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EXTENDED WATERSHED LAND ACQUISITION PROGRAM

JOINT LEGISLATIVE PUBLIC HEARING

2012 PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY PERMIT

APPLICATION & DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

* * * * *

HELD ON: July 12th, 2010

HELD AT: Delhi, New York

DEP APPEARANCES:

William Clarke - Regional Permit Administrator

Esther Siskind - Assistant Commissioner of NYC DEP

Paul Rush - Deputy Commissioner of NYC DEP

REPORTED BY: Amy Osterstuck

Shorthand Reporter

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1 MR. CLARKE: At the conclusion of the
2 hearing, please feel free, if you wish, to
3 come up and ask questions, staff will be
4 available to answer any questions that you
5 have. Right now we're going to take public
6 comments and I do want to emphasize how
7 important it is that everyone show the
8 utmost courtesy and respect for all
9 speakers and each other. Please, there can
10 be no interruptions, everyone is going to
11 be heard tonight. If you have written
12 comments with you, you are free to give
13 those into the record, you can summarize
14 them, you don't need to repeat them. They
15 are given the same weight as an oral
16 comment. The format is we're going to ask
17 you, we're going to call out names, we have
18 folks who have signed in on the way in. If
19 you didn't sign in, that's okay because we
20 will call upon people once we're through
21 the list of names. We would ask that you
22 come down here, we've only got two
23 microphones. If you do have a problem
24 navigating the stairs, just raise your hand

1 and we'll accommodate that. So the first
2 speaker we'd like to hear from --

3 MS. SISKIND: I'd just like to say
4 one item is that this public hearing is
5 being conducted in accordance with the
6 following rules and regulations: The State
7 Environmental Quality Review Act, SEQRA,
8 and its implementing regulations as set
9 forth in 6 NYCRR part 617 and the New York
10 City Environmental Quality Review Process
11 as set forth in Executive Order 91 of 1977
12 and its amendments.

13 MR. CLARKE: Thank you. The first
14 speaker we have signed up here is Peter
15 Bracci from the Town of Delhi.

16 MR. BRACCI: Thank you. Thanks for
17 putting me on first, I have a town board
18 meeting right after this so I kind of got
19 to head out. I just wanted to start out --

20 MR. CLARKE: Can you state your name
21 for the record, please.

22 MR. BRACCI: I just want to start out
23 by saying I'm a Town of Delhi supervisor, I
24 serve on the county board as a county

1 legislator, I'm also a board member of the
2 coalition who works for the town. So I
3 have some knowledge and involvement in this
4 process. I just want to make a comment on
5 Mr. Clarke's concerns, that we're pretty
6 civilized people here and I don't think we
7 are going to be out of line here today. I
8 just want to remind you we're upstate
9 people, we're pretty honorable people.

10 I just want to read a line here that
11 I got in your handout and that's basically
12 what the premise of my talk here is.

13 Through the purchase of -- it's from the
14 first paragraph here: "Through the
15 purchase of land, New York City seeks to
16 increase the overall amount of land
17 protected and to protect the most sensitive
18 vacant properties from development that
19 would otherwise harm water quality." So I
20 guess this whole issue is on water quality
21 so that's what the whole premise of this
22 meeting is about. I'd just like to say
23 this, as the city acquires hundreds of
24 millions of dollars of taxpayer monies to

1 buy these lands, it leaves me with some
2 questions and through this process I
3 haven't received any answers. I would say
4 this, and I've lived in Delaware County for
5 most of my life, water quality in Delaware
6 County, and particularly in my Town of
7 Delhi has increased substantially, we have
8 very clean water now that the investment
9 was made to get it there. I just wondered
10 how much, to what degree or extent, I don't
11 know where we're at right now with what our
12 objectives are as far as what you want to
13 reach for as a goal as far as clean water
14 goes, but I think that we're mostly there
15 and I would question the expenditures of
16 upwards of a half a billion dollars to
17 acquire land to get it up to the extra
18 whatever percentage that is.

19 Now, having said that, these lands,
20 particularly my town, because I get the
21 reports from the city, are -- have a great
22 impact on the future of our community and
23 there is a certain apprehension that it's
24 going to change, our whole lifestyle is

1 changing and of course we're in an economic
2 downturn and I feel that we are not to
3 blame the city for a lot of that but
4 however, as lands disappear and as the
5 possibility of developing these lands by
6 local people simply vaporizes, we have
7 concerns. We are in Delhi, in Delaware
8 County, the major focus of your
9 acquisitions right now and that's what I
10 gathered from what you said here and where
11 we're heading from my dealings on this
12 coalition that works for the towns.

13 Now, having said that, this gets down
14 to the very simple question and I will make
15 this in the form of a demand. I want to
16 see, and I have never seen these, I want to
17 see a quantitative documented study from
18 the scientific community, not opinions that
19 we saw here, that actually demonstrate that
20 land acquisition is going to improve the
21 quality of water. I want to see that, I've
22 never seen that, I want to see a document
23 designed by or conducted by a learned
24 higher education institute or whoever does

1 that. I want to see that document, I have
2 not seen it and not having seen it, I
3 question the motivation. It seems to me
4 that this acquisition, and I want to be
5 proven wrong on this, that this acquisition
6 program that you're involved in is simply
7 to provide open spaces for the
8 environmental community. Prove me wrong.
9 Let's see the documentation, let's see
10 whether you can actually prove to me, to my
11 constituents, the people in this audience,
12 that your acquisitions are going to lead to
13 clean water and everything will be as you
14 say. So basically that's the whole thing,
15 show us the science, please, and we'll be
16 very happy with it. Thank you very much.

17 MR. CLARKE: Thank you. The next
18 speaker who wishes to make a statement, Jim
19 Eisel.

20 MR. EISEL: Thank you and good
21 evening. I have a written statement I
22 would like to present to you tonight. My
23 name is Jim Eisel, I am chairman of the
24 Delaware County Board of Supervisors and I

1 oppose the land acquisition program because
2 I see most of the purchase of land is going
3 to occur in wide open rural Delaware County
4 with two reservoirs. 50 percent of the
5 watershed land mass is in Delaware County
6 and I suspect that the future of this
7 program will be to acquire far more than 50
8 percent of the watershed in Delaware
9 County.

