



RIVERKEEPER®

NY's clean water advocate



The Fight for Clean Water: A New Grassroots Emerges

Clean Water Act
Report Card [p.5](#)

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Riverkeeper is

the investigator, scientist, lawyer, lobbyist and public relations agent for the Hudson River and its tributaries.

Riverkeeper is

the watchdog protecting the water supply for 9 million people in New York City and the Hudson Valley.

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Riverkeeper is a member-supported, member-driven, member-oriented watchdog organization. Throughout this publication, look for stories illustrating how members like you are making a difference. Find the right way for you to do your part below.

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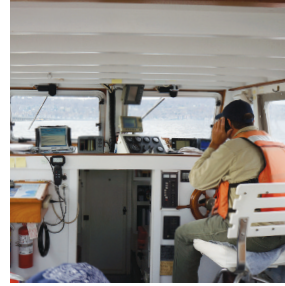
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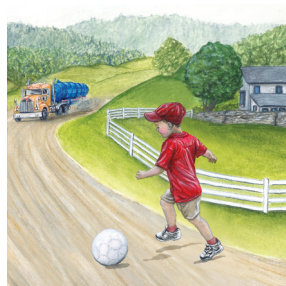
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President's Letter: The Clean Water Act at 40: Are We There Yet?



In 1972, the Clean Water Act promised every American drinkable, swimmable, fishable water within ten years. Why, then, as the Clean Water Act turns 40, are over 117 million of us still waiting for clean, safe water?

The cold truth is that without massive investment in our water and sewer infrastructure, most Americans who don't have full access to clean water probably won't get it anytime soon. That's why one of Riverkeeper's top priorities is to get the infrastructure investment we need to keep the Hudson from ending up as a Clean Water Act have-not.

Right after passage of the Clean Water Act, America spent billions each year on water and sewer infrastructure, cutting the number of polluted waterways in half and bringing people back to rivers like the Hudson in droves. Today, the story's not so encouraging: infrastructure investment has dropped by 80 percent while the number of people served by that infrastructure has doubled. Over a third of America's rivers still don't meet the drinkable, swimmable, fishable standard. A staggering 30 percent of New York's wastewater treatment plants are 20 or even 30 years beyond their intended retirement dates.

Hudson River fisheries are in deep peril, too, mainly because power plants like Indian Point, Bowline and Roseton continue to flout the Clean Water Act. These plants collectively destroy up to 65 percent of the Hudson's newly-spawned fish, eggs and larvae each year, by crushing them on cooling water intake screens or entraining them within the plants themselves. No wonder almost all of the Hudson's prominent species of fish – including endangered species like the Atlantic Sturgeon – are in decline. What makes the situation even more outrageous is that a process called “closed-cycle” cooling could save 95 percent of the fish now being destroyed by Indian Point and these other plants. To its credit, New York State has refused to issue Indian Point the state permit it needs to continue operating, because its outdated cooling technology kills a billion fish each year. Riverkeeper and the state are now fighting it out with Indian Point over this issue even as we gear up for the biggest battle in the history of nuclear power: Indian Point's request for a twenty-year federal license renewal. A year ago, few people thought we had a chance to shut Indian Point. Now, the smart money says we're going to do just that. Closing Indian Point would be an enormous boon for river communities both human and aquatic, but we still need municipalities to repair their crumbling water and sewer infrastructure

if we want a drinkable, swimmable, fishable Hudson. And, the longer we wait to repair outdated wastewater plants, the more costly it's going to be.

This is a major public health issue. Not only do communities from Poughkeepsie to the Adirondacks drink water from the Hudson, tens of thousands of New Yorkers swim, fish and boat on the river, assuming that our government is taking the necessary steps to keep the water clean. Riverkeeper's water quality testing reveals the truth: bacteria levels in the Hudson exceed federal safe swimming guidelines over 20 percent of the times we sample. After it rains, that number can be as high as 56 percent. These numbers are dismal – far worse than the national average. But they've become a rallying cry for change. People up and down the Hudson have downloaded our sampling results and asked: what can we do to improve conditions where we live? Riverkeeper's reply: gather more data, take it to your local officials and demand action!

Following the “gather data and demand action” model, grassroots water warriors won approval for key infrastructure investments to help Sparkill Creek, in Rockland County. The City of Beacon, in Dutchess County, has agreed to spend millions to fix its sewer system, after citizen watchdogs observed repeated discharges of raw sewage into the Hudson and the Fishkill Creek. On the lower Esopus Creek, in Ulster County, activists are forcing the state to crack down on muddy torrents from a New York City reservoir. In New York City, the “SWIM Coalition” is driving a multi-billion dollar investment in reducing storm-related sewer overflows. These are not isolated stories: from one end of the Hudson to the other, Riverkeeper and its grassroots partners are forcing government to reinvest in our waterways.

Riverkeeper is just as committed to supporting local advocates in their fight for clean water as we are to stopping Indian Point from destroying Hudson River fisheries and putting our families at catastrophic risk. Winning these two battles would put Hudson River communities on the fast track to a safer future and the drinkable, swimmable, fishable water we all were promised, back in 1972.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Gallay". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Paul Gallay
PRESIDENT AND HUDSON RIVERKEEPER

Hudson River

The Hudson River and Boat Program teams serve as investigator, scientist, lawyer, lobbyist and public relations agent for the Hudson River and its tributaries.

Photo By: GilesAshford.com

The Clean Water Act at 40:

Riverkeeper's Report Card



Photo By: Rebecca Gentry

When the Hudson River Fishermen's Association, the predecessor of Riverkeeper, sued to stop oil discharges from a Penn Central pipe in Croton in 1968, there was no Clean Water Act. There were nothing more than dusty laws on the books that outlawed dumping into navigable waters – relics from the 19th century that had never been used to bring a single polluter to justice. And the Hudson was a mess – so flooded with sewage around Albany and New York City that fish were starved of oxygen, so abused by industry that it would run a different color every day, depending on the color of paint being used at the car factory in Sleepy Hollow. **By Dan Shapley**

► **The** prosecution of Penn Central was successful: Citizens raised concerns, gathered evidence and prosecuted the case, and the first polluter was made to pay for its crimes against the Hudson, or any American waterway. The first polluter was made to stop subsidizing its business by fouling the water that belongs not to individuals or corporations, but to all of us and to the wildlife within it.

The core ideas behind that lawsuit have guided Riverkeeper's work for more than 45 years, and the Clean Water Act since it was passed in 1972: Citizens are the stewards of our water. Citizens have a right to clean water that is safe for drinking, swimming and fishing. Citizens can bring polluters to justice, and turn their governments' attention to the problems that need fixing.

In the Clean Water Act's 40th year, we can celebrate those ideas for remarkable successes,

which have come as a result not only of the Clean Water Act, but a suite of environmental laws that support clean water goals. We can measure success in the number of factory pipes that no longer spew toxic gook into the river, the number of sewage treatment plants built to stem the tide of raw sewage, the number of fines levied on polluters and on the number of people who today look on the Hudson with a sense of stewardship and wonder, not a sense of embarrassment.

But the Clean Water Act stated that all the nation's waterways should be safe for swimming, fishing and drinking by 1985. It's a simple goal. And we aren't there yet, not on the Hudson – not by a long shot. In the following pages, Riverkeeper takes a look at those three goals, what we've accomplished, where we are and what still needs to be done to achieve the goals set into law by the Clean Water Act.

Safe for Fishing?



Photo By: Shane Bell

Seining in the Hudson River for the Shad Restoration Project.

► **Colonial** writers described fish spawning in the Hudson so thick, they imagined walking across the river on their backs. Today, no river creature other than the blue crab is abundant or uncontaminated enough to support a commercial fishery. PCB contamination shut most fisheries down in 1976, and the last, for American shad, closed in 2010 as the population of the silvery “herring most delicious” reached historic lows. With the fishery’s demise went an industry, a way of life and a part of river culture that was centuries old. Health advisories warn people from eating too many of those few species that can be legally caught recreationally, like the striped bass. The icon of the Hudson and its largest fish, the Atlantic sturgeon, was named an endangered species in 2012, a sad milestone, even if necessary, for a fish so ancient it thrived when dinosaurs walked the Earth.

Restoring the Hudson’s fish is a complex task. Dredging PCBs from the upper Hudson, a project begun in 2009 after three decades of effort by Riverkeeper and its allies, will ultimately reduce the levels of toxic PCBs in fish. Much of the habitat lost to navigational dredging, shoreline development and railroad tracks is gone for good. But we can protect the important habitats that remain, as Riverkeeper seeks to do as the state plans for a new Tappan Zee crossing. And we can reclaim some of those we’ve lost, as Riverkeeper is arguing should be done at the General Motors site in Sleepy Hollow. An agreement Riverkeeper and its allies negotiated with the developer of a proposed submarine electric transmission line will fund decades of research and habitat protection.

Fisheries management, both on the Hudson and in the Atlantic, where many Hudson fish migrate, is a

mixed bag of success and failure; Riverkeeper is working to ensure that herring, Shad, striped bass, sturgeon and other key species are protected from over-exploitation and contamination.

Riverkeeper is leading the fight to stop the slaughter of fish in the water intakes of industrial facilities, most notably Indian Point nuclear power plant, which alone has killed 1 billion Hudson River fish and other living things every year for nearly 40 years. Riverkeeper has led the fight, which reached the Supreme Court in 2009, to enforce the Clean Water Act and stop the slaughter of fish; that fight continues currently with the battle over relicensing Indian Point and the court-ordered rewriting by the Environmental Protection Agency of the Clean Water Act’s 316(b) provision requiring facilities to use the best available technology to reduce and eliminate fish kills.

for Swimming?



Photo By: Rob Friedman

► **While** boaters and swimmers have turned back to the Hudson in great numbers, and the Hudson doesn't appear to be the open sewer it was before communities built treatment plants a generation ago, the water is often unsafe for human contact. More than 20 percent of samples taken by Riverkeeper's Water Quality Program through 2011 failed to meet Environmental Protection Agency guidelines for safe swimming because of sewage. Remarkably, the (EPA) proposed in 2012 to weaken its safe-swimming guidelines, and Riverkeeper is leading an effort to raise the bar, rather than lower it.

Aging and inadequate sewers are a big and costly problem. Pipes – many of them a century or more old – need to be replaced and repaired to prevent

both leaks and groundwater infiltration. Systems, by design or accident, often discharge raw sewage along with stormwater as it rains. The problem has only become worse over time, with the cost of improving sewer and stormwater systems estimated at close to \$300 billion nationwide.

As Riverkeeper has broadcast its water-quality testing results, citizens have led campaigns to find local solutions to local problems. In New York City, Riverkeeper fought hard for an agreement between the city and state that would reduce sewage flows into nearby waterways, that would implement green infrastructure to reduce the problem of stormwater causing combined sewage overflow – and that would retain citizen rights to influence decisions made about our water. River

keeper is also leading the effort to pass a Sewage Right to Know law that will inform the public when discharges occur, and inspire the activism needed to solve these problems.

Clean Water Loophole:

In New York, rather than closing a swimming beach when a single water sample indicates unsafe conditions due to sewage; instead, the average of test results over time is used to define the fitness of water quality. It's the law, but it doesn't protect public health. What's more, on the Hudson water quality is tested in only a handful of locations, even though people use the river from end to end for swimming, fishing, boating and other recreation.

and for Drinking?



Photo By: Jeff Turner

► In 1997 Riverkeeper helped broker a deal that saved New York City billions of dollars by avoiding the building of a filtration plant, and required it to instead invest millions to protect the forested watersheds that naturally filter drinking water for 9 million city and Hudson Valley residents. In late 2011, Riverkeeper celebrated the long-sought protection of a 1,200-acre forest on Belleayre Mountain in the Catskills.

In 2012, Riverkeeper continues its urgent effort to protect drinking water by fighting unsafe hydraulic fracturing (fracking) for natural gas in New York State. Having argued successfully for a ban on fracking in New York City's watershed, Riverkeeper continues to argue for increased protections in watershed buffer lands, near aqueducts and in other watersheds; and Riverkeeper has threatened to sue if New York fails to adequately study the economic and health implications of fracking, or otherwise fails to safeguard New York's water quality and quality of life.

On the Hudson, Riverkeeper is fighting together with the Rockland Water Coalition to prevent the unwise and potentially destructive desalination of Hudson River water in Rockland County. United Water has proposed a costly plant that would draw water from Haverstraw Bay, a critical habitat for fish not only in the Hudson but throughout the Atlantic Coast.

And, by testing sewage in our waterways, Riverkeeper is laying groundwork for defining emerging water contaminants, such as pharmaceuticals and chemicals associated with personal care products, that aren't typically removed by sewage or drinking water treatment plants.

