

**FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE
CATSKILL/DELAWARE UV FACILITY**

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2. PURPOSE AND NEED

2.1. NEED FOR THE PROJECT

The provision of clean, safe drinking water is considered by NYCDEP to be one of its vital functions. The City of New York has a fundamental obligation to provide a reliable potable water supply that meets all public health and regulatory requirements, and is mandated under the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) to do so. The Catskill and Delaware System(s) are generally of high quality due to the protected locations of the source water reservoirs and their watersheds. The water quality is characterized by low turbidity, alkalinity, organic content, and mineral concentrations. Currently, the supply systems are treated with chlorine and fluoride for primary disinfection and dental health, respectively. In addition, sodium hydroxide and a corrosion inhibitor are added to minimize corrosion in the City's distribution and in customers' plumbing systems.

The USEPA has determined that New York City has an adequate long-term watershed protection program for its Catskill/Delaware water supply that meets the requirements of the Surface Water Treatment Rule (SWTR) and the Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (IESWTR) for unfiltered water supply systems.¹ Therefore, following a Mid-Course Review in May 2000 the USEPA granted the City of New York a conditional relief for the final design requirements for a Catskill/Delaware filtration facility, as outlined in the 1997 FAD. This conditional relief is contingent upon the following requirements, as stated in the 2002 FAD: (1) complete the upgrade of the largest wastewater treatment plants by June 2002; (2) conduct a feasibility study and then design and construct UV disinfection facilities for the Catskill/Delaware System, in accordance with the USEPA-approved schedule; (3) institute a biennial review of the Catskill/Delaware filtration plant preliminary design; and (4) conduct other watershed planning activities.

| At any time, the USEPA may make a determination that the City's watershed program no longer provides adequate protection of the City's water supply, pursuant to the SWTR/IESWTR and/or other avoidance criteria in the SWTR/IESWTR and require the City to filter its Catskill/Delaware water supply.

2.2. AUTHORITY

| This Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been prepared in accordance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act, 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, and by the State Revolving Loan Fund program. The NYCDEP issued a Lead Agency Determination, Positive Declaration and Draft Scope of Work on October 10, 2003 and held a public hearing on the Draft Scope of Work on February 11, 2004. The comment period remained open until March 12, 2004, and NYCDEP issued a Final Scope of Work and Response to Comments on March 19, 2004. NYCDEP issued a Draft Environmental Impact Statement on

¹ USEPA, New York City Filtration Avoidance Determination, *Surface Water Treatment Rule Determination for New York City's Catskill/Delaware Water Supply System*, November 2002.

May 31, 2004. The comment period for the Draft EIS remained open until October 4, 2004. See Section 11 for the Response to Comments document, which contains NYCDEP's responses to comments received on the Draft EIS from involved agencies and interested groups and individuals.

This Final EIS describes the proposed project to disinfect the Catskill/Delaware Supply, methods of analysis, existing conditions, future without the project, potential impacts (including potential construction-related impacts and potential project impacts), and proposed mitigation measures, where applicable. The purpose of this document is to disclose the information on potential environmental concerns for the proposed UV Facility.

2.3. ORGANIZATION OF FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The Final EIS is organized into the following sections:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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2. PURPOSE & NEED FOR THE PROJECT

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- 3.3. VISUAL CHARACTER
- 3.4. COMMUNITY FACILITIES
- 3.5. OPEN SPACE ANALYSIS
- 3.6. NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER
- 3.7. SOCIOECONOMIC CONDITIONS
- 3.8. GROWTH INDUCEMENT
- 3.9. TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION
- 3.10. AIR QUALITY
- 3.11. NOISE
- 3.12. HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES
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- 3.14. NATURAL RESOURCES
- 3.15. WATER RESOURCES
- 3.16. INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENERGY
- 3.17. ELECTRIC AND MAGNETIC FIELDS (EMF) AND EXTREMELY LOW FREQUENCY (ELF) FIELDS ANALYSIS
- 3.18. SOLID WASTE
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- 5.2. KENSICO RESERVOIR WORK SITES
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6. MITIGATION OF POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE OR TEMPORARY IMPACTS

7. ALTERNATIVES

8. UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS, IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES, AND USE AND CONSERVATION OF ENERGY

9. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ANALYSIS

10. ACRONYMS & GLOSSARY

11. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS ON THE CATSKILL/DELAWARE ULTRAVIOLET LIGHT FACILITY DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT