



**DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION**

59-17 Junction Boulevard  
Flushing, New York 11373

**Steven W. Lawitts  
Acting Commissioner**

Tel. (718) 595-6576  
Fax (718) 595-3557

**Angela Licata  
Deputy Commissioner**

**Bureau of Environmental  
Planning & Analysis**

Tel. (718) 595-4398  
Fax: (718) 595-4479  
[alicata@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:alicata@dep.nyc.gov)



[www.nyc.gov/dep](http://www.nyc.gov/dep)

**DIAL 311** Government Information  
and Services for NYC

## LEAD AGENCY DECLARATION AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO CONDUCT AN ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

February 27, 2009

### **Proposed Expansion of Boating at Cannonsville Reservoir CEQR No. 09DEP047U**

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP or Department) proposes to designate portions of Cannonsville Reservoir (or Reservoir) in Delaware County as Recreational Boating Areas as defined in the proposed amendments to Title 15, Chapter 16 of the Rules of the City of New York, the rules governing the recreational use of over 112,000 acres of New York City water supply lands and waters. The revised rules (Proposed Rules) were drafted to provide expanded recreational boating opportunities to the public by allowing additional types of boats to be used in areas designated by the NYCDEP without the requirement that occupants of these boats be engaged in fishing. Under the Proposed Rules, boats eligible for Recreational Boat Tags include canoes, sculls, small sailboats with removable center/dagger boards and jonboats that measure no less than eleven feet five inches (11' 5") in length and kayaks that measure no less than nine feet (9") in length. Inflatable boats, collapsible boats and motorized boats are prohibited. All boats would have to be steam cleaned prior to entry into the reservoir. The amendments have been written to allow NYCDEP to designate Recreational Boating Areas at City-owned reservoirs or portions thereof, after completion of site specific environmental reviews of each potential recreational boating area. This environmental review is the site-specific environmental review for Cannonsville Reservoir. The Proposed Rules are currently undergoing public review. Recreational boating will not be permitted at Cannonsville Reservoir until the Proposed Rules are promulgated. If the Proposed Rules are not promulgated, no recreational boating will be undertaken at Cannonsville Reservoir and the activities to support the recreational boating would be utilized for the existing fishing program.

NYCDEP in partnership with local watershed community officials, stakeholders and regulatory agencies proposes to develop and implement through a collaborative process an expanded boating program at the Cannonsville Reservoir that would commence Memorial Day Weekend (22 May) 2009. The annual boating season would extend to Columbus Day Weekend. The purpose of the proposed action is to improve regional recreational opportunities for watershed residents and visitors and promote environmentally sound economic development by allowing certain new types of reservoir recreational boating. Initially, NYCDEP plans on implementing a three year pilot study to monitor and evaluate the expansion of the recreational boating program. After three years, NYCDEP would determine if the program

would be extended or modified. To support the expanded boating program at the proposed Recreational Boating Areas at Cannonsville Reservoir, NYCDEP proposes to create eight boat launch areas, six of which are located in the Town of Tomkins and two of which are located in the Town of Walton. The Reservoir itself also passes through the Town of Deposit. Each boat launch area would consist of a parking area including handicap parking at three sites, an access road, an information kiosk, handicap accessible portable toilets at the three sites with handicap parking and regular portable toilets at the other sites, and a flagpole in addition to signage as needed. The parking areas and the access roads to be constructed would be composed of gravel except where paved access roads already exist.

The proposed project would require approvals from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. NYCDEP would continue to coordinate with officials from the Towns of Tomkins, Walton and Deposit regarding the proposed project.

The Bureau of Environmental Planning and Analysis has concluded that the proposed action is classified as a Type I Action. In accordance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act as set forth in 6NYCRR Part 617 authorized by Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law, and the City Environmental Quality Review process, as set forth in Executive Order 91 of 1977 and its amendments, NYCDEP believes that it is the appropriate lead agency and wishes to conduct a coordinated review for the above referenced action. We request that involved agencies contact this office within 30 days from this notification should there be any objection to the Department assuming lead agency for this environmental review.

Part I of the Environmental Assessment Form and a project description have been enclosed for your review. Parts II and III will be distributed for review prior to the issuance of the environmental determination document.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact Ms. Sangamithra Iyer at (718) 595-3585 or [siyer@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:siyer@dep.nyc.gov).

