

Foreword

This Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) has been prepared by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP), acting as lead agency, pursuant to the City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) process as set forth in Executive Order 91 of 1977 and its amendments, and the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and its implementing regulations, as set forth in 6NYCRR Part 617. The Final SEIS describes the proposed project by NYCDEP to design, construct and place into operation a 290 million-gallon-per-day (mgd) Water Treatment Plant (WTP) to provide filtration and disinfection for the Croton System water supplied to New York City through the New Croton Aqueduct (NCA). Construction of a proposed plant would be accompanied by the rehabilitation of several facilities associated with the NCA, construction of connecting tunnels, and the decommissioning of several existing water supply facilities.

Three sites for the proposed project were considered in the Draft SEIS including the Mosholu Site at the Mosholu Golf Course Driving Range in Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx, New York, the Harlem River Site, Bronx, New York and the Eastview Site, Town of Mount Pleasant, Westchester County, New York. After careful consideration the Mosholu Site is identified as the preferred site for the Croton WTP.

This Final SEIS includes a description of the proposed project; engineering analyses leading to the design of the proposed project; methods of analysis; descriptions of existing conditions and future conditions without the project; potential impacts of the project and its alternatives (including construction impacts and project impacts); mitigation measures; a discussion of the need for the project; non-filtration/watershed protection; unavoidable, irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources; growth inducement; and regional and cumulative impacts. The factors that led to the identification of the preferred site are explained.

The information presented in this document has already received considerable public review. The public review process began with the issuance of a Lead Agency Determination, Positive Declaration, and Draft Scope of Work on October 23, 2003 by the NYCDEP. Public meetings on the Draft Scope of Work were held September 22 and September 29, 2003. The Final Scope of Work and Response to Comments were released November 4, 2003.

The Draft SEIS and Notice of Completion were issued December 31, 2003. A preferred site for the proposed plant was not presented in the Draft SEIS to allow public and agency input on the conclusions presented in the Draft SEIS before any siting decision was reached.

This document is a supplement to a Final EIS that was released in May 1999 that selected the Mosholu Golf Course as the preferred site for the Croton WTP. The proposal for constructing a treatment plant beneath the Mosholu Golf Course was approved by the City Planning Commission on June 30, 1999 and by the New York City Council on July 21, 1999. The NYS Court of Appeals determined on February 8, 2001, that state legislative approval was required to site the Croton WTP at the Mosholu Site. This decision prevented the commencement of any

work at the Site until such time that the legislative approval could be obtained.

Parties to a 1997 Consent Decree that required the City to filter the Croton Water Supply signed a Supplement to the Consent Decree on December 12, 2001. It replaced the schedule in the Consent Decree with a new timetable. The document required the evaluation of two water treatment plant sites: one in the Bronx and one in Westchester County. The Eastview and the Harlem River Sites in the Borough of the Bronx were selected for further evaluation. The Supplement to the Consent Decree required the issuance of a Draft EIS by April 30, 2003. The Supplement to the Consent Decree further stipulated that the City could elect to build a water treatment plant at the Mosholu Site if New York State legislative approval was received by April 15, 2003 and the proposed plant would be operational by October 21, 2011, or, if later, within a timeframe acceptable to the United States and the State of New York.

A local Site Approval application for the Town of Mount Pleasant was filed on April 30, 2003 for the Eastview Site, and a ULURP application for the City of New York was filed on April 21, 2003 for the Harlem River Site. The City also initiated action to secure the necessary State Legislative approval for use of the Mosholu Site. Since this was underway, the Draft EIS that was released on April 17, 2003 did not select a preferred site.

On June 20, 2003 the State Legislature passed a bill authorizing park alienation of certain land within Van Cortlandt Park and such legislation was signed into law by Governor Pataki on July 22, 2003. The legislation provides for temporary alienation of portions of Van Cortlandt Park during construction of the Croton WTP and permanent alienation of portions of the Park to operate and maintain the Croton WTP and its related facilities. This legislation allowed the reconsideration of the Mosholu Golf Course - Driving Range as a possible site for the Croton WTP.

