



## Action Alert

# We Need Your Voices to Protect the Basher Kill and Neversink River From Harmful Dams and Development

**Wednesday, April 10 at 7 PM there will be a hearing to discuss the proposed Dragon Springs development, dam and wastewater proposal. We need to fill the room with voices of concern.**

*If you don't feel comfortable speaking on this issue but still want to show your support for protecting the Basher Kill and Neversink River, please show up and **we will have stickers** you can wear so you can speak with your presence even if you don't feel comfortable testifying.*



**Hearing Date/Time:** Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:00 pm

**Location:** Port Jervis High School Auditorium, located at 10 Route 209, Port Jervis NY 12771

### The Threat:

Dragon Springs proposes to further over-develop a sensitive headwater wetland and trout stream in the Basher Kill and Neversink River watersheds. The proposal will add an additional 10 acres of impervious surface to bring the total impervious cover of the site to nearly 10%, and includes a dam that will permanently destroy over 5 acres of forested headwater wetland. To then accommodate this massive facility, the proposal includes installing a wastewater facility with lax controls that will further degrade the trout stream, the Basher Kill, and the Neversink River. As the photo to the right shows, the site is already known to be a regular source of water pollution. Instead of living in harmony with the natural environment, this project seeks to destroy much of it.



Notice of the hearing can be found at: [http://townofdeerpark.org/wp-content/uploads/Dragon-Springs-DEIS-4\\_10\\_19.pdf](http://townofdeerpark.org/wp-content/uploads/Dragon-Springs-DEIS-4_10_19.pdf)

**There will be stickers for all who attend and want to be identified as being in support of protecting the Basher Kill, the Neversink River and our communities.**

**If you would like to speak, some important points you might want to make include:**

The proposed construction of a dam to manage stormwater will destroy 5.2 acres of wetland, and this impact is not even covered or addressed in the draft Environmental Impact Statement considering the project.

The proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant would be a significant discharge to the unnamed tributary that will receive the waste, and will have significant impacts on the downstream Basher Kill and Neversink River. It is important to note that the Delaware River Basin Commission docket for the facility has expired, removing an important limitation on this proposed pollution discharge.

The applicant is still contending that the new dam and its flooding of wetlands and good stream habitat is “approved” while correspondence with NYSDEC suggests they thought the dam design had been so modified that a new permit application was likely. Regardless, the draft Environmental Impact Statement should be required to be modified to consider the impacts of the proposed dam – currently it does not. The dam, the excavation for the dam, the flooding of wetlands, and the flooding of a stream channel are important environmental impacts that require analysis.

The proposed development and stormwater management system for the site needs more in depth review. Areas of the site appear to have been ignored in terms of runoff, and there are concerns that no one has independently verified the modeling and calculations supporting claims of no harm. The applicant claims there will be no problems created by turbidity in downstream systems, but as the photo above (and many others like it) demonstrates, there are already significant turbid water discharges that are a serious concern for the Basher Kill, the Neversink River and the species that depend upon their high water quality.

Inconsistencies like these abound in project materials: at one point the applicant materials say that construction will take 24 months, but elsewhere they check the box that construction will be less than a year; parking is shown at times to increase to 660 spaces and at others to over 1000 spaces, which is it?; the expired DRBC docket is submitted as though it is still valid when it is not; just to name a few.

To learn more, read the Delaware Riverkeeper Network’s comments at:  
<http://bit.ly/DragonSpringsThreat>