Sincerely,



Angela Licata  
Deputy Commissioner

Enclosures

cc:  
Kent Sanders, NYSDEC  
Andrew Dangler, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Samara Swanson, City Council  
Victor Robles, City Clerk  
Robert Kulikowski, NYCMOEC  
William Layton, Supervisor, Town of Tomkins  
Thomas Axtell, Supervisor, Town of Deposit  
James Eisel, Delaware County COB  
Aaron Bennett, CCCD  
Tom Evans Delaware County Panning Dept.  
Glenn Nealis, Delaware County Economic Development  
Mary Beth Silando, Delaware County Chamber of Commerce  
John W. Merideth, Supervisor, Town of Walton  
Steve Hood, Delaware County EMS  
Dean Frazier, Delaware Water Commissioner  
Jay Simpson, Riverkeeper  
Jerry DaBrescia, Hancock Partners  
Diane Galusha, CWC  
Jack Harrigan, Rainbow Lodge  
David Cornwell, NYSDEC  
Ben Murdock, CCCD  
Michelle, Phoenix, Trout Creek EMS  
Brenda Hubbell, Trout Creek Fire Dept.  
James Buck, NYSDOT  
John Vickers, NYCDEP  
Mark Danvetz, NYCDEP  
Melissa Siegel, NYCDEP  
David Warne, NYCDEP  
Gary Heath, NYCDEP  
Mark Page, Jr., NYCDEP  
Sangamithra Iyer, NYCDEP

**617.20**  
**Appendix A**  
**State Environmental Quality Review**  
**FULL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FORM**

**Purpose:** The full EAF is designed to help applicants and agencies determine, in an orderly manner, whether a project or action may be significant. The question of whether an action may be significant is not always easy to answer. Frequently, there are aspects of a project that are subjective or unmeasurable. It is also understood that those who determine significance may have little or no formal knowledge of the environment or may not be technically expert in environmental analysis. In addition, many who have knowledge in one particular area may not be aware of the broader concerns affecting the question of significance.

The full EAF is intended to provide a method whereby applicants and agencies can be assured that the determination process has been orderly, comprehensive in nature, yet flexible enough to allow introduction of information to fit a project or action.

**Full EAF Components:** The full EAF is comprised of three parts:

- Part 1:** Provides objective data and information about a given project and its site. By identifying basic project data, it assists a reviewer in the analysis that takes place in Parts 2 and 3.
- Part 2:** Focuses on identifying the range of possible impacts that may occur from a project or action. It provides guidance as to whether an impact is likely to be considered small to moderate or whether it is a potentially-large impact. The form also identifies whether an impact can be mitigated or reduced.
- Part 3:** If any impact in Part 2 is identified as potentially-large, then Part 3 is used to evaluate whether or not the impact is actually important.

---

**THIS AREA FOR LEAD AGENCY USE ONLY**

**DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE -- Type 1 and Unlisted Actions**

**Identify the Portions of EAF completed for this project:**

Part 1

Part 2

Part 3

Upon review of the information recorded on this EAF (Parts 1 and 2 and 3 if appropriate), and any other supporting information, and considering both the magnitude and importance of each impact, it is reasonably determined by the lead agency that:

- A. The project will not result in any large and important impact(s) and, therefore, is one which **will not** have a significant impact on the environment, therefore **a negative declaration will be prepared.**
- B. Although the project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect for this Unlisted Action because the mitigation measures described in PART 3 have been required, therefore **a CONDITIONED negative declaration will be prepared.\***
- C. The project may result in one or more large and important impacts that may have a significant impact on the environment, therefore **a positive declaration will be prepared.**

\*A Conditioned Negative Declaration is only valid for Unlisted Actions

Proposed Expansion of Recreational Boating at Cannonsville Reservoir

---

Name of Action

New York City Department of Environmental Protection

---

Name of Lead Agency

Angela Licata

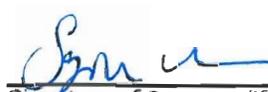
Deputy Commissioner

---

Print or Type Name of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency

---

Title of Responsible Officer



---

Signature of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency

---

Signature of Preparer (If different from responsible officer)

February <sup>27</sup> 2009

---

Date

website

## PART 1--PROJECT INFORMATION

### Prepared by Project Sponsor

NOTICE: This document is designed to assist in determining whether the action proposed may have a significant effect on the environment. Please complete the entire form, Parts A through E. Answers to these questions will be considered as part of the application for approval and may be subject to further verification and public review. Provide any additional information you believe will be needed to complete Parts 2 and 3.

It is expected that completion of the full EAF will be dependent on information currently available and will not involve new studies, research or investigation. If information requiring such additional work is unavailable, so indicate and specify each instance.

