



**NOTICE OF POSITIVE DECLARATION, INTENT TO PREPARE A
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, DRAFT SCOPE
OF WORK, AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS**

Project: Extended New York City Watershed Land Acquisition Program

CEQR No.: 10DEP046U

February 16, 2010

Caswell F. Holloway
Commissioner

Angela Licata
Deputy Commissioner
ALicata@dep.nyc.gov

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, and the City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) process, as set forth in Executive Order 91 of 1977 and its amendments, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP), acting as lead agency, is hereby issuing a Notice of Intent to Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), a Draft Scope of Work for a DEIS, and a notice of public scoping meetings to take comments on the Draft Scope of Work.

Public Meetings

Two public meetings will be held to receive oral and written comments on the Draft Scope of Work. These meetings will be held on:

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

7 PM – 10:00 PM

Tannersville Elementary School
7794 Main Street, Hunter, NY 12442

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

7 PM – 10:00PM

Delaware County Courthouse
3 Court Street, Delhi, NY 13753

Written comments on the Draft Scope of Work will be accepted until April 5, 2010, and a Final Scope of Work, incorporating changes based on relevant comments received, will be issued.

Project Description

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) is applying for a new water supply permit to continue the watershed Land Acquisition Program (LAP) in the watersheds that constitute the New York City surface water supply system. The proposed Project would require approval from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).

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Flushing, NY 11373

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The goal of the City's Land Acquisition Program (LAP) is to acquire fee simple and conservation easement interests in real property to protect environmentally-sensitive land in the New York City watershed as a 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 communities in New York State. Since its creation in the 1990s, LAP has protected, through acquisition, over 100,000 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.

NYCDEP initially sought to establish a land acquisition program in the Catskill and Delaware watersheds as a condition of the approval of the first Filtration Avoidance Determination (FAD), issued by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1993. In August 1993 the NYCDEP applied for a Water Supply Permit (WSP) from NYSDEC. In January 1997, the NYCDEP received a WSP issued by NYSDEC. The NYSDEC authorizes land acquisition for water supply purposes. The WSP was issued for a ten-year period (through January 2007), with a five-year renewal option (through January 2012), which was granted. NYCDEP is submitting an application for a new WSP in order to continue LAP purchases beyond January 2012 for the Delaware, Catskill, and Croton Watersheds.

Required Approvals

The Land Acquisition Program would require a Public Water Supply Permit from the NYSDEC.

Statement of Potential Significant Effect(s)

On behalf of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, the Bureau of Environmental Planning and Analysis has determined that the proposed action is a Type 1 action and that it may have potential significant effects on the environment. Based on preliminary analyses, the Department has concluded that an environmental impact statement should be prepared to fully disclose the complex issues associated with the proposed action.

Contact Person

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Deputy Commissioner

Attached: Draft Scope of Work

c: James Tierney, NYSDEC
William Clarke, NYSDEC
Thomas Snow, NYSDEC
Suzanne Y. Mattei, NYSDEC - Region 2
William Janeway, NYSDEC - Region 3
Gene Kelly, NYSDEC - Region 4
Roger Sokol, NYSDOH
Philip Bein, Watershed Inspector General
Philip Sweeney, U.S. EPA- Region II
Watershed Town Supervisors
Watershed Village Mayors
Watershed County Directors of Planning
Dennis Lucas, Coalition of Watershed Towns
Alan L. Rosa, Catskill Watershed Corporation
Dean Frazier, Delaware County Department of Watershed Affairs
Craig Cashman, Watershed Agricultural Council
William C. Harding, Watershed Protection and Partnership Council
Kim Elliman, Open Space Institute
Rose Harvey, Trust for Public Land
Leslie, Wright, Trust for Public Land
Jay Simpson, Riverkeeper, Inc.
Daniel Palm, Catskill Center for Conservation and Development
Eric Goldstein, NRDC

Cathleen Breen, NYPIRG
Michael McSweeney, City Clerk
Hon. Marty Markowitz, Brooklyn Borough President
Hon. Helen Marshall, Queens Borough President
Hon. Scott Stringer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Ruben Diaz Jr., Bronx Borough President
Hon. James Molinaro, Staten Island Borough President
Robert Kulikowski, Office of Environmental Coordination
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