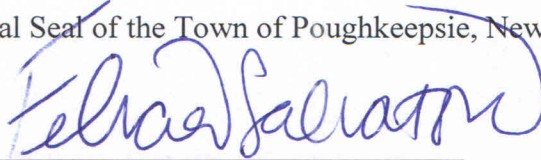


STATE OF NEW YORK }
 }
 } SS:
COUNTY OF DUTCHESS }

I, Felicia Salvatore, Town Clerk of the Town of Poughkeepsie, New York, do hereby certify that the attached Resolution 03:03-# 6 of 2021 dated March 3rd, 2021 is in fact a true and correct copy of the original on file with my office located at 1 Overocker Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 and that the same are a true and correct transcript of said original and of the whole thereof,

I DO WITNESS My Hand and the Official Seal of the Town of Poughkeepsie, New York, this 5th day of March, 2021



Felicia Salvatore, Town Clerk
Town of Poughkeepsie

RESOLUTION 3:3 - #6 OF 2021

WHEREAS, the Town of Poughkeepsie relies on the Hudson River to supply safe and potable drinking water for our thousands of residents, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Poughkeepsie has previously joined the Hudson 7, a coalition of regional municipalities whose purpose is to ensure the continued availability of safe and potable drinking water, and

WHEREAS, Riverkeeper has advised the Town and other municipalities regarding its serious concern about New York City's discharge of turbid water from the Ashokan Reservoir into the lower Esopus Creek, which in turn flows into the Hudson River, and it has provided the Town with a sample resolution, by which the Town could express to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation ("DEC") the critical importance of DEC carefully reviewing New York City's request for a SPDES permit to allow discharges of turbid water, and to request that DEC exercise its authority and responsibility to assure that any potential adverse environmental impacts from the proposed discharges will be avoided or minimized to the greatest extent practicable, including through the consideration and implementation of alternative processes, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Poughkeepsie adopts the resolution annexed hereto at Exhibit A and authorizes the Supervisor to transmit it, in substantially the form annexed, to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Dated: March 3rd, 2021

Moved: Ann Shershin

Seconded: Stephan Krakower

Motion passes/ fails: Ayes 7 Nays 0

JEN/mem
t-2/26/2021
m-3/3/2021

** via zoom*

		AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT/ABSENT	Councilman Renihan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT/ABSENT	Councilman Carlos	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT/ABSENT	Councilwoman Lopez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT/ABSENT	Councilman Cifone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT/ABSENT	Councilman Krakower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT/ABSENT	Councilwoman Shershin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT/ABSENT	Supervisor Baisley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



RIVERKEEPER.

*DRAFT: SAMPLE MEMORIALIZING RESOLUTION LANGUAGE
Esopus Creek/DEIS*

URGING, We, as representatives of Town of Poughkeepsie in Dutchess County, NY urge the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to exercise its authority and responsibility for enforcing the state and federal laws that protect water quality in our rivers and streams, and as the lead agency overseeing the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) process responsible for evaluating the impacts of New York City Department of Environmental Protection's (NYCDEP) releases to the Lower Esopus Creek.

WHEREAS: The Esopus Creek is located in northern Ulster County where it travels sixty-eight miles (68) from the mountains of the Catskills to the Hudson River.

WHEREAS: In 1915, the City of New York completed construction of the Ashokan Reservoir by damming the Esopus Creek in Olivebridge. The Lower Esopus – the Esopus Creek downstream of the dam - flows through the towns of Olive, Marbletown, Hurley, Ulster, Kingston, and Saugerties as well as the City of Kingston, and the Village of Saugerties. The Upper Esopus watershed includes the Town of Shandaken and Woodstock.

WHEREAS: The Ashokan Reservoir is one of the largest sources of drinking water for the state of New York, providing up to 40% of the water for 9.5 million residents. In addition to New York City, many communities in the Hudson Valley are served by the Catskill Aqueduct, including the Village of New Paltz and the High Falls water district in Ulster County.

Exhibit A

WHEREAS: The DEP constructed a “waste channel” designed to release water from its Ashokan Reservoir to the Lower Esopus, which for nearly a century was not used except for a short period in 2006 because of an emergency. DEP now calls the “waste channel” a “release channel,” though its function remains the same.

WHEREAS: In 2010, DEP instituted new operating procedures that called for releasing exceptionally turbid water from the reservoir into the Lower Esopus through the previously unused release channel, as it alone deemed “necessary.”

WHEREAS: Elevated turbidity after storms is a long standing problem in the Ashokan Reservoir, and will only be magnified in the future due to increased storm events due to climate change. The designers knew this and constructed the Reservoir with two basins to allow the turbidity to settle in the west basin before moving clearer water into the east basin to send down the Catskill Aqueduct for drinking water.

WHEREAS: In the past, whenever turbidity levels in both basins exceeded state and federal drinking water standards, the DEP treated the water with a chemical (alum) in the Catskill Aqueduct above the Kensico Reservoir in Westchester County to reduce turbidity by removing the suspended solids. Since 2013, the DEP has been required by state and federal law to reduce the amount of alum discharged to the Kensico Reservoir from the Catskill Aqueduct.

