COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI) AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

Rotterdam Water District #5 Wellhead Area Expansion

February 6, 2016

Name of Responsible Entity and Recipient: New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR), 38-40 State Street, Hampton Plaza, Albany, NY 12207, in cooperation with the New York State Housing Trust Fund Corporation (HTFC), of the same address. Contact: Thomas J. King, Esq. (518) 473-0015.

Pursuant to 24 CFR Section 58.43, this combined Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact and Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds (FONSI/NOIRROF) satisfies two separate procedural requirements for Project activities proposed to be undertaken by HCR.

Project Description: The Rotterdam Water District #5 Wellhead facility is on Rice Road near Schermerhorn Road, Town of Rotterdam, Schenectady County, New York. The facility serves most of the Town of Rotterdam. The Town of Rotterdam is proposing to drill a new well at this existing facility. The casing of the new well would be elevated between 2 and 5 feet above the 500-year floodplain and at least 3 feet above the flood-of-record elevation. The Rotterdam Water District #5 Wellhead Project (Project) would involve establishing a well connection to existing pipes; installing a chlorinator, motor, and pump; and constructing a new building to house the pump and equipment and a paved access road. The new well, with connection to an existing backup generator for power, is designed to be a self-sufficient drinking water supply facility for the town if the other wells become inoperative for any reason. Under normal conditions, the pump would be powered by commercially available electricity, but it would be wired through an automatic transfer switch to the well field's existing emergency backup, a diesel-powered generator with its own fuel storage tank. The new building design would be similar to the design of the existing building that houses Well #4. Diesel fuel for the generator and the chlorinator chemicals would continue to be stored in aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) at the existing well field facility.

The well would be drilled approximately 120 feet southeast of Well #4. The well would be installed in accordance with American Water Works Association (AWWA) Al 00 "Standard for Water Wells" and with the New York State Sanitary Code, Appendix 5-D.
The annular space between casing and soil would be grouted with cement/bentonite, according to AWWA Al 00-06 standard to prevent surface runoff from entering the borehole and reaching the aquifer. The finished well would be equipped with a standard lineshaft, vertical, turbine pump and would be approximately 95.5 feet deep from the top of the casing to the bottom of the 24-inch diameter screen. The well would be in a 100-year floodplain, would be elevated, and would be constructed in accordance with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) requirements. Exposed piping from the well would be ductile iron with grooved-end and rubber gasket joints, and buried piping would be ductile iron having push-on or mechanical joints with rubber gaskets. All piping, fittings and joints would be National Sanitation Foundation (NSF)-approved for potable water use.

There would be no changes to the potable water system or the number of people using the system. The Project would not include a storm sewer, allowing all rain and runoff to dissipate naturally. There are no dry wells, retention ponds, leach fields, or on-site recharge basins.

The Project would disturb approximately 0.7 acre of previously undeveloped land on a 9.38-acre parcel (Parcel number 38 owned by Water District #5). The Project site would provide enough space to assure the appropriate grade of the fill (at a three-to-one slope) that would raise the level of the well between 2 and 5 feet above the 500-year floodplain and at least 3 feet above the flood-of-record elevation. The disturbance would involve the construction of a 900-square foot well house, construction of a paved access road, and grading and filling to elevate the well house. The proposed access road would slope up from the existing well field road to an elevation 6 inches below the proposed well house finished floor. The proposed access road elevation at the well house would be 6 inches above the 500-year flood elevation. The paved surface would cover approximately 2,900 square feet. The proposed access road would be constructed prior to the installation of the drinking water supply well and would provide access for the drilling equipment and limit the amount of ground disturbance during construction.

While the proposed well is only 200 feet from the Mohawk River, it is not expected to require testing for Ground Water under Direct Influence of surface water (GWUDI); however, the plans and specifications for the well have been submitted to NYSDOH for review. The existing well field is permitted to produce 10 million gallons per day (6,944 gallons per minute), a pumping rate that has been determined to not adversely affect the City of Schenectady well field, a half-mile away. The purpose of the new well is to provide redundancy, rather than added capacity, so that the well field could still produce up to the permitted 10 million gallons per day if one well was out of service.

