MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 10, 2014
FROM: Angela Licata, Deputy Commissioner, Bureau of Sustainability, New York City Department of Environmental Protection
RE: Draft Scope of Work for Water for the Future: Upstate Water Supply Resiliency Project

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection has issued the Draft Scope of Work for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Water for the Future: Upstate Water Supply Resiliency Project. The Queens Groundwater Rehabilitation project will be referred to as In-City Water Supply Resiliency, and will be the subject of a subsequent environmental review.

Below is a link to the draft scope of work, which provides a detailed description of activities related to the design, construction, and operation of all components of this project. This includes rehabilitation of the Catskill Aqueduct, how the water supply will be operated before, during, and after the repairs, and the Inspection and Repair component of the remainder of the Rondout-West Branch Tunnel, including repairs to leaks in Wawarsing and Roseton. The draft scope also provides the dates, times, and locations for all public hearings.

Enclosed, please find the notice of positive declaration and intent to prepare a draft environmental impact statement, and lead agency declaration. To review the draft scope of work and submit comments, please visit the DEP website at www.nyc.gov/dep.
NOTICE OF POSITIVE DECLARATION, INTENT TO PREPARE A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, LEAD AGENCY DECLARATION, DRAFT SCOPE OF WORK, AND PUBLIC MEETINGS

Project: Water for the Future: Upstate Water Supply Resiliency

CEQR No. 15DEP006U
October 10, 2014

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 62 RCNY Chapter 5 and 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 New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) is hereby issuing a Notice of Intent to Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), a Lead Agency Determination, a Draft Scope of Work for a DEIS, and a schedule for a public meeting to take comments on the Draft Scope of Work for the Delaware Aqueduct Rondout-West Branch Tunnel Repair.

Public Meetings

Public meetings are scheduled to be held in Newburgh, NY, Loch Sheldrake, NY, Ellenville, NY and Yorktown Heights, NY to receive oral and written comments on the Draft Scope of Work for the DEIS. These meetings will be held on the following dates and times with informal information and listening sessions taking place one hour prior to the meeting times listed at the same location:

Thursday, November 13, 2014, at 7:00 PM
Town of Newburgh Town Hall
1496 Route 300, Newburgh, NY 12550

Friday, November 14, 2014, at 7:00 PM
SUNY Sullivan – Paul Grossinger Dining Room
112 College Road, Loch Sheldrake, NY 12759

Wednesday, November 19, 2014, at 7:00 PM
Ellenville Government Center
2 Elting Court, Ellenville, NY 12428

Thursday, November 20, 2014 at 7:00 PM
Yorktown Town Hall – Town Board Room
363 Underhill Avenue, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598
Written comments on the Draft Scope of Work will be accepted until December 5, 2014, and a Final Scope of Work, incorporating changes based on relevant comments received, will be issued. Responses to comments given during the formal meeting and written comments received will be provided as part of the Final Scope of Work. The draft scope of work is available on the DEP website at: [www.nyc.gov/dep](http://www.nyc.gov/dep). Additional hard copies are available upon request.

**Program Description**

DEP elected to construct a bypass tunnel and two associated shafts to permanently circumvent the leaking section of the Rondout-West Branch Tunnel (RWBT) at the Roseton crossing, and to conduct internal repairs to the section in Wawarsing; this work was previously evaluated in an FEIS issued on May 18, 2012 and work has commenced.

Once the tunnel and shafts are completed in 2022, the RWBT would be temporarily shut down and drained to connect the bypass tunnel to the existing RWBT and to carry out internal repairs. DEP estimates that the maximum shutdown duration would be approximately eight months. During this temporary shutdown of the RWBT, water from the Delaware system west of the Hudson River would be unavailable. To ensure the continued supply of clean drinking water during this time, DEP has developed projects and plans comprised of three main components: (1) supply augmentation consisting of rehabilitation of the Catskill Aqueduct and rehabilitation of groundwater supply stations in Queens; (2) WFF Shutdown System Operations, which would allow DEP to rely more heavily on the Catskill and Croton water supply systems during the temporary shutdown; and (3) Inspection and Repair of the RWBT during connection of the bypass tunnel, including decommissioning the bypassed section of the RWBT once the connection is completed.

The subject of this draft scope and EIS will be comprised of the rehabilitation of the Catskill Aqueduct, WFF Shutdown System Operations, and Inspection and Repair of the RWBT. These components collectively will be referred to as Upstate Water Supply Resiliency in this draft scope. The Queens Groundwater Rehabilitation project will be referred to as In-City Water Supply Resiliency, which will be subject of a subsequent environmental review.

Separate environmental reviews of the Upstate and In-City Water Supply Resiliency components is appropriate because the actions have independent utility and, as discussed in detail below, their impacts are entirely independent and occur in entirely distinct locations and distinct watersheds which are not hydrologically connected. Each of these environmental reviews, like the May 2012 FEIS, will consider any potential cumulative impacts with the other components of the Water for the Future Project, to the extent possible based on available information. As anticipated in the May 2012 FEIS for the RWBT Bypass, environmental review of these components of the Water for the Future Project is being completed as sufficient information is available to undertake the necessary analyses.
Specifically, the proposed Catskill Aqueduct Repair and Rehabilitation Project would restore historical capacity to the upper portion of the Catskill Aqueduct between the Ashokan and Kensico Reservoirs. In addition, the Catskill Aqueduct Repair and Rehabilitation Project would carry out additional repairs necessary based on age-related deterioration of the aqueduct, including repair or treatment of minor leaks and replacement of aging mechanical components. This would be coupled with temporary chlorine addition to maintain increased capacity; water would be dechlorinated before entering Kensico Reservoir.

Once the augmentation program is in place and the bypass tunnel is ready to be connected to the existing RWBT, DEP would be ready to implement an operational protocol, referred to as WFF Shutdown System Operations (WSSO) during the temporary shutdown that departs from its normal operation of the Delaware, Catskill, and Croton systems. The purpose of WSSO would be to: (1) prepare the water supply for the temporary shutdown of the RWBT; (2) continue to provide water to the City and its customers while the Delaware water supply is temporarily unavailable; and (3) return the system to normal operating conditions once the bypass connection is complete and the Delaware water supply system is again available. WSSO would substantially reduce the need for additional augmented supplies of water.

In addition to supporting the connection of the bypass tunnel to the RWBT, WSSO program elements described above allow DEP to completely drain and inspect the approximately 45-mile length of the RWBT and make necessary repairs (Inspection and Repair of the RWBT) during the shutdown. Once RWBT repairs are completed and the bypass tunnel is successfully connected, the bypassed section of the RWBT that passes under the Hudson River would be permanently taken out of service (Decommissioning). As a result, water currently leaking from the RWBT is expected to permanently cease. After the bypass tunnel connection is complete and all repairs are made to the RWBT, the RWBT would be reactivated and water would flow through the bypass tunnel to the City, and the bypassed portion of the RWBT would not long be in service. The water supply system would return to normal operating conditions.

Queens Groundwater Rehabilitation would involve rehabilitating portions of an existing DEP-owned groundwater supply system in southeastern Queens, New York. This project will be evaluated separately as part of the In-City Water Supply Resiliency environmental review.

Required Approvals

The projects associated with Water for the Future: Upstate Water Supply Resiliency may require several discretionary actions, 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 Scope of Work, enclosed herein.
Statement of Potential Significant Effect(s)

On behalf of DEP, the Bureau of Environmental Planning and Analysis has determined the proposed program is a Type I Action and that it may have potential significant effects on the environment. Based on preliminary analyses, DEP has concluded that an Environmental Impact Statement should be prepared to fully disclose the complex issues associated with the proposed projects.

