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Contact:
depressoffice@dep.nyc.gov, (845) 334-7868

Department of Environmental Protection Notifies Hudson Valley Residents of Upcoming Repair Work

Work on two Catskill Aqueduct superstructures will require helicopter transport of materials

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is notifying Hudson Valley residents and visitors of upcoming construction work that will require a helicopter to airlift materials to two sites near Breakneck Ridge. The work will focus on improving drainage and security at two superstructures associated with the Catskill Aqueduct, a 92-mile-long conduit that carries water from Ashokan Reservoir to New York City. The delivery of construction materials by helicopter—scheduled for the morning of Wednesday, Aug. 10—will require a portion of the Breakneck Ridge Trail to be closed to ensure public safety.

DEP is working with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to coordinate the brief closure on Aug. 10. Breakneck Ridge is part of the Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve. The closure will affect a short stretch of the trail, located about 3 miles north of the Village of Cold Spring, where a tunnel carries Route 9D through the mountain. The closure is expected to start about 7 a.m. and end no later than noon. State Parks and DEP staff will be at the trail that morning to inform visitors of the work. DEP scheduled the airlift for a weekday to coincide with relatively light use of the popular trail.

Construction materials for the work will be staged at the Town of Philipstown Highway Garage. Once it is carefully tethered to the helicopter, each load of materials will be flown to the two chamber buildings—one located atop the ridge, and one situated near the Hudson River. The materials must be airlifted because neither building has viable road access. Engineers estimate it will take about 10 flights to deliver all the construction materials to both sites. Repair work is expected to last up to four weeks. Once the work is finished, a helicopter will again need to airlift some materials from each of the sites. DEP will again inform local residents and visitors of that work once the date is confirmed. Anyone with questions about the work is encouraged to call DEP at (845) 334-7868.

DEP manages New York City's water supply, providing more than one billion gallons of high quality water each day to more than 9.5 million New Yorkers. This includes more than 70 upstate communities and institutions in Ulster, Orange, Putnam and Westchester counties who consume an average of 110 million total gallons of drinking water daily from New York City's water supply system. This water comes from the Catskill, Delaware, and Croton watersheds that extend more than 125 miles from the City, and the system comprises 19 reservoirs, three controlled lakes, and numerous tunnels and aqueducts. DEP has nearly 6,000 employees, including almost 1,000 scientists, engineers, surveyors, watershed maintainers and other professionals in the upstate watershed. In addition to its \$70 million payroll and \$157 million in annual taxes

More Information

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paid in upstate counties, DEP has invested more than \$1.7 billion in watershed protection programs—including partnership organizations such as the Catskill Watershed Corporation and the Watershed Agricultural Council—that support sustainable farming practices, environmentally sensitive economic development, and local economic opportunity. In addition, DEP has a robust capital program with over \$14 billion in investments planned over the next 10 years that will create up to 3,000 construction-related jobs per year. For more information, visit [nyc.gov/dep](#), like us on [Facebook](#), or follow us on [Twitter](#).

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