The Project is in Wellhead Protection Zone 1, the most protective designation. The Project would be consistent with the regulations for this protection zone including:

1. All land uses and development activities other than those directly connected with
the pumping and treatment of public water supplies is prohibited (with the exception of existing single family residences); and

2. The handling of hazardous, toxic, or other waste substances is prohibited.

This Project would ensure that Rotterdam Water District #5 has a reliable supply of potable water for residents during a flood event, would provide additional capacity for the town, and would benefit residents of the Town of Rotterdam.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

An Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Project has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) environmental review regulations at 24 CFR Part 58. The EA is incorporated by reference into this FONSI. Subject to public comments, no further review of the Project is anticipated. HCR has determined that the EA for the project identified herein complies with the requirements of HUD environmental review regulations at 24 CFR Part 58. HCR has determined that the Project would have no significant impact on the natural or human environment and therefore does not require the preparation of an environmental impact statement under NEPA.

Public Review: Public viewing of the EA is available online at http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/environmental-docs and is also available in person Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM at the following address: Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery, 99 Washington Avenue Suite 1224, Albany, New York 12260. Contact: Thomas J. King, Esq. (518) 473-0015.

Further information may be requested by writing to the above address, emailing NYSCDBG_DR_ER@nyshcr.org or by calling (518) 473-0015. This combined notice is being sent to individuals and groups known to be interested in these activities, local news media, appropriate local, state and federal agencies, the regional office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency having jurisdiction, and to the HUD Field Office, and is being published in The Daily Gazette, a newspaper of general circulation in the affected community.

Public Comments on FONSI and/or NOIRROF: Any individual, group or agency may submit written comments on the Project. The public is hereby advised to specify their comments with “notice” and their address. Comments should be submitted via email, in the proper format, on or before Monday, February 22, 2016 at NYSCDBG_DR_ER@nyshcr.org. Written comments may also be submitted at the following address, or by mail, in the proper format, to be received on or before Monday, February 22, 2016: Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery, 99 Washington Avenue Suite 1224, Albany, New York 12260, Attention: Thomas J. King, Esq., Director – Bureau of Environmental Review and Assessment, Assistant General Counsel

Comments may be received by telephone by contacting Thomas J. King at (518) 473-
0015. All comments must be received on or before 5pm on Monday, February 22, 2016 or they will not be considered. If modifications result from public comment, these will be made prior to proceeding with the expenditure of funds.

**REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS AND CERTIFICATION**

On or about Tuesday, February 23, 2106, the HCR certifying officer will submit a request and certification to HUD for the release of Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds as authorized by related laws and policies for the purpose of implementing this part of the New York CDBG-DR program.

HCR certifies to HUD that Thomas J. King, in his capacity as Certifying Officer, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the U.S. federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD’s approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows GOSR to use CDBG-DR program funds.

**Objection to Release of Funds:** HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and GOSR’s certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later). Potential objectors may contact HUD or the GOSR Certifying Officer to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

The only permissible grounds for objections claiming a responsible entity’s non-compliance with 24 CFR Part 58 are: (a) Certification was not executed by HCR’s Certifying Officer; (b) the responsible entity has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the responsible entity has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before release of funds and approval of environmental certification; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.
Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to Tennille Smith Parker, Director, Disaster Recovery and Special Issues Division, Office of Block Grant Assistance, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW, Washington, DC 20410, Phone: (202) 402-4649.

