



**NOTICE OF POSITIVE DECLARATION, INTENT TO PREPARE A  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, LEAD  
AGENCY DECLARATION, DRAFT SCOPE OF WORK, AND PUBLIC  
MEETINGS**

**Project: Delaware Aqueduct Rondout-West Branch Tunnel Repair**

**CEQR No. 10DEP042U**

**May 3, 2011**

*Caswell F. Holloway  
Commissioner*

**Angela Licata**  
Deputy Commissioner  
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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, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) is hereby issuing a Notice of Intent to Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), a Lead Agency Determination, a Draft Scope of Analysis for a DEIS, and a schedule for a public meeting to take comments on the Draft Scope of Work for the Delaware Aqueduct Rondout-West Branch Tunnel Repair.

**Public Meetings**

Public meetings are scheduled to be held in the Town of Wappinger, Dutchess County, New York and the Town of Newburgh, Orange County, New York to receive oral and written comments on the Draft Scope of Work for the DEIS on:

Tuesday, June 7, 2011  
7:00 – 9:00 PM  
Town Hall, Town of Wappinger  
20 Middlebush Road  
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

And

Thursday, June 9, 2011  
7:00 – 9:00 PM  
Town Hall, Town of Newburgh  
1496 Route 300  
Newburgh, NY 12550

Written comments on the Draft Scope of Analysis will be accepted until June 20, 2011, and a Final Scope of Work, incorporating changes based on relevant comments received, will be issued in July 2011. Responses to comments given during the formal meeting and written comments received will be provided as part of the Final Scope of Work. The draft scope of work is available on the DEP website at: [www.nyc.gov/dep](http://www.nyc.gov/dep). Additional hard copies are available upon request.

### **Program 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 2019. 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.

**Required Approvals**

The construction of the Rondout-West Branch Bypass Tunnel may require several discretionary actions, including approval by the federal, state, county, and local entities. For a full list of potentially required permits and approvals, please refer to the Draft Scope of Work, enclosed herein.

**Statement of Potential Significant Effect(s)**

On behalf of DEP, the Bureau of Environmental Planning and Analysis has determined the proposed program is a Type I Action and that it may have potential significant effects on the environment. Based on preliminary analyses, DEP has concluded that an Environmental Impact Statement should be prepared to fully disclose the complex issues associated with the proposed program.

**Lead Agency Determination**

DEP believes that it is the appropriate lead agency, and DEP wishes to undertake a coordinated review with all involved agencies. Please notify the contact person listed below within thirty (30) days from the date of this notice if there are any objections to DEP assuming lead agency status. If no objections are heard within that time frame, DEP will continue to act as lead agency for the purposes of this environmental review.

**Contact Person**

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Bureau of Environmental Planning and Analysis  
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Angela Licata  
Deputy Commissioner

Attached:

- Repository List
- Distribution List
- Draft Scope of Work

