Finding Aid for the New York State Civil Defense Commission Subject Files series.

Finding Aid Publication Date: Jul 17th, 2017

Online Finding Aid Record:
http://iarchives.nysed.gov/xtf/view?docId=ead/findingaids/13125.xml

Overview of Records

Repository:
New York State Archives

Summary:
The series includes correspondence, memoranda, plans, press releases, reports and cost estimates of the Civil Defense Commission activity, through the early 1970s. Activities documented include fallout shelter construction, emergency radio networks, disaster planning, and population evacuation engineering plans, specifications, designs, and cost estimates for planned fallout shelter construction throughout the state. Most of the records relate to shelters at state institutions.

Creator:

Title:
New York State Civil Defense Commission subject files

Inclusive Dates:
1961-1972

Quantity:
2 cubic feet (4 boxes and 1 oversized folder of plans)

Series Number:
13125
Arrangement:
Arranged by facility.

Administrative History:
The State Civil Defense Commission was established in 1951 (Chapter 784, and amended by Chapters 785 and 786) within the Executive Dept. to prepare for the state's defense in the event of attack. Its mandate was to adopt, promulgate, and implement a comprehensive plan for civil defense. In the event of enemy attack, the commission's powers broadened, and it could assume direct operational control of all civil defense forces and resources, control vehicular traffic, appropriate personal and real property, and issue regulations necessary for the execution of its duties, which were to have the force of law.

Chapter 787 of the Laws of 1951 provided for an appropriation to be transferred from the capital construction fund to the commission for the construction and installation of facilities and materials for bomb shelter use.

The commission was transferred to the Department of Transportation in 1971, and then to the Division of Military and Naval Affairs in 1973.

Scope and Contact Note:
The series represents a variety of materials (correspondence, memoranda, plans, press releases, reports and cost estimates) covering various aspects of commission activity, which ebbed through the early 1970s as the threat of foreign attack diminished. Activities documented include fallout shelter construction, emergency radio networks, disaster planning, and population evacuation. The bulk of the accretion consists of engineering plans, specifications, designs, and cost estimates for planned fallout shelter construction throughout the state. Most of the records relate to shelters at state institutions such as hospitals, special schools, and correctional facilities. Planning especially involved the Civil Defense Commission, the Division of Architecture (Dept. of Public Works) and the Executive Department, and the primary focus of the series appears to be budgetary.

Use of Records:
Access Restrictions:
There are no restrictions regarding access to or use of this material.
Related Information:

Acquisition Information:
This series includes records from transfer list 810002.

Access Terms:
Subjects:

• Fallout shelters
• Nuclear bomb shelters--New York (State)--Design and construction
• Civil defense--New York (State)

Corporate Names:

• New York State Archives
• New York (State). Department of Public Works
• New York (State). Executive Department
• New York (State). Department of Transportation
• New York (State). Division of Military and Naval Affairs

Genres:

• Design drawings
• Estimates
• Specifications

Geographic Names:

• New York (State)

Functions:

• Planning nuclear bomb shelters
• Reviewing budget estimates
• Protecting people

Detailed Description:
Contact repository for copy with container list information.