

Lower Esopus Watershed Partnership (LEWP)
c/o Candace Balmer, Water Resource Specialist, RCAP Solutions
63 Pond Lane, Saugerties, New York, 12477; phone 845 247-3511

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL (ply01@health.state.ny.us)

August 7, 2013

Dr. Pamela Young, Acting Chief, NYC Watershed Section
Bureau of Water Supply Protection, New York State Department of Health,
Empire State Plaza, Corning Tower, 11th Floor,
Albany, NY 12237

RE: Public Comment on Draft Revisions to the NYC FAD

Dear Dr. Young:

The Lower Esopus Watershed Partnership (LEWP) and others in the lower Esopus watershed communities are looking forward to commenting on the draft revisions to the 2007 New York City Filtration Avoidance Determination (FAD).

Regarding the public comment period, representatives and residents of the lower Esopus municipalities strongly urge that the New York State Department of Public Health (DOH):

- Hold a public hearing to collect oral as well as written comments;
- Hold the public hearing in one of the lower Esopus municipalities (Towns of Hurley, Marbletown, Olive, Saugerties and Ulster, the City of Kingston and the Village of Saugerties); we can assist the DOH in selecting an appropriate venue for the public hearing, if desired, and
- Extend the 45-day comment period to at least 60 days.

Although it is our understanding that in the past, the public has not been invited to comment on the draft FAD revisions through the vehicle of a public hearing, we believe that in light of the dramatic changes and resulting impacts brought about by the unprecedented initiation of the release channel from Ashokan Reservoir to the lower Esopus Creek, a more comprehensive opportunity for public involvement is warranted. Releases from the reservoir to the creek through the release channel were initiated after the 2007 New York City FAD for the Catskill/Delaware Water Supply was published, and as such, downstream impacts were not addressed in that document.

A public hearing opportunity will allow the DOH to more thoroughly capture and incorporate feedback from community members in the lower Esopus municipalities who are directly influenced by the City's control and operation of its public water supply system and by how the City meets their responsibilities under the FAD. It is particularly important because community members from the Lower Esopus have not been involved in the FAD review process.

Thank you very much for considering this recommendation.

Sincerely,

(Please see attached signature pages)

The Municipalities of the Lower Esopus Watershed Partnership (LEWP): City of Kingston;
Village of Saugerties; Towns of Saugerties, Ulster, Hurley, Marbletown and Olive

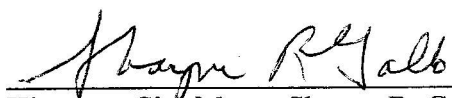
LEWP Municipal Representative

Date



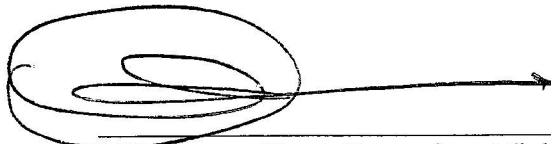
Hurley Town Supervisor Gary S. Bellows

8/2/13



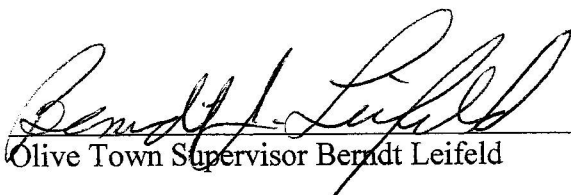
Kingston City Mayor Shayne R. Gallo

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Marbletown Town Supervisor Michael Warren

8/5/2013



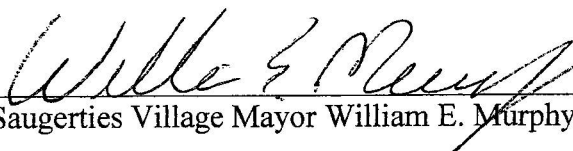
Olive Town Supervisor Berndt Leifeld

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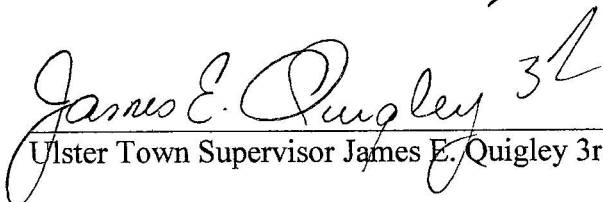
Saugerties Town Supervisor Kelly Myers

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Saugerties Village Mayor William E. Murphy

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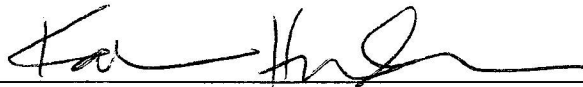


Ulster Town Supervisor James E. Quigley 3rd

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Riverkeeper

Date



Watershed Programs Director Kate Hudson

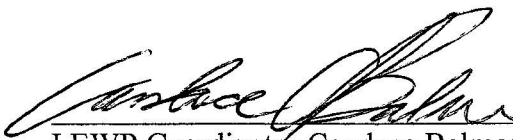
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Lower Esopus Watershed Partnership (LEWP)



LEWP Outreach Coordinator Mary McNamara

8/2/13



LEWP Coordinator Candace Balmer, RCAP Solutions

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