Thomas J. King, Esq.
Certifying Officer
February 6, 2016
AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION
STATE OF NEW YORK CITY AND COUNTY OF SCHRENEYADTY

Gloria Cabrera of the City of Schenectady, being duly sworn, says that she is Principal Clerk in the office of the Daily Gazette Co., published in the City of Schenectady and that the notice/advertisement, of which the annexed is a printed copy, has been regularly published in the Daily Gazette and/or Sunday Gazette as follows:

February 6, 2016

Name of Responsible Enti- ty and Contact:
New York State Housing and Commu- nity Renewal (HCR), 36-20 Main Street, Auburn, NY 13021, in cooperation with the New York State Housing Trust Fund Corporation (HTFC), of the same address. Con- tact: Thomas J. King, Esq. (315) 454-8050. Pursuant to 24 CFR Section 55.63, this combined Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact and Notice of Intent to Programmatic Environment- al Impact Statement (PFEIS) will be issued and published, pursuant to 24 CFR Part 50, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) environmental review regulations at 24 CFR Part 50. The EA is incorporated by reference into the PFEIS. Any interested person or group may submit comments, in writing, to the contact listed above. A public hearing is anticipated. HCR has determined that the Project hereunder complies with the regulations of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the project. The EA has determined that the Project hereunder complies with the regulations of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the project.

02/06/16

Sworn to or affirmed before me on 02/08/2016.

Notary Public

LISA J. BALDWIN
COMMISSION OF DEEDS
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 11-04-17

COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI) AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (PFEIS)

The Rotterdam Water District #5 Wellhead Area Expansion will be constructed in accordance with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) requirements. Exposed piping from the well will be ductile iron with grooved end and rubber gasket joints, and buried piping will be ductile iron having push-on mechanical joints with rubber gaskets. All piping, fittings and joints will be National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) approved for potable water use.

There would be no changes to the potable water system or the people using the system. The Project would not include a storm sewer allowing all rain and runoff to dissipate naturally. There are no dry wells, retention ponds, leach fields, or on-site recharge basins.

The Project would disturb approximately 0.7 acre of previously undeveloped land on a 93.5-acre parcel (Parcel number 30 by Water District #5). The Project site would provide enough space to assure the appropriate grade of the fill (at a three-to-one slope) that would raise the level of the well between 2 and 5 feet above the 500-year floodplain and at least 3 feet above the flood-of-record elevation. The Rotterdam Water District #5 Wellhead Project (Property) would involve establishing a well connection to existing pipes: installing a chlorinator, motor, and pump and constructing a new building to house the pump and equipment and a paved access road. The new well, connected to an existing backup generator for power, is designed to be used as a replacement for the current limited drinking water supply facility for the town if the other wells become inoperative for any reason. Under normal conditions, the pumps would be powered by commercially available electricity, but it would be wired through an automatic transfer switch to the well field's existing emergency backup, a diesel-powered generator with its own fuel storage tank. The new building design would be similar to the design of the existing building that houses Well #4. Diesel fuel for the generator and the chlorinator chemicals would continue to be stored in above-ground storage tanks (ASTs) at the existing well field facility.

The well would be drilled approximately 150 feet southeast of Well #4. The well would be installed in accordance with American Water Works Association (AWWA) AI 00-06 standard to prevent surface runoff from entering the borehole and reaching the aquifer. The finished well would be equipped with a standard lineshaft, vertical, turbine pump and would be approximately 95.5 feet deep from the top of the casing to the bottom of the 24-inch diameter screen. The well would be in a 100-year floodplain and would be constructed in accordance with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) requirements. Exposed piping from the well would be ductile iron with grooved end and rubber gasket joints, and buried piping would be ductile iron having push-on mechanical joints with rubber gaskets. All piping, fittings and joints would be National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) approved for potable water use.

There would be no changes to the potable water system or the people using the system. The Project would not include a storm sewer allowing all rain and runoff to dissipate naturally. There are no dry wells, retention ponds, leach fields, or on-site recharge basins.