Lead Agency Determination

DEP believes that it is the appropriate lead agency, and DEP wishes to undertake a coordinated review with all involved agencies. Please notify the contact person listed below within thirty (30) days from the date of this notice if there are any objections to DEP assuming lead agency status. If no objections are heard within that time frame, DEP will continue to act as lead agency for the purposes of this environmental review.

Contact Person

Jennifer Farmwald, Senior 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, 11th Floor
Flushing, New York 11373
Phone: (718) 595-3287
Email: WFFcomments@dep.nyc.gov

Angela Licata
Deputy Commissioner of Sustainability

Attached:
Repository List
Distribution List
Draft Scope of Work
## Water for the Future: Upstate Water Supply Resiliency
### Draft Scope of Work Repository List:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact Name</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Town Clerk</td>
<td>Andrew Zarutskie</td>
<td>(845) 564-4554</td>
<td>Town of Newburgh, 1496 Route 300, Newburgh, NY 12550</td>
<td><a href="mailto:WFFComments@dep.nyc.gov">WFFComments@dep.nyc.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town Clerk</td>
<td>Roxanne Shamro</td>
<td>(845) 647-7800</td>
<td>Town of Wawarsing, 108 Canal Street, Ellenville, NY 12428</td>
<td><a href="mailto:WFFComments@dep.nyc.gov">WFFComments@dep.nyc.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town Clerk</td>
<td>Alice Roker</td>
<td>(914) 962-5722</td>
<td>Town of Yorktown, 363 Underhill Avenue, Yorktown Heights, NY 10568</td>
<td><a href="mailto:WFFComments@dep.nyc.gov">WFFComments@dep.nyc.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SUNY – Sullivan, 112 College Road, Loch Sheldrake, NY 12759</td>
<td><a href="mailto:WFFComments@dep.nyc.gov">WFFComments@dep.nyc.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queens Public Library</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>89-11 Merrick Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11432</td>
<td><a href="mailto:WFFComments@dep.nyc.gov">WFFComments@dep.nyc.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Environmental Protection</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>59-17 Junction Boulevard, 11th Floor, Flushing, NY 11373</td>
<td><a href="mailto:WFFComments@dep.nyc.gov">WFFComments@dep.nyc.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Environmental Protection</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>465 Columbus Avenue, Valhalla, NY 10595</td>
<td><a href="mailto:WFFComments@dep.nyc.gov">WFFComments@dep.nyc.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Environmental Protection</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>71 Smith Avenue, Kingston, NY 12401</td>
<td><a href="mailto:WFFComments@dep.nyc.gov">WFFComments@dep.nyc.gov</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Involved and Interested Agencies and Parties

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Coast Guard
Stewart Air National Guard
Jones Beach State Park
New York State Assembly
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
New York State Department of State
New York State Office of General Services
New York State Power Authority
Stewart International Airport
New York City Queens Community Board Chairs
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
New York City Office of Environmental Coordination
New York City Public Design Commission
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation
Broome County
Dutchess County
Nassau County
Putnam County
Schoharie County
Ulster County
City of Glen Cove
City of Mount Vernon
City of Peekskill
City of Rye
City of Yonkers
Town of Bedford
Town of Carmel
Town of Colchester
Town of Cornwall
Town of Deerpark
Town of Deposit
Town of East Fishkill
Town of Fallsburg
Town of Forestburgh
Town of Gardiner

