

REQUEST FOR INDICATIONS OF INTEREST DATED NOVEMBER 27, 2023

TO PROVIDE

AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF RECORDS FOR PURPOSES OF IDENTIFYING  
PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES

TO THE

NEW YORK CITY WATER BOARD

**Access information for the December 15, 2023 informational conference:**

An informational conference will be held at **2:00pm on Friday December 15, 2023**. The conference will be held via the Microsoft Teams platform, and a conference number is also available for firms interested in calling in.

Interested firms can **register to attend the conference** by contacting the Board's designated contact person using the information below:

Omar Nazem  
New York City Water Board  
59-17 Junction Boulevard  
8th Floor  
Corona, NY 11373  
onazem@dep.nyc.gov  
718-595-3591

**The [link](#) to connect to the Microsoft Teams video conferencing platform is:**

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_M2UyYmU1ZDMtYjc0Zi00MmYwLWE1N2QtYTkyMTI0ZWZhN2I2%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22f470a35f-0853-4633-aae3-ce4e8b5085a3%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22fa46ec46-a062-4337-8f72-25c3821c177c%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_M2UyYmU1ZDMtYjc0Zi00MmYwLWE1N2QtYTkyMTI0ZWZhN2I2%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22f470a35f-0853-4633-aae3-ce4e8b5085a3%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22fa46ec46-a062-4337-8f72-25c3821c177c%22%7d)

**The [conference call](#) information is:**

Telephone: 347-921-5612  
Conference ID: 193 845 473 #

# **Request for Indications of Interest: Environmental Assessment of Records for Purposes of Identifying Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, Including Future Regulatory Outlook**

**December 15, 2023**



# The Department of Environmental Protection and New York City Water Board are Seeking an Expert Consultant With Experience Conducting PFAS Assessments

- Request for Indications of Interest (“RII”) was noticed and published on November 27, 2023
- The purpose of the RII is to identify firms to participate in a forthcoming NYC Water Board Request for Proposals
- This RII process is being undertaken prior to the anticipated forthcoming RFP process in order to ensure that qualified firms are invited to participate in the selection process
- **Written Indications of Interest are requested by January 8, 2024**
- DEP and the Board may request verbal presentations from firms submitting proposals after the submission deadline
- The RII process is focused on identifying consultants with the technical acumen and experience to undertake an evaluation of records and information pertaining to PFAS compounds
- The RFP process is anticipated to begin before the end of the first quarter of calendar year 2024, and is expected to involve a short-list of firms drawn from the Indications of Interest submitted through the RII process
- Pricing and rates are not being requested during the RII process, with the RII process focusing on understanding the technical qualifications and extent of experience of the firms submitting indications
- When the subsequent RFP is published, it is anticipated that the **maximum authorized funding available** to perform the scope of work will not exceed \$350,000

# Water Systems Are Increasingly Focusing on Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

- Ubiquitous “Forever Chemicals”
  - introduced in 1940s
  - water/stain resistant, nonstick, surfactant properties used in clothes, furniture, rugs, apparel, food packaging, cookware, firefighting foam, paints, cosmetics, industrial processes
  - strong carbon-fluorine bond
    - does not occur naturally
    - persistent
- PFOS/PFOA substantially phased out in 2010s
  - numerous replacement compounds still in use
  - thousands of types
  - research suggests possible health effects at certain concentrations



## Regulatory Trends

- 2020 - NYS implemented Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) for PFOS and PFOA at 10 parts per trillion (ppt)
- 2022 - NYS proposed regulations include MCLs for 6 PFAS at 10 ppt, with a combined threshold of 30 ppt, and notification thresholds for 19 PFAS (30 to 100 ppt)
- 2023 - EPA proposed MCL of 4 ppt for PFOA and PFOS, and a combined Hazard Index MCL for 4 additional PFAS
- As part of its regulatory process, EPA also established non-enforceable Maximum Contaminant Level Goals and Health Advisory Levels for PFOA and PFAS which are beneath current laboratory reporting limits
- Collectively, these actions have brought increased attention to the issue

# Why Kensico? System Overview

- Serves 9.8 million people & delivers approx. 1.1 billion gallons per day
- Source of water is a 2,000 square mile watershed in parts of 8 upstate counties
- 19 reservoirs & 3 controlled lakes
  - Croton, Catskill and Delaware Systems
  - Croton System is filtered
  - Catskill and Delaware Systems unfiltered
    - All unfiltered CAT/DEL waters pass through Kensico = Terminal Reservoir



