

Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) Bronx River Public Meeting #2 – Summary of Meeting and Public Comments Received

On May 7, 2015 DEP hosted the second of three public meetings for the water quality planning process for long term control of combined sewer overflows in the Bronx River waterbody. The two-hour event, was held at the Casita Maria Center for Arts & Education at 290 Simpson St., 6th Floor, Bronx, NY 10459. DEP presented information on the LTCP process, Bronx River watershed characteristics, and the status of engineering alternatives evaluations, and provided opportunities for public input. The presentation can be found at <http://www.nyc.gov/dep/ltcp>. Approximately 40 stakeholders from 10 different non-profit, community, planning, environmental, economic development, governmental organizations and the broader public attended the event and a reporter from local Bronx paper.

The Bronx River LTCP Meeting #2 was an opportunity for public participation in the LTCP. As part of DEP's LTCP Public Participation Plan, Bronx River Long Term Control Planning process will be posted on DEP's website, shown above. The public will have more opportunities to provide feedback and participate in the development of Bronx River waterbody-specific LTCP. Specific questions asked during the public meeting #2 are summarized below with DEP's responses to each.

- Which is a higher standard, Class B or Class C?
 - DEP stated that the standards shown are the current standards, but could not confirm which the higher standard was.
- When was the manmade dam installed?
 - DEP did not know the exact date, but mentioned that it affects the flow of the Bronx River. DEP added that they did not install the dam.
- Is the East River improving in water quality?
 - DEP stated recent Harbor Survey results indicated that water quality in the East River and other open waters is improving.
- How often are the floatable controls cleaned?
 - DEP did not have that information at the meeting but will check. Stakeholders then mentioned that sometimes big tree branches block the Bronx River.
- How did DEP come up with 10% reduction for Green Infrastructure?
 - DEP GI staff explained that the planning and analysis was conducted for the NYC Green Infrastructure Plan. The citywide goal is to manage 1-inch of stormwater runoff from 10% of the impervious areas of the combined sewer areas by 2030.
- What level of disinfection will DEP disinfect at HP-007?

- DEP explained that they are still conducting constructability review on the various the types of disinfection that could be used at HP-007. Public mentioned that they asked the question because nearby there are oyster beds and they were concerned that the chlorine used in disinfection could affect the oyster beds. DEP explained that the amount of chlorine would be small, similar to the levels used to treat drinking water.
- When will chlorine pilot study on wet weather flow be finished?
 - DEP responded that the pilot study will not be complete for about 2 years.
- What is the difference between outfall conduit disinfection and RTB contact tank disinfection?
 - DEP explained a major factor is cost and added that a RTB presents a siting issue while conduit disinfection would be more intrusive. DEP explained that a major issue in selecting a route for an outfall conduit disinfection alternative is the outfall's distance to the treatment plant.
- How do you balance short-term vs. long-term water quality goals when selecting an alternative?
 - DEP mentioned that they plan on trying to fix the current issue of improving the water body and also short term with GI, disinfection facilities, etc.
- How can the community have more input for the types of GI used around the community?
 - DEP explained that community input on GI has primarily been project specific. For instance, a DEP partnership to add green infrastructure to schools provides opportunities for students and teachers to give input on the project. For more information on green infrastructure programming, community members can contact their local community board or visit www.nyc.gov/greeninfrastructure. DEP further explained that there will be a public kick-off meeting in the summer of 2015 to discuss the expansion of green infrastructure implementation in the Bronx River Watershed.
- How is DEP funded?
 - DEP explained that it is funded through the water and sewer charges collected from property owners. In addition, capital projects are financed through the sale of state bonds.
- Does the City have a Water Conservation Program?
 - DEP mentioned that they have a comprehensive demand management and water conservation program which is working towards a 5% or 50 MGD goal for reductions in current demand. The water conservation program includes multiple initiatives ranging from retrofitting and replacing water fixtures at municipal facilities, NYCHA and Colleges; replacing fixtures in residential buildings; creating voluntary conservation programs in non-residential sectors and provide cost sharing; and adopting Water Shortage Rules, and emergency rates. DEP mentioned that for the first time since the 1960s, the yearly city water demand has decreased and concurrently as the population has increased the water use has decreased. Currently, there is not an active campaign but it is presented in multiple forums city-wide.