PART 1--PROJECT INFORMATION
Prepared by Project Sponsor

NOTICE: This document is designed to assist in determining whether the action proposed may have a significant effect on the environment. Please complete the entire form, Parts A through E. Answers to these questions will be considered as part of the application for approval and may be subject to further verification and public review. Provide any additional information you believe will be needed to complete Parts 2 and 3.

It is expected that completion of the full EAF will be dependent on information currently available and will not involve new studies, research or investigation. If information requiring such additional work is unavailable, so indicate and specify each instance.

Name of Action Catskill Turbidity Control Program

Location of Action (include Street Address, Municipality and County)

Kensico Reservoir, Mount Pleasant and North Castle, New York
Lower Esopus Creek from Ashokan Reservoir to its confluence with the Hudson River

Name of Applicant/Sponsor New York City Department of Environmental Protection

Address 59-17 Junction Boulevard

City / PO Flushing State New York Zip Code 11373

Business Telephone

Name of Owner (if different)

Address

City / PO State Zip Code

Business Telephone

Description of Action:

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) proposes to implement a Catskill Turbidity Control Program. The proposed Catskill Turbidity Control Program consists of operational techniques and the use of engineering/infrastructure projects that are currently being designed or constructed consisting of the interconnection of the Delaware and Catskill Aqueducts at Shaft 4, upgrades to stop shutters along the Catskill Aqueduct, and use of the Croton Water Filtration Plant, to manage episodic turbidity in the system. This Program is intended to minimize the need for chemical addition while also minimizing the potential for significant adverse impacts to lower Esopus Creek. The program's operational techniques generally consist of selective diversion and withdrawls from upstate reservoirs, use of DEP's Operation Support Tool (OST) to help determine these withdrawals, and Ashokan Reservoir Release Channel operation. DEP would continue to use the Release Channel under the Interim Release Protocol, which provides for: community releases; discharge mitigation releases to enhance flood mitigation; and operational releases to protect water quality and further flood mitigation capabilities. Potential for significant adverse impacts include those to the lower Esopus Creek that may result from use of the Ashokan Release Channel and from dredging of alum deposits in the Kensico Reservoir. The program will be further described and evaluated in this EIS.

Please Complete Each Question--Indicate N.A. if not applicable

A. SITE DESCRIPTION

Physical setting of overall project, both developed and undeveloped areas.

1. Present Land Use: ☑ Urban ☐ Industrial ☑ Commercial ☑ Residential (suburban) ☑ Rural (non-farm)
   ☑ Forest ☑ Agriculture ☑ Other Recreational

2. Total acreage of project area: 2949 acres. This includes Kensico Reservoir and the lower Esopus Creek from the Release Channel to the Hudson River

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE	PRESENTLY	AFTER COMPLETION
Meadow or Brushland (Non-agricultural)	_____ acres	_____ acres
Forested	_____ acres	_____ acres
Agricultural (Includes orchards, cropland, pasture, etc.)	_____ acres	_____ acres
Wetland (Freshwater or tidal as per Articles 24,25 of ECL)	_____ acres	_____ acres
Water Surface Area	2,949 acres	2,949 acres
Unvegetated (Rock, earth or fill)	_____ acres	_____ acres
Roads, buildings and other paved surfaces	_____ acres	_____ acres
Other (Indicate type) _____	_____ acres	_____ acres

3. What is predominant soil type(s) on project site? Turbidity causing soils are clay-rich in the Catskill Watershed. They vary through the remainder of the project areas.

   a. Soil drainage: ☐ Well drained ____% of site ☐ Moderately well drained ____% of site.
   ☐ Poorly drained ____% of site TBD

   b. If any agricultural land is involved, how many acres of soil are classified within soil group 1 through 4 of the NYS Land Classification System? TBD acres (see 1 NYCRR 370).

4. Are there bedrock outcroppings on project site? ■ Yes ☐ No

   a. What is depth to bedrock Varies (in feet)

5. Approximate percentage of proposed project site with slopes:

   ☐ 0-10% ____% ☐ 10- 15% ____% ☐ 15% or greater ____% TBD

6. Is project substantially contiguous to, or contain a building, site, or district, listed on the State or National Registers of Historic Places? ☐ Yes ■ No

7. Is project substantially contiguous to a site listed on the Register of National Natural Landmarks? ☐ Yes ■ No

8. What is the depth of the water table? Varies (in feet) The project area is mostly open surface water or in areas adjacent to water bodies with shallow groundwater

9. Is site located over a primary, principal, or sole source aquifer? ☐ Yes ■ No Dredging will occur in Kensico Reservoir

10. Do hunting, fishing or shell fishing opportunities presently exist in the project area? ■ Yes ☐ No

11. Does project site contain any species of plant or animal life that is identified as threatened or endangered? ☒ Yes ☐ No

According to:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NYSDEC

Identify each species:

Bog turtles may be located in the project area along the lower Esopus Creek.