10 The water in the Catskill Mountains
11 of Delaware County is pristine and will
12 always remain that way. We are not nor
13 ever have experienced an explosion in
14 population. We are very rural with no
15 strip malls and ever-declining enrollments
16 in our schools. Based on the current
17 census sampling of our households, our
18 population may have dropped -- may have
19 dropped to just over 45,000 people. These
20 are all indications to me that there will
21 be very little development in Delaware
22 County. But it is our future I'm concerned
23 with other than our hamlet extension
24 program. I believe the city will try to

1 purchase all prime developable land. There
2 is no water quality scientific, and Pete
3 just mentioned, there is no water quality
4 scientific justification for the city
5 purchases. According to Judith Enck, just
6 buy everything and we'll be assured the
7 future of water quality. I've always been
8 of the opinion that someone in the
9 scientific community can tell us what lands
10 truly need to be purchased. For example,
11 100 foot setbacks along our streams. I
12 believe that those lands are all that is
13 necessary to be acquired and would leave
14 most of the developable land open for our
15 economic future. It's a win/win for the
16 city and Delaware County because this
17 shotgun approach, purchasing land, makes no
18 water quality economic sense.

19 I am the supervisor of the Town of
20 Harpersfield which is the furthest town in
21 Delaware County, it borders Otsego and
22 Schoharie County and we are approximately
23 45 miles from the Cannonsville reservoir,
24 and you have purchased land in Harpersfield

1 and I'm here to tell you that as a layman,
2 these purchases will not improve water
3 quality to any measurable degree. These
4 huge purchases of land started with the
5 Spitzer administration and I believe this
6 was a payback to the city
7 environmentalists.

8 If the truth be known, the city with
9 their budget cuts would rather spend money
10 not on land purchase, but infrastructure
11 improvements. I oppose the land
12 acquisition program because it skews our
13 real estate market values, our rural way of
14 life in Delaware County and the fact that
15 big government is in charge and calls the
16 shots. We have got to get back to
17 individual decision making and not state
18 government doing what is best for New York
19 City and to hell with the 48,000 or less
20 residents of Delaware County.

21 In closing, I demand on behalf of the
22 residents of Delaware County that the New
23 York State Department of Environmental
24 Conservation, DPA, the Department of

1 Health, require scientific water quality
2 justification for every parcel purchased in
3 the watershed by New York City. We expect
4 nothing less as free citizens of this
5 state. We are tired of being dumped on and
6 controlled by an all powerful state. Under
7 the constitution, the rights of a few,
8 Delaware County, cannot be usurped by the
9 population size of New York City. We were
10 not at the table when Governor Spitzer told
11 New York City to make these huge purchases
12 of land in Delaware County, and I
13 disapprove of the back room politics to the
14 detriment of the citizens of Delaware
15 County. Thank you.

16 MR. CLARKE: Thank you. Next speaker
17 wishes to make a statement, Leonard Utter.

18 MR. UTTER: My name is Leonard Utter.
19 I'm supervisor for the Town of Middletown,
20 Margaretville, and I'll just preface my
21 remarks to say that I have witnessed the
22 building, the taking of the land and the
23 building of the two reservoirs in Delaware
24 County. I have witnessed a displacement of

1 thousands of people, and as you may well
2 know, that my attitude is not really the
3 best, but I'll try to keep it under
4 control.

5 The Town of Middletown has a total
6 acreage of approximately 60,000 acres. Out
7 of this, 42,000 acres are at a 15 percent
8 or greater slope, 4,800 acres are water
9 buffers, 6,000 acres are owned by New York
10 City, 9,600 acres are owned by New York
11 State. As you can see, we are running out
12 of land. Even though some of the steep
13 slope is owned by the State of New York.
14 Land is a very important commodity, farmers
15 need land, building developers need land,
16 and any expansion of any kind needs land.
17 The Town of Middletown is already being
18 stranded by the lack of developable land.
19 All of our tax base is predicated on land
20 and what is built onto it. The continued
21 purchase of land by New York City DEP,
22 coupled with the historic desire to have
23 assessments lowered, will only result in
24 deadly strangulation of the watershed

1 communities. It has been suggested by some
2 that New York City pay a surcharge over and
3 above the taxes agreed upon payments under
4 the MOA to these communities to help them
5 finance the basic needs of their taxpayers.
6 On behalf of the people of the Town of
7 Middletown, I ask permission -- I ask that
8 permission for New York City DEP to
9 purchase more land be denied. Thank you
10 for the opportunity to be here.

11 MR. CLARKE: Thank you. Next person
12 who's signed up to make a statement, Dean
13 Frazier.

14 MR. FRAZIER: Good evening. My name
15 is Dean Frazier and I'm with the Delaware
16 County Department of Watershed Affairs and
17 I have a few brief comments to make and
18 Delaware County will be submitting
19 extensive written comments by September
20 15th. Before starting I just want to
21 acknowledge that the city and state did
22 listen to our request and extended the
23 comment period to September 15th, we
24 appreciate that.

1 Regarding the DEIS, obviously we're
2 not going to agree with all of the findings
3 that have come from the DEIS. However,
4 there has been some progress on another
5 front with regards to negotiation efforts
6 or mitigation measures through another
7 venue. It's been suggested to the DEIS
8 that some of the concerns we raised be
9 taken care of through pending mitigation
10 measures in that negotiation venue, but
11 until they memorialize the watershed
12 comment, we cannot assume, cannot assume
13 they will come to fruition. And even if
14 adopted, they may not address all of the
15 SEQRA issues.

16 Regarding the timeline, the 10 to 15
17 year analysis is not adequate. Granted,
18 longer projections are more difficult to
19 rely on, however, this program will
20 continue for years to come. We think in
21 terms of decades into the future, long
22 after most of us are gone except for this
23 young lady here. We expect the city will
24 be required to put up money again and

1 again, many of the land acquisition impacts
2 our salt and cities in the way that they
3 will occur and accumulate, death by a
4 thousand cuts as they say. What happens in
5 10 to 15 years out, what will be the
6 starting point for measuring potential
7 impacts for the next 10 year cycle? Will
8 the difference be enough to be able to be
9 measured? Will it be too late? Our
10 economic impact analysis indicated there
11 are potential impacts that the DEIS does
12 not address, nor does the DEIS address all
13 the concerns we pose from the DEIS scope of
14 work. Some of our concerns are
15 acknowledged but it concludes that there is
16 no impact of significance, yet the Pepacton
17 reservoir and the Cannonsville are the
18 entire areas of focus. The Pepacton basin
19 has three sub basins of high focus mostly
20 of lands that are priority 3 and 4, land of
21 the lowest value through the priority of
22 purchase and hence less value for water
23 quality protection. To suggest a success
24 rate of solicitation will increase from

1 just 13 to 20 percent of the increased
2 solicitation in these basins given harder
3 economic times. For the folks on these two
4 basins, look else ways is not realistic.
5 All towns should have individual
6 assessments in Delaware County given their
7 area of focus stats. Will solicitation
8 stop once solicitation success reaches 20
9 percent of the available land in this town?
10 That's important for us to know. Given the
11 low cost of land, relatively speaking
12 compared to the east of Hudson and focusing
13 on the Cannonsville and the Pepacton
14 reservoirs, the county is the target of
15 acquisition.

