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.