12. Are there any unique or unusual land forms on the project site? (i.e., cliffs, dunes, other geological formations?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Describe:

13. Is the project site presently used by the community or neighborhood as an open space or recreation area?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, explain:

Recreational activities including boating and fishing take place seasonally along lower Esopus Creek.

14. Does the present site include scenic views known to be important to the community? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Yes, both Esopus Creek and Kensico Reservoir provide scenic views enjoyed by the respective communities.

15. Streams within or contiguous to project area:

Both the Sawkill and Plattekill flow into lower Esopus Creek.

a. Name of Stream and name of River to which it is tributary

Sawkill, Esopus Creek
Plattekill, Esopus Creek
Esopus Creek, Hudson River

16. Lakes, ponds, wetland areas within or contiguous to project area:

18 wetlands along lower Esopus Creek between the area of the Release Channel and Mill Pond Dam
29 wetlands between Mill Pond Dam and the Spillway Confluence
Mill Pond is located between Ashokan Reservoir and the Spillway Confluence near the Ashokan Field Campus
TBD downstream of Confluence and Hudson River

b. Size (in acres):

Varies

17. Is the site served by existing public utilities? ☒ Yes ☐ No For work at Kensico Reservoir there will be access to existing utilities. This connection will not be necessary for use of the Release Channel.

a. If **YES,** does sufficient capacity exist to allow connection? ☒ Yes ☐ No

b. If **YES**, will improvements be necessary to allow connection? ☐ Yes ☒ No

18. Is the site located in an agricultural district certified pursuant to Agriculture and Markets Law, Article 25-AA, Section 303 and 304? ☐ Yes ☐ No TBD

19. Is the site located in or substantially contiguous to a Critical Environmental Area designated pursuant to Article 8 of the ECL, and 6 NYCRR 617? ☐ Yes ☒ No

20. Has the site ever been used for the disposal of solid or hazardous wastes? ☐ Yes ☒ No

B. Project Description

1. Physical dimensions and scale of project (fill in dimensions as appropriate).

a. Total contiguous acreage owned or controlled by project sponsor: 4,327 acres. This includes Kensico Reservoir, the lands directly contiguous or adjacent and the Ashokan Field Campus property owned by NYCDEP

b. Project acreage to be developed: 0 acres initially; 0 acres ultimately.

c. Project acreage to remain undeveloped: All acres.

d. Length of project, in miles: 30 (if appropriate)

e. If the project is an expansion, indicate percent of expansion proposed. 0 %

f. Number of off-street parking spaces existing 0 ; proposed 0

g. Maximum vehicular trips generated per hour: 0 (upon completion of project)?

h. If residential: Number and type of housing units:

	One Family	Two Family	Multiple Family	Condominium
Initially				
Ultimately				

i. Dimensions (in feet) of largest proposed structure: 0 height; 0 width; 0 length.

j. Linear feet of frontage along a public thoroughfare project will occupy is? 0 ft.

2. How much natural material (i.e. rock, earth, etc.) will be removed from the site? TBD tons/cubic yards.

3. Will disturbed areas be reclaimed ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

a. If yes, for what intended purpose is the site being reclaimed?

b. Will topsoil be stockpiled for reclamation? ☐ Yes ☒ No

c. Will upper subsoil be stockpiled for reclamation? ☐ Yes ☒ No

4. How many acres of vegetation (trees, shrubs, ground covers) will be removed from site? 0 acres.

5. Will any mature forest (over 100 years old) or other locally-important vegetation be removed by this project?

☐ Yes ☒ No

6. If single phase project: Anticipated period of construction: N/A months, (including demolition)

7. If multi-phased:

   a. Total number of phases anticipated N/A (number)

   b. Anticipated date of commencement phase 1: _____ month _____ year, (including demolition)

   c. Approximate completion date of final phase: _____ month _____ year.

   d. Is phase 1 functionally dependent on subsequent phases? ☐ Yes ☐ No

8. Will blasting occur during construction? ☐ Yes ☒ No

9. Number of jobs generated: during construction N/A; after project is complete N/A

10. Number of jobs eliminated by this project N/A.

11. Will project require relocation of any projects or facilities? ☐ Yes ☒ No

    If yes, explain:

12. Is surface liquid waste disposal involved? ☐ Yes ☒ No

    a. If yes, indicate type of waste (sewage, industrial, etc) and amount _____

    b. Name of water body into which effluent will be discharged _____

13. Is subsurface liquid waste disposal involved? ☐ Yes ☒ No Type _____

14. Will surface area of an existing water body increase or decrease by proposal? ☒ Yes ☐ No

    If yes, explain:

    The Ashokan Reservoir may release up to 1,000 mgd of water from the reservoir's West Basin to the lower Esopus Creek via the Release Channel under an Interim Release Protocol that provides for community and operation flows in addition to flows required to meet a Conditional Seasonal Storage Objective for flood mitigation downstream. Releases flow from the Release Channel to lower Esopus Creek and converge with the East Basin Spillway Channel about 3,500 feet below the Olive Bridge Dam. The combined flows ultimately discharge into the Hudson River. During Release events, the surface area of lower Esopus Creek will increase, however, the amount may not surpass that which is released during a natural storm events. Therefore, the water level may still be within normal ranges, but the frequency of level fluctuation may increase.