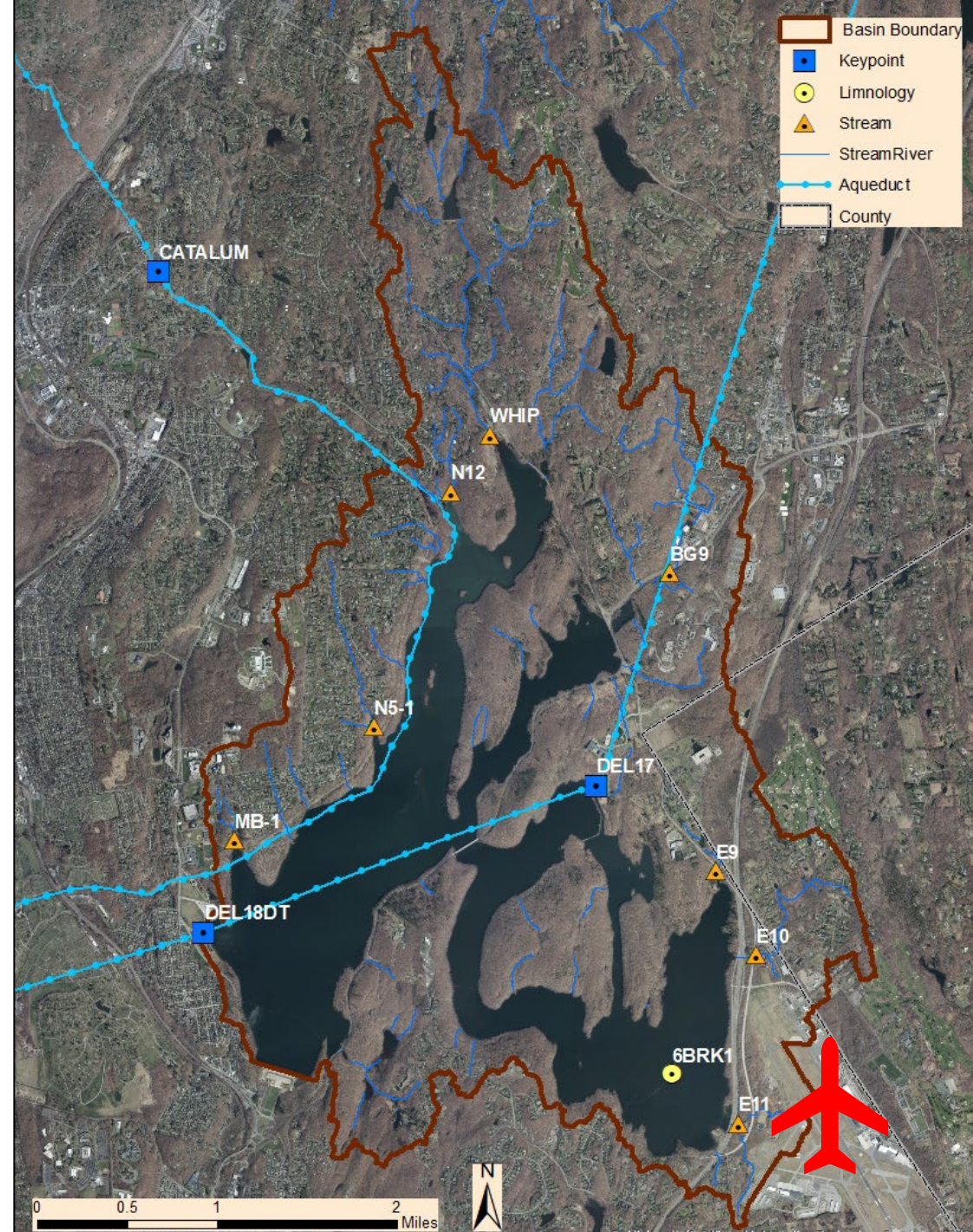
# Kensico

Terminal Reservoir in unfiltered CAT/DEL System

Receives input from

- Catskill Aqueduct
- Delaware Aqueduct
- Tributaries from ~ 8,400 acre drainage basin

Outflow at Delaware Aqueduct (Shaft 18)



