

Carter H. Strickland, Jr. Commissioner

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Tel. (718) 595-4398 Fax (718) 595-4479 NOTICE OF FINAL SCOPE OF WORK FOR THE PROPOSED WATER FOR THE FUTURE PROGRAM: DELAWARE AQUEDUCT RONDOUT-WEST BRANCH TUNNEL REPAIR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS

Project: Water for the Future: Delaware Aqueduct Rondout-West Branch Tunnel Repair Program CEQR No.: 10DEP042U August 31, 2011

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, and 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, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is hereby issuing a Final Scope of Work for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed Rondout-West Branch Tunnel Repair (proposed program). Public hearings were conducted on June 7, 2011, at the Town of Wappingers Town Hall, 20 Middlebush Road, Wappingers Falls, NY, and July 14, 2011, at Wappingers Junior High School, 30 Major McDonald Way, Wappingers Falls, NY; on June 9, 2011, at the Town of Newburgh Town Hall, 1496 Route 300, Newburgh, NY; and on June 14, 2011, at the Town of Wawarsing, Town Hall, 108 Canal Street, Ellenville, NY to accept comments on the Draft Scope of Work.

The testimony and written comments have been reviewed and the Draft Scope of Work edited and amended where appropriate. The Final Scope of Work and Response to Comments document are enclosed. The Response to Comments document addresses relevant written comments and testimony received during the public comment period.

The Draft EIS is anticipated to be released by November 30, 2011. This document will evaluate the environmental impacts associated with the proposed project and will present alternatives to the proposed project.

## **Project Description**

DEP plans to address the leaks in the Rondout-West Branch Tunnel (RWBT) portion of the Delaware Aqueduct by undertaking the proposed 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 would consist of two sub-projects:
  - a. Project 2A—Identification and implementation of additional projects to support the bypass tunnel connection.
  - b. Project 2B—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.

Specifically, 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.

The Delaware Aqueduct is critical to the New York City water supply. Shutting down the Delaware Aqueduct during the bypass tunnel connection and repair of the leak in Wawarsing would require DEP to implement a number of projects to supplement its water supply sources, and to ready the water supply system for the effects of the shutdown period.

Once these projects are implemented, DEP would undertake the bypass tunnel connection and repair of the leak in Wawarsing, in which the Delaware Aqueduct would be shut down, and the bypass tunnel would be connected to the existing tunnel. During the connection period, inspections and repairs from within the tunnel would be made to the remainder of the RWBT 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. When the new bypass tunnel is complete and the projects to support the connection are in place, the existing tunnel would be taken out of service and excavation would begin to connect the new bypass tunnel to the existing tunnel. It is anticipated that up to two years would be needed to complete the bypass connection and to undertake the inspection and repair of the RWBT.

For a more detailed description of proposed project, please refer to the Final Scope of Work. A copy of the Final Scope of Work may be obtained by contacting the Project Manager, Jennifer Farmwald.

Copies of the Final Scope of Work will also be available for review at the repositories listed in the attachment to this Notice and will be posted on the DEP web site at <u>http://www.nyc.gov/dep</u>.

## **Contact Person**

Jennifer Farmwald, Project Manager Office of Water Supply Infrastructure and Watershed Assessment Bureau of Environmental Planning and Analysis New York City Department of Environmental Protection 59-17 Junction Boulevard, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor Flushing, New York 11373 Phone: (718) 595-3287 Fax: (718) 595-4479 Email: jfarmwald@dep.nyc.gov

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Attached:

Repository List Distribution List Final Scope of Work Response to Comments

## Delaware Aqueduct Rondout-West Branch Tunnel Repair Program Final Scope of Work Repositories

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

Town Clerk 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 59-17 Junction Boulevard Flushing, NY 11373 *Contact: Jennifer Farmwald* Phone: (917) 479-1953

New York City Department of Environmental Protection 465 Columbus Avenue 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 Program Final Scope of Work 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 J. Gennaro J Haberman and G. Brewer, New York City Council 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 Long Island American Water Middlesex Water Company New Jersey American Water Office of the Nassau County Executive Water Authority of Western Nassau County Manhasset-Lakeville Water District Water Authority of Great Neck North