Clean Water Attacks:

The Republican House of Representatives has, over the past two years, proposed and in many cases passed bills that would have gutted, undermined and otherwise subverted the aims of the

Clean Water Act. Fracking is a case-in-point for the preservation of strong clean water laws, as Congress and New York State have exempted the gas industry from key parts of clean water laws; Riverkeeper is lobbying for a New York State law that would define fracking waste as the hazardous waste it is, ending a longstanding and unconscionable exemption.

How Is the Water?

By Tracy Brown

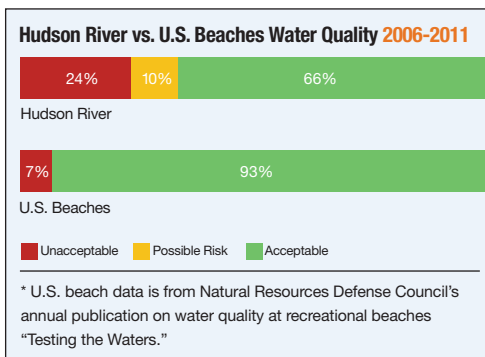
Riverkeeper's Water Quality Testing Program has been testing for sewage contamination in the Hudson River Estuary, from New York Harbor to above the federal locks in Troy, since 2006. With science partners from Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory at Columbia University and Queens College, C.U.N.Y., we sample at 75 sites over this 155-mile long stretch of river once a month from April through November. We publish the data on our water quality database www.riverkeeper.org/water-quality/locations

Analysis of this dataset reveals some interesting facts about sewage contamination in the Hudson. To give these findings context, let's start by comparing our Hudson River data with national water quality data.

► **When** viewed as a whole, our 2,000+ samples collected from 2006 – 2011, failed EPA guidelines for safe swimming 24% of the times we sample. That is a failure rate three times greater than the 7% failure rate reported for U.S. beaches (including ocean, bay and Great Lake beaches) over the same time period.

What We Know About Sewage Contamination in the Hudson

- Sewage pollution continues to be a widespread problem on the Hudson, as in other waterways across the U.S. – we have found sewage contamination at least once at every location where we sample.

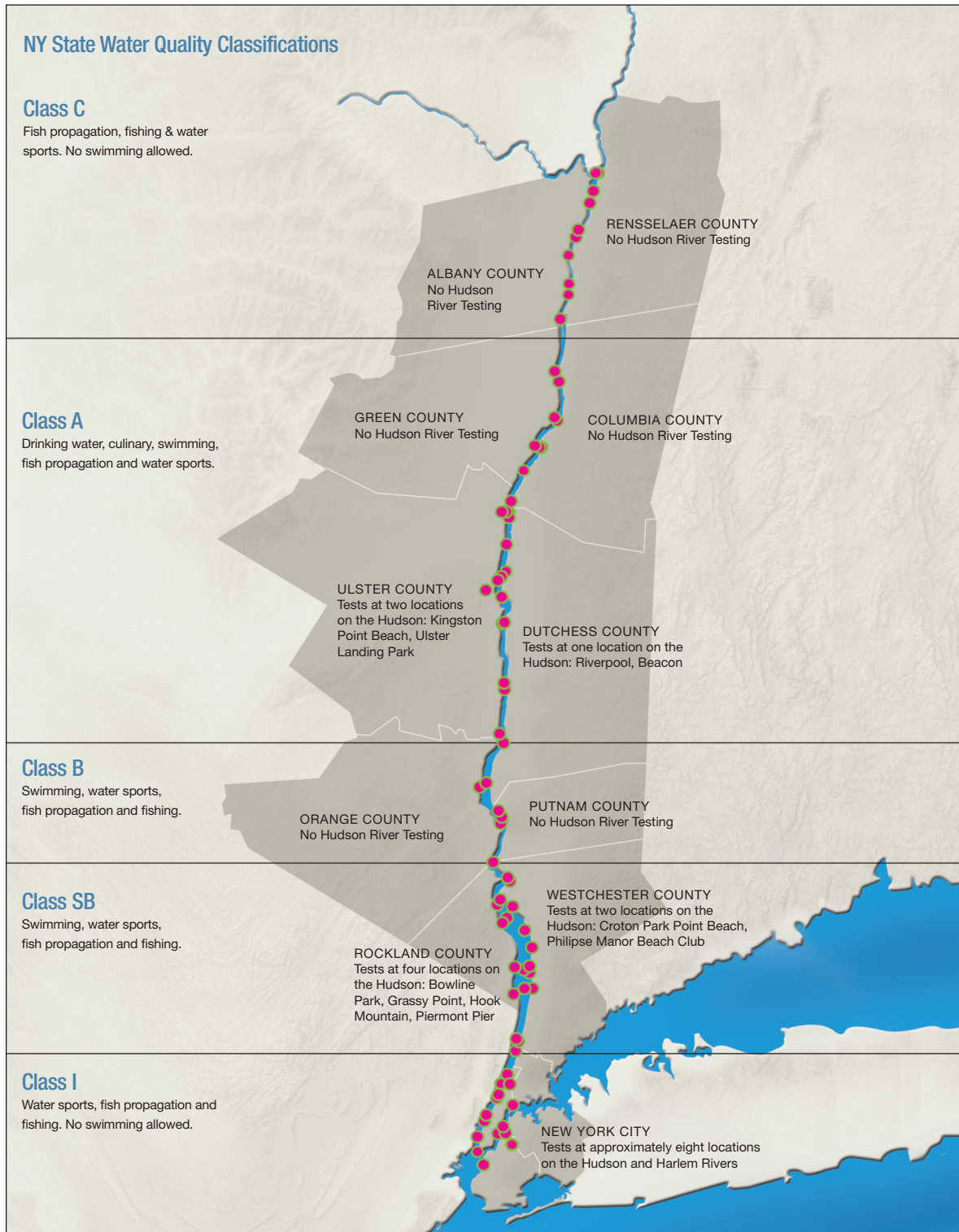


- Sewage contamination in the Hudson is highly variable – there are locations where we rarely find high levels of sewage and locations where we find it more than 50% of the times we sample.
- At a single location sewage contamination can vary greatly over time – this is often the case at locations near a combined sewer overflow (CSO) or a separate sewer overflow (SSO) where rain can trigger a high volume sewage release, but in dry weather there is none.
- Sewage contamination is often, but not always, localized near the source – we sometimes find high levels of sewage at one location and less than 3 miles away in any direction find little to none. The distance that contamination spreads varies depending on multiple factors including sewage volume, tides and geography.
- Near-shore locations have the highest incidence of sewage contaminations – this is not surprising when you consider that the sewage comes from our communities along the Hudson. It is too bad that the shoreline is typically where people get in the water as well.

- Tributaries have a surprisingly high frequency of sewage contamination – we sample at the mouths of many streams, creeks and rivers that feed the Hudson. Our 2006-2010 data showed these locations failing water quality standards a whopping 34% of the times we sampled.
- Wet weather is one trigger of sewage contamination but not the only trigger – our data showed unacceptable levels of sewage contamination in 32% of our wet weather samples*. Our dry weather samples failed 9% of the time. You can see if there is a connection between rainfall and sewage contamination on our website where each sample is posted next to rainfall data.

* Wet weather samples are classified as any sample collected in a location where ¼ inch of rain, or more, has fallen that day or in the prior 3 days. Why such a small amount? Because in many communities it takes only ¼ inch of precipitation to trigger sewage overflows, especially communities with CSOs and SSOs.

Who is Testing Hudson River Water Quality?



● Riverkeeper Sampling Site

What You Can Do About It

Sewage contamination is a Local Problem with Local Solutions

- Join a community watershed group or form one.
- Study a waterway, or waterfront area, in your community to identify sources of sewage pollution and fix them.
- Support local solutions to your local pollution sources such as green infrastructure projects and investment in wastewater infrastructure.
- Conserve water – the less water we push through our wastewater infrastructure the less wear and tear on the system.
- Don't flush your medications – they end up in our waterways and are harmful to fish and other aquatic life.
- Keep chemicals and toxins out of the sewer system by not using them at home – they damage river ecology.
- Watch for sewage overflows in your community and report them to local authorities, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Riverkeeper (see Be a Sewage Watchdog sidebar for contact information).

Property owners can play an important role

- Reduce the stormwater runoff from your property and make sure your downspouts and sump pumps are not connected to the sewer system.
- If you have a septic system, have it inspected and maintained regularly. Septic fields can leach sewage into the groundwater and nearby tributaries.

Stay informed and support Riverkeeper's clean water policy initiatives – sign-up for our e-letters: www.riverkeeper.org/get-involved/stay-informed. Take online actions as they come up and share them with your friends and neighbors.

What Riverkeeper Is Doing About It

- Riverkeeper continues to sample throughout the Hudson River Estuary and use that data to raise awareness of this persistent pollutant and threat to public health.
- We conduct additional exploratory sampling in response to sewage contamination reports and accidents when possible, sharing that data with the public and enforcement authorities.
- We are working with citizen groups, supporting local water quality monitoring projects on tributaries and waterfronts through the Hudson River Valley and in New York City.
- On the legislative front we are working to pass a Sewage Right to Know law for New York State (see following page for more information).
- On the regulatory front we are working to strengthen our federal and state Recreational Water Quality Standards.
- On the enforcement front we are working cooperatively with DEC Enforcement Regions 2, 3, and 4, and the DEC Division of Water on all reports of active, non-permitted, sewage discharges.

What is a Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO)?

Many of the older communities in the Hudson Valley and elsewhere have an outdated style of wastewater infrastructure that combines stormwater pipes with wastewater pipes. When it rains, the combined rainwater and sewage is diverted to a nearby waterway in order to avoid overloading the local sewage treatment plant with too much volume or backing up into homes. These regular sewage and rainwater releases, called combined sewer overflows (CSOs), are permitted by New York State as a legal form of sewage pollution.

All CSO pipes must be marked with a green NYS DEC sign that includes a phone number that the public can call if there is a problem to report, such as a flow during dry weather.

Be a Sewage Watchdog

Familiarize yourself with the sewer system in your community and keep an eye out for unusual and/or illegal sewage releases. If you see a suspect sewage release, document it and report it.

- Take photos and/or shoot video
- Call your local police department
- Call the DEC 24-Hour Hotline: 877-457-5680
- Call Riverkeeper: 800-21-RIVER x 2 or submit an online report at www.riverkeeper.org/get-involved/violations/



Toilet paper, or other floatables, emerging from a sewer manhole are a sign that sewage has recently overflowed.



Cloudy water and visible pieces of toilet paper hanging from the scrubs, alerted a citizen to this sewage overflow.

Photo By: Citizen Watchdog

Photo By: Citizen Watchdog

[For more information visit: <http://www.riverkeeper.org/water-quality/>]

Sewage

Right to Know for New Yorkers

By Tracy Brown



Photo By: Patrol Boat

These people were in the sewage contaminated water during the North River release. Riverkeeper warned them from the boat to get out of the water.



Photo By: Patrol Boat

CSO pipes in New York must all be marked with a green SPDES permit sign like this one.

► **Sewage** pollution in our waterways continues to be a widespread problem in New York State that presents a serious health risk for the public – especially children and the elderly. More than a dozen states have a Sewage Right to Know law that requires timely public notification of sewage contamination in recreational waters. Riverkeeper believes that New Yorkers deserve the same protection!

Public Health Protection

Some sewage notification laws only address accidental and planned sewage releases from wastewater infrastructure. Accident reporting does not effectively protect public health. Every accident does not necessarily lead to unsafe water conditions and accidents are typically not the top contributor of sewage to our waterways.

Unsafe levels of sewage contamination often come from wet weather releases that are

permitted (such as overflows from combined sewer and stormwater systems, known as CSOs), and chronic releases that are ongoing (such as leaking septic fields or contaminated tributaries).

Riverkeeper is calling for a law that will protect public health by notifying the public where and when water quality is unsafe for primary contact activities such as swimming.

Government Transparency & Data Sharing

In order to make informed decisions for themselves and their families, New Yorkers need access to all the water quality data that our state, county and municipal agencies have access to.