Name of Action

Location of Action (include Street Address, Municipality and County)

Name of Applicant/Sponsor

Address

City / PO

State

Zip Code

Business Telephone

Name of Owner (if different)

Address

City / PO

State

Zip Code

Business Telephone

Description of Action:

**Please Complete Each Question--Indicate N.A. if not applicable**

**A. SITE DESCRIPTION**

Physical setting of overall project, both developed and undeveloped areas.

1. Present Land Use:      Urban                  Industrial                  Commercial                  Residential (suburban)                  Rural (non-farm)  
    Forest                  Agriculture                  Other

2. Total acreage of project area:                  acres.

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE	PRESENTLY	AFTER COMPLETION
Meadow or Brushland (Non-agricultural)	acres	acres
Forested	acres	acres
Agricultural (Includes orchards, cropland, pasture, etc.)	acres	acres
Wetland (Freshwater or tidal as per Articles 24,25 of ECL)	acres	acres
Water Surface Area	acres	acres
Unvegetated (Rock, earth or fill)	acres	acres
Roads, buildings and other paved surfaces	acres	acres
Other (Indicate type)	acres	acres

3. What is predominant soil type(s) on project site?

- a. Soil drainage:                  Well drained                  % of site                  Moderately well drained                  % of site.  
    Poorly drained                  % of site

b. If any agricultural land is involved, how many acres of soil are classified within soil group 1 through 4 of the NYS Land Classification System?                  acres (see 1 NYCRR 370).

4. Are there bedrock outcroppings on project site?                  Yes                  No

a. What is depth to bedrock                  (in feet)

5. Approximate percentage of proposed project site with slopes:

0-10%      %      10- 15%      %      15% or greater      %

6. Is project substantially contiguous to, or contain a building, site, or district, listed on the State or National Registers of Historic Places?                  Yes                  No

7. Is project substantially contiguous to a site listed on the Register of National Natural Landmarks?                  Yes                  No

8. What is the depth of the water table?                  (in feet)

9. Is site located over a primary, principal, or sole source aquifer?                  Yes                  No

10. Do hunting, fishing or shell fishing opportunities presently exist in the project area?                  Yes                  No

11. Does project site contain any species of plant or animal life that is identified as threatened or endangered? Yes No

According to:

Identify each species:

12. Are there any unique or unusual land forms on the project site? (i.e., cliffs, dunes, other geological formations?)

Yes No

Describe:

13. Is the project site presently used by the community or neighborhood as an open space or recreation area?

Yes No

If yes, explain:

14. Does the present site include scenic views known to be important to the community? Yes No

15. Streams within or contiguous to project area:

a. Name of Stream and name of River to which it is tributary

16. Lakes, ponds, wetland areas within or contiguous to project area:

b. Size (in acres):

17. Is the site served by existing public utilities?                      Yes                      No
- a. If **YES**, does sufficient capacity exist to allow connection?                      Yes                      No
- b. If **YES**, will improvements be necessary to allow connection?                      Yes                      No
18. Is the site located in an agricultural district certified pursuant to Agriculture and Markets Law, Article 25-AA, Section 303 and 304?                      Yes                      No
19. Is the site located in or substantially contiguous to a Critical Environmental Area designated pursuant to Article 8 of the ECL, and 6 NYCRR 617?                      Yes                      No
20. Has the site ever been used for the disposal of solid or hazardous wastes?                      Yes                      No

**B. Project Description**

1. Physical dimensions and scale of project (fill in dimensions as appropriate).
- a. Total contiguous acreage owned or controlled by project sponsor:                      acres.
- b. Project acreage to be developed:                      acres initially;                      acres ultimately.
- c. Project acreage to remain undeveloped:                      acres.
- d. Length of project, in miles:                      (if appropriate)
- e. If the project is an expansion, indicate percent of expansion proposed.                      %
- f. Number of off-street parking spaces existing                      ;                      proposed
- g. Maximum vehicular trips generated per hour:                      (upon completion of project)?
- h. If residential: Number and type of housing units:
- |            | One Family | Two Family | Multiple Family | Condominium |
|------------|------------|------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Initially  |            |            |                 |             |
| Ultimately |            |            |                 |             |
- i. Dimensions (in feet) of largest proposed structure:                      height;                      width;                      length.
- j. Linear feet of frontage along a public thoroughfare project will occupy is?                      ft.
2. How much natural material (i.e. rock, earth, etc.) will be removed from the site?                      ~~tons~~/cubic yards.
3. Will disturbed areas be reclaimed                      Yes                      No                      N/A
- a. If yes, for what intended purpose is the site being reclaimed?
- b. Will topsoil be stockpiled for reclamation?                      Yes                      No
- c. Will upper subsoil be stockpiled for reclamation?                      Yes                      No
4. How many acres of vegetation (trees, shrubs, ground covers) will be removed from site?                      acres.

