



# GOWANUS CANAL COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP (CAG)

*your local voice for Superfund*

For more information see: [www.Gowanuscag.org](http://www.Gowanuscag.org)

June 23, 2015

Emily Lloyd, Commissioner  
Department of Environmental Protection  
59-17 Junction Boulevard, 13th Fl  
Flushing, NY 11373  
ELloyd@dep.nyc.gov  
ltcp@dep.nyc.gov

RE: Gowanus Canal LTCP Public Comment

The CAG would like to remind the DEP and the DEC of the first resolution which was passed by the body, by unanimous vote, in March 2012:

The Gowanus Superfund Community Advisory Group hereby resolves that the water of the Gowanus Canal be reclassified from its current industrial standard, which is designated Class-SD. Class-SD only mandates a minimal level of dissolved oxygen be maintained in the waters, but places no limit to levels of pathogens present in the waterway.

The CAG requests that the Gowanus Canal be given a water classification that is protective of its current recreational uses which includes contact recreation for families and children. A reclassification that imposes limits on pathogen levels, both coliform and enterococci bacteria, is necessary to insure that children and others are not exposed to unacceptable health risks, including dangerous diseases, due to a simple act of coming into contact with the water while recreating in, on, or at the canal.

Thus, any Long Term Control Plan, which is based upon the current Class-SD water classification is not acceptable. We ask for a water quality standard which is acceptable to the community stated goals, and that the LTCP be revised and brought into alignment with such standard.

Regards,

Gowanus Canal Community Advisory Group

Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce  
Coalition for Respectful  
Development (CORD)  
Carroll Gardens Neighborhood  
Association (CGNA)  
Center for Urban Pedagogy  
Cobble Hill Association  
Community Board 6  
Fifth Avenue Committee (FAC)  
Friends and Residents of Greater  
Gowanus (FROGG)  
Friends of Douglass/Greene Park,  
Inc.

Gowanus Alliance  
Gowanus Houses Tenants Association  
Gowanus Neighborhood Association/  
Gowanus-4-Life  
Metropolitan Waterfront Association  
Park Slope Civic Council  
Park Slope Neighbors  
Pratt Center for Community  
Development  
Proteus Gowanus  
Red Hook Civic Association  
Red Hook East Tenants Association  
Red Hook West Tenants Association

Riverkeeper  
Sierra Club, Atlantic Chapter  
South Brooklyn Local Development  
Corporation  
Southwest Brooklyn Industrial  
Development Corp.  
Urban Divers Estuary Conservancy  
Wyckoff Gardens Tenants Association/  
Public Housing Communities, Inc.

and 23 at-large members.

cc: NYS Senator, Velmanette Montgomery: [montgome@nysenate.gov](mailto:montgome@nysenate.gov)  
Assemblywomen Joanne Simon: [simonj@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:simonj@assembly.state.ny.us)  
NYSDEC, Commissioner, Joseph Martens [joemartens@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:joemartens@gw.dec.state.ny.us)  
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Back ground Information as taken from DEP online information on the DEP Gowanus Canal Long Term Control Plan at: <http://www.hydroqual.com/projects/ltcp/wbws/gowanus.htm>

From DEP Report: **9.0 Water Quality Standards Review and Revision**

### *Attainability of Currently Applicable Standards*

Table 9-5 summarizes projected percentage annual attainability of dissolved oxygen for current Class SD and Class B-1 criteria for Baseline and Waterbody/Watershed Facility Plan conditions at three locations: the head, the mouth, and an intermediate location within Gowanus Canal. The intermediate location, approximately 7,000 feet from the head, is the location of minimum dissolved oxygen attainment projected along the length of Gowanus Canal for various control scenarios. For Class SD, the Waterbody/Watershed Facility Plan improves the annual dissolved oxygen attainment at the head to 100 percent from 39 percent for Baseline conditions and significantly improves oxygen resources throughout the upper two-thirds of Gowanus Canal. For Class B-1 the Waterbody/Watershed Facility Plan improves attainment at the head to 100 percent from 30 percent under Baseline conditions, and achieves at least 91 percent attainment along the length of Gowanus Canal. The Gowanus Canal Waterbody/Watershed Facility Plan is therefore expected to fully achieve the current Class SD dissolved oxygen criteria and to attain a high annual level of compliance with the Class B-1 criterion

**Table 9-1. New York State Numeric Surface Water Quality Standards (Saline)**

Class	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	Bacteria (Pathogens)		
		Total Coliform <sup>(3)</sup> (per 100 mL)	Fecal Coliform <sup>(4)</sup> (per 100 mL)	Enterococci <sup>(5)</sup> (per 100 mL)
SD	≥ 3.0	N/A	N/A	N/A
I	≥ 4.0	≤ 10,000	≤ 2,000	N/A
SB, SC	≥ 4.8 <sup>(1)</sup> ≥ 3.0 <sup>(2)</sup>	≤ 2,400 ≤ 5,000	≤ 200	≤ 35

**Table 9-2. Interstate Environmental Commission and Classifications, Criteria and Best Uses**

Class	Dissolved Oxygen	Best Intended Use
A	≥5.0 mg/L	Suitable for all forms of primary and secondary contact recreation and for fish propagation. In designated areas, they also shall be suitable for shellfish harvesting.
B-1	≥4.0 mg/L	Suitable for fishing and secondary contact recreation. They shall be suitable for the growth and maintenance of fish life and other forms of marine life naturally occurring therein, but may not be suitable for fish propagation.
B-2	≥3.0 mg/L	Suitable for passage of anadromous fish and for the maintenance of fish life in a manner consistent with the criteria established in Sections 1.01 and 1.02 of these regulations.