



**DEPARTMENT OF  
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**LEAD AGENCY DECLARATION AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO  
CONDUCT AN ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR THE RONDOUT-  
WEST BRANCH TUNNEL AND SHAFT REHABILITATION PROJECT**  
CEQR No. 05DEP042U

**August 8, 2006**

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) proposes to perform rehabilitation work at seven locations (the Rondout Effluent Chamber and Shaft Nos.: 1, 2A, 4, 5A, 6, and 8) along the Rondout - West Branch (RWB) Tunnel (RWB Tunnel or Tunnel) of the Delaware Aqueduct.

The Tunnel and Shaft Rehabilitation Project (Project) is being proposed in order to prepare the tunnel for maintenance and rehabilitation to extend the usable life of the Delaware Aqueduct and ensure the safe and reliable transmission of water from the watershed for years into the future.

Diagnostic investigations to date have confirmed that the RWB Tunnel is leaking and would ultimately need to be repaired. Currently, there is not sufficient supplemental water supply to NYC to allow any portion of the 85-mile Delaware Aqueduct to be taken out-of-service for an extended time period to perform rehabilitation work. Alternative water supply sources are being developed as part of the NYCDEP's proposed "dependability" projects; however, these sources would not be available for a minimum of eight to ten years. Based on the above, the NYCDEP decided that it is essential and necessary to implement a tunnel and shaft rehabilitation project, which would include site improvements to six active shafts and the Rondout Effluent Chamber in order to prepare for the repair of the Tunnel.

The proposed activities under the proposed Project are required to prepare for a planned Tunnel repair and to be ready to respond to a Tunnel emergency condition. The Tunnel repair is not included in this environmental review, since no repair work to the Tunnel is planned under this Project. Any future Tunnel repair work would be included in a separate independent environmental review.

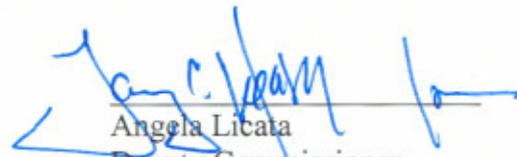
The proposed Project would require approvals from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Department of Health, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, the Towns of Wawarsing, Newburgh, Gardiner, Wappinger, and Putnam Valley. The NYCDEP has coordinated closely with officials from the above Towns regarding the project.

In accordance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act authorized by Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law and its implementing regulations as set forth in 6NYCRR Part 617, the State Environmental Review Process (SERP) as required by the State Revolving Loan Fund Program, and the City Environmental Quality Review process as set forth in Executive Order 91 of 1977 and its amendments, this Department believes it is the appropriate lead agency and assumes responsibility for conducting a coordinated review for the above-referenced project.

We request that involved agencies contact this office within 30 days from this notification should there be any objection to the NYCDEP assuming lead agency for this environmental review.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact Mr. Mark Page, Jr at 718-595-4395.

Sincerely,



Angela Licata  
Deputy Commissioner

W/attachments (Long Form EAF):

James Dolaway, Town of Wawarsing  
Carl Zatz, Town of Gardiner  
Wayne Booth, Town of Newburgh  
Joseph Ruggiero, Town of Wappinger  
Sam Davis, Town of Putnam Valley  
Philip J. DiNonno, Chairman, Town of Wappinger Planning Board  
Billy L. Crowder, Chairman, Town of Putnam Valley Planning Board  
Peter T. Belefant, Chairman, Town of Putnam Valley Zoning Board of Appeals  
Peter Marlow, Dutchess County Health Department, Environmental Section  
Michael Vissichelli, US Army Corps of Engineers  
Margaret Duke, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
Scott Ballard, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
Timothy Burns, NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation  
Ruth Pierpont, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation  
Jeff Zappieri, Supervisor, Federal Consistency Review, NYS Department of State  
Scott Stringer, Borough President, Manhattan  
Marty Markowitz, Borough President, Brooklyn  
Helen Marshall, Borough President, Queens

Adolfo Carrion, Jr., Borough President, Bronx  
James Molinaro, Borough President, Staten Island  
Gail Benjamin, City Council  
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