

TIMELINE

- 1842 New York City began drawing water from the Croton River watershed
- 1905 The New York State Legislature passed an act allowing New York City to acquire lands and build dams, reservoirs, and aqueducts in the Catskills
- 1907-1915 Ashokan Reservoir constructed
2,000 residents displaced
Communities of Shokan, Broadhead Bridge, Brown's Station, Oliver Bridge, West Hurley, Glenford, Olive and Ashton were eliminated.
- 1919-1927 Schoharie Reservoir constructed
350 residents displaced
Community of Gilboa and neighboring valley lands flooded.
- 1937-1954* Rondout Reservoir constructed
Communities of Eureka, Montela, and Lackawack were eliminated.
- 1941-1953* Neversink Reservoir constructed
Communities of Neversink and Bittersweet were eliminated.
- *Construction was virtually shut down during World War II, but resumed in 1946. 1,500 people were forced to vacate their homes, farms, and businesses in the Rondout and Neversink Valleys
- 1947-1954 Pepacton Reservoir constructed
974 people displaced.
Communities of Arena, Pepacton, Shavertown and Union Grove were eliminated.
New York City acquired 13,000 acres, including cemeteries from which 2,371 bodies were removed to be re-interred elsewhere.
- 1954-1965 Cannonsville Reservoir constructed
941 people displaced.
Communities of Beerston, Cannonsville, Rock Rift, Rock Royal and Granton were eliminated.
- 1972 The Federal Clean Water Act calls for setting water quality standards and providing technical tools and financial assistance to address the causes of poor water quality.
- 1986 Federal Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments are signed into law.
- 1989 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Surface Water Treatment Rule requires filtration of all surface water supplies to protect against microbial contamination

of drinking water. This requirement can be waived if a water system's treatment processes and natural conditions provide safe water and if the watershed is actively protected to ensure water safety in the future.

- 1990 New York City Department of Environmental Protection releases draft Watershed Protection Plan in September 1990.
- 1991 Coalition of Watershed Towns forms to fight against NYC watershed regulations in March 1991.
- 1995 Governor Pataki assigns his Counsel to mediate settlement negotiations in April 1995. A conceptual agreement is reached in November 1995, and work begins on a formal draft of the *Memorandum of Agreement*.
- 1997 The *Memorandum of Agreement* is formally executed (January 21, 1997). Signatories include the United States Environmental Protection Agency, New York State, New York City, watershed towns, villages, and counties, and environmental groups. New York City agrees to provide over \$270 million in funding for programs geared toward infrastructure, education, and economic development programs to protect water quality and improve quality of life in the Watershed. A new not-for-profit corporation, the **Catskill Watershed Corporation**, is formed to manage many of the programs in the Catskill/Delaware Watershed.
- 2002 The Environmental Protection Agency issues a Five Year Filtration Avoidance Determination (FAD), exempting New York City from federal requirements to filter the Catskill/Delaware system.
- 2006 A comprehensive review of the City's implementation of its Long-Term Watershed Protection Program, including implementation and enforcement of the Watershed Rules and Regulations, is completed in July 2006.
- 2007 The EPA grants a Ten Year Filtration Avoidance Determination (FAD) exempting New York City from federal requirements to filter the Catskill/Delaware system.
- 2013 The 2007 FAD has just undergone a five-year review. Revisions have been drafted and comments from involved parties are being considered by the New York State Department of Health, which now has the lead agency status (instead of the EPA.)

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| <p>▶ The Catskill/Delaware watershed is the nation's largest unfiltered surface water supply.
<i>US EPA website</i></p> <p>▶ The average American uses 90 gallons of water a day, a European uses only 53 gallons,</p> |
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a sub-Saharan African uses 5 gallons. *Parade Magazine, April 24, 2005*