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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 12, 2004

Contact: Charles G. Sturcken (718) 595-6600

Croton Reservoir System To Resume **Operations**

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced today that the Croton water supply system, the City's oldest, will resume distribution to consumers in Manhattan and the Bronx starting this week.

The Croton System consists of 12 reservoirs and provides approximately 10% of the City's daily drinking water requirements. It was taken out of service in September 2003 when very wet spring and summer weather increased storage in the City's upstate Catskill and Delaware watersheds to unusually high levels. The Croton system has historically been removed from service for short periods of time in late summer and early fall.

DEP is returning the Croton system at this time because of scheduled inspection and maintenance work being done on upstate aqueducts.

Water consumers may experience discolored water in their homes and businesses resulting from naturally occurring matter present in the water and changes in the water distribution system. This condition is only an aesthetic consequence and does not pose any health-related risks.

The City has been ordered by the United States Environmental Protection Agency to build a filtration plant for Croton system water. When that facility is built, it will virtually eliminate the seasonal discoloration we are experiencing.

MORE INFORMATION

04-04

NYC Department of **Environmental Protection** Communications & Intergovernmental Affairs

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