16 In other information from the city,
17 they project the Cannonsville use of water
18 will increase by about 1 percent over the
19 next 10 to 15 years. They predict lower
20 use of water in the Cannonsville or in the
21 Pepacton basin, so less water use out of
22 those two, little -- very little increase
23 if any and lower use of the Pepacton. The
24 county ranks at or near the bottom of every

1 demographic component or concern for
2 economic trends that propose a significant
3 effect from development, there is language
4 in the DEIS that supports this. Building
5 permits in Delaware County have averaged
6 less than 150 a year, per year for the last
7 8 to 10 years, we are not experiencing nor
8 does anyone project that we will experience
9 expansive growth and rapid development.
10 Delaware County's unique circumstances
11 relative to the other watershed counties
12 and towns has lost its part of the overall
13 analysis. Delaware County's situation is
14 different than other parts of the watershed
15 and would not realize any proposed benefits
16 from the disowning the acquisition related
17 to recreational use. Therefore special
18 analysis is needed again, excuse me, in
19 these towns, in these basins. The DEIS
20 gives the appearance to provide a rationale
21 for extending money for low costs, low
22 priority lands for protecting water in the
23 watershed. The question of how much land
24 is enough to protect the water supply is

1 still left unanswered. The DEIS suggests
2 that despite city and land acquisition, a
3 high percentage of the developable land
4 will remain, this is another indicator that
5 there's not much pressure for development.
6 Secondly and equally important, the city is
7 not targeting all developable lands so
8 after the knowledge of what properties are
9 targeted, we don't know if the land they
10 are targeting is critical to the future
11 economic viability of the town.

12 Natural gas, popular subject among
13 many. The city study of natural gas
14 drilling projected there would be nine
15 wells per drill site every square mile in
16 their analysis for the state DEIS. In our
17 view, that is unrealistic but given that is
18 what they project would happen, our
19 estimates using their concentration data
20 suggests that the economic loss could
21 amount to hundreds of millions of dollars
22 annually, we will provide written comments
23 on that.

24 Claims of recreational benefits in

1 our opinion are vague and overstated,
2 benefits to agriculture are dubious.
3 Unfortunately for all of us farming is on
4 the decline, who will be left to make such
5 a monumental financial commitment to
6 farming the land remaining here that cannot
7 afford to buy it?

8 Land values and sense of place. The
9 DEIS conclusion of no impact on land value
10 defies the logic in the laws of supply and
11 demand. The city is the largest buyer of
12 land paying top dollar established in the
13 upper limits. Folks with substantial means
14 are similarly contributing to the increase
15 in values, but the city is the primary
16 driver. The city's acquisitions are
17 exacerbating the impact on land values and
18 impact on our sense of place. There's an
19 impact on a large number of residents that
20 earn their income from locally-based jobs.
21 They can't afford to purchase the land and
22 certainly can't afford the cost of septic
23 systems on top of that, they're going
24 elsewhere to buy land. Young farmers are

1 looking to buy land elsewhere as well, we
2 have an out migration of youth. The land
3 clearly is targeted as expressed in the
4 long term land acquisition program.
5 According to our Office of the Aging, we
6 have the highest percentage of seniors over
7 60 which is over 25 percent. How can these
8 impacts not affect our sense of place, the
9 livelihood of our communities. The city
10 may not be responsible for all our ill, but
11 they cannot conclude that they do not
12 contribute to our problems because they
13 can't find easily quantifiable data.

14 Defies logic. The city makes
15 decisions on spending millions without
16 quantifiable data, e.g. the land
17 acquisition program. The city, state
18 environmental groups say it's common sense
19 and therefore reasonable to acquire land to
20 protect the water. Well, that works both
21 ways. It is common sense that the land
22 acquisition program will have an impact on
23 our sense of place in the economy.

24 Taxes. Concerns over tax

1 implications must be addressed. To suggest
2 that the city will never challenge their
3 taxes on newly-acquired lands because they
4 represent such a small part of their tax
5 liability is impossible to stand by over
6 the long term. The city is struggling
7 financially and tax liabilities are
8 increasing dramatically second only to
9 personnel, 20 years from now, then what or
10 what then.

11 Concern about sprawl concerns often
12 cited to support land acquisition here
13 don't fit this area. Most community waste
14 infrastructures already restrict future
15 growth. It's cost prohibited for
16 communities to expand at a cost of \$50,000
17 to \$60,000 per home school.

18 School census. They talk about
19 benefits to schools, there's no benefits to
20 schools here, our school census is on the
21 way down, it's a long term trend
22 unfortunately. Most town budgets are
23 composed primarily of costs associated with
24 roads, roads must be maintained regardless

1 of who owns the land. The cost of new
2 roads is also prohibited so the cost of
3 development goes up, the towns cannot
4 afford to take on any more roads.

5 Existing state and local regulations
6 will control many of the concerns that
7 those who may not reside here, fail to be
8 on the east of the Hudson, do not wish to
9 dictate how we live by controlling the
10 land. The DEIS in my opinion begs the
11 question why acquire land here? Is there
12 worsening water quality prospects? No.
13 Cannonsville water quality improved
14 significantly prior to any substantial
15 acquisitions. Increased use of water from
16 the Cannonsville and Pepacton doesn't
17 appear to be likely. High demand for
18 developmental land? No. Increasing
19 population? No. Explosive business
20 growth? No. Young population growth? No.
21 EG pressure, environmental group pressure
22 in the state forcing the city to acquire
23 land to fill up the state's agendas? I'd
24 say probably yes. More than a few people

1 around here foresee this effort as nothing
2 more than leading to the Catskill Park
3 Agency, that will be my most bold
4 statement.

5 Regarding the watershed permit, the
6 state has taken comments on the pending
7 watershed permit for New York City to
8 purchase land forcing the state to extend
9 the comment period to September 15th but
10 unfortunately won't be releasing the
11 document until or about August 30th. Some
12 of us are aware of some of the ideas that
13 could be memorialized in the permit, but
14 there's no draft language for the public to
15 review. The state, as I understand it,
16 doesn't have a legal obligation to take
17 public comment on this document. Given the
18 state gave us the new permit for land
19 acquisition in 2007 without our input, this
20 time good government fairness should
21 prevail, they have an ethical
22 responsibility to do so.