Riverkeeper is calling for the online posting of all available water quality data for public recreational waters in New York State, including available data from academic studies, non-profit organizations,

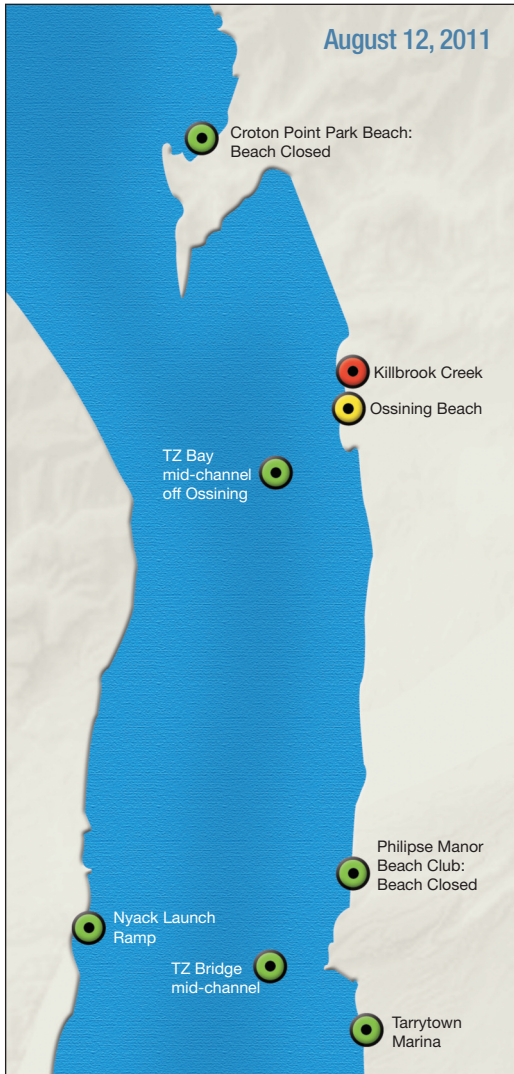
private labs and other reliable sources of water quality data.

Legislative Update

At the time of the printing of this report, Riverkeeper is working collaboratively with representatives in the State Senate and the State Assembly on sewage notification legislation. We are also working with a New York City Councilman on a sewage notification law for the city. Both of these efforts are enjoying widespread support from the public and other environmental organizations from across the state.

Check our website for the latest news on this campaign: <http://www.riverkeeper.org/campaigns/stop-polluters/sewage-contamination/>

Case Study: Westchester County, August 2011



Riverkeeper water quality sampling DURING an accidental sewage release in Ossining, NY.



Riverkeeper water quality sampling AFTER an accidental sewage release in Ossining, NY, and after rainfall on August 14.

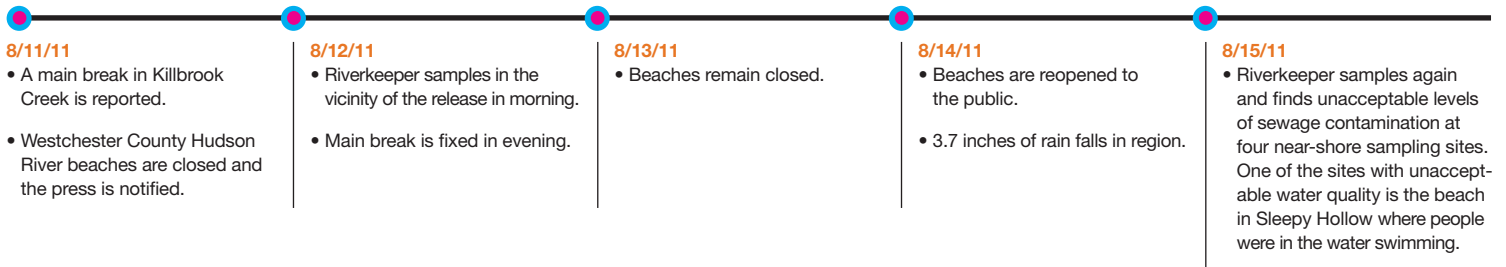
Overview

Westchester County:

In response to a sewer main break and spill in Ossining during August 2011, Westchester County issued a public advisory to stay away from Westchester's Hudson River shoreline, including the beaches at Croton Point Park and in Sleepy Hollow. Riverkeeper conducted exploratory water quality sampling in the vicinity of the spill during and after the advisory and beach closings. This illustrates the problem – Westchester County had reported to the public on the sewer infrastructure break, but NOT on the real water quality conditions. We can do better. We need a public notification law which reports water quality, not just accidents.

Accident notification alone misleads the public on true water quality conditions.

Timeline



EPA Guidelines for Safe Swimming

Marine Waters

- Enterococcus count (over 104/100ml) is unacceptable by EPA standards
- Enterococcus count (between 35 and 104/100ml), if sustained over time, would be unacceptable by EPA standards
- Enterococcus count (under 35/100ml), is acceptable by EPA standards

Fresh Waters

- Enterococcus count (over 61/100ml) is unacceptable by EPA standards
- Enterococcus count (between 33 and 61/100ml), if sustained over time, would be unacceptable by EPA standards
- Enterococcus count (under 33/100ml), is acceptable by EPA standards

Legend

- Unacceptable
- Possible Risk
- Acceptable

Case Study: New York City, July 2011



The public was not told that untreated sewage from the North River Treatment Plant was dumped into the Hudson and Harlem Rivers from many locations, not just near the plant itself as was widely assumed.

Overview

New York City:

A catastrophic fire at the North River Wastewater Treatment Plant caused that plant to temporarily shutdown. As a result an estimated 250 million gallons of sewage was released into the Hudson and Harlem Rivers over the course of two hot days in July.

Public notifications of the water quality impacts resulting from the fire and plant closure were insufficient to protect public health. The public was not told about the multiple locations where the sewage was being released until days into the event. The water quality data that the DEP collected and used for decision-making was not taken near-shore where the sewage, and the public, were entering the river. Even though the sewage releases were happening during a very hot summer week, there were no signs posted to warn the public at the many access points affected.

Public notification must include full disclosure of water quality conditions with a focus on public access points.

Legend

 CSO pipes that released sewage from the North River Plant

Timeline

7/20/11

- Fire at the North River Wastewater Treatment Plant at 11:45am causes a plant shutdown.
- By 5:15pm untreated sewage starts to flow into the Hudson River.
- NYC DEP issues the first public notification of the fire and sewage release at 3pm. There is no information given on the multiple sewage discharge locations. No signs warning the public of the active sewage releases are posted at those locations and as a result people are still swimming and kayaking at contaminated public access points.

7/21/11

- NYC DEP samples in the vicinity of the releases at mid-channel locations.
- Riverkeeper samples in the vicinity of the releases, including near-shore locations, mid-channel, along the NJ shoreline, as far south as the Battery and as far north as Yonkers.
- Based on observations of multiple discharges, Riverkeeper asks the DEP where the sewage releases are occurring. DEP provides a list which Riverkeeper shares with the press, the public and the kayaking community.

7/22/11

- Riverkeeper publishes our first set of sampling results, showing multiple contamination hotspots on the Hudson and the Harlem River and very high contamination levels at several near-shore locations (high count is 104,620 Enterococci per 100ml).
- DEP publishes sampling data that shows much lower contamination levels because the samples were collected in the mid-channel of the Hudson far from the source (high count is 400 Enterococci per 100ml). **Samples above 104/100ml are unacceptable for primary contact based on EPA guidelines.*
- Following repairs the plant is reopened for partial operation and the sewage releases are stopped.

7/25/11

- Riverkeeper conducts another round of sampling and embarks on an ongoing conversation with the NYC DEP on ways to improve public notification for similar events in the future.

Update: Since the North River fire the NYC DEP has made efforts to improve their public notification system. Their approach includes online publication of sewage contamination from CSO releases as well as accidental releases. The DEP launched a NYC Waterbody Advisory section on the NYC.gov website: http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/harborwater/nyc_waterbody_advisory_program.shtml

City Councilman Steve Levin, working in collaboration with Riverkeeper, has introduced Sewage Right to Know legislation for New York City. At the time of publication it has yet to come up for a vote. Riverkeeper applauds both of these initiatives that will allow New Yorkers to make informed decisions about where and when they can safely get out and enjoy the beautiful waters that surround them!



Photo By: Rob Friedman

Capt. John Lipscomb starts his 12th consecutive year of monthly boat patrols in 2012.

► **Investigating a Queens Oil Spill.** Not even a year after Exxon finally agreed to a settlement to clean up its huge Greenpoint oil spill that had been seeping under Brooklyn neighborhoods and into the Newtown Creek for decades, Riverkeeper identified oil that appeared to be seeping into the creek from the Queens side, where another oil works once operated. Riverkeeper continues to investigate, along with state and federal law enforcement. “The story is certainly not over in Newtown Creek,” Lipscomb said. “There are other polluters and New York City is using Newtown Creek as an open sewer.”

► **Extending Our Reach with Joint Patrols.** Riverkeeper’s presence on the Hudson provides a powerful deterrent to polluters, but the fact is there are still more pollution problems than one organization can address. That’s why new joint patrols this year with federal and state law enforcement agencies, from the Albany stretches of the river to Brooklyn, represented a great milestone for the Hudson. “The hardest thing for me in this job is to see a problem and not have any way to solve it,” Lipscomb said. Cooperating with law enforcement lets Riverkeeper solve more problems.

► **Restoring Fish by Making Polluters Pay.** When a power plant that had failed to protect fish from dying in its cooling water intakes settled with Riverkeeper, the \$115,000 payment was used to

pay to help the victims: the fish. The settlement is funding a two-year study of American shad habitat and spawning, a key piece of the effort to restore the signature species to health, not only on the Hudson but in the Atlantic, where shad and other migratory species spend most of their lives. By protecting shad and their habitat on the Hudson, “we are outfitting the birthing clinic” for the Atlantic, Lipscomb said.

► **Witnessing Historic Storms.** What happens when you drop a foot of rain on a 13,400-square-mile watershed? Hurricane Irene gave us the answer: A fiercely muddy river, running red from source to sea, and a flotilla of debris – everything from tires to propane tanks to pieces of buildings. As importantly, the storm and its aftermath demonstrated people’s strong concern for the health of the river; Riverkeeper was awash with questions from the public and the media, and we’re happy to report that all indications so far are that the river and the life within it suffered little if any long-term harm.

► **Upper Nyack Oil Seep.** The boat was out of the water and staff was officially on holiday, but prompted by a watchdog report, Capt. Lipscomb began investigation in late December into an oil sheen on the Hudson at Upper Nyack. The pollution was traced to a nearby school, and witnesses indicated it had likely been flowing for at least a

month. After Riverkeeper enlisted the help of the Department of Environmental Conservation, school officials committed to investigating and remedying the leak. Riverkeeper continued to monitor the location, and work to correct problems with absorbent booms. The source was found to be a 5,000 gallon heating oil tank — which was removed.



Photo By: John Lipscomb

► **Beacon Sewage Discharge.** A watchdog’s report in September 2011 led Riverkeeper to investigate a sewage discharge into Beacon Harbor which resulted in sewage concentrations hundreds of times higher than federal safe-swimming guidelines. While sewage discharges from combined sewage overflows during rain are all too common, dry-weather discharges indicate a different type of problem in the sewer system. By publicizing the problem, Riverkeeper brought the attention needed, and within two months of the first report, the flow of raw sewage had stopped.

