



PHOTO INFO...



Fall Foliage

Ashokan Reservoir - New York City Water Supply System



SEARCH [Advanced Search](#)

facebook

flickr

twitter

[Home](#)

CUSTOMER SERVICES

- [Ways to Pay Your Bill](#)
- [Account Information](#)
- [Customer Assistance](#)
- [Water Rates](#)
- [Property Managers and Trade Professionals](#)

WATER UTILITIES

- [Drinking Water](#)
- [Wastewater](#)
- [Stormwater](#)
- [Harbor Water](#)

THE WATERSHED

- [Watershed Protection](#)
- [Watershed Recreation](#)

CITYWIDE INITIATIVES

- [Regulatory Reform](#)
- [Environmental Education](#)
- [Conservation Programs](#)
- [Air Pollution Control](#)
- [Noise Codes & Complaints](#)

BUSINESSES & PROFESSIONALS

- [Forms & Permits](#)
- [Doing Business with DEP](#)
- [Asbestos Abatement](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

09-14

December 18, 2009

CONTACT:

Michael Saucier / Mercedes Padilla (718) 595-6600

MORE INFORMATION

NYC Department of Environmental Protection Communications & Intergovernmental Affairs

59-17 Junction Boulevard
19th Floor
Flushing, NY 11373

(718) 595 - 6600

Comprehensive Study of Water Rates Presented to New York City Water Board

Study Aims to Help Moderate Future Increases; DEP Will Seek Input on Findings from Rate Payers and other Stakeholders

Today DEP presented the [Final Report](#) (PDF) on the comprehensive water rate study it commissioned from consulting firm Booz Allen Hamilton to the New York City Water Board. The study, which was conducted in two phases, was designed to help moderate future rate increases by benchmarking the current rate structure and potential alternatives; projecting future system needs in light of historical trends; and developing options to increase environmentally sustainable water usage and treatment.

“The water rate is the primary way that DEP funds the delivery of the best drinking water in the world to more than 8 million New York City residents, and 1 million other citizens of New York State,” said Acting DEP Commissioner Steven W. Lawitts. “At a time when many property owners are struggling to stretch their household budgets in the face of a difficult economy, it is critical that we look for the most fair, effective, and innovative ways to meet the system’s needs at the lowest possible cost.”

Beginning in January, DEP will seek input from property owners and other stakeholders, which will be used to develop recommendations for rate-structure modifications that will be presented to the water board this spring.

In Phase 1 of the [Rate Study](#), 56 large water and wastewater utilities from around the country provided data on their rate structures, capital and operating budgets, and intergovernmental reimbursements and relationships. Highlights of the national comparisons included: Water utility rates across the country have significantly increased over the past decade, maintenance of infrastructure and compliance with Federal and State mandates are primary drivers behind capital expenditure programs, and DEP’s intergovernmental transfer, or rental payment, is comparable to other cities surveyed, although the other cities do not link their intergovernmental transfers to

[Construction, Demolition & Abatement](#)

ABOUT DEP

[Inside DEP](#)

[News](#)

[DEP Featured In...](#)

[Stories from DEP](#)

[Press Releases](#)

[Public Notices](#)

[Testimony and Public Comments](#)

[Capital Projects](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Environmental Reviews](#)

[A to Z Index](#)

[Contact Us](#)

growth in debt service.

Phase 2 of the study analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively four categories of alternative rate structures: fixed charges, stormwater rates, new development charges, and water conservation pricing. In doing the analyses, the study paid particular attention to: equity, ratepayer sensitivity, overall economic competitiveness, implementation, future system needs, affordable housing stock, and regulatory/water quality concerns.

DEP manages the City's water supply, providing more than 1.1 billion gallons of water each day to more than 9 million residents throughout New York State through a complex network of nineteen reservoirs, three controlled lakes and 6,200 miles of water pipes, tunnels and aqueducts. DEP is also responsible for managing storm water throughout the City and treating wastewater at 14 in-City wastewater treatment plants. DEP carries out federal Clean Water Act rules and regulations, handles hazardous materials emergencies and toxic site remediation, oversees asbestos monitoring and removal, enforces the City's air and noise codes, bills and collects on City water and sewer accounts, and manages city-wide water conservation programs.

▶ [Water Rate Study Final Report \(PDF\)](#)