



NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

CEQR No. 10DEP042U

**Project: Water for the Future Program: Rondout-West Branch Bypass
Tunnel Repair**

May 18, 2012

Carter H. Strickland, Jr.
Commissioner

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A Final Environmental Impact Statement has been prepared by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for the proposed Water for the Future Program: Rondout-West Branch Bypass Tunnel Repair. DEP is certifying that this Final EIS is complete, acting as lead agency and in accordance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) (Section 8-0113, Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law) as set forth in 6NYCRR Part 617, the City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) process, as set forth in Executive Order 91 of 1977 and its amendments, and the State Environmental Review Process (SERP), as required by the State Revolving Loan Fund Program.

Public hearings were held on Monday, January 23, 2012 in the Town of Newburgh, Tuesday, January 24, 2012 in the Town of Wappinger, NY and on Wednesday, January 25, 2012 in the Town of Wawarsing, NY. The public comment period closed on March 9, 2012. Notification of the public hearings appeared in the Environmental Notice Bulletin, the DEP website, the *Times Herald-Record*, *Shawangunk Journal*, *Kingston Daily Freeman*, *Mid-Hudson Times*, *Poughkeepsie Journal*, *Southern Dutchess News*, and *Sentinel*, at least 14 days before the hearing. The Draft EIS was also available at public repositories in Wappinger, NY, Newburgh, NY, Wawarsing, NY, and at DEP offices in Kingston, NY, Valhalla, NY, and Queens, NY.

The Final EIS incorporates comments received from the public on the Draft EIS, and an assessment of potential environmental impacts related to the design, construction, and operation of a bypass tunnel in the vicinity of the Hudson River in the Town of Newburgh in Orange County and the Town of Wappinger in Dutchess County.

Project Description

The Delaware Aqueduct is critical to the nine million people that rely on the New York City water supply, including New York City and upstate residents. Shutting down the Delaware Aqueduct during the bypass tunnel connection and repair of the leak in Wawarsing would require DEP to supplement its water sources, manage demand and make provisions for changes in the distribution system during the shutdown period.

Once ready with all of the necessary provisions for reliable drinking water during the shutdown period, DEP would undertake the bypass tunnel connection to the existing tunnel. During the connection period, inspections and repairs from within the RWBT would be made to the remainder of the existing tunnel in areas outside the bypassed section, particularly in those sections located in the Town of Wawarsing, which are known to be leaking.

Construction of the bypass tunnel and shaft sites would begin with construction of the bypass shafts, which would start in 2013 and be complete in 2015. Construction of the bypass tunnel would begin in 2015 and be complete in 2020. It is anticipated that up to 15 months would be needed to complete the bypass connection and to undertake the inspection and repair of the RWBT, expected to be sometime in 2021.

DEP plans to address the leaks in the Rondout-West Branch Tunnel (RWBT) portion of the Delaware Aqueduct by undertaking the proposed *Water for the Future* program, which would consist of two main projects:

1. Project 1: Construction of the Bypass Tunnel and Shaft Sites;
2. Project 2: Repair of the RWBT and water supply system improvements. Project 2 may require:
 - Demand management;
 - Additional water supply; and/or
 - Operational adjustments; and
 - Bypass tunnel connection and repair of the leak in Wawarsing, Ulster County, New York, as well as an inspection and repair of the full RWBT.

In this FEIS, the focus is on the construction of a bypass tunnel and shaft sites. DEP plans to construct a new tunnel segment to bypass a section of the existing tunnel that is known to be leaking in Roseton, Orange County, NY. It would be constructed between a new shaft site to be located to the west of the Hudson River in the Town of Newburgh, Orange County, NY, and a shaft site to the east of the River on DEP's Shaft 6 property, which is located in the Town of Wappinger, Dutchess County, NY.

Required Approvals

The construction of the Rondout-West Branch Tunnel Bypass requires several actions subject to the procedures of environmental review, including approval by the federal, state, county, and local entities. For a full list of potentially required permits and approvals, please refer to the Final EIS, enclosed herein.

Significant Impacts and Mitigation

Potential temporary significant adverse impacts identified for the Water For the Future Program include: Traffic, Noise, and Neighborhood Character, as a result of construction related to the shaft and bypass tunnel. During Project 1 and 2B construction the neighborhood character near the east connection site would temporarily adversely affected. In particular, changes to the visual character of the east connection site and the increases in traffic, lighting, and noise during construction of Project 1 and 2B would temporarily adversely affect the neighborhood character for those residences near the east connection site. However, this impact to neighborhood character would be temporary and would not be expected to result in disruptions to neighborhood character once construction is complete.

The results of the traffic analysis indicate that there would be potential temporary significant adverse impacts at certain intersections in both the west of Hudson and east of Hudson study areas. Suggested traffic mitigation measures would consist of signal timing changes, upgrading traffic signal controller and detectors at some intersections, a Traffic Management Plan (which would include an outreach/communication plan with the towns, schools, police, and other area agencies) for the connection sites in the west of Hudson and east of Hudson study areas, roadway pavement monitoring on local roads accessed by trucks for the east connection site, and clearing some vegetation in the right-of-way near a few intersections in the east of Hudson study area.