[Visit the Riverkeeper Boat Blog at www.hudsonriverkeeper.blogspot.com]

How We Make

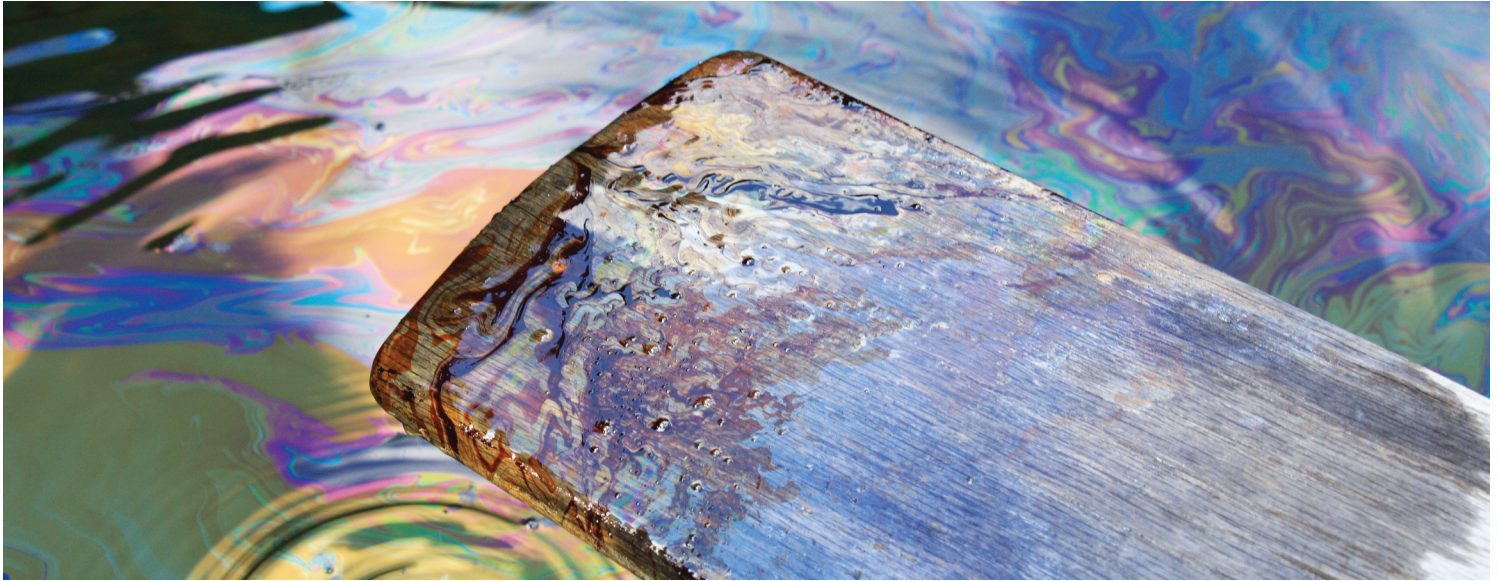


Photo By: Josh Verleuen

Sheen on Gowanus Canal

Riverkeeper defends the environmental integrity of the Hudson River and safeguards our drinking water supplies through a unique blend of enforcement and litigation, outreach and education, and working to strengthen the laws and regulations that exist to protect our water and waterways. At the heart of our environmental advocacy is the preservation of citizen rights to enforce Clean Water Act laws when government fails to uphold them.

Over the past year, we helped shape the outcomes of some of New York's most groundbreaking enforcements, studies and agreements.

Continued community involvement in the Gowanus Canal Superfund Cleanup

Riverkeeper has been actively pushing for a cleanup of the Gowanus Canal and Newtown Creek for years, and was instrumental in getting these highly polluted Brooklyn waterways listed for federal Superfund cleanup. Together, these cleanups will provide unprecedented opportunities for people and essential habitat for wildlife in some of the nation's most densely populated neighborhoods. In January 2012, EPA released the results of its Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study which call for dredging of toxic sediment from the Canal and stopping sources of pollution flowing into the Canal from contaminated land and NYC's combined sewer system (CSO). Cleanup details

are still being developed by the EPA and a decision on the final cleanup "remedy" is expected later this year. Riverkeeper is a key member of the Community Advisory Group (CAG) and the CAG Water Quality and Technical Committees. Working with the community, Riverkeeper has called on the EPA to select a final remedy that targets not just the sediment in the Canal, but commits to stopping toxic pollution from CSOs, leaching of pollution from contaminated sites, and restoring shoreline habitat.

Started the campaign that brought corporate polluters in Brooklyn to justice

In February 2011, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) fined MCIZ

Corporation and a host of other companies owned by Jacob Marmurstein \$482,750 for years of dumping pollution into the Gowanus Canal. As part of our Gowanus Canal enforcement campaign, Riverkeeper originally filed a Notice of Intent to Sue (NOIS) against 107 Sixth Street LLC and 36-2nd J Corp (two of the companies owned by Mr. Marmurstein) in September 2009 for operating an open dump and filling the Canal from a parking lot on their property. These action and enforcement efforts by the DEC and Kings County District Attorney's office underscored the importance of vigilant enforcement against environmental law-breakers and sent a message to polluters that our waterways are not open sewers and dumping grounds.

a Difference By Tina Posterli



Photo By: Katie Sowder via Flickr

The High Line in New York City utilizing green infrastructure.



Photo By: Josh Verleun

6th Street Iron & Metal along Gowanus Canal.



Photo By: John Lipscomb

Harlem River combined sewer overflow.

Held GE's feet to the fire, now DEC data proves dredging is working

An evaluation of Hudson River water quality data reported in March 2012 by the DEC found that the spring floods of 2011 in the upper Hudson caused about as much PCBs to be scoured and transported downriver as were transported during the entire first year of dredging work in 2009. The DEC believes the amount of PCBs released by the spring floods of 2011 could have been greater had it not been for the dredging that had already been completed by General Electric (GE) during the first phase of the project. These findings underscore the importance of the battle Riverkeeper and our partner organizations waged for years to hold GE responsible to finish the Hudson River PCB

dredging project. The DEC's data proves that dredging is working – and supports Riverkeeper's decades-long contention to hold GE accountable for safe, effective PCB remediation of the Hudson River.

Shaped a clean water landmark agreement for NYC

A landmark agreement announced in March 2012 between New York City and the state will lead to \$2.4 billion in investments to reduce sewage pollution in the Hudson River, Newtown Creek, Gowanus Canal and other waterways. The agreement reflects years of Riverkeeper advocacy, in partnership with the SWIM coalition, to advance green infrastructure, preserve citizen rights to clean

water law enforcement, and take significant strides toward achieving the Clean Water Act goals of making even our urban waterways safe for swimming and fishing.

Supported Citizen Water Quality Sampling Projects

We began working with citizen-led water quality testing projects throughout the Hudson River Estuary, from New York Harbor to Stockport Creek. Many of the projects were inspired by the poor water quality our Hudson River study has found at the mouths of our tributaries. Riverkeeper will continue to support these important local efforts to find and eliminate sewage pollution in our communities.

A Future Without

The price of ending the risk m

Riverkeeper has been fighting for more than a decade to close the Indian Point nuclear power plant, so **Entergy**, wants a new license to keep Indian Point running for another 20 years. With the future of Indian

With Indian Point

► At the state level, Riverkeeper is arguing that Indian Point's use of Hudson River water violates state and federal clean water laws, and that the Department of Environmental Conservation is right to deny Entergy the approvals it needs to continue operating. At the federal level, Riverkeeper will argue for the plant's closure in Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) relicensing hearings that are unprecedented for the number of issues – 19 in all – that will be considered.

Dead Fish, and a Hobbled Ecosystem

Every year, Indian Point kills more than 1 billion fish, including endangered shortnose and Atlantic sturgeon, and other river creatures, as it sucks water—2.5 billion gallons per day—into its cooling water intakes and spits it out near the boiling point. The slaughter helps explain why 10 of 13 key species of Hudson fish are in persistent decline. Entergy, in keeping with a tradition of running its plant on the cheap, playing games with science and using our river to subsidize its profits, wants to install 144 15-foot-long cage-like structures (cylindrical wedge-wire screens) throughout the Hudson, rather than invest in proven technology, closed-cycle cooling, to stop the slaughter.

Radioactive Waste and Leaks

If granted permission to operate for another 20 years, Indian Point would add 1,000 tons of highly radioactive waste to the 1,500 tons already stored in unfortified containers and water pools, right on the banks of the Hudson River. New York State calls them “vulnerable to attack.” The carcinogenic radioactive waste has been leaking into the

groundwater and Hudson River since at least the early 1990s. Entergy admits it could prevent contaminated groundwater from reaching the Hudson—the company simply refuses to do the right thing. Riverkeeper has argued in state hearings that radioactive discharges from Indian Point violate clean water laws; the NRC will also hear the issue in relicensing hearings.

Real risks

Adding to a dismal safety record and a litany of concerns about an aging plant that terrorists have considered a target in the past, in 2012, the NRC denied Indian Point the exemptions from fire-safety procedures Entergy had sought, and requested more information about the plant's vulnerability to earthquakes – reflecting concerns that Riverkeeper had raised for years. In the past year alone, the plant underwent at least two unscheduled shutdowns—for a total of 18 in the last five years. In NRC relicensing hearings, Riverkeeper will argue that Entergy's inability to deal with corroded pipes, fatigued metal components, and spent fuel pool leaks, are among the reasons Indian Point should be closed.

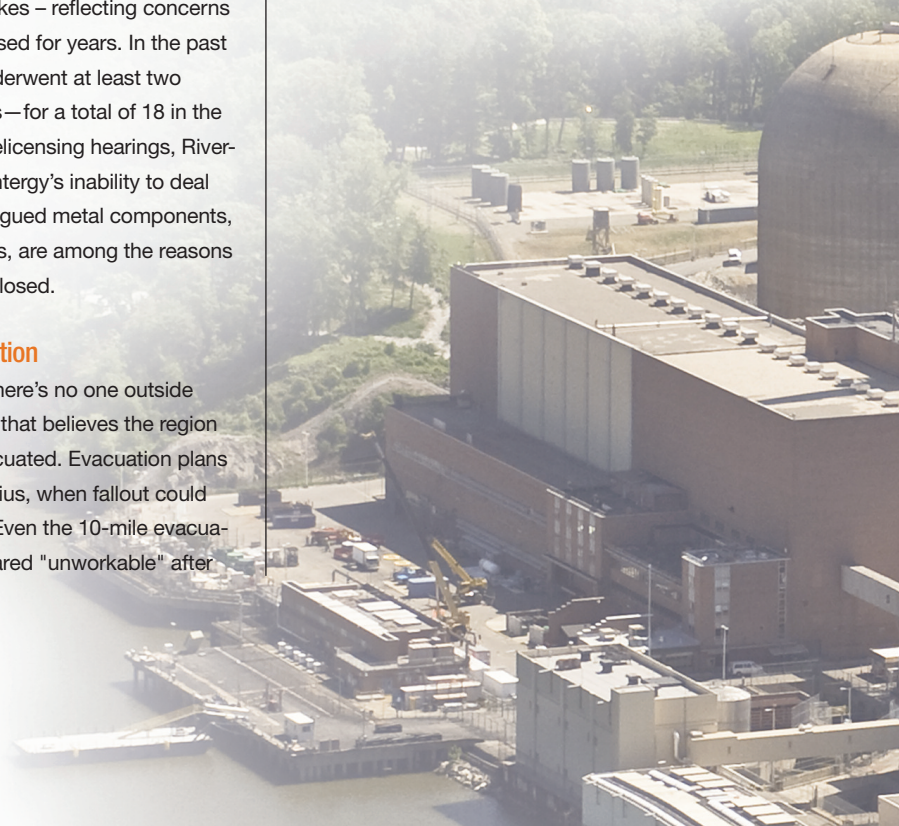
An Impossible Evacuation

Should disaster strike, there's no one outside of Entergy and the NRC that believes the region could be effectively evacuated. Evacuation plans cover only a 10-mile radius, when fallout could easily spread 50 miles. Even the 10-mile evacuation plan was flatly declared “unworkable” after

extensive study by James Lee Witt, the former head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Unconscionably, the NRC denied petitions by New York State, Riverkeeper and others to consider blatantly inadequate evacuation plans in relicensing hearings.

Exceptional Consequences

A nuclear disaster at Indian Point on the scale of Japan's Fukushima Daiichi meltdown in March 2011 could put at risk the lives, property, and livelihoods of nearly 20 million U.S. residents in and around New York City and the Hudson Valley. In addition to the health of residents and the environment, the economy of the country and indeed the world would be shaken by a meltdown here.



Without Indian Point Electricity may be as little as \$1 a month

...at amid 20 million people just 35 miles from Times Square. The owner of the nearly-40-year-old reactors, Indian Point likely to be decided soon, we give you a vision of the future without Indian Point. **By** Dan Shapley

Without Indian Point

► In 2011, Riverkeeper and NRDC commissioned an authoritative study by Synapse Energy that changed the public conversation by describing the true cost – between \$1 and \$5 per month for the average consumer – of switching to electricity that is safer and readily available. Two key New York State Assembly committees came to the same conclusion: The question is not “if” we can replace Indian Point but “how.”

Plenty of Power Through 2020

Indian Point's two active nuclear reactors supply 2,000 megawatts of power to the lower Hudson Valley region and New York City, and they reach the end of their licenses in 2013 and 2015. If closed, New York would have enough power through 2020, even if no new sources were brought online and no efforts were made to improve energy efficiency. Through investments in the following four strategies, there would be enough energy to replace Indian Point several times over, and at a cost of as little as \$1 per month to the average homeowner.

Energy Efficiency Savings

Assuming New York State continues funding existing energy efficiency programs through 2021, more than three-fourths of the electricity generated by Indian Point could be made up by improved energy efficiency in the region's homes and commercial buildings.

