

Chapter 9: Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

Construction and operation of the Water for the Future Program (proposed program) would involve the use of various construction materials, materials for operation and maintenance, fuels and energy for construction and operation, and the land area for Shaft and Bypass Tunnel Construction (Project 1), Water Supply System Augmentation and Improvement (Project 2A), and Bypass Tunnel Connection and Rondout-West Branch Tunnel (RWBT) Inspection and Repair, including Wawarsing (Project 2B). Some of these materials that would be used for the proposed program are nonrenewable resources and are considered irretrievably and irreversibly committed, because reuse is not possible or is highly unlikely.

Construction materials include concrete and other materials that would be used to construct the shafts on the west and east connection sites (i.e., Shafts 5B and 6B, respectively) and the bypass tunnel. Maintenance materials include any materials that may be used in final maintenance of the west and east connection sites. During construction, fuel would be used for operation of construction equipment (e.g., various trucks, the TBM, cranes, front end loaders, etc.). The RWBT and bypass tunnel themselves do not require electricity to deliver water from the Rondout Reservoir to the West Branch Reservoir since the water supply system relies on gravity.

Without construction of the bypass tunnel and proposed program, however, the RWBT would continue to leak in both the Roseton and Wawarsing areas, and additional leaks along the RWBT could occur. With the proposed program in place, the DEP would be able to ensure the long-term safe and reliable transmission of drinking water from the watershed in sufficient quantity to consumers to meet all current and future water demands.

No potential significant irreversible or irretrievable resources impacts are expected.

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