WHEREAS: With its 2010 procedures, the DEP made a major change to its operations, behind closed doors and without community input, environmental review, rules or permit modification regarding the waste channel’s operating parameters to release turbid water from the west basin into the Lower Esopus to prevent it from spilling into the east basin, potentially impacting NYC’s drinking water quality and requiring alum treatment.

WHEREAS: When a waterbody is turbid, the levels of light and oxygen within the water are reduced. This negatively affects everything living in the stream, from microscopic organisms and submerged plants to aquatic insects and fish. In particular, it stresses fish and impacts their ability to feed and see their food. Fine

sediment also physically impacts the stream channel by filling in the natural voids and spaces in the streambed. This reduces habitat for aquatic insects and smothers fish eggs and larvae.

WHEREAS: The Lower Esopus valley has extensive agricultural production that depends on the creek for clean irrigation water throughout the year. Turbid water can clog irrigation equipment and potentially impair the quality of the irrigation water to the point where crops cannot be sold at market.

WHEREAS: The DEP's actions have already impaired use and enjoyment of the creek for recreational activities, including kayaking and ice fishing. Continuing to pollute the Lower Esopus in the summer could also affect bathing beaches along the creek, which must meet water clarity standards for safety.

WHEREAS: During extended turbid releases from the waste channel, the sediment plume from the Lower Esopus is clearly visible in the Hudson River, which is the drinking water supply for over 100,000 people. The Towns of Esopus, Lloyd, Poughkeepsie, Rhinebeck, Hyde Park, and the City of Poughkeepsie and Village of Rhinebeck draw municipal drinking water from the Hudson River downstream of where the Esopus empties into it. During major releases, the water treatment plants have recorded elevated turbidity, resulting in the need for increased chemical and electricity use for treatment, and increased production of sludge, all of which come at an increased cost.

WHEREAS: The increased volume of water sent by DEP into the Lower Esopus represents the single largest change to the Creek's hydrologic regime (flow) since the completion of the reservoir.

WHEREAS: The specific impacts of the current releases to the Lower Esopus are unknown, because DEP did not conduct or provide the county with a baseline assessment prior to initiating releases. A scientific study prior to the initiation of releases was necessary to set the baseline from which to accurately assess environmental impacts.

WHEREAS: The frequency and intensity of storms has increased in recent years, and is projected to increase significantly in the coming decades. Under current conditions and operating procedures, these storms will increase erosion, turbidity, and the resulting impacts.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The Lower Esopus is an important contributor to the social, economic and environmental quality along the creek's corridor. It cannot be the solution to NYC's turbid water problems.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The Hudson River is a critical regional drinking water supply, including for the Dutchess County City and Town of Poughkeepsie. Protecting water quality in this drinking water source is an important regional priority.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: Periodically since 2011, the DEP has dumped millions of gallons a day of turbid, muddy water from the Ashokan Reservoir into the Lower Esopus Creek. DEP argues it has the authority to do so because of its Interim Release Protocol (IRP), which was put in place temporarily pending a full environmental review of the City's releases pursuant to an October 2013 Consent Order. DEC issued the Consent Order to settle an enforcement action it brought against the City with respect to the City's turbid releases in February 2011.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: DEP has most recently discharged turbid water to the Lower Esopus Creek following storms during Christmas 2020, and continuing until today.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The IRP is an inexpensive way for the DEP to preserve the quality of NYC drinking water, but the farmers, businesses and residents along the Lower Esopus have been forced to bear the consequences. The releases have had such negative impacts that in 2013 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency placed the Lower Esopus on the NYS Impaired Water Bodies List for excessive turbidity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: As part of the aforementioned Consent Order, DEP was required to study all social, economic and environmental impacts of the releases and alternative methods to reduce turbidity in the Ashokan Reservoir. Alternatives to be considered included both structural and operational practices;

however, DEP rejected all structural alternatives requiring construction expenditures and proposed instead only slight adjustments to the IRP as the preferred alternative.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The DEC has released the Draft EIS for the Modification of the Catalum SPDES Permit and made it available for public review and comment. That Draft EIS concludes that the City's operation of the Ashokan Release channel pursuant to its IRP does not cause any significant adverse impacts to the lower Esopus Creek (ES 29), in the face of the high turbidity releases that communities along the Lower Esopus Creek have witnessed since they began in December 2020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The public currently has an opportunity to comment on DEP's Draft EIS, either through submission of written comments to DEC between now and June 16, 2021.

The current state of Ashokan releases is unsustainable and unacceptable. DEC must consider all the public comments to capture the concerns raised before making a decision about whether to approve or deny approval; and require revision and/or supplementation of the current DEIS. The input of Poughkeepsie on the adequacy of the current DEIS is very important to ensure the community's interests are protected. The potential and actual short-term, long-term and cumulative impacts on the downstream communities along the Esopus Creek and Hudson River must be recognized and thoroughly studied within the DEIS, including impacts on other drinking water systems, the local economy, and the aesthetics of the area. In addition, Town of Poughkeepsie calls for the incorporation of a hard look at a range of alternatives in the DEIS, including examining combinations of structural and operational alternatives. The DEIS must present a long-term plan to stop the mud, specifically accounting for climate change impacts.

Dated: