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**Fall Foliage**

Schoharie Reservoir - New York City Water Supply System

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**MORE INFORMATION**

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## Statement of NYC Environmental Protection Commissioner Cas Holloway On Results of Water Quality Testing in the Lower Esopus Creek Following the Release of Clear Water From Ashokan Reservoir

"Earlier this week we completed clear water releases from the east basin of the Ashokan Reservoir into the lower Esopus Creek in order to help flush out turbidity. To ensure that water quality returned to normal levels, we performed follow-up sampling from three locations: the release channel and two spots along the lower Esopus, Marbletown Recreation Park and Saugerties Beach. The water quality parameters measured included turbidity, suspended solids, pH and conductivity. We compared the results with samples taken on January 19 and 24, during the release of turbid water, as well as with samples taken on January 31 and February 1, while the clear water releases were winding down.

The results are extremely encouraging. As anyone who has passed by the creek can tell, it is now running clear, indicating that turbidity has fallen to levels you would expect to find in any open waterway. Overall, turbidity and suspended solids dropped dramatically, from a range of 33 – 50 nephelometric turbidity units (NTU) to a range of 5 – 11 NTU and a range of 11 – 16 milligrams per liter (mg/L) of suspended solids to 2 – 7 mg/L. The other parameters, pH and conductivity, were well within normal ranges before and after the recent clear water release and showed no significant changes. These results demonstrate that the release of 1.5 billion gallons of clear water had the desired effect of flushing out the remaining turbidity, an outcome that will immediately benefit the entire lower Esopus ecosystem and the residents of nearby communities. As we have previously committed, DEP will make additional clear water releases for the first time ever, starting this spring.

We remain committed to assessing the long- and short-term impacts of turbid releases as we have previously agreed to do. And we will work with all stakeholders as part of a group that will help determine a strategy for release channel releases in the future. For the long term, a number of capital projects are already underway that will reduce our reliance on the Ashokan release channel for turbidity

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reduction purposes, including the Catskill-Delaware interconnect and the Croton Water Filtration Plant."

DEP manages the city's water supply, providing more than 1 billion gallons of water each day to more than 9 million residents, including 8 million in New York City, and residents of Ulster, Orange, Putnam and Westchester counties. Approximately 1,000 DEP employees live and work in the watershed communities. For more information, visit [www.nyc.gov/dep](http://www.nyc.gov/dep) or follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/nycwater](http://www.facebook.com/nycwater).

### Results of the sampling:

#### Lower Esopus Turbidity Results (NTU)

Site	Date			
	1/19/11	1/24/11	1/31/11	2/1/11
Release Channel	50	50	5.6	4.8
Marbletown Recreation	45	45	5.5	9.4
Saugerties Beach	40	33	11	6.5

#### Lower Esopus Suspended Solids (mg/L)

Site	Date			
	1/19/11	1/24/11	1/31/11	2/1/11
Release Channel	14.0	11.0	2.0	1.8
Marbletown Recreation	15.0	16.3	3.1	6.9
Saugerties Beach	11.8	13.6	4.8	6.4

#### Lower Esopus Lab Conductivity Results (µmhos/cm)

Site	Date			
	1/19/11	1/24/11	1/31/11	2/1/11
Release Channel	46	47	52	53
Marbletown Recreation	50	50	57	60
Saugerties Beach	83	108	88	104

#### Lower Esopus pH Results (units)

Site	Date			
	1/19/11	1/24/11	1/31/11	2/1/11
Release Channel	6.79	8.01	6.65	7.26
Marbletown Recreation	6.83	7.99	7.01	6.85
Saugerties Beach	7.13	7.36	6.87	7.00

### [View of Ashokan Release Channel - February 2011](#)



**View of Marbletown Recreational Park - February 2011**



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