



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
New York District

## NEWS RELEASE

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### Corps takes steps to protect drinking water supply for 9 million New Yorkers

New York — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New York District announced today stronger measures to protect waters and wetlands in the New York City watershed. These stronger measures, which take effect immediately, reflect the Corps of Engineers commitment to protecting the environmental integrity of this watershed.

The comprehensive measures will now require developers to participate in a full public interest review for all large projects affecting wetlands and waterways in the New York City watershed.

The Corps met numerous times with the major stakeholders in the watershed including federal and state agencies, local agencies and environmental groups in developing and strengthening the regional conditions.

The vast majority of public comments recommended strengthening the regional conditions to provide increased environmental safeguards of the New York City watershed. In addition, the New York City Council passed a resolution requesting the Corps to require individual Clean Water Act permits prior to the dredging or filling of wetlands in order to protect the public health of nearly nine million New Yorkers who rely on the New York City drinking water supply.

The newly imposed conditions are on top of stronger nationwide changes implemented last June which provided a substantial increase in protection for the aquatic environment. Those changes benefited the nation's aquatic environment by increasing protection to critical resource waters and within the 100-year floodplain while continuing to authorize projects with minimal adverse effects.

"These changes to the nationwide permit program reflect the Administration's, including the Army's, commitment to protecting the nation's wetlands and reducing damages to communities from flooding," said Michael Davis, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.

"The wetlands are the kidneys of many of our ecosystems," said Rich Tomer, Acting Regulatory Branch Chief for the Corps' New York District. "Ecosystems like the New York City watershed provide water purification functions through trapping sediments, binding contaminants as well as dispersing and reducing floodflows which can otherwise erode and degrade watersheds."

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