5. Will any mature forest (over 100 years old) or other locally-important vegetation be removed by this project?

Yes No

6. If single phase project: Anticipated period of construction: months, (including demolition)

7. If multi-phased:

a. Total number of phases anticipated (number)

b. Anticipated date of commencement phase 1: month year, (including demolition)

c. Approximate completion date of final phase: month year.

d. Is phase 1 functionally dependent on subsequent phases? Yes No

8. Will blasting occur during construction? Yes No

9. Number of jobs generated: during construction ; after project is complete

10. Number of jobs eliminated by this project .

11. Will project require relocation of any projects or facilities? Yes No

If yes, explain:

12. Is surface liquid waste disposal involved? Yes No

a. If yes, indicate type of waste (sewage, industrial, etc) and amount

b. Name of water body into which effluent will be discharged

13. Is subsurface liquid waste disposal involved? Yes No Type

14. Will surface area of an existing water body increase or decrease by proposal? Yes No

If yes, explain:

15. Is project or any portion of project located in a 100 year flood plain? Yes No

16. Will the project generate solid waste? Yes No

a. If yes, what is the amount per month? tons

b. If yes, will an existing solid waste facility be used? Yes No

c. If yes, give name ; location

d. Will any wastes not go into a sewage disposal system or into a sanitary landfill? Yes No

e. If yes, explain:

17. Will the project involve the disposal of solid waste?      Yes      No

a. If yes, what is the anticipated rate of disposal?      tons/month.

b. If yes, what is the anticipated site life?      years.

18. Will project use herbicides or pesticides?      Yes      No

19. Will project routinely produce odors (more than one hour per day)?      Yes      No

20. Will project produce operating noise exceeding the local ambient noise levels?      Yes      No

21. Will project result in an increase in energy use?      Yes      No

If yes, indicate type(s)

22. If water supply is from wells, indicate pumping capacity      gallons/minute.

23. Total anticipated water usage per day      gallons/day.

24. Does project involve Local, State or Federal funding?      Yes      No

If yes, explain:

**25. Approvals Required:**

Type

Submittal Date

City, Town, Village Board                      Yes              No

City, Town, Village Planning Board              Yes              No

City, Town Zoning Board                      Yes              No

City, County Health Department              Yes              No

Other Local Agencies                      Yes              No

Other Regional Agencies                      Yes              No

State Agencies                      Yes              No

Federal Agencies                      Yes              No

**C. Zoning and Planning Information**

1. Does proposed action involve a planning or zoning decision?      Yes              No

If Yes, indicate decision required:

Zoning amendment

Zoning variance

New/revision of master plan

Subdivision

Site plan

Special use permit

Resource management plan

Other

2. What is the zoning classification(s) of the site?

3. What is the maximum potential development of the site if developed as permitted by the present zoning?

4. What is the proposed zoning of the site?

5. What is the maximum potential development of the site if developed as permitted by the proposed zoning?

6. Is the proposed action consistent with the recommended uses in adopted local land use plans?                      Yes                      No

7. What are the predominant land use(s) and zoning classifications within a ¼ mile radius of proposed action?

8. Is the proposed action compatible with adjoining/surrounding land uses with a ¼ mile?                      Yes                      No

9. If the proposed action is the subdivision of land, how many lots are proposed?

a. What is the minimum lot size proposed?

10. Will proposed action require any authorization(s) for the formation of sewer or water districts?  Yes  No

11. Will the proposed action create a demand for any community provided services (recreation, education, police, fire protection)?

Yes  No

a. If yes, is existing capacity sufficient to handle projected demand?  Yes  No

NYCDEP Police would enforce recreation rules and help coordinate emergency response.

12. Will the proposed action result in the generation of traffic significantly above present levels?  Yes  No

a. If yes, is the existing road network adequate to handle the additional traffic.  Yes  No

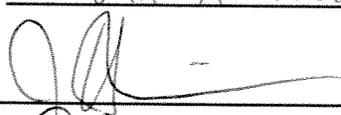
**D. Informational Details**

Attach any additional information as may be needed to clarify your project. If there are or may be any adverse impacts associated with your proposal, please discuss such impacts and the measures which you propose to mitigate or avoid them.

**E. Verification**

I certify that the information provided above is true to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant/Sponsor Name John H. Vickers, P.E. Date 2/25/09

Signature 

Title Chief, Western Operations Division, BWS, NYCDEP

If the action is in the Coastal Area, and you are a state agency, complete the Coastal Assessment Form before proceeding with this assessment.