More Renewable Energy

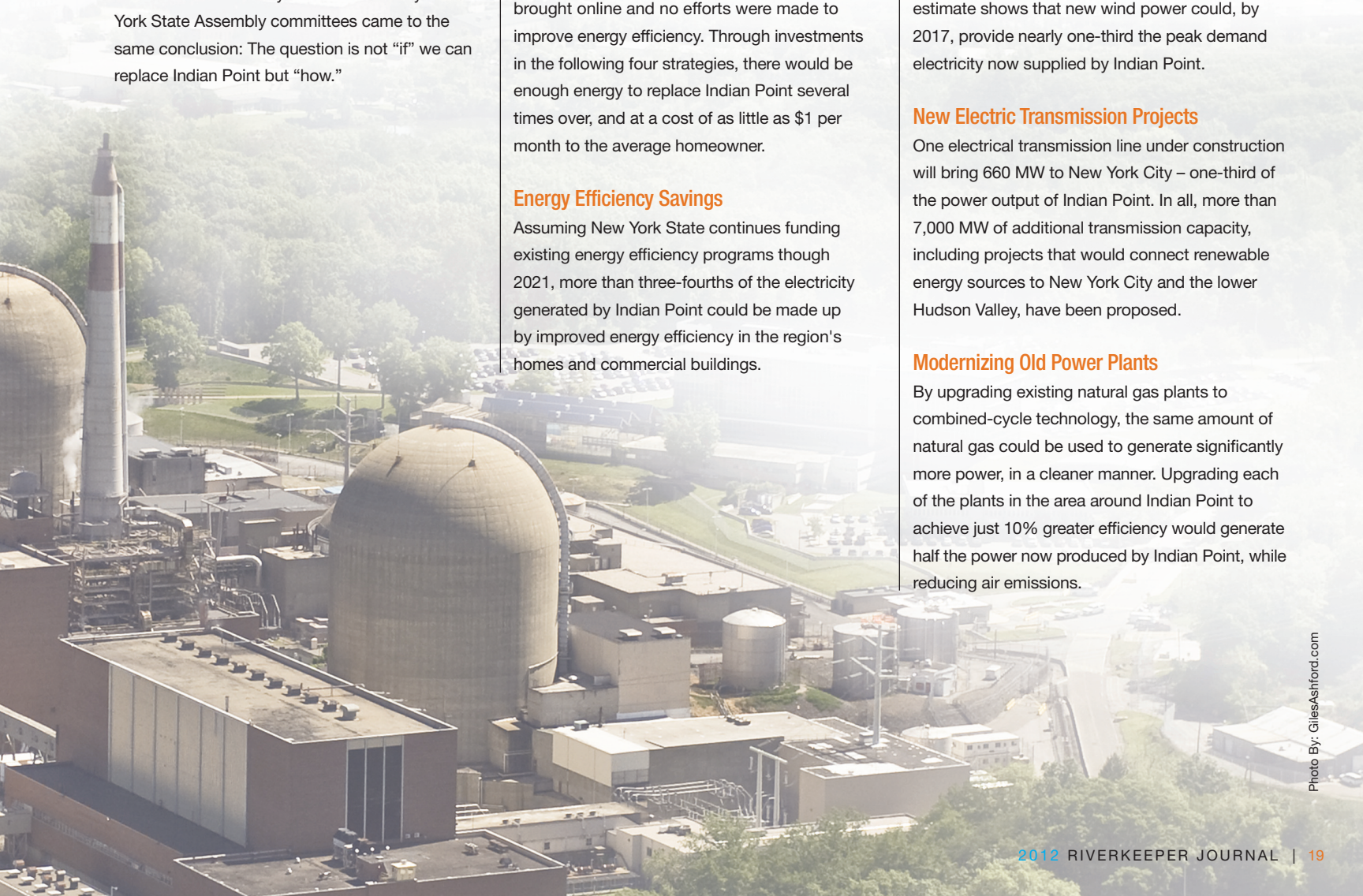
Aggressively installing rooftop solar panels in the region alone could, by 2025, create more electricity than Indian Point does today. In addition, across the state, more than 5,000 megawatts – two and a half Indian Point's – of new wind power is due to come online by 2015. Even a conservative estimate shows that new wind power could, by 2017, provide nearly one-third the peak demand electricity now supplied by Indian Point.

New Electric Transmission Projects

One electrical transmission line under construction will bring 660 MW to New York City – one-third of the power output of Indian Point. In all, more than 7,000 MW of additional transmission capacity, including projects that would connect renewable energy sources to New York City and the lower Hudson Valley, have been proposed.

Modernizing Old Power Plants

By upgrading existing natural gas plants to combined-cycle technology, the same amount of natural gas could be used to generate significantly more power, in a cleaner manner. Upgrading each of the plants in the area around Indian Point to achieve just 10% greater efficiency would generate half the power now produced by Indian Point, while reducing air emissions.



Watershed

The Watershed Program uses public education, advocacy and litigation in order to protect the unfiltered drinking water supply for 9 million New Yorkers.

Putting the Brakes On Frack



Photo courtesy of: SkyTruth

► The prospect of high-volume hydraulic fracturing (hydrofracking or fracking) for natural gas in New York has been moving forward at an alarming pace since July 2011, when the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) released its preliminary draft supplemental generic environmental impact statement (SGEIS) on fracking. Since then, Riverkeeper, our fellow advocates, and citizens have been in a heated battle to protect our water, health and the environment and our economy from the state's rush to frack.

There are glaring gaps in DEC's fracking proposal, including its failure to adequately address the negative economic impacts that fracking will have on communities. For example, a draft report by the state Department of Transportation last year revealed that road maintenance associated with fracking alone will cost communities up to \$375 million, but DEC's impact assessment does not include this cost. We called out DEC in November 2011 asking it to redo and release for public comment the socioeconomics portions of the SGEIS, an analysis that the agency itself acknowledged was fundamentally flawed.

At the time this publication has gone to press, we have yet to receive a response to this letter and still do not know if and how this vital issue will be addressed. And this is just the tip of the iceberg. Other critical omissions in the SGEIS that are unlikely to be addressed include:

- DEC's failure to analyze health impacts, despite the fact that we know fracking is making people sick just over the border in Pennsylvania; and
- DEC's failure to plan for disposal of the millions of gallons of hazardous wastewater that will be created if fracking is allowed to move forward.

DEC has indicated that it intends to issue a finalized SGEIS this spring, which means that fracking could commence under the state's flawed proposal as early as summer 2012. This flies in the face of Governor Cuomo's promise that he will not allow fracking to move forward until he has the facts and the science that shows that it will be safe and a net benefit to New Yorkers. Under this rushed timeframe, the final fracking proposal will likely not be protective, nor provide a sound basis for decision-making about fracking. Faced with the state moving forward with a flawed proposal, Riverkeeper and our partners have no choice but to sue to make certain that citizens' health, environment and pocketbooks are protected. We are working hard to race against the clock to ensure that New York does not become yet another case study of fracking gone wrong.

By Tina Posterli

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NY



Photo by: Jay Simpson



Photo by: Jay Simpson



Photo By: Tina Posterli

Bottled water at the home of Dimock, PA residents Craig and Julie Sautner.

NY's Fracking Timeline (As developed by Environmental Advocates of New York)

<p>July 2011 DEC releases a preliminary (and incomplete) version of the state's revised draft SGEIS. Riverkeeper, partner groups and other advocates fault the draft for failing to protect human health and the environment from fracking.</p> <p>DEC announces the launch of the state's Fracking Advisory Panel, tasked with estimating fracking's costs to state agencies. Robert Kennedy, Jr. is assigned to the panel in his role as President of the Waterkeeper Alliance.</p>	<p>September 2011 DEC releases the agency's "official" revised draft SGEIS for public comment. Draft fracking regulations are simultaneously released for comment, prompting outcry against Governor Cuomo's attempt to "double dip" on the comment period and fast-track industrial gas drilling.</p>	<p>January 11, 2012 The public comment period on the state's revised draft SGEIS is closed. The agency receives more than 61,000 comments on this document, setting a new record. Riverkeeper and partner organizations submit over 600 pages of joint comments.</p>	<p>January 17, 2012 Governor Cuomo releases his FY 2013 budget proposal, which doesn't include any revenue or resources related to fracking.</p>	<p>January 23, 2012 The third Fracking Day of Action is held in the New York State Capitol. More than 600 New Yorkers from every corner of the state attend the rally and meet with state lawmakers to share concerns about fracking.</p>	<p>February 2012 On February 22, State Supreme Court Justice Phillip Rumsey issues a ruling upholding the Town of Dryden's zoning amendment prohibiting gas development, confirming the rights of New York's municipalities to determine uses of their land and take measures to protect their residents and environment. Just three days later, State Supreme Court Justice Donald F. Cerio, Jr. upholds a similar ordinance in the town of Middlefield. Riverkeeper, represented by Earthjustice, filed an amicus brief in the Middlefield case.</p>
<p>Take Action The Dryden and Middlefield decisions are the first to consider whether municipalities in New York may exercise their home rule authority to zone out natural gas development, and these initial rulings may embolden many town officials, previously unsure about their authority, to ban</p>		<p>natural gas drilling within their municipalities. Riverkeeper is urging people to call their State Senator and Assembly Member and ask them to pass the Home Rule Bill, A8557/A3245/S5380, which would legislatively guarantee a municipality's right to protect its citizens from fracking!</p>			

[Get involved! Join our Don't Frack With NY Water! community: www.facebook.com/dontfrackwithny]

Portrait of a Fra

Toxic Waste

Once a well is drilled, millions of gallons of water, sand and approximately 596 chemicals, many of which are suspected to be carcinogenic, are injected under high pressure into a well.

Natural gas flows out of the well along with up to a third of the chemically-laced wastewater, which is now also contaminated with radioactive material and brines that occur naturally in the shale.

Truck Traffic

Approximately 4,000 truck trips generally powered by diesel fuel, to deliver water and chemicals and carry away wastewater, are needed to frack a well.

Toxic Roads

New York has left open the possibility of spreading the leftover radioactive, salty brine from fracking on the roads as a deicer and dust suppressant.

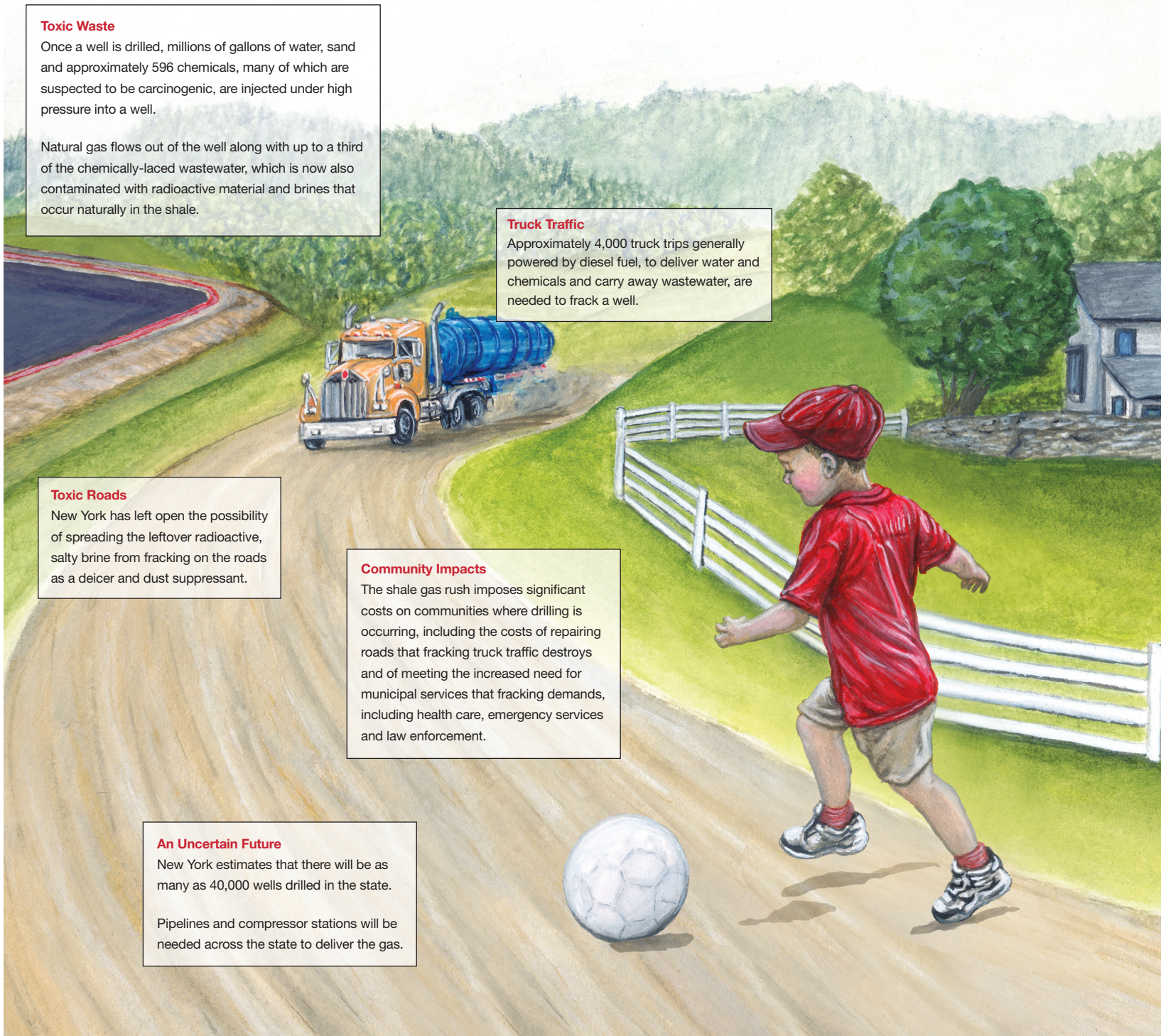
Community Impacts

The shale gas rush imposes significant costs on communities where drilling is occurring, including the costs of repairing roads that fracking truck traffic destroys and of meeting the increased need for municipal services that fracking demands, including health care, emergency services and law enforcement.