23 As of today, as to the draft permit
24 to review, I am unaware of a Delaware

1 County board member who would be willing to
2 support an agreement in principle as
3 speakers to the watershed permit as they
4 have not been able read it, have not seen
5 it.

6 Natural gas. The state should be
7 evaluating the economic impact of the land
8 acquisition program on natural gas drilling
9 as far part of permit approval process. It
10 would be a rare individual that could
11 withstand the process associated with
12 undergoing SEQRA to be able to drill. The
13 DEC does this allowing owners to get
14 individual permits in the watershed as a
15 political move to allow drilling and is a
16 red herring. The state has legally
17 stripped property rates and has in essence
18 banned drilling in the watershed and
19 residents will not be compensated for it.
20 Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

21 MR. CLARKE: Thank you. The next
22 person we have on the list here to make a
23 statement tonight is Mack McShane from
24 Andes.

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MR. MCSHANE: Jack.

MR. CLARKE: Jack, I'm sorry.

MR. MCSHANE: Can you hear me? I guess you can. Excuse me for sitting, I've got a bad leg problem so I can't stand up. My name is Jack McShane and I live in Andes, I have 370 acres in Andes and I have New York City purchases on three sides of my property, two are in fee and the other one is an easement. I'm also the past president of the Catskill Forest Association and the past president of the Catskill Landowners Association which is a property rights organization. I have some notes, just a couple of points. I am basically pro the land acquisition program. I do have some problems with it and like Pete Bracci has said, I think many of us here can disagree but not be disagreeable which I think is very important. I was reading the CD that was sent to me by DEP and in it MOA sent me an IM80, the city is committed not to challenge tax assessments on acquired conservation easements and I

1 want to find out if that is actually true
2 and why not do the same thing for lands
3 acquired in fee? That would take off a lot
4 of the worrying by landowners here in the
5 watershed that if the city does challenge
6 their assessments in the future in a vast
7 amount of land, that tax burden would be
8 shifted to the private landowners.

9 Just reading what is eligible for
10 acquisition, the four or five items here,
11 located within 1,000 feet within a
12 reservoir, located in a 100 year
13 floodplain, located within 300 feet of a
14 water source, contain designated wetlands
15 more than five acres or containing slopes
16 of 15 percent or more. That seems to make
17 an awful lot of sense to protect those
18 lands and not have building in them because
19 when building does occur in them and the
20 floods occur, it is then that burden of the
21 residents of those towns to repair all that
22 mess that occurs. If they're off and not
23 developed, then that's a protection we
24 won't have to pay for further damage by 100

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year floods.

I also noted on a positive basis that the DEP is open to future flood buyouts if requested, I think that's a positive note. Since 1997, the MOA, New York City has opened 59,000 acres to multiple recreation uses, 1,700 acres are managed for forestry which is my background and my love which is basically the logging industry. It also allows bluestone quarrying on the easement lands, I do have a problem with that. I feel that the requisite plan for quarrying on DEP lands goes over and above and beyond too far the New York State DEC regulations which are far more than adequate to protect the land when the quarrying goes on. These new regulations on the easement lands will put a lot of my bluestone quarrying friends out of business.

I will put on my Catskill Landowners Association hat just for a moment. As far as the hamlet expansions are concerned, we're concerned that the towns arbitrarily expand the hamlets without contacting the

1 landowners within those expansion areas.
2 If all the landowners within the expansion
3 areas agree to the expansion, which will
4 limit their ability to sell their land to
5 the city, well, then it's fine, but unless
6 they get approval by those landowners
7 impacted, we look at that as a taking of
8 landowners' rights by our towns and we
9 oppose that. If all landowners within the
10 expansion zones agree, more than
11 acceptable, no problem.

12 I do have a couple of questions that
13 hopefully can be answered. I negotiated
14 with the city for many years actually from
15 the beginning of the MOA about putting a
16 conservation easement on our properties, on
17 our acreage, and because I was always a
18 very active landowner and manager of my
19 property, I was always concerned with the
20 rules and regs and the control by the DEP
21 on the land and I'm wondering now and it's
22 a question that can be answered later
23 hopefully maybe sometime here,
24 approximately how many violations by owners

1 have been found, owners of the land on the
2 conservation easement. I'd like to know
3 what the penalties have been for the
4 violations and what those violations have
5 been, it would be interesting to know that.

6 I have one other kind of silly
7 question, but land presently under a DEP
8 conservation easement, could that land in
9 the future, the balance of it be sold to
10 the city so that the city would own it in
11 fee? There's also another point that's
12 brought up, if you're going to have a
13 conservation easement that the DEP will do
14 an analysis of the landowner's stated plans
15 for future use, and I was wondering what
16 the purpose of that analysis was and what
17 that would be used for when you're
18 negotiating a conservation easement on the
19 property.

20 Quick comment on the gas drilling
21 issue. If the city implements through DEC
22 more stringent or impossible rules to have
23 gas drilling on a property, I feel that
24 that in itself is a taking of private

1 property rights and if that goes through, I
2 think that landowners within the watershed
3 who lose the rights to drill for gas should
4 be compensated adequately by New York City,
5 users of their water. 5 cents a year on
6 our water here would probably help pay our
7 taxes.

8 Just another point, a couple of our
9 supervisors mentioned that there has been
10 no scientific research that proves that
11 land acquisition protects water quality.
12 For those who want it, I will get that
13 research from both Yale and SUNY ESF, it's
14 been done and it's been proven. Even small
15 land acquisitions have an impact on overall
16 water quality, thank you.

17 MR. CLARKE: Thank you. The next
18 person who signed up to make a statement is
19 Andrew Mason.

20 MR. MASON: My name is Andrew Mason,
21 I live in Jefferson in Schoharie County and
22 I own two commercial properties in
23 Stamford. I've been a resident for over 40
24 years and I've been concerned and involved

1 in the environment of our region for most
2 of my adult life. I support the land
3 acquisition program in its conclusion that
4 it will help our environment, help protect
5 our environment and particularly our
6 waterways and I am glad to be able to say
7 that, not because of concern over the
8 drinking water quality for several million
9 New Yorkers, although that's important, I
10 say it because it protects our waterways
11 for us, the people who live here, recreate
12 here, work here, our waterways. These are
13 streams that pass through our towns, our
14 farms, that our children swim in and that
15 we paddle and fish in. Shouldn't we want
16 our streams and rivers to be clean for us,
17 not for New York City but for us.

