



**Environmental  
Protection**

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

**Paul V. Rush, P.E.**  
Deputy Commissioner  
Bureau of Water Supply  
prush@dep.nyc.gov

P.O. Box 358  
Grahamsville, NY 12740  
T: (845) 340-7800  
F: (845) 334-7175

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Pamela Young, Ph.D.  
New York State Department of Health  
Bureau of Public Water Supply Protection  
Flanigan Square – 547 River Street  
Troy, NY 12180-2216

Phil Sweeney  
United States Environmental Protection Agency - Region II  
290 Broadway - 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10007-1866

Dear Dr. Young and Mr. Sweeney:

I am writing to update you on the status of two Stream Management Program (SMP) deliverables: the Rondout Creek Stream Restoration Demonstration Project (originally due February 2011); and the Neversink River Stream Restoration Demonstration Project (due February 2012).

Rondout Demonstration Project

The 2007 Filtration Avoidance Determination, Section 4.6 Stream Management Program, required DEP to: “Complete a demonstration restoration project for the Rondout Creek” by February 28, 2011. Please find enclosed the final project report for the Live Crib-Wall Bank Stabilization Demonstration Project at the Ulster County Highway Garage in Sundown, NY, which was completed in October 2011. Project delays were previously addressed in our communication of December 30, 2010.

Neversink Demonstration Project

The 2007 Filtration Avoidance Determination, Section 4.6 Stream Management Program, required DEP to complete a demonstration restoration project for the Neversink River by February 28, 2012. The project site selected for this deliverable is part of a highly visible five-mile stretch of the Neversink River famed for its trout fishing, and owned by Winton Waters, which leases exclusive fishing access to anglers from all over the country. Currently, approximately 700 feet of road embankment has been rip-rapped on the approach from the north, and there is no vegetated buffer between the road and stream to mitigate contaminants such as road salts and hydrocarbons. The current river alignment approaches the bridge at an oblique angle, causing backwatering and aggradation, and is undermining the toe of the rip-rapped slope.

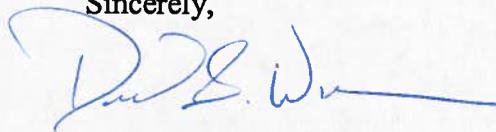
This project has been designed to benefit water quality and habitat by improving the stream alignment through the bridge, and consequently the sediment transport

function, increasing the stability of the reach as a whole. This realignment, with construction of a vegetated, bankfull bench at the toe of the slope and interplanting the existing rip-rap placements with woody vegetation, will significantly improve the contaminant sequestration effectiveness of the riparian buffer, and improve the long-term stability of the road embankment. The interplanting of the rip-rap will demonstrate the use of a novel piece of equipment designed and fabricated specifically for this purpose (aka "the Stinger"). In addition to water quality and ecosystem benefits, the practices employed in the project will serve as a model with potential application throughout the west of Hudson watershed to demonstrate the BMPs and the specialized equipment will be shared with other watershed stakeholders. The site will provide a bioengineering training location for highway personnel within Rondout and Neversink basins, including the municipalities and project partners at the Sullivan County Department of Public Works.

This project was scheduled to commence in 2011, with expected completion by the FAD deadline. At the request of the landowners, who lease exclusive fishing rights to a group of high-end tenant anglers through the summer months, commencement of the project was scheduled for September 2011. However, as was discussed at our semi-annual meeting on October 4, 2011 at the Neversink Town Hall, the site sustained significant damage from the high flows following Tropical Storm Irene on August 28, 2011, requiring postponement of construction. The channel and floodplain cross-sections have changed significantly and severe erosion at the toe of the slope has caused the rock revetment to slide, exposing the geotextile fabric under the rock. Of interest, the draft stream management plan predicted that these changes would occur if no action was taken; the restoration was designed, among other goals, to prevent precisely what occurred during Irene. The project now requires more extensive in-channel work, and consequently additional survey, hydraulic assessment and design work prior to construction. We are progressing with revised survey and design, toward an expected completion during September and October 2012.

Please contact me if you wish to discuss any of these deliverables.

Sincerely,



David S. Warne  
Assistant Commissioner

c: K. Kosinski, DEC