



**Environmental
Protection**

Caswell F. Holloway
Commissioner

Angela Licata
Deputy Commissioner
Bureau of Environmental
Planning and Analysis
alicata@dep.nyc.gov

59-17 Junction Boulevard
Flushing, NY 11373
T: (718) 595-4398
F: (718) 595-4479

CEQR No.: 10DEP046U

**NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF THE
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**PROJECT: EXTENDED NEW YORK CITY WATERSHED LAND
ACQUISITION PROGRAM**

December 10, 2010

A Final Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) has been prepared by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection for the proposed Extended New York City Watershed Land Acquisition Program. Acting as lead agency and 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, and the City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) process, as set forth in Executive Order 91 of 1977 and its amendments, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), is hereby certifying this Final EIS as complete.

The DEIS was accepted as complete by NYCDEP and issued for public review and comment on June 1, 2010. The issuance of the DEIS with the Notice of Completion on June 1, 2010 marked the beginning of public review under CEQR. The DEIS was circulated to interested and involved agencies and members of the public. The DEIS was posted on the NYCDEP Web page, and hard copies of the document were made available in public repositories located within and around the watershed and in New York City.

Three joint NYSDEC and NYCDEP public hearings were held to obtain oral testimony on the DEIS and Water Supply Permit Application. These hearings were held on July 12, 2010 at SUNY Delhi, in Delhi, NY, on July 13, 2010 at Hunter Elementary School in Hunter, NY, and on July 14, 2010 at Tri-Valley High School in Grahamsville, NY. The period for submitting written comments remained open until November 22, 2010.

A public notice advertising the dates, times, and locations of the public hearings on the DEIS was published in the *City Record* and in newspapers of general circulation in the affected area, including *Journal News (Northern Edition)*, *Times Herald Record*, *Kingston Daily Freeman*, *Oneonta Daily Star*, *Mountain Eagle*, and the *Walton Reporter*. Information on the public hearings was also published in NYSDEC's *Environmental Notice Bulletin*. Notices of the scheduled public hearings were mailed to the recipient list of the DEIS and to those who provided testimony at the public scoping meetings on March 23 and March 24, 2010 in Delhi, NY and Hunter, NY, respectively.

The FEIS summarizes and responds to all substantive and relevant comments made during public review in a new chapter, Chapter 12, "Comments and Responses." Where appropriate, revisions and clarifications have also been made to the other chapters of the FEIS, both in response to public comments and to reflect project changes that were made subsequent to the issuance of the DEIS.

This FEIS is being distributed in the same manner as the DEIS, is posted on the NYCDEP Web page, and hard copies of the document are being made available in public repositories located in and around the watershed and the City as listed in the attached.

Project Description

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) proposes to continue the watershed Land Acquisition Program (LAP) in the three surface water watersheds that constitute the New York City surface water supply system; the three watersheds are the Delaware, Catskill, and Croton Watersheds. With the expiration of the existing Public Water Supply Permit (WSP) in January 2012, NYCDEP submitted an application for a new 10 year WSP on January 21, 2010, in accordance with the 2007 Filtration Avoidance Determination (FAD) issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), seeking permit approval prior to January 2012 to continue LAP through the year 2022. Per agreement with NYSDEC, other regulators (NYSDOH, USEPA), West of Hudson community representatives and representatives of environmental organizations (together "West of Hudson Watershed Stakeholders") after the submittal of the WSP application, it has been agreed that the term of the successor WSP will be 15 years. The future program that would be covered under the new WSP is referred to herein as the "Extended LAP."

In addition, a companion Agreement will be signed by many of the parties to the 1997 Watershed Memorandum of Agreement (1997 MOA), reaffirming the parties' commitments under the 1997 MOA and making additional commitments with respect to the LAP and related programs going forward.

The goal of the New York City Land Acquisition Program (LAP) is to acquire fee simple and conservation easement interests to protect environmentally-sensitive land in the New York City (City) watershed as a part of the City's overall Watershed Protection Program. LAP is a key component of the City's efforts to continue to provide high quality drinking water without filtration of the Catskill-Delaware (Cat-Del) System, which provides water to over 9 million residents of the City and nearby communities in New York State. Since its creation in the 1990s, LAP has protected, through acquisition, over 100,000 acres of land in the 1 million-acre Cat-Del System and over 2,000 acres of land in the Croton System. The land and easements acquired are to be maintained in perpetuity as open space for watershed protection. Together with lands protected by the State and other entities, these acquisitions have raised the level of permanently protected land in the Cat-Del System from 24 percent in 1997 to 34 percent today.

This FEIS was prepared to support the application for the WSP. It is anticipated that the future WSP would continue to authorize land acquisition in the three watersheds for watershed

protection purposes, with a substantially greater emphasis on acquisitions in the West of Hudson portions of the Cat-Del System.

The project is a Type I action.

Required Approvals

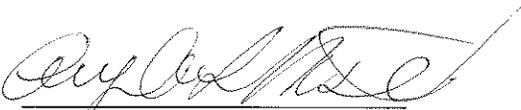
The Land Acquisition Program requires a Public Water Supply Permit from the NYSDEC.