The Eastview, Mosholu, and Harlem River Sites were all evaluated to an equal level of analysis in the December 31, 2003 Draft SEIS. Many of the analyses from the April 2003 Draft EIS that included the Eastview Site and the Harlem River Site were updated and revised for the latest Draft SEIS, but the Mosholu Site analyses, being five years old, were entirely revised and replaced with more current information. The Eastview Site for the Croton WTP was complicated by the parallel design of another NYCDEP facility, the Catskill/Delaware Ultraviolet Light (UV) Disinfection Facility (Cat/Del UV Facility). When the Draft SEIS was published in December 2003, design details of the Cat/Del UV Facility that could affect the potential combined environmental impacts of both projects were not available. Qualitative impacts were assumed and worst-case potential impact conclusions were made for the combined impacts of the projects at this site. These evaluations are updated where possible with quantitative information gathered as part of the Cat/Del UV Draft EIS, which was released on May 30, 2004, in this Final SEIS.

Approximately one thousand comments on the Draft SEIS were received from about 200 individuals, agencies, and non-governmental agencies. The NYCDEP has prepared responses to all related comments and inquiries; these are contained in the *Response to Comments on the Draft SEIS* document, which follows the body of this Final SEIS. Where appropriate, changes to the Draft SEIS were made in response to these comments and are incorporated in the Final SEIS. Text that has

changed between the Draft and Final SEIS, except for minor proofreading corrections, is marked in the margin with a vertical line as shown next to this line.

A brief discussion of major changes incorporated in the Final SEIS follows:

- For each of the technical parameters at the Eastview Site, two scenarios were evaluated, one without the Cat/Del UV Facility in the Future conditions, and one with the Cat/Del UV Facility in the Future conditions. The Draft SEIS only included the quantitative assessments of the Future Without the Cat/Del UV Facility because quantitative information about the Cat/Del UV Facility was not available. Quantitative information related to the Cat/Del UV Facility was gathered and publicly released May 30, 2004 in a Draft EIS for that project, and the information presented in the Cat/Del UV Facility Draft EIS was used to develop quantitative assessments that are included in this Final SEIS for the Croton Project.
- A review of the baseline traffic at the Eastview Site determined that the difference between the background traffic during the peak hour during which construction workers would arrive on the site and the background traffic during the peak hour of background traffic was greater at this site than at the sites in the Bronx. Consequently the analysis was adjusted to assume that construction workers would arrive between 6:30 AM -7:30 AM and depart between 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM. Since the background traffic peaks in the Bronx are closer to the worker arrival times this modification was not made to the traffic analysis at the Mosholu and Eastview Sites.
- An updated version of the modeling software used to predict the dispersion of air pollutants was introduced and used to recalculate the potential air quality impacts at the three water treatment plant site alternatives.
- A plan that would restrict truck and other construction traffic from arriving at the Mosholu Site from the south through neighborhood streets was added to this FSEIS.
- New results on the use of alternative disinfection techniques as an alternative to filtration are presented and evaluated in this FSEIS.
- Since the Draft SEIS was issued, updated future water rate predictions were made using 2003 data and updated interest rates. The rates were also extended to 2016, the last year of construction costs for the treated water conveyance alternative that would pressurize the NCA. These modified rates are presented for all three water treatment plant site alternatives.
- The Draft SEIS described the use of fuel cells as a power supply for the ultraviolet disinfection units. Subsequent design reviews have recommended that these power supply units can be removed from the design without compromising the safety of the water supply. The text sections have removed these units from the descriptions.

- Additional studies were completed at the Mosholu Site of the potential for hazardous materials to be present. These results are included in the Final SEIS.
- In response to public and agency comments, a Phase 1A Cultural Resource Assessment for the Mosholu Site was completed and will be submitted to the New York State Historic Preservation Office and the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission. A commitment was made to conduct sub-surface investigations prior to any ground disturbance. This report is included in the Appendices of this Final SEIS.
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans were completed according to State Pollution Discharge Elimination guidelines and included in the Appendices of this Final SEIS.
- In response to public comments, the description of the proposed work at Jerome Park Reservoir and the duration of this proposed work for each water treatment plant alternative was expanded and clarified. Also, the noisiest work proposed at the Jerome Park Reservoir has been redesigned to occur during summers, weekends and holidays to avoid disrupting classes to the extent possible within the neighboring schools.
- The discussion on the effect of the parkland alienation has been expanded in both the Land Use as well as the Open Space chapters for the Mosholu Site in response to public comment.

The Final SEIS for the Croton WTP Project is being distributed in several ways. It is being sent to fourteen public repositories and all involved agencies. The Notice of Completion is being sent to the full mailing list of citizens and groups who have expressed an interest in the project over the past years, which is extensive. To reduce potential waste and expedite the transmission of the information herein, this document will also be available on a CD-ROM shortly. Finally, the entire document will be downloadable shortly on the NYCDEP web site:

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/home.html>.

NYCDEP

June 30, 2004