



## 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

*Emily Lloyd*  
*Commissioner*

**Angela Licata**  
Deputy Commissioner  
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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](http://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**

*Emily Lloyd  
Commissioner*

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Deputy Commissioner of  
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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, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Flushing, New York 11373  
Phone: (718) 595-3287  
Email: [WFFcomments@dep.nyc.gov](mailto: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:**

Town Clerk  
Town of Newburgh  
1496 Route 300  
Newburgh, NY 12550  
Contact: Andrew Zarutskie  
Phone: (845) 564-4554

Town Clerk  
Town of Wawarsing  
108 Canal Street ~ PO Box 671  
Ellenville, NY 12428  
Contact: Roxanne Shamro  
Phone: (845) 647-7800

Town Clerk  
Town of Yorktown  
363 Underhill Avenue  
Yorktown Heights, NY 10568  
Contact: Alice Roker  
Phone: (914) 962-5722

Library  
SUNY – Sullivan  
112 College Road  
Loch Sheldrake, NY 12759  
Phone: (845) 434-5750

Queens Public Library  
89-11 Merrick Boulevard  
Jamaica, NY 11432  
Phone: (718) 990-0700

Department of Environmental Protection  
59-17 Junction Boulevard, 11th Floor  
Flushing, NY 11373  
Contact: Jennifer Farmwald  
Phone: (718) 595-3287  
Email: [WFFComments@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:WFFComments@dep.nyc.gov)

Department of Environmental Protection  
465 Columbus Avenue  
Valhalla, NY 10595  
Contact: David Warne  
Phone: (914) 742-2099  
Email: [WFFComments@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:WFFComments@dep.nyc.gov)

Department of Environmental Protection  
71 Smith Avenue  
Kingston, NY 12401  
Contact: Daniel Michaud  
Phone: (845) 340-7883  
Email: [WFFComments@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:WFFComments@dep.nyc.gov)

**Water for the Future: Upstate Water Supply Resiliency  
Draft Scope of Work Distribution List**

**Involved and Interested Agencies and Parties**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
U.S. Coast Guard	National Marine Fisheries Service
Stewart Air National Guard	Delaware River Basin Commission
Jones Beach State Park	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
New York State Assembly	New York State Senate
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation	New York State Department of Health
New York State Department of State	New York State Department of Transportation
New York State Office of General Services	New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
New York State Power Authority	Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
Stewart International Airport	MTA Metro-North Railroad
New York City Queens Community Board Chairs	New York City Council
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene	New York City Department of City Planning
New York City Office of Environmental Coordination	New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
New York City Public Design Commission	New York City Planning Commission
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation	New York City Department of Transportation
Broome County	New York City Queens Borough President
Dutchess County	Delaware County
Nassau County	Greene County
Putnam County	Orange County
Schoharie County	Queens County
Ulster County	Sullivan County
City of Glen Cove	Westchester County
City of Mount Vernon	City of Kingston
City of Peekskill	City of Newburgh
City of Rye	City of Port Jervis
City of Yonkers	City of White Plains
Town of Bedford	Town of Andes
Town of Carmel	Town of Blenheim
Town of Colchester	Town of Cohecton
Town of Cornwall	Town of Conesville
Town of Deerpark	Town of Cortlandt
Town of Deposit	Town of Delaware
Town of East Fishkill	Town of Eastchester
Town of Fallsburg	Town of Esopus
Town of Forestburgh	Town of Fishkill
Town of Gardiner	Town of Fremont
	Town of Gilboa

Town of Greenburgh  
Town of Hempstead  
Town of Hurley  
Town of Lewisboro  
Town of Lumberland  
Town of Marbletown  
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 Montgomery  
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 Districts

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