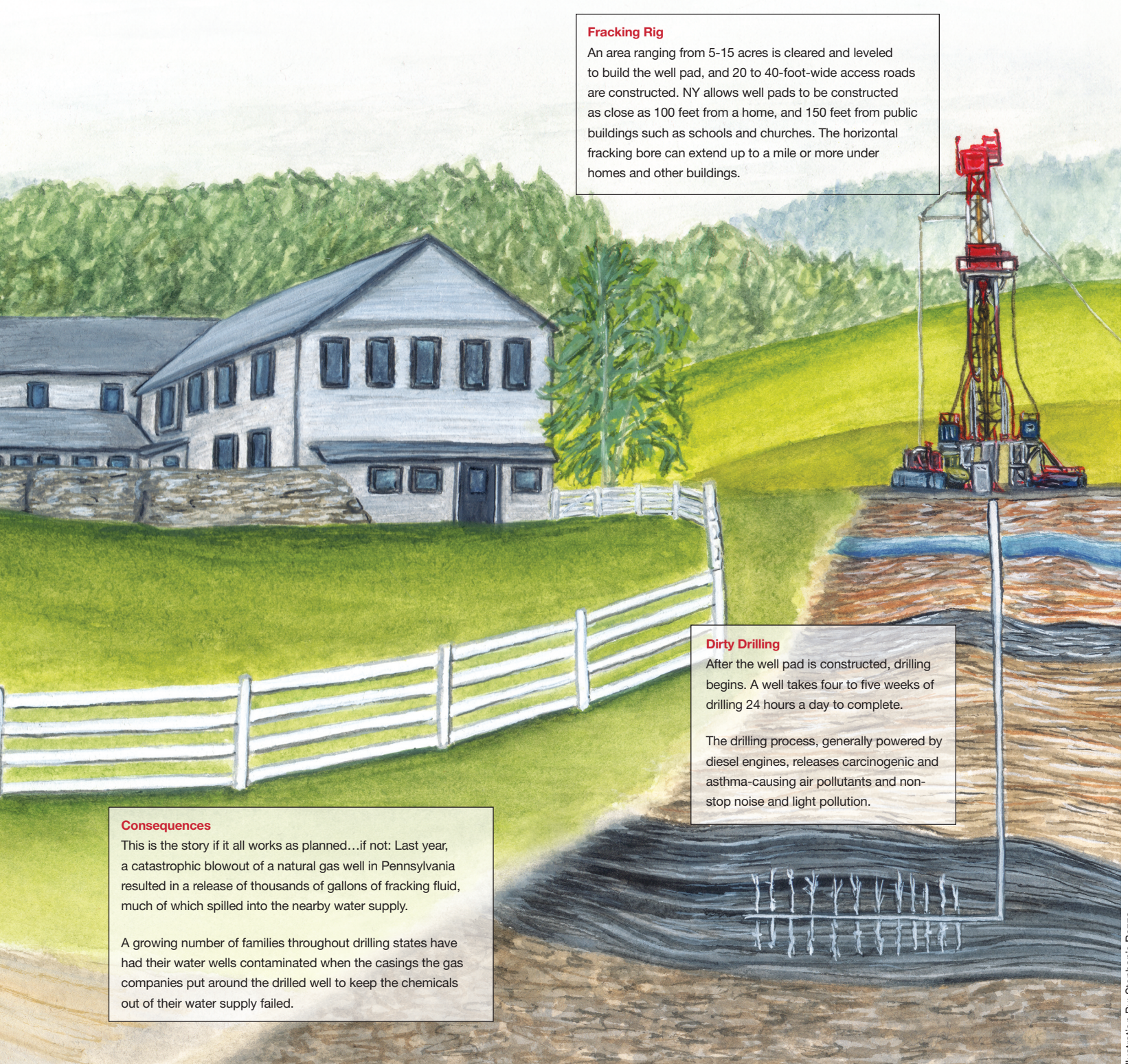
An Uncertain Future

New York estimates that there will be as many as 40,000 wells drilled in the state.

Pipelines and compressor stations will be needed across the state to deliver the gas.



cked New York



Fracking Rig

An area ranging from 5-15 acres is cleared and leveled to build the well pad, and 20 to 40-foot-wide access roads are constructed. NY allows well pads to be constructed as close as 100 feet from a home, and 150 feet from public buildings such as schools and churches. The horizontal fracking bore can extend up to a mile or more under homes and other buildings.

Dirty Drilling

After the well pad is constructed, drilling begins. A well takes four to five weeks of drilling 24 hours a day to complete.

The drilling process, generally powered by diesel engines, releases carcinogenic and asthma-causing air pollutants and non-stop noise and light pollution.

Consequences

This is the story if it all works as planned...if not: Last year, a catastrophic blowout of a natural gas well in Pennsylvania resulted in a release of thousands of gallons of fracking fluid, much of which spilled into the nearby water supply.

A growing number of families throughout drilling states have had their water wells contaminated when the casings the gas companies put around the drilled well to keep the chemicals out of their water supply failed.

Saving the Lower Esopus

A community continues the struggle to restore its most precious resource **By** Kate Hudson & Tina Posterli



International Day of Peace Blessing the Waters along the Lower Esopus 9/12/11 Taken from the RvK boat by Captain John Lipscomb

► **After** more than a decade of fighting to preserve and protect the waters and fishery of Upper Esopus Creek, in January 2011, Riverkeeper joined with our partner organizations, citizens, and local officials in the effort to address the muddy waters of the Lower Esopus. The battle to save the Lower Esopus has been a rollercoaster ride of setbacks and small victories, but this past year has proven to be the most pivotal in the ongoing struggle to reclaim a community's once-pristine, thriving trout stream.

In January 2011, in response to citizen outcry against the New York City Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP's) unauthorized release of large quantities of extremely turbid water from the Ashokan Reservoir to the Lower Esopus Creek for a period of almost four months, Ulster County Executive Mike Hein filed a notice of intent to sue DEP under the Clean Water Act. In response, DEP pledged to work with a broad group of stakeholders to facilitate "a frank dialogue, and exchange of ideas and information to inform operational decisions," to take steps to prevent turbid releases in the future, and to assess the impacts of the releases and address them. Riverkeeper was encouraged by this pledge and was hopeful that DEP would take action to reverse the damage inflicted on this storied waterway.

In addition, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) initiated an

enforcement action against DEP for its failure to comply with permit conditions that had required the agency to develop a program to reduce turbidity in the Catskill Watershed with the goal of protecting the water supply, fishery and recreational uses in the Ashokan Reservoir Basin. DEP's permit required it to submit approvable reports evaluating structural and non-structural measures to reduce turbidity and recommending alternatives. DEP never submitted approvable reports to DEC, in violation of its permit, and instead chose to reduce turbidity in the system by diverting the dirty water through the Ashokan Reservoir Waste Channel with no authority or approval from DEC.

Almost a year later, DEP's commitments had not been honored nor DEC's enforcement objectives accomplished.

In December 2011, Riverkeeper and Ulster County Executive Mike Hein took steps to require DEP to address its release of turbid water into the Lower Esopus Creek from the Ashokan Reservoir by filing a joint petition calling on DEC to initiate a permitting process to bring the releases under its regulatory purview. The petition requests that DEC take action to place DEP's waste channel releases from the Ashokan Reservoir to the Lower Esopus

Lower Esopus Watershed Partnership & Riverkeeper – What A Team!

The process of protecting and enhancing water resources is all about community building. Riverkeeper, as both a model of effective teamwork and a solid support for community action, provides a strong voice for challenging times. Through myriad critical activities, Riverkeeper, and its well integrated team of hard working, effective people, has not forgotten that protecting the waterway that has run through the heart of our Lower Esopus communities for thousands of years means protecting the quality of life that sustains the people, economy, and a rich and diverse wildlife.

Thank you Riverkeeper for the clear historical perspective, comprehensive legal knowledge, and brilliant negotiating skills that have given us a strong, effective voice.

— Mary McNamara, *Lower Esopus Watershed Partnership Outreach Coordinator*



Riverkeeper on the ground in Kingston

Riverkeeper's presence in Kingston was amplified this year when we established a part-time office at the Hudson River Maritime Museum. The increased interaction with partner groups and community members has allowed us to engage on the Lower Esopus Creek issue in a more personal way and to be closer to the west of Hudson NYC Watershed and watershed communities, as well as the communities downstream of the watershed and the Ashokan reservoir, all of which Riverkeeper is committed to defending and supporting.

Turbid water entering the Hudson from the Lower Esopus.



Photo By: John Lipscomb

under a permit that would place limits on the quantity and quality of those releases. DEP responded by stating that any action to restrict the use of the channel to decrease turbidity could be dangerous and cause flooding in downstream communities, presenting the false choice of “mud or flood.” The DEP is currently violating New York State water quality standards by continuing to discharge large quantities of muddy, polluted water through the Ashokan Reservoir Waste Channel to the Lower Esopus Creek.

Also in December, Riverkeeper, the Lower Esopus Watershed Partnership (LEWP), more than five municipalities, the Ulster County planner, and other partner stakeholders submitted comments

and recommendations to DEC regarding its proposed interim protocol governing DEP’s ongoing releases. The stakeholders made it clear that there aren’t just two options, mud or flood, if careful thought is given to ways to preserve water quality, while making seasonally appropriate releases to benefit both stream health and flood mitigation.

In response to requests from Riverkeeper, the County, LEWP and other Lower Esopus stakeholders, DEP and DEC have recently committed to a full and public environmental review process associated with any ongoing authorization of releases to the Lower Esopus. Lower Esopus stakeholders look forward to playing an active role

in that process. We are also continuing negotiations with DEP with the goal of obtaining funding for a technical consultant that would advise the stakeholders as we participate in the State Environmental Quality Review and permitting process.

Riverkeeper continues the fight for the Lower Esopus and the people who use it and live near it, and we are dedicated to making sure that it is restored to the vital resource it once was.

A Note From Ulster County Executive Mike Hein



When New York City’s DEP began making extremely turbid water discharges into the lower Esopus without environmental review, community involvement or consideration of alternatives, my community was stunned. Although DEP had once claimed in litigation that it had no release works from the Ashokan Reservoir, when it suited their operational purposes, they had no problem reopening what is termed the “waste channel” to send the most highly turbid water from the western basin of the Reservoir down the lower Esopus to maintain clear water in the eastern basin. Ulster County residents have watched for hundreds of days as severely muddy water pollutes one of our premier trout streams.

When I decided to convene DEP, DEC, DOH and the Attorney General’s Office to discuss the environmental damage being imposed on my community, I turned

to Riverkeeper to stand shoulder to shoulder on this critical environmental problem. Turbid water has continued to flow, forcing my community to close beaches, abandon fishing and boating activities. DEP continues to present the unacceptable options of mud or flood as the only choices for the lower Esopus and Hudson River.

Throughout this struggle, Ulster County has worked alongside Riverkeeper on the technical, scientific, legal and regulatory aspects of this issue. In December 2011, Ulster County and Riverkeeper filed a joint petition seeking necessary regulatory action on this matter. Riverkeeper has shown a real commitment to environmental protection in working with Ulster County even when it comes to facing a David and Goliath-type conflict. I truly appreciate the work and support of Riverkeeper under the leadership of Paul Gallay in assisting Ulster County in protecting our most precious resource.

The Fight for Clean Water: A New Grassroots Emerges

The year that redefined the environmental movement By Tina Posterli



Photo By: Shane Bell

Paul Gally speaks out at a rally during DEC public hearings on fracking in NYC.



