

DESALINATION ON THE HUDSON RIVER?



WHAT ARE THE COSTS ?

Energy

Desalination plants are extremely energy intensive and United Water's proposed desalination plant will put an increased burden on local power plants, contributing to air pollution. Operating expenses are also subject to increase due to rising energy costs.

Impacts to the Hudson

Construction - Habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms will be destroyed during construction of the intake site due to dredging and other construction processes.

Operation - Impingement and entrainment of fish, larvae, and eggs would occur at the intake site. Species affected would include the Bay Anchovy, American Shad, Striped Bass, Atlantic Tomcod, White Perch, and River Herring. All but the striped bass are already in decline.

Injecting additional wastewater into the Hudson could further degrade aquatic habitats and water quality.

SOLUTIONS ?

Conservation efforts and further consideration of alternatives should be employed before resorting to desalination.

Q: What is United Water's Plan?

United Water's proposed desal plant will take in Hudson River water at a location just south of Grassy Point and use reverse osmosis to purify it for use as drinking water. Of the raw water taken in, 25% will end up as wastewater, containing 6-7 times the total dissolved solids and chloride levels of Hudson River Water. At maximum

capacity, the plant will take in 10 million gallons per day (mgd) and produce 7.5 mgd of clean water.

Q: Where would excess wastewater go?

A: United Water plans to send its wastewater to the Haverstraw Joint Regional Sewage Treatment Plant, where it will be dispersed back into the Hudson.

GET TO KNOW THE HUDSON RIVER

The Hudson River is not your typical river. Most of the Hudson is actually a tidal estuary where salt water from the ocean combines with freshwater from northern tributaries. Tidal action stirs the brackish waters, trapping essential nutrients and making the Hudson one of the two principal spawning grounds on the East Coast.

However, recent studies have shown that many Hudson River fish species are in serious long-term decline and at risk of collapse if quick and aggressive measures are not taken. This is due in part to industrial pollution, power plant fishkills, and sewage overflows, which have led to degradation of fish habitat and health.



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Figure 2-2
Project Site Boundaries

UNITED WATER Haverstraw Water Supply Project
Image obtained from United Water New York Inc.'s September 26, 2008 Draft Environmental Impact Statement, found at:
<http://haverstrawwatersupplyproject.com/index.php/draft-environmental-impact-study-deis.html>