



NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Project: Water for the Future: Upstate Water Supply Resiliency CEQR No. 15DEP006U

September 19, 2016

Vincent Sapienza, P.E.
Acting Commissioner

Angela Licata
Deputy Commissioner
Sustainability

59-17 Junction Blvd.
Flushing, New York 11373

A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) has been prepared by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for the proposed **Water for the Future: Upstate Water Supply Resiliency**. 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, and the City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) process, as set forth in 62 RCNY Chapter 5 and 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 is hereby certifying this DEIS as complete.

A Positive Declaration and a Draft Scope of Work for the DEIS was issued on October 10, 2014. Public meetings to obtain oral testimony on the draft scope were held on November 13, 2014, at the Town of Newburgh Town Hall, 1496 Route 300, Newburgh, NY; November 14, 2014, at SUNY Sullivan – Paul Grossinger Dining Room, 112 College Road, Loch Sheldrake, NY; November 19, 2014, Ellenville Government Center, 2 Elting Court, Ellenville, NY; and November 20, 2014, Yorktown Town Hall – Town Board Room, 363 Underhill Avenue, Yorktown Heights, NY. The period for submitting written comments remained open until December 5, 2014. A Final Scope of Work (FSOW) was issued on September 16, 2015, finalizing the scope of analysis for the DEIS based on comments received. Based on the FSOW, this DEIS was prepared and is certified as complete.

The DEIS is being circulated for public review with this Notice of Completion. For a hard copy of the DEIS, please contact the person listed at the end of this Notice. The DEIS will also be available for review by the public at the repositories (see attachment) and on the DEP website (<http://www.nyc.gov/dep/upstatewatersupplyresiliency>).

Public hearings have been scheduled for October 2016 at the dates and places listed below. The public hearings will provide an opportunity for the public to provide oral and written comments on the DEIS. The public comment period will remain open until Friday, **November 14, 2016**.

Village of Ellenville
Thursday, October 20 at 7PM
Ellenville Government Center
2 Elting Court, Ellenville, NY 12428

Town of Yorktown
Monday, October 24 at 7PM
Town Board Room
363 Underhill Avenue
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

Town of Newburgh
Tuesday, October 25 at 7PM
Town of Newburgh Town Hall
1496 Route 300
Newburgh, NY 12550

SUNY-Sullivan
Friday, October 28 at 7PM
Paul Grossinger Dining Room
112 College Road
Loch Sheldrake, NY 12759

These hearing locations are accessible to persons with a mobility impairment. American Sign Language interpreter services may also be made available upon written request to the DEP contact person named below, no less than 10 days prior to the hearing.

Notification of the public hearings will appear in regional and local newspapers would occur before the hearing, as required. This will be followed by preparation and circulation of the Final EIS (FEIS), which will include written responses to address public comments made on the DEIS. Written comments should be sent to the contact person listed at the end of this Notice.

Program Description

DEP elected to construct a bypass tunnel and two associated shafts to permanently circumvent the leaking section of the Rondout-West Branch Tunnel (RWBT) at the Roseton crossing in the Town of Newburgh, and to conduct internal repairs to the section in Wawarsing; this work was previously evaluated in an FEIS issued on May 18, 2012 and work has commenced.

Once the tunnel and shafts are completed in 2022, the RWBT would be temporarily shut down and drained to connect the bypass tunnel to the existing RWBT and to carry out internal repairs. DEP estimates that the maximum shutdown duration would be approximately eight months. During this temporary shutdown of the RWBT, water from the Delaware system west of the Hudson River would be unavailable. To ensure the continued supply of clean drinking water during this time, DEP has developed projects and plans comprised of three main components: (1) augmentation of available supply consisting of the repair and rehabilitation of the Catskill Aqueduct to restore capacity; (2) WFF Shutdown System Operations (WSSO), which would

allow DEP to rely more heavily on the Catskill and Croton water supply systems during the temporary shutdown; and (3) Inspection and Repair of the RWBT during connection of the bypass tunnel, including decommissioning the bypassed section of the RWBT once the connection is completed. These components collectively will be referred to as Upstate Water Supply Resiliency in this DEIS and are described further below.

The proposed Catskill Aqueduct Repair and Rehabilitation Project (repair and rehabilitation) would restore historical capacity to the upper portion of the Catskill Aqueduct between the Ashokan and Kensico Reservoirs. In addition, the repair and rehabilitation would carry out additional repairs necessary based on age-related deterioration of the aqueduct, including repair or treatment of minor leaks and replacement of aging mechanical components. This would be coupled with temporary chlorination to maintain increased capacity; water would be dechlorinated before entering Kensico Reservoir.