18 If anyone tells you that the
19 waterways were clean before, I'm here to
20 tell you that they were not. As a young
21 man fishing in the west branch of the
22 Delaware below the Stamford water treatment
23 plant, the rocks there were covered with
24 slime from that plant, the smell was nearly

1 unbearable. At this time of year the upper
2 regions of the Cannonsville reservoir were
3 pea green with algae from the excess
4 phosphorus and other nutrients from the
5 farms and the hamlets along the river.
6 There were instances of raw sewage still
7 entering directly into the river. I
8 personally witnessed manure being spread
9 directly into the waterways and along
10 streams. Livestock had unfettered access
11 to the streams eroding the banks
12 and reducing water quality. Best
13 management practices? These are the worst
14 management practices.

15 Now, this continued without any
16 involvement or concern from the county
17 board of supervisors or the local town and
18 if New York City had not instituted its
19 programs, that would still be the situation
20 today. And if you doubt that, I invite you
21 to visit the four towns of Delaware County,
22 the Towns of Sidney and Franklin,
23 Davenport, Harpersfield, that are outside
24 of the watershed. You won't see any

1 efforts to control barnyard waste or to
2 reduce impervious surfaces or to repair
3 failed septic systems or any of the common
4 sense practices that are now in place in
5 the watershed. The lack of concern for
6 clean water for the healthy residents is
7 just as prevalent today in those areas.

8 As to the specifics of the land
9 acquisition program, this is not only an
10 opportunity to protect our waters and to
11 maintain farm land, but it increases public
12 access to the land for recreation. Nearly
13 all of the land the city has or will
14 acquire has one thing in common, it was
15 posted no trespassing for any reason. Now
16 this land will be open for hunting,
17 fishing, hiking, and even farming and
18 logging and the city will pay full taxes on
19 the land with essentially no burden on
20 public services, no school kids, no cost to
21 the social welfare or healthcare system, no
22 buildings to burn. Somehow the board of
23 supervisors sees this as a negative, I
24 don't understand that.

1 Finally, I would like to talk to you
2 on the matter of property rights. For
3 years when aberrations such as zoning or
4 land use regulations or codes or any other
5 public controls on private property came
6 up, the politicians would jump up and down
7 and say, no, we can't do that, we can't
8 tell people what to do with their land, we
9 can't interfere with their rights. We hear
10 that most recently with this issue of gas
11 drilling, the supervisors are saying, oh,
12 we can't tell the landowners they can't
13 allow drilling on their property even
14 though this activity may well negatively
15 impact their neighbors to the point of
16 reducing their property values, damaging
17 their water supply, negatively affecting
18 their quality of life. But if someone
19 wants to sell land to New York City,
20 they're more than happy to throw road
21 blocks in the way. They have to get
22 approval from the towns, certain areas
23 they're not allowed to sell or they have to
24 meet certain requirements. I remind these

1 politicians that claim to be so supportive
2 of property rights, that these are
3 agreements between willing sellers and
4 willing buyers. If you're so concerned
5 about these rights, then get out of the
6 way, let this program and these sales
7 proceed for the benefit of all of us, thank
8 you.

9 MR. CLARKE: Thank you. Our next
10 person who signed up to give a statement is
11 Amy and I think it's Kenyon.

12 MS. KENYON: Hi, I'm Amy Kenyon with
13 Farm Catskills. We're going to be
14 submitting written comments so thanks for
15 extending the deadline, we appreciate that.
16 It's going to be very brief tonight. The
17 draft EIS says that the agriculture is not
18 particularly important to the economy of
19 the watershed which is just erroneous.
20 Five pages later it says that tourism and
21 outdoor recreation is very important to the
22 watershed and while that is growing here in
23 Delaware County, agriculture significantly
24 represents significantly more jobs and more

1 capital investment and more of the economy.
2 So we think that the land acquisition
3 program does have an impact on agriculture
4 and that should be addressed and mitigated
5 in the DEIS.

6 Specifically we would be very
7 interested in -- we would be very
8 interested in the city developing a
9 voluntary program like other large scale
10 agricultural easement programs that
11 addresses affordability of farm land. We
12 agree with what Dean said, it just doesn't
13 stand to reason that with this scale of
14 purchases of land that it's not having an
15 impact on the price and driving that up.
16 There are other programs, an affordability
17 element could be added to the agriculture
18 easement program.

19 Secondly, there could be a process
20 for our farm lands to remain in private
21 ownerships subject to a conservation
22 easement rather than it being purchased by
23 the city, this is where the land trusts
24 could come in. We've heard from farmers

1 who have said we would have liked to
2 purchase that land that the city bought and
3 now we can't have access to it. So we
4 think there's an opportunity to further
5 develop the rural land trusts in keeping
6 them in private ownership and still
7 protecting the water and we hope to see the
8 city also continue to improve your process
9 of leasing lands for agriculture, that has
10 made some major improvements in the past
11 two years and we'd like to see that
12 continue, thank you.

13 MR. CLARKE: Thank you. The next
14 person that wishes to make a statement,
15 Dominic Morales.

16 MR. MORALES: Thank you. I'm not
17 generally a person that speaks at these
18 type of --

19 MR. CLARKE: Please state your name
20 for the record.

21 MR. MORALES: Oh, Dominic Morales,
22 resident of Delhi. But I want to
23 congratulate individuals here, when this
24 first came out I do agree with the

1 gentleman, Mr. Mason, I was very impressed
2 with possibly good land use planning coming
3 out of this, but as this progressed over
4 the years, I became more critical of the
5 process. I live on Peach Brook Road.
6 Peach Brook Road now has virtually no
7 developable land on that stretch of road
8 which is about three miles long. I looked
9 at a parcel that is just off Route 10, I
10 think it's over 400 acres, was purchased a
11 number of years ago. Peach Brook runs
12 through that floodplain. Really what made
13 me concerned is that about 200 of those
14 acres had nothing, no impact on the water
15 quality of Peach Brook, it was just one big
16 land. I come from a state, Connecticut,
17 that did an extensive land use plan and I
18 don't see any land use planning taking
19 place here. I don't see, from what I've
20 been listening to both ends of the
21 spectrum, and I really don't see a future
22 plan and solution. What we have is
23 acquisition of all this land in the
24 watershed and then we have the opposition

1 to that, I don't see any happy medium, I
2 don't see any meeting of the minds to come
3 up with a solution.