Photo By: Tina Posterli

Julie and Craig Sautnerat Dimock for Water initiative.



Photo By: Gwendolyn Chambers

Rally at the gates of Indian Point to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the Fukushima tragedy.

► When the tragedy began unfolding at the Fukushima nuclear facility on March 11, 2011, it drove home the urgency of addressing the risks posed by Indian Point and the plight of its owner, Entergy, to keep it running well past its expiration date. Fukushima spurred people to act and turn out in record numbers for the plant's annual assessment meeting held by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in June 2011. Nearly 500 concerned citizens let the NRC know that the agency's 'business as usual' review and rubber stamping of the plant's relicensing will not be tolerated. It was the largest crowd one of these meetings has ever drawn.

And, when the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) released draft regulations for industrial gas drilling simultaneously with the 1500 page supplemental generic environmental impact statement on fracking, initially giving the public less than 75 days to comment on both documents, we were hit with another blow and became attuned that this was yet another instance

where we were being steamrolled by the influence of big business on government.

Shortly afterward, a massive demonstration was taking place in Washington, D.C. to protest the planned Keystone XL Pipeline. Bill McKibben, president and co-founder of 350.org, and anti-tar sands movement leader, described the demonstration as an action to defuse the largest carbon bomb in North America. At the end of two weeks of civil disobedience, 1,253 brave people ended up in handcuffs. It was the largest such protest in decades, which resulted in the Obama Administration denying the permit for the Keystone XL Pipeline. Although it is not yet a permanent victory, it marks a significant time in the two-decade fight over climate change when the fossil fuel lobby actually lost.

As the anti-tar sands movement was in full swing, another one called Occupy Wall Street (OWS), was being born in New York City's Zuccotti Park and with it, a new generation of activism not seen nor

felt since the 1960s. The tar sands and OWS movements were empowering people to fight with ardent fervor against injustices being imposed by the interests of corporate America and showing us that by engaging in direct, targeted actions, we can make a difference and reclaim the resources that are our basic human right.

This spirit carried into the fracking debate when the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) released what it termed as revised natural gas development regulations on November 8, 2011, without any opportunity for public comment, input, or testimony. If approved, the current moratorium on gas drilling in the Delaware River Basin would have been lifted. Voting for these modified regulations would have threatened the irreplaceable water supply that 15 million people depend on each day. Riverkeeper and our partner groups and advocates participated in rallies and actions that resulted in the DRBC postponing the vote with no new vote date being set.

The end of 2011 was also the time when the DEC held public hearings on its flawed fracking proposal, with people turning out to testify in droves. Simultaneously, Riverkeeper joined with grassroots activists in an impassioned effort to deliver much needed water to 11 families in Dimock, Pennsylvania, whose wells were contaminated when Cabot Oil & Gas began fracking for natural gas there in 2008. On November 30, 2011, Cabot ceased making clean water deliveries to the Dimock families with approval from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), even though earlier in 2011, the agency found them to be at fault for the contamination. People banded together to advocate for the families and urged the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to step in where their local government failed them. In a cautionary victory, EPA stepped in and began making clean water deliveries to four of the 11 families. Then, in a puzzling development in March 2012, EPA's Region 3 office issued a statement implying that Dimock's water was safe, despite having only partial drinking-water test results from less than 20 percent of sampled households in hand, and before meeting with affected families. Later, we discovered the initial data finally made available to the Dimock families showed dangerous levels of methane and dozens of toxic chemicals used in the fracking process. Despite EPA's attempts to downplay their

own science, these results vindicate Dimock residents who for years have bravely spoken out about how natural gas drilling poisoned their water. Riverkeeper and others continue to advocate for a long-term water replacement for all affected Dimock residents.

Advocates including Riverkeeper are gearing up to prevent the tragedy from happening in New York.

Coming full circle, on March 11, 2012, the dedicated activists who make up the Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition, Riverkeeper and other partner groups earned national headlines by bringing together Americans and Japanese to commemorate the first anniversary of Fukushima and fight for closure of Indian Point. Initiatives like this one were going on at sites across the country.

The environmental movement was built at the grassroots level by small groups of people mobilizing to speak out and make a difference – it is how Riverkeeper came to be. With all of the affronts to our environment by corporate polluters and congressional attempts to gut the Clean Water Act, community activism is the most compelling way we will prevail and preserve our most precious resources for ourselves and future generations.

From “Don’t Drill the Delaware”

That morning as more than 800 people chanted “Don’t Drill the Delaware” on the steps of the Trenton War Memorial it was made very clear that this was a resounding – though tentative – victory for clean water in the Delaware River Watershed. This was supposed to be the place and time when the voting members of the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) would vote on whether or not to allow gas drilling and fracking to commence in the Watershed, lifting a moratorium that was in place while the agency developed regulations. But the public had intervened, DRBC cancelled the meeting hours before it was to occur and instead people from throughout the region stood together that day to show the strength of the public will and to redouble unified resolve to prevent drilling and fracking.

69,800 public comments had been submitted on the weak and loophole-riddled DRBC draft gas regulations, hundreds had attended the public hearings, and a furor of activity including rallies, press conferences, purposeful social networking, and street-side education, preceded DRBC's meeting. The fact that no environmental



Don't drill Delaware day 11/21/11

analysis had been conducted by the agency, that the weight of technical evidence exposed drilling and fracking as pollution sources, that communities where drilling was occurring in the Marcellus Shale fairway were suffering pollution and degradation, and that government was ignoring all of this (and enabling the drillers) led thousands to action.

A convergence of diverse and broad constituencies came together to protest the DRBC move towards drilling, driven by the belief that clean water and communities should be the priority, not energy corporation profits. That spirited activism worked, and continues to work. The impasse is still in place, for the time being. Without that public pressure and support the Delaware, water supply for 15 million people, would already be drilled; with it, the value of clean water and healthy communities can prevail.

Tracy Carluccio
Deputy Director
Delaware Riverkeeper Network

Photo By: Amy Roe



Rob Friedman being arrested in front of the White House protesting the proposed Keystone XL pipeline.

Turning Awe into Action

An emotional connection to a cause is intrinsic to effective activism, whether it concerns a physical space (a mountain, stream, or river), or simply an idea. This bond makes an activist fight against seemingly insurmountable odds in defense of a cause.

In environmental battles, we must often sacrifice our own personal well being in order to stand up for what is right. And while uncomfortable at times, this fight can yield intense gratification because we are defending something that has no human voice. As a verbal and/or physical proxy for a space or idea, it is an activist's role to communicate his or her personal emotional connection to others.

Everywhere I go, I carry with me my experiences on the Hudson River, which began when I was a child and continue to this day. My connection to the river and the valley and all of its inhabitants (whether human, sturgeon or crab) is what ultimately drives me to do what I do, on the Riverkeeper patrol boat and otherwise. It's that distinct connection I have to this natural environment that drives my own activism.

The most beautiful part of activism is that anyone can have a role. I would think it difficult to go through an entire life without ever being in awe of something in the natural world. All one has to do to be an activist, in my view, is to translate that awe into some type of direct action. Having a discussion with your child, debating a friend, or getting arrested in front of the White House, it all advances the cause.

Rob Friedman
Riverkeeper Boat & Water Quality
Program Consultant

Photo By: Milan Ilyckiy

Volunteers in Action



Photo By: Dorothy Handelman

Volunteer at ShadFest.



Photo By: Chelsea Kadish

Riverkeeper's Dana Gulley and Tracy Brown alongside members of the Brooklyn Riverkeeper Action Group and New York City Councilman Stephen Levin at a volunteer-organized "How's the Water?" presentation at the Brooklyn Brewery.



Photo By: Todd Shapera

Volunteers at ShadFest.

How do you take an organization with a loose but dedicated corps of volunteers and create a team of dedicated activists who organize their own events, support each other and become effective advocates for protecting the Hudson River and the water supply? **By Dan Shapley**

▶ **That** is the challenge that Dana Gulley, Riverkeeper's outreach coordinator, took on in June 2011. The results have been remarkable, thanks to a key insight she got – of course – from a pair of Riverkeeper volunteers, **Lea Cullen Boyer**, founder of Green Guru Network, and **Suzie Ross**, a Riverkeeper Ambassador from Ossining. Connect volunteers to one another to unlock new potential for innovation, spread information farther and effect positive change. In essence, the sum is larger than its parts.

"It seemed that a common thread among these volunteers was the desire to do more. How much more could we get accomplished if we connected volunteers in a community? How much more of a fulfilling experience would this be for a volunteer?" Dana said. "A volunteer team would give volunteers the opportunity to meet other clean-water activists in their community, all with different strengths and strategies that they bring to the table in the fight to safeguard their communities and protect their waterways."

With that insight in mind, Dana knew what to do when **Tom Boland**, a young environmentally conscious Brooklynite, filled out Riverkeeper's volunteer survey and sent her an email with the

simple question, "What can I do?" The answer: Build a Brooklyn volunteer team to work alongside Riverkeeper staff on issues like the cleanups of Newtown Creek and Gowanus Canal, and better sewage management throughout the city. Tom was drawn to Riverkeeper's "passion for clean waterways and ability to truly make a difference," and he leapt at the chance to "provide a way for people to take a hands-on approach to protecting their water."

Generous grants from the **Rodney White Foundation** and the **Rockefeller Brothers Fund** helped Tom and Dana build Riverkeeper's first volunteer team in Brooklyn. The first meeting had exactly three attendees: Tom, his fiancée and Dana. But within months, even after Tom moved to Westchester County, Ambassador **Alan Grotheer** and the team had organized a community presentation by the Riverkeeper Water Quality Program. More than 80 people attended, building important momentum for state and city Sewage Right to Know laws.

"For me, volunteering for Riverkeeper has been a wonderful experience, largely because so many people at the organization have worked so hard to build a reputation based on integrity of mission

and tangible accomplishment," Alan said.

Tom, meanwhile, joined Celine Daly as captains of the Riverkeeper Sweep, a Hudson Valley-wide volunteer-led day of service for the river June 2, 2012, that represents a substantial scaling-up of the volunteer team concept. The volunteer leaders will not only organize events that do tangible good, such as cleanups or outreach about local water quality, but they will also have a head start building local volunteer teams in the Brooklyn model, from Manhattan to Waterford.

"Also exciting about this new team-based volunteer model is that for the last 45 years Riverkeeper has worked with citizen watchdogs, the on-the-ground eyes and ears that help to inform us of activity that is threatening our waterways," Dana said. "Riverkeeper's battles have been hard fought alongside these environmental champions and our victories could not be possible without them. With this expanding grassroots support Riverkeeper is poised to fight today's multifaceted environmental battles with a multifaceted team."

Are you curious about what YOU can do to help? Email Dana at dgulley@riverkeeper.org. She and other Riverkeeper volunteers are waiting to welcome you to the team.

Voices for the River



Photo courtesy of: Toughman Triathlon

Swimmers at the Toughman Triathlon in 2011.



Laurie Seeman, standing second from right, with members of the Sparkill Watershed Alliance.

Laurie Seeman

“Someone needs to tell the adults what the kids know.” Those words, from the mouth of a young girl in her Waterway Adventure Summer Camp, inspired Laurie Seeman, who

first joined as a Riverkeeper member in 2002, to do something about the sewage that fouls the Sparkill Creek. Neglect had compromised the Rockland County stream’s inherent ability, as a tributary of the Hudson, to be an outdoor classroom and an inspiration. “In that moment I knew I was going to take it to the next level,” she said. “In that moment, I was going to do whatever I could.” Within months, she had joined with neighbors to form the Sparkill Watershed Alliance, and with Riverkeeper patrol boat Capt. John Lipscomb’s help, started testing the water to identify where sewage contaminated the water. The startling results helped inspire the Orangetown council, in January, to approve a \$104,000 project to fix chronic leaks at a pump station that hadn’t been maintained since it was built in 1964. “The Hudson River is the Sparkill, and the creek is the river,” Seeman said. “We want to encourage people to think about the tributaries’ impact on the river and the interconnections. It expands your concept of what this little watershed is. It makes our little tiny creek really big.”