The Project would disturb approximately 0.7 acre of previously undeveloped land on a 93.5-acre parcel (Parcel number 30 by Water District #5). The Project site would provide enough space to assure the appropriate grade of the fill (at a three-to-one slope) that would raise the level of the well between 2 and 5 feet above the 500-year floodplain and at least 3 feet above the flood-of-record elevation. The disturbance would involve the construction of a 900-square-foot well house, construction of a paved access road, and grading and filling to elevate the well house. The proposed access road would slope up from the existing well field road to an elevation 6 inches below the proposed well house finished floor. The proposed access road elevation at the well house would be 6 inches above the 500-year flood elevation. The paved surface would cover approximately 2,900 square feet. The proposed access road would be constructed prior to the installation of the drinking water supply well and would provide access for the drilling equipment and limit the amount of ground disturbance during construction.

While the proposed well is only 200 feet from the Mohawk River, it is not expected to require testing for Ground Water under Direct Influence of surface water (GWUDI); however, the plans and specifications for the well have been submitted to NYSDOH for review. The existing well field is permitted to produce 10 million gallons per day (9,944 gallons per minute), a pumping rate that has been determined to not adversely affect the City of Schenectady well field, a half-mile away. The purpose of the new well is to provide redundancy, rather than added capacity, so that if the well field could produce up to the permitted 10 million gallons per day if one well was out of service. The Project is in Wellhead Protection Zone 1, the most protective protective class. The Project would be consistent with the regulations for this protection zone including:

1. All land uses and development activities directly connected with the pumping and treatment of public water supplies is prohibited (with the exception of the property boundaries and family residences); and
2. The handling of hazardous, toxic, or other waste substances is prohibited.

This Project would ensure that Rotterdam Water District #5 has a reliable supply of potable water for a significant period of time. In an emergency, this Project would provide an alternative source of water for the town and would benefit residents of the Town of Rotterdam.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

An Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared in cooperation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) environmental review regulations at 24 CFR Part 50. The EA is incorporated by reference into the PFEIS. Any interested person or group may submit comments, in writing, to the contact listed above. A public hearing is anticipated. HCR has determined that the Project hereunder complies with the regulations of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the project. The EA has determined that the Project hereunder complies with the regulations of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the project.

Public Review: Public viewing of the EA is available online at http://starcovry.nysed.gov/props/ envev_IRI.html and in the Office of Storm Recovery, 99 Washington Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12301, or at the Schenectady County Public Library, 1224, Albany, New York 12260. Contact: Thomas J. King, Esq. (518) 454-8050. Further information may be requested by writing to the above address, emailing NYSDOH одна EA or calling (518) 454-8050. This combination of environmental impact statement is being sent to individuals and groups known to be interested in these activities, local news media, appropriate local state and federal agencies, the regional office of the US Environmental Protection Agency, and the New York State Environmental Conservation Board, as required by the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) as a matter of public record. The public is hereby advised to specify their concern and include their address with their comments. Comments should be submit-
ted via email, in the proper format, on or before Monday, February 22, 2016 at NYSCDBG_DR_ER@nychcr.org. Written comments may also be submitted at the following address, or by mail, in the proper format, to be received on or before Monday, February 22, 2016: Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery, 99 Washington Avenue Suite 1224, Albany, New York 12290, Attention: Thomas J. King, Esq., Director - Bureau of Environmental Review and Assessment, Assistant General Counsel. Comments may be received by telephone by contacting Thomas J. King at (518) 473-6015. All comments must be received on or before 5pm on Monday, February 22, 2016 or they will not be considered. If modifications result from public comment, these will be made prior to proceeding with the expenditure of funds.

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The only permissible grounds for objections claiming a responsible entity’s non-compliance with 24 CFR Part 50 are: (a) Certification was not executed by HCR’s Certifying Officer; (b) the responsible entity has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 50; (c) the responsible entity has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 50 before release of funds and approval of environmental certification; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.

Objectors must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 50) and shall be addressed to Tennille Smith Parker, Director, Disaster Recovery and Special Issues Division, Office of Block Grant Assistance, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW, Washington, DC 20410, Phone: (202) 418-4649.

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S/ Thomas J. King, Esq.
Certifying Officer
February 6, 2016

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