



**NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
AND PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**Project: Water for the Future Program: Rondout-West Branch Bypass  
Tunnel Repair**

**CEQR No. 10DEP042U**

**December 20, 2011**

A Draft Environmental Impact Statement has been prepared by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for the proposed Water for the Future Program: Rondout-West Branch Bypass Tunnel Repair. 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, 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 DEP is certifying that this Draft EIS is complete.

A Positive Declaration and a Draft Scope of Work was issued on May 3, 2011. Public scoping meetings were held on June 7 and July 14 in the Town of Wappinger, June 9 in the Town of Newburgh, and June 14, 2011 in the Town of Wawarsing. The period for submitting written comments remained open until July 29, 2011. A Final Scope of Work was issued on August 31, 2011, finalizing the scope of analysis for the Draft EIS based on comments received. This Draft EIS was prepared based on the methodologies and issues identified and described within the Final Scope of Work.

This Draft EIS is being circulated for public review with this Notice of Completion. For a hard copy of the Draft EIS, please contact the person listed at the end of this Notice. It is also available for public review on the DEP website at [www.nyc.gov/dep](http://www.nyc.gov/dep) (click on "Water for the Future Program" under "Hot Topics") and at the attached repositories list.

Three public hearings will be held to receive oral and written comments on the Draft EIS:

Monday, January 23, 2012  
7:00 – 9:00 PM  
Town of Newburgh Town Hall  
1496 Route 300, Newburgh, NY 12550  
(snow date Monday, January 30, 2012)

*Carter H. Strickland, Jr.*  
*Commissioner*

**Angela Licata**  
Deputy Commissioner  
alicata@dep.nyc.gov

59-17 Junction Blvd.  
Flushing, New York 11373

Tel. (718) 595-4398  
Fax (718) 595-4479

Tuesday, January 24, 2012  
7:00 – 9:00 PM  
Wappingers Junior High School  
30 Major McDonald Way  
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590  
(snow date Tuesday, January 31, 2012)

Wednesday, January 25, 2012  
6:00 – 9:00 PM  
Wawarsing Town Hall  
108 Canal Street  
Ellenville, NY 12428  
(snow date Wednesday, February 1, 2012)

The public comment period will remain open and written comments will be accepted until February 17, 2012. Written comments should be sent to the contact person listed at the end of this Notice. Notification of these public hearings will be sent to all parties receiving this Notice of Completion and will appear in regional and local newspapers at least 14 days before the hearing. Due to the potential for inclement weather, snow dates have been scheduled and noted above. Please consult the DEP website for the most up-to-date information. The comment period will be followed by preparation and circulation of the Final EIS, which will include written responses to address public comments made on the Draft EIS.

### **Project Description**

DEP plans to address the leaks in the Rondout-West Branch Tunnel (RWBT) portion of the Delaware Aqueduct by undertaking the proposed *Water for the Future* 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 nine million people that rely on the New York City water supply, including New York City and upstate residents. Shutting down the Delaware Aqueduct during the bypass tunnel connection and repair of the leak in Wawarsing would require

DEP to supplement its water sources, manage demand and make provisions for changes in the distribution system during the shutdown period.

Once ready with all of the necessary provisions for reliable drinking water during the shutdown period, DEP would undertake the bypass tunnel connection to the existing tunnel. During the connection period, inspections and repairs from within the RWBT would be made to the remainder of the existing tunnel 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 2020. It is anticipated that up to 15 months would be needed to complete the bypass connection and to undertake the inspection and repair of the RWBT, expected to be sometime in 2021.

### **Required Approvals**

The construction of the Rondout-West Branch Tunnel Bypass requires several actions subject to the procedures of environmental review, 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 Environmental Impact Statement, enclosed herein.

### **Contact Person**

Jennifer Farmwald, Project Manager  
Office of Water Supply Infrastructure and Watershed Assessment  
Bureau of Environmental Planning and Analysis  
New York City Department of Environmental Protection  
59-17 Junction Boulevard, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Flushing, New York 11373  
Phone: (718) 595-3287  
Fax: (718) 595-4479  
Email: [jfarmwald@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:jfarmwald@dep.nyc.gov)  
DEP website: [www.nyc.gov/dep](http://www.nyc.gov/dep) (click on "Water for the Future Program" under "Hot Topics")



Angela Licata  
Deputy Commissioner

Attached:

- Repository List
- Distribution List
- Draft Environmental Impact Statement

[This Page Intentionally Left Blank]

**Delaware Aqueduct Rondout-West Branch Tunnel Repair Project**  
**Draft Environmental Impact Statement Repositories**

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

New York City Department of  
Environmental Protection  
59-17 Junction Boulevard  
Flushing, NY 11373  
*Contact: Jennifer Farmwald*  
Phone: (917) 479-1953

Town Clerk  
Town of Wappinger Town Hall  
20 Middlebush Road  
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590  
*Contact: Chris Masterson*  
Phone: (845) 297-4158

New York City Department of  
Environmental Protection  
465 Columbus Ave  
Valhalla, NY 10595  
*Contact: David Warne*  
Phone: 914-742-2099

New York City Department of  
Environmental Protection  
91 Smith Avenue  
Kingston, NY 12401  
*Contact: Todd West*  
Phone: (845) 340-7836

**Delaware Aqueduct Rondout-West Branch Tunnel Repair Project  
Draft Environmental Impact Statement Distribution List**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
New York State Department of State  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
New York State Department of Health  
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
New York State Office of General Services  
New York State Department of Transportation  
MTA Metro-North Railroad  
New York City Office of Environmental Coordination  
New York City Planning Commission  
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
New York City Department of Transportation  
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation  
New York City Borough Presidents  
New York City Council Speaker  
New York City Council Member G. Brewer  
New York City Council Member J. Gennaro  
New York City Bronx, Manhattan, Queens, Brooklyn, and Staten Island Community Board Chairs  
New York City City Clerk  
Dutchess County  
Orange County  
Putnam County  
Ulster County  
Westchester County  
City of Newburgh  
City of Peekskill  
Town of Gardiner  
Town of Cornwall  
Town of Cortlandt  
Town of Fishkill  
Town of Kent  
Town of Marbletown  
Town of Marlborough  
Town of Montgomery  
Town of Mount Pleasant  
Town of New Castle  
Town of New Castle (Millwood)  
Town of New Paltz  
Town of New Windsor  
Town of Newburgh  
Town of Olive  
Town of Philipstown  
Town of Plattekill

Town of Putnam Valley  
Town of Shawungunk  
Town of Wappinger  
Town of Wawarsing  
Town of Yorktown  
Village of Buchanan  
Village of Cold Spring  
Village of Cornwall-on-Hudson  
Village of Fishkill  
Village of Nelsonville  
Village of New Paltz  
Village of Pleasantville  
Continental Village  
Cottage School  
Graymoor  
Montrose Water District  
Mt. St. Joseph Presentation Convent  
Orchard Hill  
Port Authority of New York & New Jersey  
Walkill Correctional Facility  
Long Island American Water  
Middlesex Water Company  
New Jersey American Water  
Office of the Nassau County Executive  
Water Authority of Western Nassau County  
Manhasset-Lakeville Water District  
Water Authority of Great Neck North