Chad Gomes

Chad Gomes became a Riverkeeper member in 2011, and almost as quickly, became an Ambassador. A Port Ewen resident

with a home and a boat on the Hudson, he had made a habit of checking Riverkeeper’s water quality monitoring data. But a different type of river pollution – trash – was on his mind when he paid a visit to Riverkeeper’s office at the Hudson River Maritime Museum on the Rondout in Kingston. “Particularly fishing in the spring, there was a lot of stuff coming down – coolers, big pieces of plastic, lots of bottles and whatnot. I was a little bit embarrassed to have friends come fishing with me because of it,” Gomes said. “I started picking up a few things, and then I have them with nowhere to put them. If you’re going to do a good deed on the river by cleaning up other people’s trash so it doesn’t get further down the river and out to the ocean, it just seems like there should be somewhere to put it,” Gomes said. And so was born Riverkeeper’s volunteer Adopt-a-Port project. Starting on the Rondout in the spring of 2012, and with the support of the Town of Esopus, Royal Carting and Bard College, early season boaters will have a place to deposit trash they fish out of the river. In 2013, Gomes wants to see volunteers up and down the river adopt their ports.



Christine Davies at the Ossining Community Garden.

Christine Davies

“I’ve always loved the river,” said Christine Davis, a native of England who now lives in Ossining, Riverkeeper’s home port. “When I

was commuting on the train to work every day I would always sit on the river side of the train, and between Croton and at least Tarrytown I had my nose pressed to the river, thinking, ‘What will I see today?’” Her love of the river inspired her to support Riverkeeper as a sustaining member, making monthly donations by credit card, since 2005. “It’s a grand river,” she said, “and it’s just inspiring.”

Dr. Richard Izzo

As the organizer of the annual Toughman Triathlon at Croton Point Park, Dr. Richard Izzo has a personal investment in Riverkeeper’s water quality monitoring, and our commitment to cleaning the Hudson River. That’s why Riverkeeper is one of the charity beneficiaries of the triathlon. “It’s imperative that the swim is safe, and the water is clean and that our swimmers have a good race experience,” he said. “We are stewards of our athletes. Riverkeeper is transforming the river.”

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Event

2011 Fishermen's Ball

On April 13, Riverkeeper honored President Bill Clinton and longtime advocates Trudie Styler and Sting at the star-studded annual Fishermen's Ball. Held on the Hudson at Chelsea Piers, New York City, the event was hosted by MSNBC's Dylan Ratigan, and featured an intimate musical performance by Rufus Wainwright.

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. presented the Riverkeeper "Big Fish" awards. President Clinton was honored for focusing world attention on environmental issues as President and in the years since through the William J. Clinton Foundation and Clinton Global Initiative. Trudie Styler and Sting accepted the award for their decades of work in support of the principle that sound ecosystems are a basic human right. Their Rainforest Fund has protected 28 million acres of biodiverse ecosystems, and empowered indigenous people who depend on and care for these resources.

Riverkeeper is grateful to the incomparable actor and comedian Susie Essman, who led a fund drive during the evening that helped bring revenues to well over \$1.3 million to support Riverkeeper's programs.

We also thank actor Ben Stiller for narrating the Riverkeeper video shown during the event, and Rufus Wainwright for his magical performance.



George Hornig, Hamilton Fish and Joan Hornig at EcoSalon on Indian Point.

Photo By: Ann Watt



Sleepy Hollow Middle School Environmental Action Club with Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

Photo By: Dorothy Handleman

Other attendees included Donna Karan, Nicole Miller, Zach Galifianakis, Riverkeeper board member John McEnroe, Patty Smyth, James Lipton and Rolling Stone magazine founder Jann Wenner.

2011 Shad Festival

The 21st annual Shad Festival, at Boscobel House and Gardens in Garrison on May 15, was a celebration of Hudson Valley bounty, with locally grown and made food and beverages, local musicians and eco-friendly vendors spread out on "Green

Street." Hosted by Riverkeeper's vice chair and chief prosecuting attorney Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., and former New York Ranger Mike Richter, and with sponsorship from Keeper Springs, Whole Foods, the Journal News, Ironshore and more, the 2011 event served as a capstone to a long tradition. The Shad Festival will be on hiatus in 2012, as Riverkeeper focuses on an exciting new volunteer-led day of service for the Hudson River, the Riverkeeper Sweep.

S 2011



Photo By: Ann Billingsley

President William J. Clinton at 2011 Fishermen's Ball.

Fashion Night Out with Debbie Harry

On Sept. 8 Rock n' Roll legend Debbie Harry joined Riverkeeper staff and icons of the fashion and pop worlds to launch the Debbie Harry Collection, featuring 30 pieces of vintage clothing that spanned the Blondie singer's career, including a Patrik Kelly leopard stretch velvet dress and a bubble gum pink leather jacket. A portion of the proceeds from the Fashion Night Out show at Post Script Couture in New York City's Meatpacking District benefited Riverkeeper.

EcoSalon on Indian Point

On Oct. 13, Riverkeeper board members Joan and George Hornig hosted an elegant EcoSalon for thought leaders and Riverkeeper supporters at their Park Avenue apartment to raise awareness and money for Riverkeeper's Close Indian Point campaign. Hamilton Fish, president of the Public Concern Foundation and Publisher of the Washington Spectator, drew a line from last year's tragedy at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi to the looming risk posed by the Indian Point nuclear

power plant, and Riverkeeper Paul Gallay informed the audience about the real alternatives New York has for cleaner, greener and safer power. More than 100 people attended.

Deepak Chopra in Conversation with Bobby Kennedy

On Dec. 12, Riverkeeper Senior Prosecuting Attorney Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., was Deepak Chopra's guest for a sold-out conversation at ABC Carpet & Home in New York City. Before answering questions submitted via Twitter, the two engaged in a thought-provoking discussion about the origins of Kennedy's commitment to the environment, the connections between health and environment, the need to close the Indian Point nuclear power plant, and the role of corporate influence in environmental degradation.

Riverkeeper Open House

On Jan. 26, Riverkeeper hosted its first open house for members and neighbors in Ossining and Briarcliff Manor. Nearly 60 people attended, allowing Riverkeeper members and staff to talk about community and river issues with neighbors and municipal leaders. Riverkeeper Paul Gallay offered a few impromptu words describing environmental advocates and community members as two sides to the same coin; working together is the only way we'll solve the pressing environmental issues that are Riverkeeper priorities.

[Visit www.riverkeeper.org and sign-up for our E-Newsletter and E-Alerts to stay current on news and events.]

Financials

BALANCE SHEET FISCAL YEAR 2011 vs FISCAL YEAR 2010

ASSETS	FY'11	FY'10
Cash and cash equivalents	1,270,106	1,209,641
Pledges receivable	203,090	582,864
Property and equipment (net)	100,436	79,902
Prepaid expenses and deposits	21,235	81,996
Total assets	1,594,867	1,954,403
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	218,697	637,640
Total LIABILITIES	218,697	637,640
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	1,236,170	1,053,935
Temporarily restricted	140,000	262,828
Total net assets	1,376,170	1,316,763
TOTAL LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS	1,594,867	1,954,403

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FISCAL YEAR 2011 vs FISCAL YEAR 2010

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	FY'11	FY'10
Contributions	1,437,576	1,455,087
Special events	1,254,685	1,107,033
Donated legal services	630,650	488,601
Other revenue	10,067	23,447
Legal settlements	856,354	0
Cost reimbursements	272,641	0
Total support and revenue	4,461,973	3,074,168
EXPENSES		
Program services	3,864,395	2,647,230
Management	171,756	284,594
Fundraising	366,414	449,884
Total expenses	4,402,565	3,381,708
Surplus/increase in net assets	59,408	(307,540)





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June 2, 2012



RIVERKEEPER.[®] SWEEP

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The Docket

Highlights of select Riverkeeper legal cases

(SPECIAL PULL-OUT SECTION)

Victory for Town Fracking Bans

In February 2011, two New York trial level judges upheld bans in the towns of Middlefield and Dryden on natural gas development and fracking within their borders. Riverkeeper, represented by Earthjustice, was an amicus in the Middlefield case. These decisions are the first to consider whether municipalities in New York may exercise their home rule authority to zone out natural gas development, and these initial rulings may embolden many town officials, previously unsure about their authority, to ban fracking within their town borders.

A Faster PCB Cleanup

General Electric Co., which for decades argued that dredging its legacy of toxic pollution from the upper Hudson would stir up massive amounts of PCBs, entered 2012 with the goal of removing 25% more PCB-laden sediment than in 2011. In five years, the historic cleanup is scheduled for completion; a river where fish are no longer contaminated with PCBs is that much closer to becoming reality.

Sloppy Businesses in Troy

On a joint-patrol with DEC enforcement in November 2011, we discovered two businesses throwing waste materials down the bank of the Hudson.

Albany CSO Long Term Control Plan

The Hudson River near Albany has serious sewage contamination issues. Riverkeeper is working with the DEC and the EPA on a proposal to greatly reduce sewage contamination in this area.

Lower Esopus Creek

Riverkeeper has challenged DEP's operation of the Ashokan Waste Channel, which dumps highly turbid water that cannot be used by the Catskill reservoir system into the Lower Esopus Creek, severely damaging both the Creek ecosystem and communities. In December 2011, Riverkeeper and Ulster County submitted a joint petition calling on DEC to initiate a permitting process that will bring the releases to the Lower Esopus under DEC's regulatory purview. In March 2011, Riverkeeper submitted comments to DEC seeking listing of the Lower Esopus as an impaired water body under the Clean Water Act, pursuant to which DEC would then be required to take measures to improve the Creek's water quality.

Shad Spawning Study

Riverkeeper is funding a two-year study on shad spawning, which will help shad populations recover. The money came from a settlement against a polluter. See story, page 11.

Stormwater Victory

Riverkeeper, NRDC, and several other groups filed a lawsuit in 2010 in state court challenging the statewide "MS4 general permit" for stormwater discharges from municipal sewers. Every time it rains, pollution from developed areas — such as city and suburban streets — is washed into water bodies across New York without treatment via municipal separate storm sewer systems (a.k.a. "MS4s"). The court found that the so-called "MS4 General Permit" regulating this stormwater runoff to be flawed in several respects, and ordered DEC to revise their general permit so that it meets Clean Water Act requirements.

River-Wide Water Quality Enforcement Initiative

In 2012, Riverkeeper and the DEC are joining forces to locate and stop illicit sewage discharges in DEC Regions 3 and 4 (Yonkers to Troy).

Delaware River Basin Commission Natural Gas Regulations

In August 2011, Riverkeeper filed a lawsuit with Delaware Riverkeeper Network and National Parks Conservation Association challenging the Delaware River Basin Commission's failure to conduct an environmental review of its proposed gas extraction regulations, and seeking withdrawal of the regulations. The Delaware River Basin must be protected from gas development as it provides approximately half of NYC's water supply.

Beacon Sewage Discharge

An illegal raw sewage discharge was discovered by a citizen watchdog in August, 2011. Riverkeeper sampled, notified the authorities and the public. The discharge was repaired without the need for legal action. See story, page 9.

Sparkill Creek Watershed Alliance

The Sparkill Creek Watershed Alliance celebrated its one-year anniversary and used water quality data obtained in partnership with Riverkeeper to successfully argue for the upgrade of a failing sewage pump station on the creek in Piermont.

Fighting Desalination Plant in Haverstraw

Riverkeeper is supporting a grassroots effort by the Rockland Water Coalition to defeat a plan by United Water to force Rocklanders to accept the desalination plant.

North River Sewage Treatment Plant Discharge

In July 2011, fire at the North River Sewage Treatment Plant in Manhattan resulted in a 250 million gallon raw sewage release. The City did not adequately sample or notify the public — Riverkeeper did. See story, page 10.

Ossining Sewer Main Break

In August 2011, there was an accidental sewer main break in Ossining. Riverkeeper sampled the Tappan Zee and Haverstraw Bay to measure the true degree of contamination. We found that the authorities falsely notified the public. See story, page 9.

Habitat Restoration Money Secured from TDI

Champlain Hudson Power Express has proposed to construct a 1000 megawatt power line to bring electricity from Canadian sources to NYC. After commissioning independent scientific studies, negotiating significant project changes to mitigate and minimize environmental impact, Riverkeeper and other state agencies and environmental groups involved secured \$117 million for a habitat restoration fund.

More Oil in Newtown Creek

Riverkeeper Patrol discovered oil seeping from a bulkhead on the Queens-side of Newtown Creek, across from the Exxon spill, which we discovered in 2002. We are working with the DEC to investigate the source. It appears to be another Exxon property.

Gowanus Canal Superfund

In 2011, the Environmental Protection Agency continued to make significant progress on plans to clean Brooklyn's long-suffering Gowanus Canal by releasing the feasibility study setting out several possible options for remediating 150 years of pollution. Riverkeeper continues to work with members of the community to support a comprehensive cleanup that addresses contaminated sediment and continued pollution from combined sewer overflows and leaching from contaminated land along the canal.

Don't Let It Happen Here

www.riverkeeper.org