Once the repair and rehabilitation is complete and the bypass tunnel is ready to be connected to the existing RWBT, DEP would be ready to implement an operational protocol, referred to as WSSO during the temporary shutdown that departs from its normal operation of the Delaware, Catskill, and Croton systems. The purpose of WSSO would be to: (1) prepare the water supply for the temporary shutdown of the RWBT; (2) continue to provide water to the City and its customers while the Delaware water supply is temporarily unavailable; and (3) return the system to normal operating conditions once the bypass connection is complete and the Delaware water supply system is again available.

In addition to supporting the connection of the bypass tunnel to the RWBT, WSSO program elements described above allow DEP to completely drain and inspect the approximately 45-mile length of the RWBT and make necessary repairs (inspection and repair) during the shutdown. Once RWBT repairs are completed and the bypass tunnel is successfully connected, the bypassed section of the RWBT that passes under the Hudson River would be permanently taken out of service (decommissioning). As a result, water currently leaking from the RWBT is expected to permanently cease. After the bypass tunnel connection is complete and all repairs are made to the RWBT, the RWBT would be reactivated and water would flow through the bypass tunnel to the City, and the bypassed portion of the RWBT would no longer be in service. The water supply system would return to normal operating conditions.

Required Approvals:

Upstate Water Supply Resiliency includes several actions subject to the procedures of environmental review, including approval by federal, State, county, and local entities. For a full list of potentially required permits and approvals, please refer to the DEIS enclosed herein.

Significant Impacts and Mitigation

A full assessment of potential impacts was undertaken in preparation of the DEIS.

There is a potential for significant adverse impacts to wetlands due to the potential loss of approximately 1.2 acres of wetlands in Roseton as a result of the cessation of leaks due to decommissioning of the bypassed section of the RWBT. DEP is committed to developing a monitoring program that would be implemented prior to, during and after the RWBT temporary

shutdown to assess and confirm the extent of the impacts to these wetlands, and should permanent impacts be measured, DEP would perform compensatory mitigation.

As stated above, copies of the **DEIS** will be available for review at the repositories listed in the attachment to this Notice and will be posted on the DEP web site at <http://www.nyc.gov/dep/upstatewatersupplyresiliency>. Written comments on the DEIS can be mailed or e-mailed to the DEP contact person noted below.

Contact Person

Sangamithra Iyer, P.E., Director
Office of Water Supply Infrastructure and Watershed Assessment
New York City Department of Environmental Protection, 11th Floor
Bureau of Environmental Planning and Analysis
59-17 Junction Boulevard
Flushing, New York 11373
Phone: (718) 595-3585
Email: WFFComments@dep.nyc.gov



Angela Licata
Deputy Commissioner

Attached:
Distribution List
Repository List
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

**Water for the Future: Upstate Water Supply Resiliency
Draft Environmental Impact Statement Distribution List**

Involved and Interested Agencies

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Coast Guard	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
U.S. Senate	National Marine Fisheries Service
U.S. House of Representatives	Delaware River Basin Commission
Stewart Air National Guard	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Jones Beach State Park	New York State Senate
New York State Assembly	New York State Department of Health
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation	New York State Department of Transportation
New York State Department of State	New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
New York State Office of General Services	Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
New York State Power Authority	MTA Metro-North Railroad
Stewart International Airport	New York City Clerk
New York City Queens Community Board Chairs	New York City Council
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene	New York City Department of City Planning
New York City Office of Environmental Coordination	New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
New York City Public Design Commission	New York City Planning Commission
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation	New York City Department of Transportation
Broome County	New York City Queens Borough President
Dutchess County	Delaware County
Nassau County	Greene County
Putnam County	Orange County
Schoharie County	Queens County
Ulster County	Sullivan County
City of Glen Cove	Westchester County
City of Mount Vernon	City of Kingston
City of Peekskill	City of Newburgh
City of Rye	City of Port Jervis
City of Yonkers	City of White Plains
Town of Bedford	Town of Andes
Town of Carmel	Town of Blenheim
Town of Colchester	Town of Cohecton
Town of Cornwall	Town of Conesville
Town of Deerpark	Town of Cortlandt
Town of Deposit	Town of Delaware
Town of East Fishkill	Town of Eastchester
Town of Fallsburg	Town of Esopus
Town of Forestburgh	Town of Fishkill
Town of Gardiner	Town of Fremont
	Town of Gilboa

Town of Greenburgh
Town of Hempstead
Town of Hurley
Town of Lewisboro
Town of Lumberland
Town of Marbletown
Town of Middletown
Town of Mount Pleasant
Town of New Castle
Town of New Windsor
Town of North Castle
Town of North Salem
Town of Ossining
Town of Philipstown
Town of Pound Ridge
Town of Putnam Valley
Town of Rockland
Town of Roxbury
Town of Sanford
Town of Shandaken
Town of Somers
Town of Thompson
Town of Tusten
Town of Walton
Town of Wawarsing
Town/Village of Harrison
Village of Bayville
Village of Briarcliff Manor
Village of Buchanan
Village of Cornwall-on-Hudson
Village of Deposit
Village of Flower Hill
Village of Elmsford
Village of Freeport
Village of Garden City
Village of Hastings-on-Hudson
Village of Irvington
Village of Mamaroneck
Village of Nelsonville
Village of Ossining
Village of Pelham Manor
Village of Port Chester
Village of Rockville Centre
Village of Sands Point
Village of Scarsdale
Village of Tarrytown
Village of Williston Park

