



**DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

59-17 Junction Boulevard
Flushing, New York 11373

**Emily Lloyd
Commissioner**

Tel. (718) 595-6565
Fax (718) 595-3525
elloyd@dep.nyc.gov

**Angela Licata
Deputy Commissioner**

**Bureau of Environmental
Planning & Analysis**

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

Negative Declaration
Notice of Determination of Non-Significance

March 26, 2007

**The Rondout-West Branch Tunnel and Shaft Rehabilitation Project
CEQR No. 05DEP042U**

This Negative Declaration has been prepared in compliance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act authorized by Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law and its implementing regulations as set forth in 6NYCRR Part 617, the State Environmental Review Process (SERP) as required by the State Revolving Loan Fund Program, and the City Environmental Quality Review process as set forth in Executive Order 91 of 1977 and its amendments. The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP), as lead agency, has determined that the proposed action described below would not have a significant effect on the environment and is herein publishing a Negative Declaration. An Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) and a Revised EAF were distributed on August 8, 2006 and January 5, 2007, respectively.

Project Description

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) proposes to perform rehabilitation work at seven locations (the Rondout Effluent Chamber and Shaft Nos.: 1, 2A, 4, 5A, 6, and 8) along the Rondout - West Branch (RWB) Tunnel (RWB Tunnel or Tunnel) of the Delaware Aqueduct.

The Tunnel and Shaft Rehabilitation Project (Project) is being proposed in order to prepare the tunnel for maintenance and rehabilitation to extend the usable life of the Delaware Aqueduct and ensure the safe and reliable transmission of water from the watershed for years into the future.

Diagnostic investigations to date have confirmed that the RWB Tunnel is leaking and would ultimately need to be repaired. Currently, there is not sufficient supplemental water supply to NYC to allow any portion of the 85-mile Delaware Aqueduct to be taken out-of-service for an extended time period to perform rehabilitation work. Alternative water supply sources are being developed as part of the NYCDEP's proposed "dependability" projects; however, these sources would not be available for a minimum of eight to ten years. Based on the above, the NYCDEP decided that it is essential and necessary to implement a tunnel and shaft rehabilitation project, which would include site improvements to six active shafts and the Rondout Effluent Chamber in order to prepare for the repair of the Tunnel.

The proposed activities under the proposed Project are required to prepare for a planned Tunnel repair and to be ready to respond to a Tunnel emergency condition. The Tunnel repair is not included in this environmental review, since no repair work to the Tunnel is planned under this Project. Any future Tunnel repair work would be included in a separate independent environmental review.



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The proposed Project would require approvals from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Department of Health, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, the Towns of Wawarsing, Newburgh, Gardiner, Wappinger, and Putnam Valley. The NYCDEP has coordinated closely with officials from the above Towns regarding the project.

The EAF was reissued in January 2007 in order to disclose to the public and public officials changes to the project that occurred since the issuance of the original EAF in August 2006. These changes include, for safety purposes, relocating the proposed new vehicle entrance and parking area at the Shaft No. 6 site in the Town of Wappinger, Dutchess County, New York and altering the proposed route for utility lines within a NYCDEP easement through property adjacent to the Shaft No. 8 site in the Town of Putnam Valley, Putnam County, New York.

Statement of No Significant Effect:

The Rondout-West Branch Tunnel and Shaft Rehabilitation Project is not anticipated to have any potential significant adverse effects on the quality of the environment. No potential significant adverse impact on natural resources, water resources, traffic, air quality, noise, cultural resources, neighborhood character, land use, community facilities, visual character, public health, or other impact categories would occur as a result of the proposed action. These conclusions are based on the analyses and determinations provided within the EAF and the revised EAF that were distributed on August 8, 2006 and January 5, 2007, respectively.

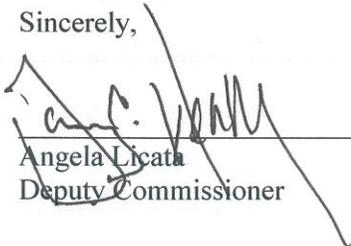
Supporting Statements:

The above determination is based on an environmental assessment which finds that the project, as proposed, would not result in significant effects on the environment that would require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

For Further Information Contact:

Mark N. Page, Jr., Executive Project Manager
New York City Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Environmental Planning and Analysis
59-17 Junction Boulevard, 11th Floor
Flushing, New York 11373
Phone: (718) 595-4395

Sincerely,



Angela Licata
Deputy Commissioner

cc:

James Dolaway, Town of Wawarsing

Carl Zatz, Town of Gardiner

Wayne Booth, Town of Newburgh

Joseph Ruggiero, Town of Wappinger

Sam Davis, Town of Putnam Valley

Philip J. DiNonno, Chairman, Town of Wappinger Planning Board

Billy L. Crowder, Chairman, Town of Putnam Valley Planning Board

Peter T. Belefant, Chairman, Town of Putnam Valley Zoning Board of Appeals

Peter Marlow, Dutchess County Health Department, Environmental Section

Michael Vissichelli, US Army Corps of Engineers

Margaret Duke, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Timothy Burns, NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation

Ruth Pierpont, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation

Jeff Zappieri, Supervisor, Federal Consistency Review, NYS Department of State

Scott Stringer, Borough President, Manhattan

Marty Markowitz, Borough President, Brooklyn

Helen Marshall, Borough President, Queens

Adolfo Carrion, Jr., Borough President, Bronx

James Molinaro, Borough President, Staten Island

Donna DeCostanzo, City Council

Victor Robles, City Clerk

Robert Kulikowski, NYCOEC

William Meakin, NYCDEP

James Canale, NYCDEP

Mark Page, Jr., NYCDEP