15. Is project or any portion of project located in a 100 year flood plain? ☒ Yes ☐ No

16. Will the project generate solid waste? ☒ Yes ☐ No

    a. If yes, what is the amount per month? TBD tons

    b. If yes, will an existing solid waste facility be used? ☐ Yes ☐ No TBD

    c. If yes, give name _____ ; location _____

    d. Will any wastes not go into a sewage disposal system or into a sanitary landfill? ☐ Yes ☐ No TBD

e. If yes, explain:

17. Will the project involve the disposal of solid waste? ☐ Yes ☒ No

    a. If yes, what is the anticipated rate of disposal? _____ tons/month.

    b. If yes, what is the anticipated site life? _____ years.

18. Will project use herbicides or pesticides? ☐ Yes ☒ No

19. Will project routinely produce odors (more than one hour per day)? ☐ Yes ☒ No

20. Will project produce operating noise exceeding the local ambient noise levels? ☐ Yes ☒ No

21. Will project result in an increase in energy use? ☐ Yes ☒ No

    If yes, indicate type(s)

22. If water supply is from wells, indicate pumping capacity N/A gallons/minute.

23. Total anticipated water usage per day N/A gallons/day.

24. Does project involve Local, State or Federal funding? ☒ Yes ☐ No

    If yes, explain:

Funded by DEP.

25. Approvals Required:

			Type	Submittal Date
City, Town, Village Board	☐ Yes	☒ No		
City, Town, Village Planning Board	☐ Yes	☒ No		
City, Town Zoning Board	☐ Yes	☒ No		
City, County Health Department	☐ Yes	☒ No		
Other Local Agencies	☒ Yes	☐ No	Town of Mt. Pleasant Planning Board	
Other Regional Agencies	☐ Yes	☒ No		
State Agencies	☒ Yes	☐ No	NYSDEC SPDES Protection of Waters Permit	
Federal Agencies	☐ Yes	☒ No	Joint USACE/NYSDEC permit for dredging for work at Kensico	

C. Zoning and Planning Information

1. Does proposed action involve a planning or zoning decision? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, indicate decision required:

☐ Zoning amendment	☐ Zoning variance	☐ New/revision of master plan	☐ Subdivision
☒ Site plan	☐ Special use permit	☐ Resource management plan	☐ Other

2. What is the zoning classification(s) of the site?

Zoning classifications vary by town along lower Esopus Creek. Zoning classifications also vary by town along Kensico Reservoir and primarily include lands designated for Water supply and residential.

3. What is the maximum potential development of the site if developed as permitted by the present zoning?

N/A

4. What is the proposed zoning of the site?

No change in zoning is proposed.

5. What is the maximum potential development of the site if developed as permitted by the proposed zoning?

N/A

6. Is the proposed action consistent with the recommended uses in adopted local land use plans? ☒ Yes ☐ No

7. What are the predominant land use(s) and zoning classifications within a ¼ mile radius of proposed action?

Land uses around Kensico vary by town and are predominately Water Supply lands and residential, along with sections of transportation, communication and utilities; public parks and parkway lands; office and research (including campus office parks); and a cemetery. Zoning also varies by town and is predominately residential with areas of non-residential and mixed uses that include campus office and research and industrial parks; manufacturing, industrial, warehouse, storage and public utilities; and small sections of business, office and commercial zones. Land uses around lower Esopus Creek also vary by town and are predominately residential and agricultural with some public parks, roadways and commercial uses. In addition, lower Espous Creek is used for fishing, boating, bathing and other recreational activities. Zoning along lower Esopus Creek varies by town and is predominately residential, agricultural, and municipal with areas of mixed uses that include low density business, commercial, office and highway.

8. Is the proposed action compatible with adjoining/surrounding land uses with a ¼ mile? ☒ Yes ☐ No

9. If the proposed action is the subdivision of land, how many lots are proposed? N/A

   a. What is the minimum lot size proposed? _____

10. Will proposed action require any authorization(s) for the formation of sewer or water districts? ☐ Yes ☒ No

11. Will the proposed action create a demand for any community provided services (recreation, education, police, fire protection?

☐ Yes ☒ No

a. If yes, is existing capacity sufficient to handle projected demand? ☐ Yes ☐ No

12. Will the proposed action result in the generation of traffic significantly above present levels? ☐ Yes ☒ No

a. If yes, is the existing road network adequate to handle the additional traffic. ☐ Yes ☐ No

D. Informational Details

Attach any additional information as may be needed to clarify your project. If there are or may be any adverse impacts associated with your proposal, please discuss such impacts and the measures which you propose to mitigate or avoid them.

E. Verification

I certify that the information provided above is true to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant/Sponsor Name Tina Johnstone Date 6/14/12

Signature Tina L Johnstone

Title Director of Operations, BWS

If the action is in the Coastal Area, and you are a state agency, complete the Coastal Assessment Form before proceeding with this assessment.