

Hudson River Drinking Water Facts

- 1 The Hudson River Estuary is the source of drinking water for over **100,000 people** in the City and Town of Poughkeepsie, Village and Town of Rhinebeck, and Towns of Esopus, Hyde Park and Lloyd.
- 2 The Poughkeepsie drinking water treatment plant was the **first in the nation** to use slow sand filtration, in 1872. Today five treatment plants draw water from the estuary to serve these seven communities.
- 3 In May 2018, these seven communities formed the Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council. They call themselves the **Hudson 7**. (Hudson7.org)
- 4 The goal of the Council is to advance **drinking water source protection** -- actions to maintain or improve the quality of the Hudson River prior to treatment.
- 5 The Council is making use of recommendations in a report by the Center for Watershed Protection that utilized **Riverkeeper's Drinking Water Source Protection Scorecard**. The Park Foundation has supported Riverkeeper's work with the Hudson 7. (riverkeeper.org/water-quality)
- 6 The Town of Esopus, on behalf of the seven communities, has applied for support from the new **NYS Drinking Water Source Protection Program** (DWSP2).
- 7 The DWSP2 is funded through the Source Water Assessment line in the **Environmental Protection Fund**, and jointly administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Department of Health, in collaboration with other state agencies. (dec.ny.gov/chemical/115262.html)
- 8 While Hudson River drinking water meets Safe Drinking Water Act standards, the Council has identified several **water quality concerns**: combined sewer overflows; the risk of spill of crude oil or other hazardous material; disinfection byproducts; and contaminants of emerging concern such as PFAS and pharmaceuticals.
- 9 Programs funded by both NYS **Clean Water Infrastructure Act** and Environmental Protection Fund will be critical to completing projects that address these water quality concerns.
- 10 In addition to the 106,000 who rely on the Hudson River Estuary, 102,000 people rely at least in part on the **Mohawk River**, and 84,000 on the **Upper Hudson River**.