



The Facts on the Proposed Hudson River Desalination Plant

United Water New York has proposed supplying Rockland County's drinking water by building an expensive desalination plant that would draw water from the Hudson River at Haverstraw Bay. United Water may think the Haverstraw Water Supply Project is the right choice for its shareholders, but is it right for Rockland County or the Hudson?

Fact: Desalination is among **the costliest and most energy-intensive ways to treat water**. A United Water official has worried in sworn testimony about **"rate shock" when consumers get the bill**. The estimated cost of the project has escalated—from \$98 million in 2007 to as much as \$189.3 million today. The cost of running the plant is likely to increase over time as the cost of energy increases—and because producing energy creates greenhouse gases, the plant would add to our contribution to climate change.

Fact: Haverstraw Bay is polluted with contaminated sediments, sewage and urban runoff. Two sewage treatment plants are nearby the proposed water intakes.

Fact: Haverstraw Bay is among the **most important habitats in the Hudson** for major Hudson River fish species, including striped bass, American shad and the Atlantic sturgeon, which was recently named an endangered species. The habitat is so valuable that New York recognizes its importance not only for the Hudson River, but the Atlantic Coast, where many Hudson species migrate. The plant could eventually draw up to 10 million gallons of water per day, and discharge back into the Hudson up 92,000 gallons of wastewater, much of it untreated.

Fact: Desalination is not the best option for Rockland County—and **YOU have a choice**. The Department of Environmental Conservation is considering United Water's draft environmental impact statement, and this process offers the public the best opportunity to change or stop the project. Here's how **you can make a difference**:

Public Hearings on March 6

Session 1: 2 p.m.
Session 2: 6 p.m.
Haverstraw Town Hall
One Rosman Road
Garnerville, NY

Send Comments by April 20

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