



Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project

1/08 - COMMUNITY ALERT

For Community Groups and Advocates

Water Shut-Offs on the Horizon

6,000 Single-Family Homes in Danger of Water Shut-Off Unless Homeowners Act Quickly!

WHAT'S THE STORY?

The NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has recently implemented a plan to **shut off water service for certain single-family homes that are delinquent on their water bills**. This is a new tactic to try to collect water bills that are more than a year overdue and amount to at least \$1,000. There are over 6,000 single-family homes slated for possible water shut-off in the coming months, with many of these properties concentrated in communities of color - those same neighborhoods already at the center of the foreclosure crisis.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

DEP is offering these homeowners a one-time affordable payment plan, called the Payment Incentive Plan, to avoid service termination and to bring them back into good standing. **This offer originally expired on February 21; the deadline has now been extended until April 21.** According to DEP, few of the households currently delinquent on their water bills have taken advantage of this offer. Termination of water service would be a serious public health risk for these families.

HELP SPREAD THE WORD!

Community groups are advised to alert and assist single-family homeowners more than a year delinquent on water bills to contact DEP immediately to sign up for a payment plan. If your organization is interested in getting involved in addressing this issue, please contact NEDAP at info@nedap.org. Areas with high concentrations of potential shut-offs include Jamaica, Queens; Wakefield and Williamsbridge in the Bronx; Mill Basin and Canarsie in Brooklyn; and much of Staten Island. For more info about DEP's Payment Incentive Plan, call their customer service at 718-595-7000 or visit:

www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/water_and_sewer_bills/pip.shtml.

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*NEDAP is a resource and advocacy center for community groups in New York City.
Our mission is to promote community economic justice and to eliminate discriminatory economic practices*

that harm communities and perpetuate inequality and poverty.
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