



**New Jersey Highlands Coalition**  
**508 Main Street**  
**Boonton, NJ 07005**

Robert Hudgins  
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Water Supply and Geoscience  
Bureau of Water Allocation and Well Permitting  
Trenton, New Jersey

By email: [Robert.Hudgins@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:Robert.Hudgins@dep.state.nj.us)

May 16, 2012

**Re: Request for Reevaluation of Wanaque Water System Safe Yield  
Wanaque Water System, North Jersey District Water Supply Commission**

Dear Mr. Hudgins:

We are requesting that NJDEP conduct a public hearing as part of the Department's deliberation of the above referenced matter. The impacts to industrial, residential and recreational water users are considerable and may affect several million people in northern New Jersey and southern New York State in the Passaic basin who are located within the Rockaway, Pompton, Wanaque, Pequannock and Ramapo watersheds. Consequences are foreseeable for all those who contribute to wastewater discharges to the Passaic River upstream of Little Falls. Sewerage Treat Plant operators may be forced to undertake expensive upgrades in order to maintain existing TMDLs when more water is diverted from the Passaic River at the Two Bridges and Little Falls Pumping Stations to maintain the proposed Safe Yield.

Maintaining the long standing passing flow of 17.6 MGD at Little Falls USGS gage while increasing the amount of water diverted from the Passaic River to ensure the 17 MGD additional safe yield of the Wanaque River supply system may prevent any new or increased water allocations in any part of the Passaic River basin upstream of Little Falls.

Implications to water supply allocations and wastewater capacity over such a wide area will impact planning initiatives such as is currently underway by the New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council. Water quality issues must be anticipated and addressed as existing allowable thresholds of nitrates and phosphates may no longer meet dilution requirements. Changes in water temperatures may have impacts to aquatic life which will have additional consequences for recreational water users.

NJDEP must fully anticipate the impacts to all of the communities, programs and interests that are potentially affected by the proposed increase to the Wanaque water supply

***Your Water, Your Future***

system safe yield. NJDEP must show that the plan is safe and can demonstrate that the Wanaque Reservoir can safely yield the proposed increased volume without harming other uses, water quality, and habitat. NJDEP must ensure that the public is fully aware that such a wide ranging action is under consideration and the public must be provided the fullest opportunity to be heard.

Sincerely,



Elliott Ruga  
Senior Policy Analyst

cc: Fred Sickels, Acting Director, Division of Water Supply and Geoscience, NJDEP  
Bob Martin, Commissioner, NJDEP  
Ray Cantor, Chief Advisor, NJDEP  
Dr. Dan Van Abs, Acting Executive Director, New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and  
Planning Council  
Julia Somers, Executive Director, New Jersey Highlands Coalition  
Board of Trustees, New Jersey Highlands Coalition  
Policy Committee, New Jersey Highlands Coalition