Significant Impacts and Mitigation

A full assessment of potential impacts was undertaken in preparation of the EIS. The impact analyses did not identify any potential significant adverse impacts. The EIS was undertaken to fully disclose the complex issues associated with the proposed action.

Contact Person

Sangamithra Iyer, P.E. EIS Project Manager
Office of Water Supply Infrastructure and Watershed Assessment
New York City Department of Environmental Protection, 11th Floor
Bureau of Environmental Planning and Analysis
59-17 Junction Boulevard
Flushing, New York 11373
Fax: (718) 595-4479
Email: siyer@dep.nyc.gov



Angela Licata
Deputy Commissioner

Attached: Final Environmental Impact Statement (CD)
Repository List

c: Peter Iwanowicz, NYSDEC
James Tierney, NYSDEC
William Clarke, NYSDEC
Thomas Snow, NYSDEC
Suzanne Y. Mattei, NYSDEC - Region 2
William Janeway, NYSDEC - Region 3
Gene Kelly, NYSDEC - Region 4
Roger Sokol, NYSDOH
Philip Bein, Watershed Inspector General

Philip Sweeney, U.S. EPA- Region II
Watershed Town Supervisors
Watershed Village Mayors
Watershed County Directors of Planning
Dennis Lucas, Coalition of Watershed Towns
Alan L. Rosa, Catskill Watershed Corporation
Dean Frazier, Delaware County Department of Watershed Affairs
Craig Cashman, Watershed Agricultural Council
William C. Harding, Watershed Protection and Partnership Council
Kim Elliman, Open Space Institute
Rose Harvey, Trust for Public Land
Leslie, Wright, Trust for Public Land
Jay Simpson, Riverkeeper, Inc.
Alan White, Catskill Center for Conservation and Development
Eric Goldstein, NRDC
Cathleen Breen, NYPIRG
Michael McSweeney, City Clerk
Hon. Marty Markowitz, Brooklyn Borough President
Hon. Helen Marshall, Queens Borough President
Hon. Scott Stringer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Ruben Diaz Jr., Bronx Borough President
Hon. James Molinaro, Staten Island Borough President
Robert Kulikowski, Office of Environmental Coordination
Samara Swanson, City Council
Michael, Tancredi, Village of Hunter Trustee
Harold Goldberg, Village of Hunter Planning Board
Roy Silver, Town of Hunter resident
Wayne Marshfield, Supervisor of Town of Hamden
Glenn Nealis, Delaware County Department of Economic Development
Dr. Shyamal K. Sen Gupta, Town of Bovina resident
Mark Hyer, Chairman, Town of Hunter Planning Board
Paul Deysenroth Family, Bloomville, NY
Jack McShane, Town of Andes resident
Bruce Dolph, Town of Walton Supervisor
Donald L. Tompkins, Town of Ashland resident
Michelle Yost, Greene County Watershed Assistance Program
Jeffrey Baker, Counsel to the Coalition of Watershed Towns
Craig Michaels, Riverkeeper
Fay Muir, Croton Watershed Clean Water Coalition (CWCWC)
James E. Eisel, Delaware County Board of Supervisors, 6-15-10
Charles F. Gregory
Gordon Douglas, Friends of Great Swamp
Jay Simpson, Riverkeeper
Joy Ann Monforte
Thomas A. Axtell, Supervisor Town of Deposit
Dennis and Tina Schvedja

Joan Townsend
Mary Beth Murphy, Croton Kensico Watershed Intermunicipal Coalition
Christopher J Maney
Cecile Lawrence
Edward Furgol
Eileen McCorry
Patricia Norton-White
Randy and Kathy Sherwood
Tom and Donna Van Sickell
Amy Kenyon, Farm Catskills
Kate Ryan
Richard Kathmann
Paula Nelson
Carolyn Konheim and Brian T. Ketcham, P.E.
Jeff Flack, Executive Director (Greene County SWCD)
Gary Capella, Executive Director (Ulster County SWCD)
Brian Brustman, District Manager (Sullivan County SWCD)
Richard Weidenbach, Executive Director (Delaware County SWCD)
Zachary Thompson
George Rodenhausen, Rapport Meyers LLP, counsel to EOH Coalition,
Christopher M. Crane, Westchester County Board of Legislators
Caswell Holloway, DEP
Carter Strickland, DEP
Hilary Meltzer, NYC Corporation Counsel
Paul Rush, DEP
Robin Levine, DEP
David Warne, DEP
Esther Siskind, DEP
Sangamithra Iyer, DEP

Repositories

Delaware County

Delaware County Office of Watershed Affairs
97 Main Street
Delhi, NY 13753

Greene County

Hunter Town Hall,
5748 State Rte. 23A
Tannersville, N.Y. 12485

Schoharie Country

Gilboa Town Hall
373-1 State Route 990V
Gilboa, NY 12076

Sullivan County

Neversink Town Hall
273 Main Street
Grahamsville, NY 12740

Ulster County

DEP
71 Smith Ave
Kingston, NY 12401

Putnam County

Putnam County Office Building
40 Gleneida Avenue, 3rd Floor
Carmel, New York 10512