4 I agree with Amy 100 percent as far
5 as farming the Catskills, I think we have
6 valuable land that is being tied up now in
7 the watershed that can be used for
8 sustainable agriculture, community
9 agriculture and move for economic
10 development. I teach here at the college,
11 I teach -- I'm an agronomist by training.
12 I did some land use planning in Connecticut
13 when we went into towns for my graduate
14 work. What we did is we looked at the
15 needs of the towns for economic
16 development, agriculture, industry, we did
17 an extensive survey and a resource
18 inventory and we came up with a plan, some
19 zoning regulations, land use plans for each
20 town that helped satisfy both environmental
21 concerns and developmental concerns, I
22 don't see that happening. When the
23 presentation took place I thought, well,
24 there is some communication between the

1 town supervisors and the DEP and the land
2 acquisition but it seems that there is not
3 a collaborative effort to do natural
4 resource inventory, you have to inventory
5 your resources in order to make some
6 decisions. I do agree with the two
7 supervisors as far as scientific evidence,
8 there can be some buffers as to the salt
9 type, percent slope. I think zoning, most
10 zoning ordinances say you can't build a
11 property without proper permits over 5
12 percent slope, I think some of that's in
13 place.

14 I think what I would like to see, a
15 moratorium on land acquisition, until as a
16 citizen sees some collaborative effort
17 between the towns and the DEP to come up
18 with plans using the planning boards, not
19 just consulting, using the planning boards
20 to develop on a case-by-case basis how do
21 we develop this land and at the same time
22 keep water quality. So I've become not
23 exactly militant, but I am a
24 conversationist, I deal with my philosophy

1 sustainability, I would like to see more of
2 a collaborative effort instead of just
3 randomly buying the large parcels of land,
4 come up with different solutions as far as
5 how much land needs to be acquired to
6 maintain the water quality, what land can
7 be developed, what land can be used for
8 agriculture and I think we will all come
9 out a winner on this. I appreciate the
10 opportunity.

11 MR. CLARKE: Thank you. The next
12 person who signed up is Sharon Moyse.

13 MS. MOYSE: Am I allowed to just
14 stand up here? Can you hear me?

15 MR. CLARKE: Yes, we'll bring a
16 microphone up to you.

17 MS. MOYSE: I'm Sharon Moyse, I'm a
18 real estate appraiser, been so for probably
19 about 20 something years and I would
20 disagree with Mr. Mason because I think
21 that we really aren't going to see too much
22 benefit from more land acquisition in this
23 area. I'm sure that most of you have
24 city-owned property around your own

1 property. You can't hear me? Can you hear
2 me now? I'm sure most of you do have
3 city-owned property around you and while
4 the city may claim that, you know, it's
5 open for recreational use, well, not all
6 properties are but that there are a lot of
7 properties open for recreational use.

8 I would argue the point that it
9 restricts our recreational use. Number
10 one, no horses, you can't run horses
11 through any of the city-owned property so
12 for me and for probably a lot of people in
13 this area, property that, you know,
14 hundreds and hundreds and thousands of
15 acres that you previously rode horses on,
16 you can no longer do so. You can't ride
17 snowmobiles, you can't ride four wheelers,
18 so, yes, you can hike but most of the land
19 that they acquire no longer gets mowed, no
20 longer are there trails made so you're
21 going to hike through brush up to here,
22 good luck, bring a machete.

23 And I did have a few questions, I was
24 under the impression that the current

1 contract was ending in 2016 and now it's
2 2022, is that -- it's been already extended
3 six years, is that correct or not correct?

4 MR. CLARKE: What I would suggest is
5 if you have questions for people, staff
6 will be down here and happy to answer
7 questions, we're just taking statements
8 now. If you have a question, it will be
9 responded to on the record.

10 MS. MOYSE: And then I guess I would
11 just like to reiterate that New York City
12 can grieve taxes on the fee purchase
13 property after they own it for a certain
14 number of years, which I'm not sure what
15 that is exactly and will grieve it and will
16 claim that the land is no longer useable
17 for any purpose, no longer developable and
18 therefore they should have their
19 assessments lowered and also all of the
20 land, a good portion of land that they're
21 acquiring, if they didn't acquire it, if
22 somebody else purchased it, could be
23 developed so we will lose any future
24 increase in a tax base by people who would

1 buy the property and build houses on it.

2 So there's that to consider also.

3 Well, I guess I'd just like to say
4 that think long and hard. There are a lot
5 of people who want to sell out and get out
6 but there's a lot of people who want their
7 children and grandchildren and great
8 grandchildren to be raised here and what is
9 there going to be for them here? Our rural
10 way of life is being extremely compromised
11 by the land acquisition and my suggestion
12 would be just to build a filtration plant.

13 MR. CLARKE: Thank you. The next
14 speaker who signed up is SenGupta.

15 MR. GUPTA: Good evening, ladies and
16 gentlemen and New York City DEP and MOA,
17 DEC. My name is Shyamal K. SenGupta, I'm
18 from Town of Bovina in Delaware County.
19 I've been a resident and taxpayer for the
20 last 20 years and I am not connected to any
21 government, any government organization or
22 quasi judicial or quasi government body or
23 New York City funded bodies like CWC or CWT
24 or Delhi Tech which is SUNY or Cornell

1 Cooperative Extension. I have absolutely
2 no vested interest, so I just speak freely.
3 I heard an interesting comment from Mr.
4 Leonard Utter that he's happy when he saw
5 the construction of two, what you call
6 these, reservoirs in Delaware County. I've
7 been involved with all the public hearings
8 in 1997 and I have gone to Albany for
9 demonstrating during the Pataki
10 administration.

11 MR. CLARKE: Mr. Gupta, could you
12 lower your voice just a little bit, please?
13 Thank you.

14 MR. GUPTA: No problem, sorry.
15 Please let me know and I'll control it. If
16 I'm talking fast, ask me to make it slow.
17 If I'm talking slow, ask me to make it
18 fast, I have no objection. So I hope I'm
19 right that I don't think Mr. Leonard Utter
20 was the supervisor of the town, Mr. Alan
21 Rosa was the supervisor and he's now the
22 executive director of CWC. I don't know
23 whether he belonged at that time to any
24 town government or not, but if I'm not

1 mistaken I don't think I've seen Mr.
2 Leonard Utter making any final decisions
3 about the condition of the people who are
4 suffering from these construction of the,
5 what you call it, reservoirs in Delaware
6 County and I also want to address it to the
7 comment without offending you in any way,
8 you are saying that you're indicating
9 record of all of the public hearing
10 comments. Well, with my 20 years of
11 experience in USA here from 1989 onwards
12 and from '79 to '89 in Long Island, I think
13 in this mini setup of Washington behind
14 closed doors, decisions are made
15 unilaterally without taking note of public
16 hearings account and that public hearings
17 are basically a farce, but please don't
18 take offense to that, you said I can speak
19 freely so that's my personal opinion.