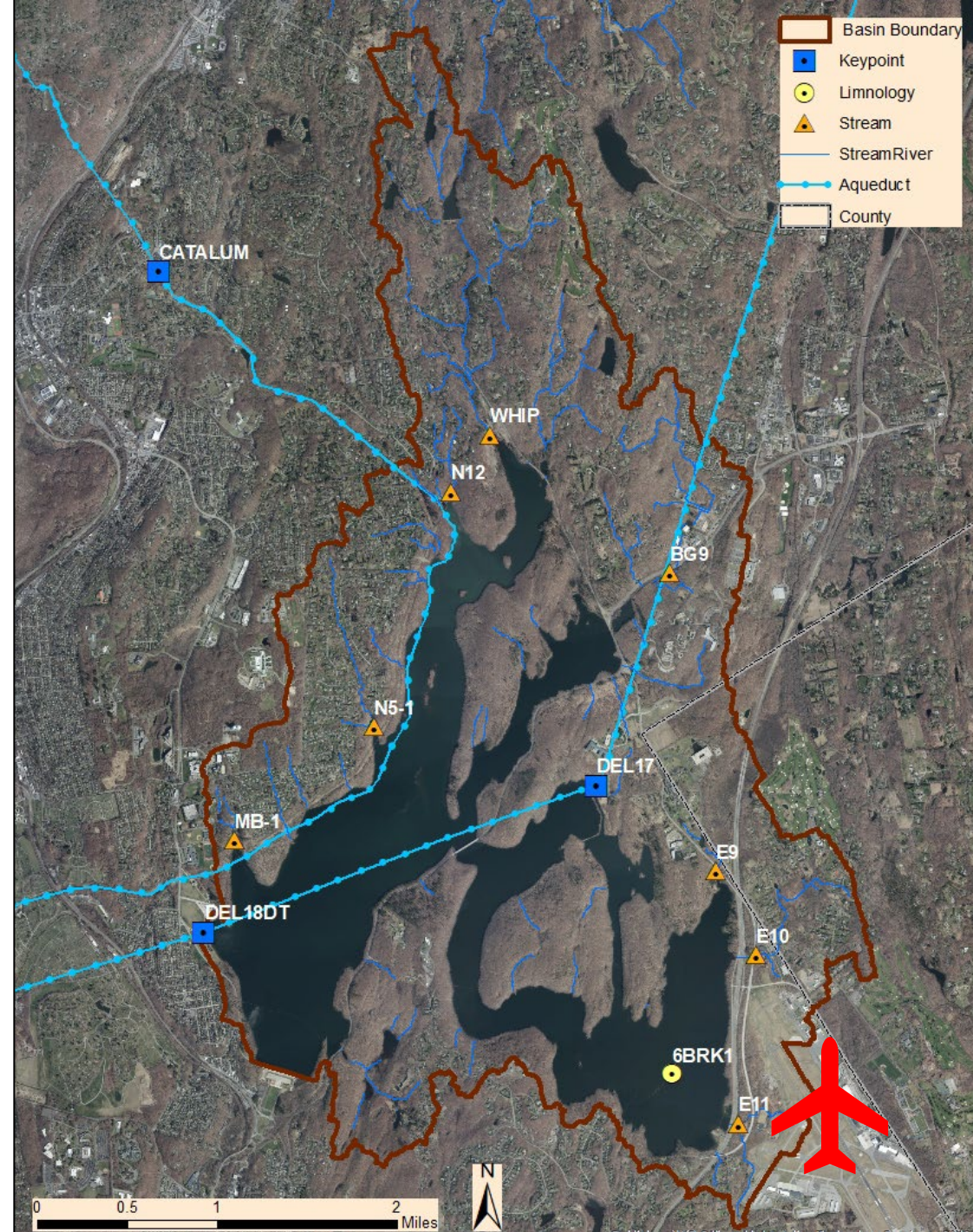
# Kensico

PFAS have not been detected at the inflows from the Catskill or Delaware Aqueducts

PFAS have not been detected in water leaving the Kensico Reservoir, or at any distribution entry points from the CAT/DEL system

PFAS have been detected from the streams sampled within the area basin

- Stream indications are above NYS ambient guidelines and drinking water MCL for PFOA and PFOS
- Additional PFAS chemicals have been detected in stream locations
- Highest levels in the streams associated with Westchester County Airport





DEP and the Board are seeking services to:

- Identify additional potential PFAS sources within the basin and understand their mitigation potential
  - Based on land use records, historic aerial photography, water quality records, commercial databases, and other sources
- Analyze all PFAS water quality records collected to date to evaluate the risk of exceeding regulatory standards at the outflow of Kensico Reservoir under various operational and future regulatory scenarios
  - Estimate PFAS loads from all inflows to evaluate whether remediation of contaminated sites will significantly reduce future risk
- Recommend additional data and research needs to understand and manage the risks associated with regulatory water quality standards for PFAS

# Anticipated Scope of Work

## **Details of the information requested from interested firms: qualifications and approach**

- A complete listing of the requested information is described in the RII document available on the Board's website under Section V
- In order to help the Board make a reasoned decision, the information requested from interested firms includes:
  - A description of the firm's specific expertise providing environmental consulting services and conducting environmental assessments
  - A description of the firm's specific expertise with federal and state water quality regulations surrounding PFAS
  - A description of previous expertise evaluating the presence or potential presence of substances belonging to the PFAS category of substances, such as PFOA and PFOS based on a review of documents and records, databases, and other relevant sources
  - A listing of previous comparable consulting assignments
  - A description of any methodology or frameworks used by the firm in performing client PFAS assessments
  - Biographies and qualifications of personnel who would be involved in the assignment
  - A description of any M/WBE certifications or qualifications
  - Other firm information as described in the RII document
- It is expected that the selection process for the Indications of Interest will prioritize M/WBE firms for review, and that the subsequent RFP process will include an additional evaluation score point adjustment for M/WBE proposers

# Thank You!

DEP and the Water Board are focused on reliably delivering a sufficient quantity of high quality drinking water to protect public health and quality of life of the City of New York.



