
WATER REPORT

Village of Briarcliff Manor, New York

www.briarcliffmanor.org

November, 2008

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For almost 20 years, Briarcliff Manor has been seeking a long-term solution to provide Briarcliff Manor residents with a clean, reliable source of potable water that meets the high standards set by the government. This major project known as “**Full Supply**” is of such import to the future of our Village that we are devoting this issue of *Manor Monthly* to updating Villagers on its progress and describe the history, design, anticipated costs and time line.

History

Briarcliff Manor’s primary water source has been from the Croton Reservoir System via the Croton Aqueduct connection which has been in service since 1890. In addition, Briarcliff gets its water from a temporary connection to the Catskill Aqueduct at the Sleepy Hollow Pump Station, as well as purchasing very expensive water (when available) from Ossining and New Castle. Because of its aging infrastructure, New York City in September closed the Croton Aqueduct for emergency repairs necessitating the Board of Trustees to mandate emergency water restrictions, which remained in effect until the Aqueduct was re-opened. The reason for this is that the temporary Catskill Connection can only draw approximately 1.6 million gallons a day, which is well below our average summer demand usage of 2.5 million gallons per day. The Aqueduct is also subject to extended off-season shut downs for repair and inspection; in fact future plans call for its permanent closure. Briarcliff Manor is the last municipality utilizing the Croton Aqueduct.

When the Clean Water Act was passed in 1986, the EPA mandated that water from the Croton System would need filtration. Briarcliff began exploring the following alternatives to meet this requirement: build its own filtration plant, cooperate with neighboring communities to provide filtration, or buy filtered water from another community. Some alternatives were deemed too costly, while others were contingent upon expensive water filtration projects constructed by others.

By the late 1990’s a plan began to emerge for Briarcliff Manor to get water from the Catskill system. This is a reliable source since this aqueduct system is structurally up-to-date, and provides clean water that does not require filtration.

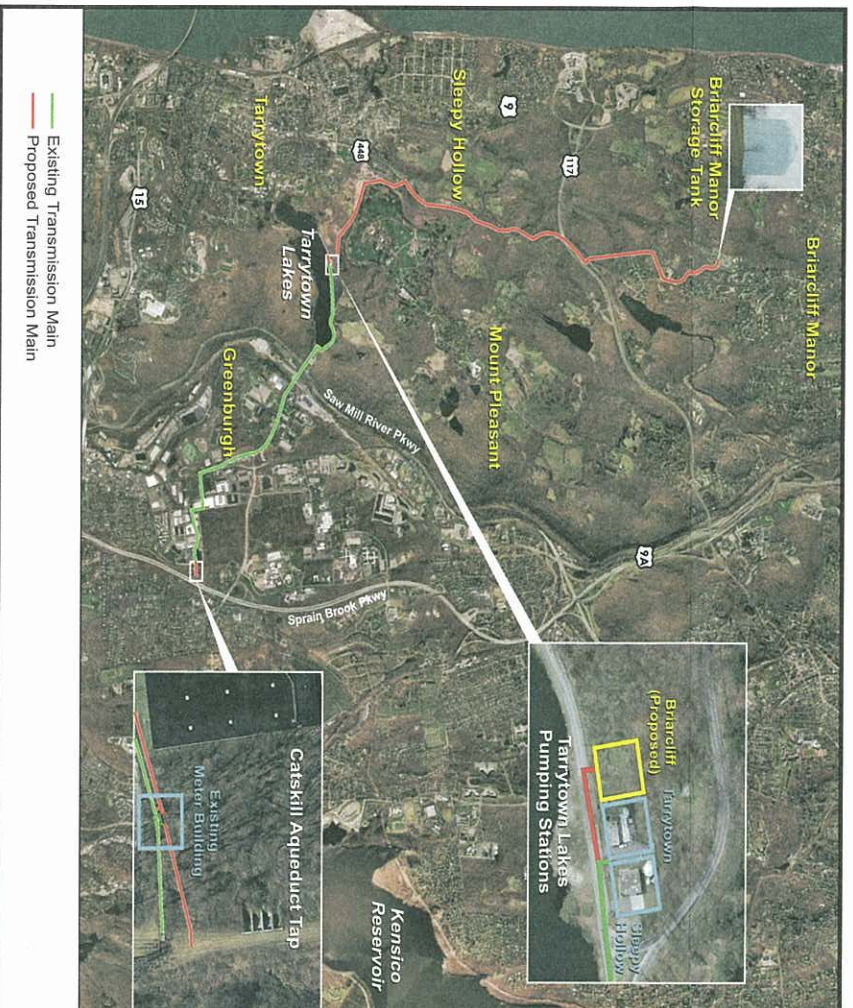
In 2004, Briarcliff Manor entered into a stipulation agreement with the New York State Department of Health to replace the existing Croton Aqueduct water supply system with a water supply from the New York City Catskill Aqueduct system. **This “consent decree” legally binds the Village to both a specific plan of action and a specific time frame.** As part of that plan the Village purchased assets from United Water which included pipeline to the Tarrytown Lakes and the Bayles Water tank. Negotiations with Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown culminated in the signing of Inter-Municipal Agreements to construct and share tap connections to the Catskill Aqueduct, for constructing our own pump station at the Tarrytown Lakes, and for upgrading both Tarrytown’s and Sleepy Hollow’s delivery system. Briarcliff Manor hired a premier water consultant, Hazen and Sawyer, to explore in detail the most efficient and cost-effective way to deliver water from the Catskill Aqueduct to our water-storage tank located at Rosecliff.