20 Now, I will speak mostly on behalf of
21 Delaware County and Town of Bovina and
22 Delaware County has some downside,
23 Davenport, whose last achievement was the
24 creator of the MOA.

1 MR. CLARKE: Mr. Gupta -- Mr. Gupta,
2 I think if you hold the microphone away
3 from your mouth because you're speaking
4 just a little too loud. Thank you.

5 MR. GUPTA: So I will -- the village
6 or the Town of Davenport, Town of East
7 Franklin, Town of Franklin in the
8 watershed, if I won't be mistaken and
9 they're in the Town of -- they are in
10 Delaware County and they are in the
11 watershed region. I did a common research
12 of some newspaper letters to the editor and
13 something has come to my attention based on
14 which I have written a letter to the editor
15 to our local Daily Star. I will take the
16 chair's permission to read the letter out
17 because I think it's relevant. Heading of
18 the letter is that Glass Could Pollute
19 Beyond Oneonta. "A most frightening
20 incident has come to my attention. Glass
21 was used to melt snow in Oneonta streets.
22 See letters to the editor from John E.
23 Brown, January 30 and 31, 2010 obviously,
24 Caroline Cleinman, Feb. 4; Frank Tավolare,

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March 24; Gladys T. Freedland, April 12th.

"Due to the usage of heavy machinery, glass would be broken/pulverized into sharp pieces, hurting living creatures, especially children.

"Thin flakes, some with a boat-like curved shape, would be carried by Susquehanna and other streams to Otsego Lake, which is also known as Glimmerglass, Gilbert lake, Goodyear lake and other ponds. Normal underground cracks will allow particles to go to underground wells due to gravitational forces and laterally to ponds by eddies and the force of the current. That is why sometimes ponds develop fish without being stocked, due to fish eggs" --

MR. CLARKE: Mr. Gupta, you really are speaking way too loud.

MR. GUPTA: Due to fish eggs --

MR. CLARKE: Can you speak without the microphone? I think we can hear you fine.

MR. GUPTA: Should I read the letter

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again?

MR. CLARKE: No, no, no, just
continue on where you are now. Thank you.

MR. GUPTA: "Thin flakes, some with a
boat-like curved shape, would be carried by
Susquehanna and other streams, Otsego,
that's Glimmerglass lake, Gilbert lake,
Goodyear lakes and other ponds. Normal
underground cracks will allow particles to
go to underground wells due to
gravitational forces and laterally to ponds
by eddies and the force of the current.
That is why sometimes ponds develop fish
without being stocked, due to fish eggs in
cyst form, traveling from ponds to ponds.

"These are super fine 'pollen size'
particles. Due to the laws of physics,
these particles, in "colloidal" mixture
with water, will rise above ground, through
micro-cracks (capillary size), against
gravitational forces. That is why blood
does not drop to our toes when we stand and
ink does not fall out of a ball-point pen.
What I mean, calculation facts

1 deliberatizes against judgment.

2 "Again, due to laws of physics,
3 pollen-size particles will undergo random
4 Brownian motion; the length of "mean free
5 path" of these particles would be
6 phenomenal due to extremely high kinetic
7 energy. New York City reservoirs in the
8 watershed could be deathly polluted. New
9 York City reservoirs in the watershed could
10 be deathly polluted. In medieval
11 monarchial times, defeated kings sometimes
12 used to avenge defeat by giving powdered
13 glass in an adversary's food.

14 "The Environmental Protection Agency,
15 EPA; New York City Department of
16 Environmental Protection, DEP; New York
17 State Department of Environmental
18 Conservation, DEC; and Catskill Watershed
19 Conservation, CWC, should evaluate if the
20 underground and reservoir water has -- if
21 the reservoir water has at all been
22 polluted. If found, so then Oneonta
23 government must eliminate pollution
24 completely. Delaware County must not be

1 asked to pay any part of this communal
2 operation."

3 That is problems of the past in
4 Masonville, Sidney area and having oil
5 pollutions I think in Sidney there was -- I
6 forgot the other company had to detect the
7 -- who had the oil tanks that were put
8 inside the ground right on the hills and
9 what I'm saying, I'll quote the classic old
10 Farragut movie, more than many, and the
11 final sentence was that damn the torpedoes,
12 full steam ahead. Life is not like damn
13 the torpedoes, full steam ahead. Life is
14 like if there is a danger, look for that
15 danger. If there is a danger, clear the
16 danger because if there's one court case
17 anywhere on that line that somebody has
18 suffered an intestinal damage from glass
19 pollution that would flood gate court
20 cases. It would be those court cases like
21 asbestos court cases, all these cases and
22 government cannot bother business that will
23 get the court cases in USA East bursting at
24 seams with fat dead lawyers. If there are

1 any more court cases, a flood gate of court
2 cases, the government, town governments,
3 state government, local government cannot
4 go out of business. They will have to fund
5 to pay for any damages and that means you
6 would raise the taxes. That means you'd
7 fear economy uncertainty, it would bring
8 the prices of the economies up all over.
9 So what I suggest, the water quality is
10 established. The water quality has not
11 been compromised, this should be put on the
12 back burner. So if the waiver is not
13 granted, there is no requirement of any
14 further land acquisition program at least
15 New York City should not compromise
16 Delaware County and Bovina any further
17 because -- because what actually happens if
18 there's one court case it will merely
19 create havoc and that won't be successful.
20 So right now I think you put these two
21 things totally on the back burner. Don't
22 let them purchase any more land acquisition
23 of Delaware County and rest of the
24 watershed. And I will take one court case

1 that will be brought so let me finish with
2 a famous, the name of a famous author,
3 perhaps the most famous American writer of
4 20th century, Nobel Prize winner, Ernest
5 Hemmingway. The name of the novel is "For
6 Whom The Bell Tolls. "When the boat comes
7 to the shore with the dead bodies and the
8 bell tolls, it may be the end of the world
9 for some but it's a danger still to all."
10 With that note, I thank you.

11 MR. CLARKE: Thank you. The next
12 person who signed up to make a statement is
13 Joan Townsend.

14 MR. GUPTA: Sir, can I give you
15 submission?

16 MR. CLARKE: Yes, you can give us
17 that submission. We will enter that into
18 the record.

19 MS. TOWNSEND: My name is Joan
20 Archibald-Townsend, I'm proud to be a
21 native of Delaware County. I lived the
22 first 20 years of my life in Bovina and the
23 next four years I lived here in Delhi and
24 I'm against the land acquisition program.

