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**LT. GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES \$7.4 MILLION FOR PEEKSKILL DRINKING
WATER
Interest-Free Loan for New Plant to Protect Public Health**

Lt. Governor Mary Donohue today announced that the City of Peekskill in Westchester County has received a \$7,416,000 million interest-free, short-term loan to construct a new water treatment plant. The Lt. Governor was joined in Peekskill by New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) President Thomas J. Kelly at Peekskill's water filtration plant to present Mayor John Testa with a check representing funds provided from the New York Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF).

"Governor Pataki and I are partnering with communities throughout the State to help them ensure that their residents have safe drinking water supplies," said Lt. Governor Donohue. "Today's funding announcement for the City of Peekskill is just one more example of our unwavering commitment to ensure that all New Yorkers have safe drinking water at an affordable cost."

United States Congresswoman Sue Kelly said, "Local residents depend upon federal, state, and local governments working together to provide them the clean drinking water they need and deserve. We need to continue joint efforts like these to construct the safest clean water infrastructure possible in our area while shifting the cost burden away from local taxpayers."

State Senator Vincent Leibell said, "Because of the unique geography of my district, I have been very involved in issues of water quality and safety. I am pleased that Governor Pataki and EFC President Tom Kelly have recognized this particular need in Peekskill and are committed to helping the residents here maintain a safe supply of drinking water."

Mayor John Testa said, "We take the quality of our drinking water very seriously in Peekskill and now must replace our near century old plant. This loan will enable us to begin construction in a timely manner at a lower cost to our taxpayers. I want to thank Governor Pataki, Lieutenant Governor Donohue and EFC President Kelly for their help with our project."

Peekskill's existing water treatment plant was originally constructed in 1909 and has

reached the end of its useful life. The new plant will eliminate current deficiencies and enable the City to meet State standards. Project construction is expected to start in January 2005.

The Drinking Water SRF, administered by EFC and the New York State Department of Health (DOH), offers significant financial assistance to public water suppliers for drinking water infrastructure improvement projects. Assistance may include grants, short-term interest free loans and/or long-term low interest rate loans. The Drinking Water SRF has provided more than \$1.2 billion in reduced interest rate financing and grants for drinking water improvement projects throughout New York State.

EFC President Kelly said, "Governor Pataki is committed to providing communities with affordable capital for water projects that protect public health through the Drinking Water SRF. The funding presented today will enable the City of Peekskill to undertake this needed project without placing a financial burden on taxpayers."

State Health Commissioner Dr. Antonia C. Novello said, "Thanks to Governor Pataki's support for critical drinking water projects, New Yorkers will continue to have the safest drinking water in the country."

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