December 14, 2023

**NEW YORK CITY WATER BOARD**

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AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF RECORDS FOR PURPOSES OF IDENTIFYING  
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**Questions received through 12/14/23 at 3:00pm**

1. How does the Water Board anticipate that the RII scope may change based on New York State's anticipated 2024 proposals for establishing maximum contaminant levels for PFOS and PFOA?

The Scope of Work is not currently expected to substantially change. The evaluation of records and other information is expected to take into account current and prospective changes to regulatory thresholds, based on publicly available or preliminary regulatory guidance, as well as current regulation. The threshold concentration that would be the focus of the analysis would be concentrations that would fall within current state and federal regulatory guidelines, as well as the concentrations that could become relevant given the likely future direction of state and federal regulatory framework, based on the consultant's experience and outlook performing regulatory evaluations within the industry. The Board and DEP anticipate that the selected firm or firms are participants in the industry and, from a combination of industry participation and previous completed assignments, may be able to advise on areas of regulation and acceptable limits that may become more of a priority for regulators going forward.

2. Do the Water Board and DEP anticipate providing an inventory of paper and digital records, maps, surveys, databases and other reports as part of the RFP?

A list of the general types of available DEP records that would support this project will be made available in the RFP. The consultant will be expected to combine DEP records with commercially available databases and/or with the consultant's own proprietary data sources. The specific records that will be made available to the consultant will depend in part of the selected consultant's capabilities and access to third party in-house or commercially available data sources, such as industrial and landfill databases, historic aerial photography, DEC and DOH databases, the scientific literature, and other sources. DEP and the Board would advise proposing firms to identify the types of records and data sources used in previous assignments, and to include a description of the records and data sources they would require access to in performing the Scope of Work.

3. Does the Water Board or DEP anticipate near-term updates to PFAS family of compounds listed in Subpart 5-1 of Title 10?

The State Codes, Rules, and Regulations are promulgated by the State, and Board and DEP closely track information regarding State regulation. One of DEP's managers is a representative on the New York State Drinking Water Quality Council, which is responsible for providing science-based recommendations about emerging contaminants in drinking water to protect public health. In November, the Council voted in favor of a proposal to require monitoring for 23 additional PFAS compounds, and public notification if they are detected. This new regulation is expected to go into effect some time in 2024.

4. The relative loading of PFOS compounds in the Loading Report appears to warrant modeling runs. Does Water Board and DEP expect modeling to occur as part of the desktop efforts?

The Board is focused on a review of information and records. Identifying actual point estimates or likely ranges derived from records, of the concentration of the identified compounds based on existing records will be an important part of the analysis, as well as – to the extent possible – constructing time series based on actual point estimates or likely ranges derived from records. The Scope of Work may involve deriving estimates of the typical concentration ranges of the identified compounds associated with certain types of potential or identified emission sources. The Scope of Work does not include hydrological modeling or the modeling of molecular flows in fluid, or the development of a model of the Kensico Reservoir or Basin. If there is modeling expertise that the proposer believes would complement or enhance the review of the records and information, the proposer is free to include a description of the modeling framework, software, and capabilities if they wish to.

5. Can we consider past work experience performed as part of a JV or must it be work performed by the primary submitter only?

Work performed as part of a JV is relevant, but the proposer should clearly specify the specific portions of the referenced assignment performed by the firm, as well as the parts of the assignments performed by the JV partner(s).

6. If available, will monitoring or source area characterization done by DEP in target areas (or downstream of the areas) such as Westchester County Airport be provided as part of RFP?

DEP can provide data that have been and continue to be collected by DEP as part of any routine monitoring or special investigations. This will include data from tributaries to Kensico Reservoir, the water leaving Kensico Reservoir and samples collected from within Kensico Reservoir. Data may be available from other entities (e.g., New York State Department of Environmental Protection or Westchester County Airport) but would need to be obtained from those sources, and GIS data may be available for purposes of characterizing source areas.

7. Will firms submitting proposals for this RII or the subsequent RFP, or firms receiving a contract award for the subsequent RFP, be precluded from performing follow-up PFAS work stemming from the conclusions and recommendations of this Scope of Work on behalf of DEP or the Board?

No, submitting a proposal for this RII, the subsequent RFP, or performing all or part of the Scope of Work will not automatically disqualify a firm from bidding on, or receiving a future contract award, for prospective future scopes of work stemming from the conclusions and recommendations of this Scope of Work that may be made available by DEP or the Board. DEP retains the right to establish eligibility criteria and bidder requirements for future scopes of work in its sole discretion.