Briarcliff Manor has been required to coordinate and execute agreements with a multitude of agencies including the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, New York State Department of Health, Westchester County Department of Health, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Town of Greenburgh, Town of Mount Pleasant as well as our partners in this project, the Villages of Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown.

Today, after years of analysis, planning and complicated inter-municipal and inter-agency negotiations, and public hearings, the design is nearing completion. We expect to begin construction of our “Full Supply” water system in Spring 2009.

Project Description

Our “Full Supply” system will access water from a new tap in the Catskill Aqueduct in the Town of Greenburgh. At the Tarrytown Lakes a new “high level” pump station will be constructed, which will pump that water via a new transmission pipeline through Tarrytown, Sleepy Hollow and up to the water storage tank at Rosecliff. **It should be noted that plans are underway by New York City for the construction of an ultraviolet purification system, which, when constructed will be “upstream” from the Catskill tap, enabling Briarcliff to benefit from this additional level of purification.**



While “Full Supply” enables us to use existing infrastructure, it also necessitates that we build: 1) a new connection to the Catskill Aqueduct in the town of Greenburgh; 2) a new high level pump station at the Tarrytown Lakes; and 3) a new transmission main from the high level pump station in Tarrytown to the Rosecliff tank.

Comparative Water Purchase Costs Today

It is important for residents to take note of the current comparative costs to purchase water for Briarcliff Manor from the other sources we have had to rely on. Find below a chart of the cost per million gallons:

- NYC Croton Aqueduct: \$900.31/million gallons
- NYC temp. Catskill Connection: \$1500/million gallons
- Ossining: \$9020/million gallons
- New Castle: \$9090/million gallons

It should also be noted that our “Full Supply” water purchase rates will be those as charged by NYC at the time we begin drawing water.

Project Costs

Total project costs for “Full Supply” are estimated to be between \$20,000,000 and \$25,000,000.

The Village of Briarcliff Manor will utilize the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) to finance the Village’s Full Water Supply Project. This DWSRF provides subsidized low interest rate financing for construction of eligible water systems. The DWSRF is administered jointly by the New York State Department of Health (DOH) and the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC).

Project costs also include payments to the village of Tarrytown for access rights to their water distribution system which is integral to our Full Supply. These costs include a \$1,000,000 payment at the completion of construction and an additional \$1,000,000 payable over 25 years in \$40,000 increments.

Where We Are Today

Plans to close the Croton Aqueduct permanently coupled with the consent decree from the Department of Health legally mandate that Briarcliff Manor move forward with its “Full Supply” water project with the utmost urgency. The Village has taken the following steps to insure we maintain control over and responsibility to continue to progress the project in an expeditious manner:

- We have been designated as “lead agency” in the State Environmental Quality Review process. This means that the Village of Briarcliff Manor will direct the environmental review for the entire project including the portions in Greenburgh, Tarrytown, and Sleepy Hollow, while cooperating fully with the governments and administrations of the other impacted municipalities and regulatory authorities.
- We have conducted a Monroe Hearing to assert our right to, if necessary, proceed without going through the local land use boards (Planning Board and Zoning Board) of other municipalities. Portions of the project within other municipalities are zoning compliant in all respects. The SEQOR process will insure that all wetlands, steep slopes and other environmental impacts are mitigated.
- The “high level” Pump Station design is 100% complete with final construction documents being finalized.
- The transmission pipeline design is 95% complete with construction documents expected in early 2009.
- Village staff and consultants are finalizing details for construction with Greenburgh, Mount Pleasant, Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown.
- It is anticipated that the “Full Supply” will require 18 to 24 months to complete.

Summary

It is important that the Village be kept informed and understand the complex nature of this required project. A reliable clean water supply is a fundamental necessity for any community. It is equally important to provide that water in a fiscally sound manner. In this sense “Full Supply” is probably the largest and most significant project that Briarcliff has ever embarked on. The current project is the culmination of the better part of two decades of work and planning by numerous administrations and Village staff. It is also the beginning of a partnership with neighboring municipalities for water delivery that will result in economies of scale in maintenance, upgrades and overall water management. “Full Supply” is top priority for the Village of Briarcliff Manor.

We are also mandated by law to provide a backup source of reliable clean water when the Catskill Aqueduct may close for maintenance. Therefore, the Village of Briarcliff Manor has already begun partnering with Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow to jointly develop a required backup connection to the Delaware Aqueduct. Westchester County is also looking at the Delaware Aqueduct as a water source connection and has contacted many municipalities, including Briarcliff Manor. Briarcliff Manor will also explore the formation of a “water district” with its neighboring municipalities to address the delivery of water in a more global and cooperative manner.

The Board of Trustees asks that you stay informed of these important matters.

Should you have any question please contact:

Board of Trustees (boardoftrustees@briarcliffmanor.org) or
Village Manager (managersoffice@briarcliffmanor.org).

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