Town of Hancock
Town of Highland
Town of Kent
Town of Lexington
Town of Mamaroneck
Town of Marlborough
Town of Montgomery
Town of Neversink
Town of New Paltz
Town of Newburgh
Town of North Hempstead
Town of Olive
Town of Pelham
Town of Plattekill
Town of Prattsville
Town of Rochester
Town of Rosendale
Town of Rye
Town of Saugerties
Town of Shawangunk
Town of Southeast
Town of Tompkins
Town of Ulster
Town of Wappinger
Town of Yorktown
Village of Ardsley
Village of Brewster
Village of Bronxville
Village of Cold Spring
Village of Croton-On-Hudson
Village of Dobbs Ferry
Village of Farmingdale
Village of Fishkill
Village of Hancock
Village of Hempstead
Village of Larchmont
Village of Mineola
Village of New Paltz
Village of Pelham
Village of Plandome
Village of Pleasantville
Village of Rye Brook
Village of Saugerties
Village of Sleepy Hollow
Village of Tuckahoe

Ashokan Release Working Group
Beaver Dam Winter Sports
Brewster Heights Water District
Carle Place Water District
CCI Roseton, LLC
Chelsea Farms, LLC
Chelsea Fire District
Chelsea Sportsmen's Association
Church of God
Cottage School
Franciscan Friars of Atonement
Garden City Park Water District
Graymoor
Hicksville Water District
Hudson River Sloop
Clearwater
Jericho Water District
Long Beach City Water Purification
Massapequa Water District
Mill Neck Water System
Natural Resources Defense Council
New York American Water
Newbuy, Inc.
Nature Conservancy
Old Westbury Village Water District
Oyster Bay Water District
Port Washington Water District
Riverkeeper
Roslyn Water District
South Farmingdale Water District
St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church
United Water
Water Authority of Great Neck North
Water for Long Island
Wawarsing PAC
West Hempstead Water District
Westchester County Water Districts
Westchester Joint Water Works

Albertson Water District
Bethpage Water District
Brookfield Power
Cathedral Gardens Water District
Cedar Hill Cemetery
Chelsea Fire Co.
Chelsea Ridge NY, LLC
CHG&E Corp
Continental Village Water District
Danskammer Energy LLC
Delaware Riverkeeper
Franklin Square Water District
Glenwood Water District
High Falls Water District
Locust Valley Water District
Manhasset-Lakeville Water District
McGoey Hauser and Edsall
Montrose Water District
Nassau Suffolk Water Commissioner's
Association
New York Council of Trout Unlimited
New York Public Interest Research Group,
Inc.
The North Delaware River Watershed
Conservancy
Northern Westchester Joint Water Works
Orchard Hill
Plainview Water District
Residents For A More Beautiful Port
Washington
Riverview Land Company, LLC
Seawanhaka Yacht Club
Split Rock Water Supply
Tobay Beach
Wallkill Correctional Facility
Water Authority of Western Nassau
Westbury Water District
World Mission Society

**Water for the Future: Upstate Water Supply Resiliency
Draft Environmental Impact Statement Repository List:**

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

Town Clerk
Town of Wawarsing
108 Canal Street ~ PO Box 671
Ellenville, NY 12428
Contact: Roxanne Shamro
Phone: (845) 647-7800

Town Clerk
Town of Yorktown
363 Underhill Avenue
Yorktown Heights, NY 10568
Contact: Diana Quast
Phone: (914) 962-5722

Town of Clerk
Town of Marbletown
Rondout Municipal Center
1925 Lucas Avenue
Cottkill, NY
Contact: Heather Moody
Phone (845) 687-7500

Library
SUNY – Sullivan 112 College Road
Loch Sheldrake, NY 12759
Phone: (845) 434-5750

Department of Environmental Protection
59-17 Junction Boulevard, 11th Floor
Flushing, NY 11373
Contact: Sangamithra Iyer
Phone: (718) 595-3585
Email: WFFComments@dep.nyc.gov

Department of Environmental Protection
465 Columbus Avenue
Valhalla, NY 10595
Contact: David Warne
Phone: (914) 742-2099
Email: WFFComments@dep.nyc.gov

Department of Environmental Protection
71 Smith Avenue
Kingston, NY 12401
Contact: Jennifer Farmwald
Phone: (845) 340-7884
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