



FACT SHEET

What are the NYC Watershed Regulations?

The purpose of the NYC Watershed Regulations is to protect public health by preventing contamination to and degradation of the City's surface water supply. The current regulations were adopted in 1997 as part of the NYC Memorandum of Agreement.

Why are the NYC Watershed Regulations being revised?

The NYC Watershed Regulations are simply being updated at this time. They are not undergoing a complete revision. These amendments reflect changes in federal and State law since 1997 and address issues that have arisen during administration and enforcement of the Regulations over the past eleven years.

What are the main changes?

- ◆ Stormwater Plans - revisions to incorporate the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation ("DEC") SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity, Permit No. GP-0-08-001. The Watershed Regulations also continue to require the water quality protection standards that DEP has determined are appropriate for stormwater pollution prevention plans in the watershed.
- ◆ Variance within 60 day travel time - new provision authorizing DEP to grant a variance for a new or expanded surface-discharging wastewater treatment plant within the 60-day travel time, in the Croton system only, under specified and limited circumstances.
- ◆ Phosphorus Restricted Basins - revision to the definition of "Phosphorus restricted basin" to incorporate, with respect to basins of source water reservoirs only, a phosphorus concentration standard of 15 micrograms per liter, consistent with the Phase II Total Maximum Daily Loads for Phosphorus for New York City's Drinking Water reservoirs proposed by New York State DEC and approved by EPA.
- ◆ In addition, the proposed amendments include more recent versions of publications cited in the Watershed Regulations, updating certain technical terminology, and modifying or changing the order of certain text to improve clarity and intelligibility.

Amendments to the NYC Watershed Regulations

Where can I get a copy?

Copies of the amendments and the environmental review of the changes is available on the DEP website at www.nyc.gov/dep or a copy may be obtained from the offices of the Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Legal Affairs, 19th Floor, 59-17 Junction Boulevard, Flushing, New York, 11373.

How can I submit comments on these changes?

Comments may be submitted in writing by December 31, 2008 to:

Melissa Siegel

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

Bureau of Legal Affairs, 19th Floor

59-17 Junction Boulevard, Flushing, New York, 11373

Comments may also be submitted verbally at one of the six public hearings on the proposed rules. The hearings will start at 6pm on the following dates:

SUNY Delhi (Delhi, NY) - December 2, 2008

Belleayre Ski Center (Highmount, NY) - December 3, 2008

Mildred E. Strang Middle School (Yorktown, NY) - December 4, 2008

Putnam County EOC (Carmel, NY) - December 8, 2008

Onteora High School (Boiceville, NY) - December 9, 2008

NYC DEP (Flushing, NY) - December 11, 2008

When will the changes be effective and how will I know?

Once the public comment period closes on December 31, 2008, DEP will review all the written comments and testimony given at the public hearings and revise the amendments as necessary. The final amendments will be published in the City Record as well as in upstate newspapers. The amendments will be effective 30 days after the final publication in the City Record.

It should be noted that DEP will not adopt the proposed amendments until they are also approved by the New York State Department of Health.