

CHANGES AND ADDITIONS TO THE 2007 CROTON WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

Two years have elapsed since the publication of the Croton Watershed Clean Water Coalition's (*CWCWC's*) 2007 Croton Watershed Management Plan. During that time, there have been a number of developments that affect the Watershed.

Rather than re-write the sections to which these developments apply, we have added the pertinent changes in *italics* so as to make it clear that they have occurred subsequently to 2007. We have kept the pre-2007 material so as to provide the background to more recent developments.

These changes include:

- Updating of the phosphorus levels in the Croton reservoirs (see Water Quality in the Croton System).
- Updating of Section B on storm water runoff to include the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) most recently proposed regulations. Also, a discussion on Intermunicipal Agreements in the context of controlling storm water has been added.
- Expansion of Section H on forests to include a discussion on the need for increased forest protection at the state and municipal levels. *CWCWC* is leading a campaign to obtain this much-needed extra protection.
- Updating of Section K on Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs) to include all plants that have been upgraded to full tertiary treatment by 2008.

Furthermore, there are several new sections that include:

- A discussion of the use of Impact Fees;
- The impacts of Groundwater Water Drawdown associated with the lucrative bottled water industry, and threats from potential gas drilling in the NYC watershed portion of the Marcellus shale;
- An overview of Septic System Management in Westchester and Putnam Counties;
- A list of Acronyms and a list of Definitions;
- An Appendix that lists the main developments in the Croton Watershed since the year 2000. These have been built, are in the process of being built, or are on hold.

The redundant list of recommendations at the end of the 2007 report has been eliminated.

The cost of the chemical treatment/filtration plant in Van Cortlandt Park that *CWCWC* so vehemently opposed and fought all the way to the NYS Court of Appeals, has risen from its original estimate of \$800 million to over \$3 billion. This colossal increase is now being scrutinized by NYC's Independent Budget Office (IBO) and by NYS Assemblyman Dinowitz in whose district the plant is located. So far, NYC Department of Environment Protection (DEP) which is responsible for the construction of the plant has not been able to provide a satisfactory explanation.

This rapidly escalating cost, together with other costs accruing to DEP for remedial work such as the repair of the 30 million gallon per day (mgd) leak in the Delaware aqueduct, and infrastructure repairs to NYC's aging water and sewer systems, have resulted, since 1997, in a 500% rise in costs to ratepayers. CWCWC, in partnership with the Queens Civic Congress (QCC), a coalition of over one hundred Queens civic groups, is campaigning to have community and borough boards bring pressure on the NYC government to stop or slow these skyrocketing costs that are causing great hardship to many ratepayers already buffeted by a disastrous economy.