1 It's an invasion of our land and our life.
2 Farmers have very little profit nowadays
3 and so they feel pressured to sell their
4 land and if you remember the depression,
5 farmers here in Delaware County had food
6 for the area and guess who else? New York
7 City, I mean, this is not -- water is not
8 the only resource you have to think about
9 here. Some of the farm land, the farm land
10 no longer being useable is going to be a
11 major problem down the road. I don't feel
12 that city-purchased land should ever be tax
13 exempt. Delhi is the county seat and it
14 should be protected. We need developable
15 land in the county seat and this area in
16 Delaware County. I do not feel that our
17 tax dollars should be used to buy land when
18 there are issues that are more pressing,
19 look at our state budget. And that's all I
20 have to say.

21 MR. CLARKE: Thank you. That runs
22 through the people who signed up to speak.

23 MR. GUPTA: Sir, one more final --

24 MR. CLARKE: Excuse me, if anyone who

1 has not given a statement yet wishes to
2 give a statement now, if you could raise
3 your hand. We're not taking questions at
4 the moment.

5 MR. GUPTA: No, not question. I want
6 to add something further to that.

7 MR. CLARKE: I think if you can hold
8 your questions until afterwards --

9 MR. GUPTA: Not question, I have a
10 statement.

11 MR. CLARKE: No, I think you'll have
12 to hold off. Have you made a statement
13 yet, you wish to make a statement now?
14 Okay, if you could come down please and
15 we'll give you the microphone.

16 MS. SCRIMSHAW: I'm Sally Scrimshaw,
17 I didn't prepare anything today. I didn't
18 -- I kind of came at the last minute, Joan
19 Townsend invited me to come, didn't even
20 know about it. But I agree with the man
21 from Stamford that we did have raw sewage
22 running into our rivers here in Delhi. I
23 grew up in Delaware County and lived down
24 in New Jersey for years and got tired of

1 the development, the malls, the traffic,
2 and moved back up here and I have to say I
3 was a little upset when they tried to put
4 in 75 houses right next door to me and a
5 gravel pit and I don't want that to happen,
6 I moved back up here so that that wouldn't
7 happen and lifestyle is different here but
8 I think what upsets people here most is
9 somebody from out of the area telling them
10 what to do. I mean, there are some good
11 programs in the pro -- in the watershed ad
12 council for easements where people can farm
13 their land and just sell their development
14 rights. We've looked into this, my family
15 has a farm and we're trying to figure out
16 what to do with that farm and keep it,
17 farming in the family, it's been there
18 coming up on 200 years. My family settled
19 that farm and it's very confusing as to
20 what we're going to do there and they're
21 hesitant to be part of this program for the
22 easements which I think is a good idea.
23 You're selling your development rights, do
24 you want that farm land developed? No,

1 they don't want it developed, but they
2 don't want somebody telling them what to do
3 and I think that's what everybody resists
4 and gets unreasonable about because you
5 feel like someone out of the area is
6 telling you what to do and do a study on
7 that, I think that you'll find that most
8 people resent that whether it's your own
9 home or your property.

10 So I guess that's all I have to say
11 and I hope it can be worked out. Everybody
12 here wants clean water I'm sure, we don't
13 want to send bad water down to New York
14 City, we don't want to drink bad water here
15 and probably until somebody is forced they
16 probably don't take care of it,
17 unfortunately, that's what happens. If you
18 can get away with it, you do. And trying
19 to be reasonable about what we can do and
20 when I looked into making some changes on
21 that farm, thought about buying that farm
22 for my parents and had someone come over
23 and do a deep well test and the DEP police
24 drove up and I felt like I was a criminal.

1 I mean, that's pretty upsetting, you know,
2 when the police show up. It's just like
3 gee whiz, I haven't even done anything, I
4 feel like big brother is looking over my
5 shoulder and I think that's what we all
6 fear is someone else controlling our lives
7 and that's something that the city needs to
8 be very sensitive about because I'm sure
9 you wouldn't want somebody coming into your
10 personal homes and telling you how to keep
11 your personal home. Maybe you're a messy
12 housekeeper and as long as you're not
13 bothering anybody else, you know, so what?
14 But unfortunately we do have to balance
15 that of taking care of our water supply and
16 our environment for everybody. Thank you.

17 MR. CLARKE: Thank you. Has anyone
18 else not given a statement this evening?
19 Yes?

20 MR. HIRSH: I wasn't planning to
21 speak at all, I just came here to listen
22 and learn. In my mind --

23 MR. CLARKE: Please state your name
24 for the record.

1 MR. HIRSH: Richard Hirsh. In my
2 mind, it's a no brainer that this is a good
3 thing. I think it can only improve or keep
4 the water quality New York City has right
5 now and the same thing for people living
6 here, keep the quality of water we have in
7 Delaware County.

8 The other thing, I have a place in
9 Walton, New York, 3 of my 400 acres are
10 already in their program, I'm very happy
11 that they're in it as a neighbor. I plan
12 on going into it likewise. There also
13 seems to be a misconception that from some
14 people the more people we get up here, the
15 more holes we fill, that our taxes are
16 going to go down. Well, my primary home is
17 in Westchester County, everywhere you look
18 we have house on top of house, you wouldn't
19 want to know what I'm paying on taxes. The
20 more homes we bring, the more people we
21 bring in. Taxes are going to go up.

22 MR. CLARKE: Thank you. Anyone else
23 who has not made a statement this evening?
24 There being no further statements, we're

1 going to close the public hearing. I do
2 want to remind folks if you have questions,
3 please feel free to come down, staff are
4 here to answer the questions that you have.
5 We do very much appreciate on behalf of the
6 New York City Department of Environmental
7 Conservation and the New York City
8 Department of Environmental Protection your
9 courtesy.

10 Again, every comment will be
11 carefully considered and responded to and
12 the final DEIS and also as part of the
13 department's decision making and if you
14 wish to submit additional comments, you may
15 do so in writing by December 15th, 2010. I
16 believe we have copies of the public notice
17 as to the address you can submit them to,
18 we also accept e-mails as well. Again,
19 thank you very much and good evening.

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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence are contained fully and accurately in the notes taken by me on the above cause and that this is a correct transcript of the same to the best of my ability.

Amy Osterstuck

AMY OSTERSTUCK