$222 million to install an Automated Meter Reading (AMR) network throughout New York City

The AMR network is a system of low-power radio transmitters and a citywide wireless network that sends readings from your water meter to a computerized billing system up to 24 times a day. This network will eliminate the need for estimated bills and will allow you to regularly track your water consumption and spot potentially costly leaks before they become a billing problem.

DEP’s current capital program represents the most comprehensive upgrades to the city’s water and wastewater systems in decades. These projects will serve New Yorkers for generations.

Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Emily Lloyd, Commissioner

Front Cover: Catskill/Delaware Ultraviolet Light Disinfection Plant

Printed on recycled paper 6/14
Water and sewer fees are being used to make important investments in our future—investments that will guarantee clean drinking water and cleaner harbors for you, your family and for future generations of New Yorkers.

DEP uses the majority of the monies generated by water and sewer rates to make investments that have been mandated by the State or Federal government to ensure public health, including watershed protection, wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) upgrades, the Water Filtration Plant for the city’s Croton Water System, and the Ultraviolet Light Disinfection Plant for the city’s Catskill and Delaware watersheds.

In addition to mandated investments, DEP is making billions of dollars of improvements to the water and sewer networks throughout the 5 boroughs, including 243 capital projects in Queens. Highlights include:

$1.5 billion to protect upstate watersheds

The city supports a number of watershed protection programs in its Catskill and Delaware watersheds. These programs, which include everything from rehabilitating upstate septic systems to buying land around our watershed, protect the high quality of New York city’s source waters for years to come.

$4.7 billion to build City Water Tunnel 3

The city currently relies on City Water Tunnels Nos. 1 and 2 to deliver the majority of drinking water within the city. These tunnels were first put into service in 1917 and 1936, respectively. Completing City Water Tunnel No. 3 will provide New York with critical supply capacity, and will allow DEP to repair City Water Tunnels Nos. 1 and 2 for the first time in their history.

$4.8 billion to construct the Croton Water Filtration Plant and the Catskill/Delaware Ultraviolet Light Disinfection Plant

Ten percent of the city’s water comes from more populated sections of Westchester and Putnam Counties, where local development can affect the drinking water. The Croton Water Filtration Plant will ensure that water from these areas continues to meet the city’s high water quality standards. The Catskill/Delaware Ultraviolet Light Disinfection Plant provides a second means of disinfection to the other 90% of the city’s drinking water supply, treating micro-biological agents like Cryptosporidium and Giardia.

$3.8 billion to upgrade wastewater treatment plants

To upgrade our wastewater system, the city is investing $65 million in the Rockaway WWTP. In the early 1990s, DEP began a $5 billion upgrade of the Newtown Creek WWTP. The Newtown Creek Plant is located in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, and serves parts of Queens.

$1.2 billion to decrease the amount of Combined Sewer Overflows from entering New York City’s Waterways

The new $151 million Alley Creek CSO Overflow Tank will capture, retain, and pump up to 5 million gallons of overflow to a wastewater treatment plant before the stormwater can affect our environment. DEP’s water and sewer improvements include a $30 million upgrade to the Douglaston Pumping Station, which will alleviate street flooding.