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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 14-71  
September 12, 2014

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## Department of Environmental Protection Announces Ultraviolet Disinfection Upgrade at Mahopac Wastewater Treatment Plant

**All watershed wastewater plants operated by DEP now outfitted with ultraviolet systems**

**DEP has invested more than \$400 million to protect reservoir water quality by upgrading wastewater treatment plants to include the best technologies available**

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) today announced that ultraviolet technology has been installed at the City-run wastewater treatment plant in the hamlet of Mahopac, ensuring the highest level of disinfection before effluent is released into local water bodies. The installation of UV treatment at Mahopac also marks an important milestone in DEP's ongoing program to upgrade wastewater facilities throughout the watershed; it is the final City-owned wastewater treatment plant in the watershed to be outfitted with UV. The others – located in Grahamsville, Grand Gorge, Margaretville, Pine Hill and Tannersville – have all been upgraded to include UV disinfection since the early 2000s.

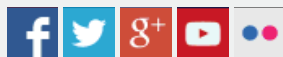
“Upgrading wastewater treatment plants in the watershed, including those owned and operated by the City, has played an important role in protecting the high-quality drinking water for more than 9 million New Yorkers,” **DEP Commissioner Emily Lloyd** said. “And, while our Croton System reservoirs will soon be filtered, investments such as UV treatment in Mahopac underscore the City's commitment to continue watershed protection efforts in Putnam and Westchester

**More Information**

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counties to ensure our source water is as clean as possible.”

The addition of ultraviolet disinfection at Mahopac was part of an ongoing \$3.1 million project to improve facilities at the plant, including safety upgrades and a new storage building that will improve the longevity of equipment by sheltering it from harsh weather. The Mahopac facility treats an average of 110,000 gallons of wastewater each day from businesses and residents in the hamlet. Each of the two UV units that was installed at the facility is capable of treating the effluent on its own, ensuring redundancy in the case of an outage.

UV light is highly effective at neutralizing microorganisms found in effluent, which can make people ill if they are ingested. UV light disinfects these pathogens by destroying a part of their genetic code, thus rendering them unable to reproduce or cause infection. City-owned wastewater plants in the watershed previously achieved this disinfection through treatment with chlorine, which will no longer be used.

The City's six wastewater facilities in the watershed were built between the 1920s and 1950s and upgraded in the 1990s to provide the highest level of treatment to areas of relatively dense population where septic systems or less effective wastewater plants posed a potential threat to water quality in the streams and creeks in the New York City watershed.

In addition to improvements at City-owned wastewater facilities, DEP has invested more than \$400 million to upgrade nearly 100 non-City-owned wastewater plants throughout the watershed. These upgrades have brought the plants up to state-of-the-art tertiary treatment levels. DEP has also funded the repair of more than 4,000 failing on-site residential septic systems in the watershed, and constructed new wastewater plants in selected communities.

DEP manages New York City's water supply, providing more than one billion gallons of high quality water each day to more than 9 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 others professionals in the upstate watershed. In addition to its \$70 million payroll and \$157 million in annual taxes 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 nearly \$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](http://nyc.gov/dep), like us on Facebook at [facebook.com/nycwater](https://facebook.com/nycwater), or follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/nycwater](https://twitter.com/nycwater).

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