



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. However, **this offer expires on February 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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