## **Project Description: Proposed Expansion of Boating at Cannonsville Reservoir**

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP or Department) proposes to designate portions of Cannonsville Reservoir in Delaware County as Recreational Boating Areas as defined in the proposed amendments to Title 15, Chapter 16 of the Rules of the City of New York, the rules governing the recreational use of over 112,000 acres of New York City water supply lands and waters. The revised rules (Proposed Rules) were drafted to provide expanded recreational boating opportunities to the public by allowing additional types of boats to be used in areas designated by the NYCDEP without the requirement that occupants of these boats be engaged in fishing. Under the Proposed Rules, boats eligible for Recreational Boat Tags include canoes, sculls, small sailboats with removable center/dagger boards and jonboats that measure no less than eleven feet five inches (11' 5") in length and kayaks that measure no less than nine feet (9") in length. Inflatable boats, collapsible boats and motorized boats are prohibited. All boats would have to be steam cleaned prior to entry into the reservoir. All boats would be hand carried into the water. Swimming would still be prohibited. The amendments have been written to allow NYCDEP to designate Recreational Boating Areas at City-owned reservoirs or portions thereof, after completion of site specific environmental reviews of each potential recreational boating area. This environmental review is the site-specific environmental review for Cannonsville Reservoir. The Proposed Rules are currently undergoing public review. Recreational boating will not be permitted at Cannonsville Reservoir until the Proposed Rules are promulgated. If the Proposed Rules are not promulgated, no recreational boating will be undertaken at Cannonsville Reservoir and the activities to support the recreational boating would be utilized for the existing fishing program.

NYCDEP in partnership with local watershed community officials, stakeholders and regulatory agencies proposes to develop and implement through a collaborative process an expanded boating program at the Cannonsville Reservoir that is proposed to commence Memorial Day Weekend (22 May) 2009. The annual season would end Columbus Day weekend. Boating on the Reservoir would be allowed from sun up to sun down. The primary purpose of the Proposed Action is to improve regional recreational opportunities for watershed residents and visitors and to promote environmentally sound economic development by allowing certain new types of reservoir recreational boating. All recreational activities would be conducted in a manner that would ensure appropriate protections are in place to protect water quality and ensure security. Initially, NYCDEP plans on implementing a three year pilot study to monitor and evaluate the expansion of the recreational boating program. After three years, NYCDEP would determine if the program would be extended or modified.

To support the expanded boating program at the proposed Recreational Boating Areas at Cannonsville Reservoir, NYCDEP proposes to create eight boat launch areas, six of which are located in the Town of Tomkins and two of which are located in the Town of Walton. Each boat launch area would consist of a parking area including handicap parking at three sites, an access road, an information kiosk, a handicap accessible portable toilets at the three sites with handicap parking and regular portable toilets at the

other sites, and a flagpole in addition to signage as needed. The parking areas and the access roads to be installed would be composed of gravel except where paved access roads already exist.

The proposed boat launch areas, parking capacity, handicap accessibility are presented below: Projected parking is a total of 126 vehicles based on minimum space requirement of 9' x 18'.

Town of Tomkins

- Dry Brook: 193' x 74' = 21 cars and room for boat trailers (Handicap Accessible)
- Patterson Property: 98' x 79' = 20 cars and room for boat trailers.
- Dryden Brook: 53' x 30' = 5 cars, no trailers.
- Chamberlain Brook: 139' x 42' = 15 cars and boat trailers. (Handicap Accessible)
- Mormon Hollow Brook: 62' x 42' = 7 cars and room for boat trailers. (There is room for a second parking area at the top by the road for another 15 cars and boat trailers).
- Apex Bridge: 97' x 33' & 80' X 33' = total of 18 cars and room for boat trailers (Handicap Accessible)

Town of Walton

- Beers Brook: 129' x 34' = 14 cars and room for boat trailers.
- Fish Brook: 100' x 33' = 11 cars.

For most of the sites, NYCDEP would incorporate and improve existing boat launch ramps currently used for recreational fishing. The access ramp into the water at Beers Brook has not previously been used as a boat launch ramp. At Dry Brook, the proposed boat launch ramp is an existing paved road that was originally installed prior to the reservoirs construction. NYCDEP proposes to remove sediment that is currently on the road (approximately 3" in depth, 12' width) as the level of the reservoir drops to within 20 feet of the water surface. We expect that the recreational boating would take place between the reservoir elevations of 1150" (average reservoir high elevation) and 1122' (average reservoir low elevation)'