



CEQR No.: 10DEP046U

**NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF THE
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**PROJECT: EXTENDED NEW YORK CITY WATERSHED LAND
ACQUISITION PROGRAM**

Caswell F. Holloway
Commissioner

June 1, 2010

Angela Licata
Deputy Commissioner
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A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) has been prepared by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection for the proposed Extended New York City Watershed Land Acquisition Program. 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, 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 (DEP), is hereby certifying this Draft EIS as complete.

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A Positive Declaration and a Draft Scope of Work for the DEIS was issued on February 16, 2010. Public meetings to obtain oral testimony on the draft scope were held in Hunter and Delhi, New York on March 23, and March 24, 2010 respectively. The period for submitting written comments remained open until April 5, 2010. A Final Scope of Work issued on April 30, 2010, finalizing the scope of analysis for the DEIS based on comments received. This DEIS was prepared based on the methodologies and issues identified and described within the Final Scope of Work.

The DEIS is being circulated for public review with this Notice of Completion. For a hard copy of the DEIS, please contact the contact person listed at the end of this Notice. The Draft EIS will also be available for inspection by the public at the repositories listed below and on the DEP website (www.nyc.gov/dep).

Public hearings will be scheduled to receive comments on the DEIS, anticipated to be scheduled for July 2010. The public hearing will provide an opportunity for the public to provide oral and written comments on the DEIS. The public comment period will remain open for an additional 10 days after the close of the public hearings. Notification of the 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. This will be followed by preparation and circulation of the Final EIS (FEIS), which will include written responses to address public comments made on the DEIS. Written comments should be sent to the contact person listed at the end of this Notice.

Project Description

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) 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, DEP submitted an application for a new 10 year WSP on January 21, 2010, seeking permit approval prior to January 2012 to continue LAP through the year 2022.

The goal of the New York City Land Acquisition Program (LAP) is to acquire fee simple and conservation easement interests to protect environmentally-sensitive land in the New York City (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 and over 2,000 acres of land in the Croton System. The land and easements acquired are to be maintained in perpetuity as open space for watershed protection. 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.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been prepared to support the application for the WSP. It is anticipated that the future WSP would continue to authorize land acquisition in the three watersheds for watershed protection purposes, with a substantially greater emphasis on acquisitions in the Catskill-Delaware System.

The project is a Type I action.

Required Approvals

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

Significant Impacts and Mitigation

A full assessment of potential impacts was undertaken in preparation of the DEIS. The impact analyses did not identify any potential significant adverse impacts. The DEIS was undertaken to fully disclose the complex issues associated with the proposed action.

Contact Person

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Attached: Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Repository List

- 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.
Alan White, 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
Samara Swanson, City Council
Michael, Tancredi, Village of Hunter Trustee
Harold Goldberg, Village of Hunter Planning Board
Roy Silver, Town of Hunter resident
Wayne Marshfield, Supervisor of Town of Hamden
Glenn Nealis, Delaware County Department of Economic Development
Shyamal K. Sen Gupta, Town of Bovina resident
Mark Hyer, Chairman, Town of Hunter Planning Board
Paul Deysenroth Family, Bloomville, NY
Jack McShane, Town of Andes resident
Bruce Dolph, Town of Walton Supervisor
Donald L. Tompkins, Town of Ashland resident
Michelle Yost, Greene County Watershed Assistance Program
Jeffrey Baker, Counsel to the Coalition of Watershed Towns
Craig Michaels, Riverkeeper
Cas Holloway, DEP
Carter Strickland, DEP
Hilary Meltzer, NYC Corporation Counsel
Paul Rush, DEP
Robin Levine, DEP
David Warne, DEP
Esther Siskind, DEP
Sangamithra Iyer, DEP

Repositories

Delaware County

Delaware County Office of Watershed Affairs
97 Main Street
Delhi, NY 13753

Greene County

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

Schoharie Country

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

Sullivan County

Neversink Town Hall
273 Main Street
Grahamsville, NY 12740

Ulster County

DEP
71 Smith Ave
Kingston, NY 12401

Putnam County

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