

# The Legislature of Rockland County



**HARRIET D. CORNELL**

Legislator – District 10

Chair – Environmental Committee  
Chair – Special Committee on Transit

Economic Development Committee  
Budget & Finance Committee

August 12, 2015

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING SYSTEM

Hon. Kathleen M. Burgess  
Secretary to the Commission  
New York State Public Service Commission  
Agency Building 3  
Albany, New York 12223-1350

Re: Case 13-W-0303 - Proceeding on Motion of the Commission to Examine United Water New York Inc.'s Development of a Long-Term Water Supply Source

**NOTICE SEEKING PUBLIC COMMENT ON ABANDONMENT OF THE HAVERSTRAW PROJECT PLAN ("NOTICE")**

Dear Secretary Burgess:

I write to request a correction of an erroneous statement in the above-referenced Notice. On August 6, 2015, the Public Service Commission (Commission) released a *Notice Seeking Public Comment on Abandonment of the Haverstraw Project Plan* (Notice) in which the Commission requested comments on reports filed by United Water New York, Inc. (UWNY) and the Rockland County Task Force on Water Resources Management (Task Force). The reports were filed to comply with the Commission's Order issued on November 17, 2014 (Order) that required, *inter alia*, that UWNY work with the Task Force to identify measures to reduce water demand by two million gallons per day (MGD), conduct a study of other potential water supply projects that could provide said amount of water supply and repair public image and trust of the community.

**Respectfully, in the above-referenced recent Notice, the Commission omitted an important part of the Task Force compliance with the November Order (*Interim Report* filed May 18, 2015) and, in addition, erroneously stated that the Task Force requested an extension of time.) (Commission's Notice, 2 n.4)**

It is true that on May 15, 2015, UWNY submitted a request for extension of time to the Commission; the extension was granted - unopposed by the Task Force. The Commission allowed UWNY additional time to submit its Feasibility Report by June 30, 2015. However, the Task Force did *not*

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request an extension, and did timely file its Interim Report with the Commission on May 18, 2015. In the Task Force Interim Report, we explained that the findings of the ongoing initial phase of the Conservation Study, Phase I: Data Analysis undertaken by Amy Vickers & Associates, Inc., were forthcoming in July as a supplement to the Task Force Interim Report. After extensive initial contract negotiations that involved UWNY's concern for customer confidentiality, followed by delays experienced by Ms. Vickers in receiving data and information from UWNY, Ms. Vickers sent the Draft Report to UWNY and the Commission on June 24, 2015. The Task Force received it the following day after UWNY determined that no breach of confidentiality had occurred. A presentation to the Task Force by Ms. Vickers took place on June 27, 2015. The Task Force and Amy Vickers then allowed another four weeks for any questions and comments before the report, ***Phase I: Water Data Analysis to Support a Water Conservation Study*** was finalized and filed with the Commission on July 22, 2015 (Vickers Report).

Many of the Task Force members are volunteers and it was a show of great commitment and dedication to our goals that the Task Force submitted the Interim Report in compliance with the Commission's instruction. As noted in the Interim Report and its supplement, the Vickers Report, the Task Force and UWNY have yet the most critical part of compliance ahead in anticipation of moving forward on Phase II of the Conservation Feasibility tailored to Rockland County. As per the Commission's Order, the Task Force and UWNY are required to identify and evaluate specific conservation opportunities which are best applicable in Rockland County, analyze the costs and benefits of such measures, and estimate demand reductions associated with each conservation measure. This technical analysis and feasibility study should be informed by the initial data analysis to inform a Conservation Plan and recommendations for implementation, and to provide basis for an effective public outreach strategy.

Thank you in advance for your courtesy in correcting the public record.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harriet Cornell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Very truly yours,".

Harriet Cornell, Chairwoman,  
Rockland Task Force on Water Resources Management