

## **Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) Hutchinson River Kickoff Meeting - Summary of Meeting and Public Comments**

On March 26, 2014 DEP hosted a kickoff public meeting for the water quality planning process for long term control of combined sewer overflows in the portion of the Hutchinson River within the boundaries of New York City. The two-hour event, held at the Harry S. Truman High School in the Bronx, provided information about DEP's Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) development for Hutchinson River. DEP presented information on the Hutchinson River watershed characteristics and status of waterbody improvement projects, obtained public information on waterbody uses in the Hutchinson River, and provided opportunities for public input. The presentation can be found at <http://www.nyc.gov/dep/ltcp>.

Approximately fifteen people from the public attended the event as well as a representative from the Department of Environmental Protection and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The following summarizes the questions and comments from attendees as well as responses given.

**Q.** An attendee asked what was meant by primary contact recreation as used in the Water Quality Standards (WQS) and as reflected in the bacteria and dissolved oxygen (DO) criteria.

**A.** DEP replied that according to the standard primary contact it is water appropriate for swimming, and the bacteria and DO criteria levels are meant to protect that use. DEP also stated that the NYC Department of Health (DOH) regulates beaches and swimming areas. It was also noted that there may be other factors besides water quality that prevent swimming as a use (currents, river bank slope, and commercial navigation).

**Q.** An attendee asked whether the goal for the Hutchinson River was to protect aquatic life rather than swimming, as swimming wasn't really feasible given the commercial navigation. The attendee also mentioned that it would be nice not to have odors in low tide which has happened before.

**A.** It was stated that the WQS is currently Class SB – fishable/swimmable - and that the goal of each LTCP is to identify appropriate CSO controls necessary to achieve waterbody-specific water quality standards, consistent with the Federal CSO Policy and water quality goals of the CWA.

**Q.** An attendee asked whether someone could get sick if elevated indicator bacteria occurred due to natural conditions.

**A.** DEP responded that bacteria can occur naturally due to contributions from wildlife and showed in the presentation the numbers found in sampling.

**Q.** An attendee asked where the sample at Pelham Lake was taken.

A. DEP responded that it was at the outlet of the third and last lake.

Q. An attendee requested a copy of the Hutchinson River Sewer System and Water Quality Data Report.

A. DEP stated that they would post it on their website.

Q. A representative attending from Co-Op City expressed interest in the DEP's green infrastructure grant program.

A. Mikelle Adgate from DEP offered to serve as a point of contact for green infrastructure related questions. She explained that the green infrastructure grant program is open for 2014 for private properties that are in the combined sewer areas in NYC.

Q. An attendee questioned the graphic in the presentation showing pie charts of loadings to the Hutchinson River. He asked if Westchester County storm water was the largest loading.

A. DEP confirmed that Westchester storm water showed the largest loadings in the data.

Q. An attendee asked whether the Hutchinson River WQS could be downgraded to lower than B/SB.

A. The goal of this LTCP is to identify appropriate CSO controls necessary to achieve waterbody-specific water quality standards, consistent with EPA's 1994 CSO Policy and subsequent guidance. Where existing water quality standards do not meet the Section 101(a)(2) goals of the Clean Water Act, or where the proposed alternative set forth in the LTCP will not achieve existing water quality standards or the Section 101(a)(2) goals, the LTCP will include a Use Attainability Analysis examining whether applicable waterbody classifications, criteria, or standards should be adjusted by the State.

Q. An attendee noted an odor after the Barstow Rd. sewer project from a catch basin at a gas station. She had notified DEP and received a response that they would follow up.

A. DEP offered to check on the status of this.