

**NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION (NYSDEC)
NEW YORK CITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (NYCDEP)**

NYSDEC NOTICE OF COMPLETE WATER SUPPLY PERMIT APPLICATION

**NYSDEC/NYCDEP NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND JOINT
LEGISLATIVE PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT AND COMPLETE WATER SUPPLY PERMIT APPLICATION**

APPLICANT AND SEQR LEAD AGENCY: New York City Department of Environmental Protection, 59-17 Junction Boulevard, Flushing, NY 11373-5108 (NYSDEC Application #0-9999-00051/00001/ NYCDEP CEQR No: 10DEP046U)

TITLE OF ACTION: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation: Water Supply Permit Application Decision
New York City Department of Environmental Protection: Continuing funding and implementation of the New York City Watershed Land Acquisition Program

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) proposes to continue the watershed Land Acquisition Program (LAP) in the three surface water watersheds that constitute the New York City surface water supply system through the year 2022. The three watersheds are the Delaware, Catskill, and Croton Watersheds. With the expiration of the existing Public Water Supply Permit (WSP) in January 2012, NYCDEP has submitted an application for a new 10 year WSP received January 21, 2010, seeking permit approval prior to January 2012 to continue LAP through the year 2022. The goal of the NYCDEP LAP is to acquire fee simple and conservation easement interests to protect environmentally-sensitive land in the NYCDEP watershed as part of the City's overall Watershed Protection Program. LAP is a key component of the City's efforts to continue to provide high quality drinking water without filtration of the Catskill-Delaware (Cat-Del) System, which provides water to over 9 million residents of the City and nearby suburban communities in New York State. Since its creation in the 1990s, LAP has protected, through acquisition, over 108,000 acres of land in the 1 million-acre Cat-Del System. Together with lands protected by the State and other entities, these acquisitions have raised the level of permanently protected land in the Cat-Del System from 24 percent in 1997 to 34 percent today. If approved the future WSP would authorize continued land acquisition in the three watersheds for water quality purposes. Substantially greater emphasis on acquisitions in the Catskill-Delaware System is anticipated.

PUBLIC NOTICE AND PUBLIC COMMENT: Public Notice for the project is published in the Environmental Notice Bulletin on June 23, 2010, in the City Record, and in local newspapers located within the New York City Watershed.

JOINT LEGISLATIVE PUBLIC HEARINGS: Joint legislative public comment hearings on the DEIS and complete Water Supply Application will be held commencing at 6:00 PM at the

following locations and dates: 1) Monday July 12, 2010 at SUNY Delhi, Evenden Tower, Room 104, 2 Main Street, Delhi, NY 13753, 2) Tuesday July 13, 6 PM at Hunter Elementary School, 7794 Main Street, Hunter, NY 12442, 3) Wednesday July 14, 6 PM at Tri Valley High School, 34 Moore Hill Road, Grahamsville, NY 12740.

All persons, organizations, corporations, or government agencies which may be affected by or having an interest in this proposed project are encouraged to attend or be represented either individually or collectively and are invited to provide verbal comments on the complete application and DEIS. It is not necessary to file in advance to speak at the joint legislative hearings. Lengthy statements can be submitted into the record in writing and summarized for oral presentation. Reasonable time limits may be set for each speaker to afford everyone an opportunity to be heard. Equal weight will be given to both oral and written statements.

These hearing locations are reasonably accessible to persons with a mobility impairment. Interpreter services may also be made available to deaf persons, at no charge, upon written request to the NYSDEC Contact Person named below, no less than 10 days prior to the hearing, pursuant to SAPA § 202(1).

Following the hearings, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation will consider all comments and the complete application including the responses to comments/FEIS in making a final permit decision and prior to making a determination on whether substantive or significant issues have been raised as defined in 6NYCRR Part 621 Uniform Procedures and whether an Adjudicatory Hearing Issues Conference should be scheduled before an Administrative Law Judge. In order to raise substantive and significant issues written comments expressing objections to or opposition to the application must explain the basis of that opposition and identify the specific grounds which could lead the Department to deny or impose significant permit conditions on the project.

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection as SEQRA lead agency will consider all comments received in preparing a response to comments and Final Environmental Impact Statement and in making a final decision on this project.

SEQRA STATUS: The project is considered a Type I action pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617 of the implementing regulations for Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) Article 8, (State Environmental Quality Review Act – SEQRA) and the City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) process, as set forth in Executive Order 91 of 1977 and its amendments. NYC Department of Environmental Protection is the Lead Agency. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement has been submitted by NYCDEP and is available for public comment.

SHPA DETERMINATION: The Land Acquisition Program (LAP) would not generally result in any construction activity that would disturb historic or archaeological resources in the watershed. The LAP has the potential to result in a benefit to historic and archaeological resources on acquired sites by ensuring that these sites would not be disturbed. As part of the Community Review Process mandated by the MOA, local Town or Village governments would advise the City whether they wish any structures on property to be removed. Should acquired property be determined to require demolition or alteration of any structure, it would be

determined if the structure is subject to State and local regulations regarding historic preservation. If the structure is of historical significance, the City would adhere to all applicable historic preservation laws and rules and regulations.

WRITTEN COMMENTS: All comments must be filed with the York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Environmental Permits, Region 4 Field Office, 65561 State Highway 10, Stamford, NY 12167, Attn: Martha A. Wood, Project Manager. All written comments must be submitted (postmarked) by no later than July 30, 2010. Comments may also be submitted in electronic form to R4DEP@gw.dec.state.ny.us.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The Water Supply Application and DEIS are available for review at the following repositories during normal business hours Monday through Friday:

Delaware County Office of Watershed
Affairs
1 Courthouse Square, Suite 3
Delhi, NY 13753

Neversink Town Hall
273 Main Street
Grahamsville, NY 12740

Hunter Town Hall
5748 State Rte. 23A
Tannersville, N.Y. 12485

NYCDEP
71 Smith Ave
Kingston, NY 12401

Gilboa Town Hall
373-1 State Route 990V
Gilboa, NY 12076

Putnam County Office Building
40 Gleneida Avenue, 3rd Floor
Carmel, New York 10512

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Water Supply Permit Application can be found on NYCDEP's website at the following address:

http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/environmental_reviews/lap.shtml

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Martha A. Wood, Project Manager/Environmental Analyst, York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Environmental Permits, Region 4 Field Office, 65561 State Highway 10, Stamford, NY 12167, 607-652-7741, Email: mawood@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Sangamithra Iyer, EIS Project Manager, New York City Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Environmental Planning and Analysis, 59-17 Junction Blvd, 11th Floor, Flushing, New York, 11373-5108, 718-595-3585, Email: siyer@dep.nyc.gov