ruth Messinger's press conference where she distributed copies of "The Smell of Success? An Assessment of Odor Control Measures at The North River Water Pollution Control Plant."

The plant, which supports the rooftop recreational facilities, has been under a considerable amount of scrutiny since its opening. This has not been without undue recourse as the odors emitted from the plant have affected the quality of air for the residents of northern Manhattan for many miles around.

"The Smell of Success?" is a 41-

page report commissioned by Messinger, written by Richard Herschlag, borough engineer, and is a comprehensive finding of whether the funds, allocated to date, are effective in resolving the odor problem.

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection has committed \$52 million, to be used over a period of several years, to correct the problems. Currently being used for wastewater treatment, the construction costs for the plant were in excess of \$1 billion. Capital improvements, scheduled to be completed by July, 1995, will only eliminate 75 percent of the odors.

The report details that the odors seem to be emanating from the high level of hydrogen sulfide which is used in the treatment process. Total elimination of all detectable odors, specifically the remaining 25 percent, "is likely to be far more costly and only about one-seventh as cost-efficient" according to the manual.

The report, which can be obtained from the borough president's office at 215 West 125th Street, 4th floor, is a very thorough document of graphs, questions and answers and has a breakdown of components.

Messinger stated that she is pleased with this endeavor, as it has become a watchdog over operations thus far. Yet, she continued, "With so many millions already invested in this plant, we need to do everything possible to totally eliminate these odors. The residents of northern Manhattan deserve and rightfully demand to breathe better quality air. I fully support their efforts and I hope this study will spur the city to finish the job it has begun."



RUTH
MESSINGER