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
National Marine Fisheries Service
Delaware River Basin Commission
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
New York State Senate
New York State Department of Health
New York State Department of Transportation
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
MTA Metro-North Railroad
New York City Council
New York City Department of City Planning
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
New York City Planning Commission
New York City Department of Transportation
New York City Queens Borough President
Delaware County
Greene County
Orange County
Queens County
Sullivan County
Westchester County
City of Kingston
City of Newburgh
City of Port Jervis
City of White Plains
Town of Andes
Town of Blenheim
Town of Cochecton
Town of Conesville
Town of Cortlandt
Town of Delaware
Town of Eastchester
Town of Esopus
Town of Fishkill
Town of Fremont
Town of Gilboa
Town of Greenburgh
Town of Hempstead
Town of Hurley
Town of Lewisboro
Town of Lumberland
Town of Marletown
Town of Middletown
Town of Mount Pleasant
Town of New Castle
Town of New Windsor
Town of North Castle
Town of North Salem
Town of Ossining
Town of Philipstown
Town of Pound Ridge
Town of Putnam Valley
Town of Rockland
Town of Roxbury
Town of Sanford
Town of Shandaken
Town of Somers
Town of Thompson
Town of Tusten
Town of Walton
Town of Wawarsing
Town/Village of Harrison
Village of Bayville
Village of Briarcliff Manor
Village of Buchanan
Village of Cornwall-on-Hudson
Village of Deposit
Village of Elmsford
Village of Freeport
Village of Garden City
Village of Hastings-on-Hudson
Village of Irvington
Village of Mamaroneck
Village of Nelsonville
Village of Ossining
Village of Pelham Manor
Village of Port Chester
Village of Rockville Centre
Village of Sands Point
Village of Scarsdale
Village of Tarrytown
Village of Williston Park
Town of Hancock
Town of Highland
Town of Kent
Town of Lexington
Town of Mamaroneck
Town of Marlborough
Town of Montague
Town of Neversink
Town of New Paltz
Town of Newburgh
Town of North Hempstead
Town of Olive
Town of Pelham
Town of Plattekill
Town of Prattsville
Town of Rochester
Town of Rosendale
Town of Rye
Town of Saugerties
Town of Shawangunk
Town of Southeast
Town of Tompkins
Town of Ulster
Town of Wappinger
Town of Yorktown
Village of Ardsley
Village of Brewster
Village of Bronxville
Village of Cold Spring
Village of Croton-On-Hudson
Village of Dobbs Ferry
Village of Farmingdale
Village of Fishkill
Village of Hancock
Village of Hempstead
Village of Larchmont
Village of Mineola
Village of New Paltz
Village of Pelham
Village of Plandome
Village of Pleasantville
Village of Rye Brook
Village of Saugerties
Village of Sleepy Hollow
Village of Tuckahoe
Albertson Water District
Beaver Dam Winter Sports
Brewster Heights Water District
Carle Place Water District
CCI Roseton, LLC
Chelsea Farms LLC
Chelsea Fire District
Chelsea Sportsmen's Association
Church of God
Cottage School
Franciscan Friars of Atonement
Garden City Park Water District
Garymoor
Hicksville Water District
Jericho Water District
Long Beach City Water Purification
Massapequa Water District
Mill Neck Water System
Natural Resources Defense Council
New York American Water
Newbuy Inc
Nature Conservancy
Old Westbury Village Water District
Oyster Bay Water District
Port Washington Water District
Riverkeeper
Roslyn Water District
South Farmingdale Water District
St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church
Trout Unlimited
United Water
Water Authority of Great Neck North
Wawarsing PAC
West Hempstead Water District
Westchester County Water District
Bethpage Water District
Brookfield Power
Cathedral Gardens Water District
Cedar Hill Cemetery
Chelsea Fire Co
Chelsea Ridge NY LLC
CHG&E Corp
Continental Village Water District
Delaware Riverkeeper
Franklin Square Water District
Glenwood Water District
Helios Power Capital LLC
High Falls Water District
Locust Valley Water District
Manhasset-Lakeville Water District
McGoey Hauser and Edsall
Mt. St. Joseph Presentation Convent
New York Public Interest Research Group, Inc.
The North Delaware River Watershed Conservancy
Northern Westchester Joint Water Works
Orchard Hill
Plainview Water District
Residents For A More Beautiful Port Washington
Riverview Land Company LLC
Seawanhaka Yacht Club
Split Rock Water Supply
Tobay Beach
Wallkill Correctional Facility
Water Authority of Western Nassau
Ashokan Release Working Group
Westbury Water District
Westchester Joint Water Works