These mitigation measures would generally eliminate these predicted temporary significant adverse traffic impacts, except at the intersection of Route 9W and Fostertown Road during the AM and PM peak hours, where the proposed mitigation would reduce temporary impacts from Project 1 and 2B construction traffic. This remaining temporary significant adverse traffic impact could not be fully mitigated.

In the assessment of noise impacts, DEP examined the potential off-site noise impacts from the expected construction activities in each phase, and undertook evaluations of a range of potential measures to eliminate or reduce those impacts. As a result, for both the west of Hudson and east of Hudson study areas, all practical noise control methods would be incorporated into DEP's contract specifications. However, the temporary significant adverse noise impacts near the connection sites could not be fully mitigated. These noise impacts would be temporary and would not occur once construction is complete. In addition, DEP has committed to an extensive series of noise control measures, which are outlined in the Conceptual Noise Mitigation Plan (CNMP). A goal of the CNMP is to ensure that the proposed program's noise during construction is decreased to the maximum extent practicable. The CNMP includes conceptual guidelines for developing noise mitigation in the future when the construction contractor is selected, along with some specific noise control measures that can be committed to ahead of time, a performance-based commitment for noise generated by construction of the proposed program, as well as mechanisms for communication with the public about concerns relating to noise from the proposed program. Together, these measures are intended to reduce potential noise impacts resulting from the project to the extent feasible and practicable.

In addition, the FEIS did not identify any cumulative impacts associated with the Water for the Future Program. A second EIS or subsequent environmental review, as appropriate, will be conducted and will consider any further impacts or cumulative impacts associated with the proposed program.

The Final EIS is available for review at the public repositories, attached.

Contact Person

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DEP website: www.nyc.gov/dep (click on “Water for the Future Program” under “Hot Topics”)



Angela Licata
Deputy Commissioner

Attached:

- Repository List
- Distribution List
- Final Environmental Impact Statement

**Delaware Aqueduct Rondout-West Branch Tunnel Repair Project
Final Environmental Impact Statement Repositories**

Town of Newburgh Town Hall
1496 Route 300
Newburgh, NY 12550
Contact: Andrew Zarutskie
Phone: (845) 564-4554

New York City Department of
Environmental Protection
59-17 Junction Boulevard
Flushing, NY 11373
Contact: Jennifer Farmwald
Phone: (718) 595-3287

Town of Wappinger Town Hall
20 Middlebush Road
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
Contact: Chris Masterson
Phone: (845) 297-4158

New York City Department of
Environmental Protection
465 Columbus Ave
Valhalla, NY 10595
Contact: David Warne
Phone: 914-742-2099

New York City Department of
Environmental Protection
91 Smith Avenue
Kingston, NY 12401
Contact: Todd West
Phone: (845) 340-7836

**Delaware Aqueduct Rondout-West Branch Tunnel Repair Project
Final Environmental Impact Statement Distribution List**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
National Marine Fisheries Service
New York State Department of State
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
New York State Department of Health
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
New York State Office of General Services
New York State Department of Transportation
MTA Metro-North Railroad
New York City Office of Environmental Coordination
New York City Planning Commission
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
New York City Department of Transportation
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation
New York City Borough Presidents
New York City Council Speaker
New York City Council Member G. Brewer
New York City Council Member J. Gennaro
New York City Bronx, Manhattan, Queens, Brooklyn, and Staten Island Community Board Chairs
New York City City Clerk
Dutchess County
Orange County
Putnam County
Ulster County
Westchester County
City of Newburgh
City of Peekskill
Town of Gardiner
Town of Cornwall
Town of Cortlandt
Town of Fishkill
Town of Kent
Town of Marbletown
Town of Marlborough
Town of Montgomery
Town of Mount Pleasant
Town of New Castle
Town of New Castle (Millwood)
Town of New Paltz
Town of New Windsor
Town of Newburgh
Town of Olive
Town of Philipstown
Town of Plattekill
Town of Putnam Valley
Town of Shawungunk

Town of Wappinger
Town of Wawarsing
Town of Yorktown
Village of Buchanan
Village of Cold Spring
Village of Cornwall-on-Hudson
Village of Fishkill
Village of Nelsonville
Village of New Paltz
Village of Pleasantville
Continental Village
Cottage School
Graymoor
Montrose Water District
Mt. St. Joseph Presentation Convent
Orchard Hill
Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
Walkill Correctional Facility
Middlesex Water Company
New Jersey American Water
Office of the Nassau County Executive
Nassau County Department of Health
Nassau County Department of Public Works
Water Authority of Western Nassau County
Long Island American Water
Manhasset-Lakeville Water District
Water Authority of Great Neck North
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection