



Department of Health

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

July 18, 2016

David S. Warne
Assistant Commissioner
NYC Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Water Supply
465 Columbus Avenue
Valhalla, NY 10595

Dear Mr. Warne:

NYSDOH and USEPA have reviewed the Revised 2007 FAD deliverables that were due by May 31, 2016. Our comments are attached. We would appreciate if you could provide a reply to these comments by August 19, 2016. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Pamela L. Young, Ph.D.
Chief, NYC Watershed Section
Bureau of Water Supply Protection

Att.

Cc (electronic):

R. Sokol
T. Boepple-Swider
D. Pabst/K. Lynch – USEPA
K. Kosinski – NYSDEC

DOH/EPA Comments on FAD Deliverables due May 31, 2016

4.6 Stream Management Program

The Revised 2007 FAD requires that, each year, a rolling two-year Action Plan be submitted for each of the West-of-Hudson basins. The 2016 – 2018 plans outline the upcoming projects in the program areas (Stream Projects, Catskill Stream Buffer Initiative, Stream Management Implementation Program, Education/Outreach/Training, and Local Flood Hazard Mitigation Program).

In general, these rolling, two-year action plans speak to the large efforts put forth by the partnership organizations and NYCDEP in protecting water quality and educating watershed stakeholders.

The appendices in the Ashokan and Schoharie action plans (which provide descriptions of completed projects from 2009 – 2015 and 2007 – 2016, respectively) are an excellent addition to these action plans. NYSDOH/USEPA have the following comments on individual plans:

Ashokan 2016 – 2018 Action Plan

- On page 4, item 1 states “The table below includes candidate streams for assessment in 2016 and 2017.” Is this referring to the Esopus Creek Headwaters and the Little Beaver Kill?
- On page 6, the Chichester Reach Hillslope Bioengineering and Channel Structure Modification project has been put on hold. Please provide more information on this project, and the natural stabilization that appears to have taken place.
- On page 7, the text for item 10.c. states “See project table above for listing of maintenance work.” Is this referring to the table labeled “Ashokan Watershed SMIP Projects Supporting Stream Restoration (Active 2016)”? It would be appreciated in the future to label tables in the document for clarity and ease of reference.
- On page 13, Item 4 discusses a pilot bioengineering demonstration project on the Bushkill Creek. This does not appear to be included in the table “Ashokan Watershed CSBI Projects.” Please provide more information.
- On page 16, the website provided for the New York Natural Heritage Program’s report does not appear to contain that particular document. Please clarify.

Delaware 2016 – 2018 Action Plan (East and West Branch Delaware River)

- On page 6, NYSDOH/USEPA note the six Local Flood Hazard Mitigation Analyses scheduled for completion in 2016.
- On page 13, the table “CSBI Yearly Project Monitoring” shows a decreasing number of project sites with each successive year. Are not all CSBI planting projects monitored, or has the need for monitoring changed? Please explain.
- On page 17, NYSDOH/USEPA note item D.1, which states that the More Stream Restoration Project is scheduled for construction in 2016. The successful completion of this project is important to water quality in the West Branch Delaware River, as well as the Cannonsville Reservoir. Please provide some additional information on the steps remaining to complete this project, and describe whether any of these steps may further delay completion.
- On page 14, the table “CSBI Riparian Corridor Management Plans 2015” contains two entries for Beech Hill Knotweed Control. Are these separate projects?
- On page 22, items G.1 and H.1 discuss the Medium Hydraulic Structure Study. Please provide more information on this work.

Rondout/Neversink 2016 – 2018 Action Plan

- Consider adding an appendix to the action plan briefly noting past accomplishments, similar to those appendices found in the Ashokan and Schoharie plans.
- On page 4, the text states: “more detailed GPS mapping of large woody debris using the protocol proposed by Wohl, et al. will be piloted in at least one tributary.” Please provide a reference for this protocol.

Schoharie 2016 – 2018 Action Plan

- Under “Watershed Protection and Community Planning” (page 18) is an action item described as the Hunter Wetlands Leachate Treatment System Remediation Design Study. The project is listed as active, but there is no date associated with the project, such as when it is expected to be completed.

5.1 Watershed Monitoring Program

The Revised 2007 FAD requires DEP to coordinate a technical Pathogen Working Group meeting by May 31 of each year. This meeting was held on May 19, 2016.