

Poughkeepsies' Joint Water Project Board

3431 North Road
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601



Friday, August 5, 2016

Public Comments – Hudson River Anchorages
United States Coast Guard
Sector New York
212 Coast Guard Drive
Staten Island, New York 10305

Subject: In the matter of public comment on the plan: **U.S. Coast Guard proposes ten more anchorage grounds on the Hudson River between Yonkers and Kingston (July 15th 2016).**

This comment is from the Poughkeepsies' Joint Water Project (PJWP), and is being made by the Joint Water Project Board (JWPB), which is the administrative part of the jointly owned Poughkeepsie Water Treatment Facility. The City of Poughkeepsie and the Town of Poughkeepsie joined in an Inter-municipal Agreement to operate the Water Plant to supply people in the City and Town with drinking water - over twenty years ago. The Project now serves more than 80,000 people living in the two communities with water. Over the years, the PJWP has sold water to other public and private entities including in Hyde Park, Fishkill and East Fishkill.

We draw our drinking water from the Hudson River. We are the single biggest water project drawing water from the Hudson River. Any petroleum spill in the Hudson, within the tidal flow, both north and south of our plant location will cause the shutdown of the water plant. While we have a small standby capacity, a petroleum product spill into the Hudson River causing our plant to shut down will immediately and significantly interrupt drinking water to more than 80,000 residents and even more people in hospitals; nursing homes, public and private colleges, public and private schools, shopping malls, apartment buildings, private houses. The list goes on and on. Plus businesses, from the very large like the IBM facility on South Road, Poughkeepsie and the Global Foundries in Fishkill, employing thousands of people, to all the businesses in the City and Town of Poughkeepsie, shopping malls, food stores too many businesses to name. Now consider the City of Poughkeepsie is our county seat. Think of the impact to County Courts, County Social Services, County Probation, County Office building, County Executive Offices, County Legislature. The greater Poughkeepsie area is the center of Dutchess County and it would be without drinking water.

If our water plant is forced to shut down, and we exhaust our reserve capacity, there will be no water in the water mains, no water to flush toilets and put out fires.

In preparing for this public comment we found an item in the Federal Register titled: **Anchorage Regulations; Port of New York, a rule by the US Coast Guard Rule effective May 2, 2016**; Citation: 81 FR 18496; 33 CFR 110; Document # 2016-07307:

Summary

*"The Coast Guard is **disestablishing** thirteen anchorage grounds and one special anchorage area that are now obsolete in Newark Bay, the East River, Western Long Island Sound, Raritan Bay, and Lower New York Bays."*
(Emphasis added by author)

We also found the following on the Federal Register: **Anchorage Grounds, Hudson River; Yonkers, NY to Kingston, NY. Proposed Rule June 9, 2016 Comments Close 09/07/2016** Citation" 81 FR 37168; 33 CFR 110; Document # 2016-13701

Summary

*The Coast Guard is considering **establishing** new anchorage grounds in the Hudson River from Yonkers, NY, to Kingston, NY. We are considering this action after receiving requests suggesting that anchorage grounds may improve navigation safety along an extended portion of the Hudson River, which currently has no anchorage grounds, allowing for a safer and more efficient flow of vessel traffic. The Coast Guard is seeking comments and information about the operational need for new anchorage grounds and what form possible regulations should take.* (Emphasis added by author)

The Joint Water Project Board would point out that the net effect of the adopted regulation disestablishing anchorage grounds (05/02/16) moves all of the vessels including barges with oil or petroleum products in them, to the newly proposed anchorage grounds in the Hudson River above Yonkers. Further, that the Coast Guard "disestablished" the anchorage grounds in Newark Bay, the East River, Western Long Island Sound, Raritan Bay, and Lower New York Bays, before establishing any alternative anchorage grounds.

The Poughkeepsies' Joint Water Project, for the safety of the drinking water source for our entire area must oppose any new anchorage sites in the Hudson River.

Yours truly,

William G. Carlos, Jr., Secretary
Poughkeepsie Water Project Board

Map of the proposed new anchorage sites in the Hudson and the approximate location of our water treatment facility.

