STATE OF NEW YORK

7649--A

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

September 11, 2023

Introduced by Sens. MANNION, MAY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules -- recommitted to the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the canal law, in relation to establishing a stakeholder group to coordinate water release in the Oswego river basin

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The canal law is amended by adding a new section 130-a to read as follows:

§ 130-a. Oswego river basin water release coordination. 1. The corporation, in consultation with the department of environmental conservation, shall, within six months of the effective date of this section, form a stakeholder group to evaluate approaches to coordinating water releases in the Oswego river basin. Such stakeholder group shall include all entities with the ability or responsibility to control flood water discharges either directly to or from major water bodies within the Oswego river basin and their tributaries, community stakeholder groups, the department of environmental conservation, and subject matter experts.

2. The stakeholder group shall review all available information regarding utilizing flood storage above lake rule curves, and watershed releases during high flow events, in the Oswego river basin, including any relevant modeling. Within six months of the formation of the stakeholder group, the stakeholder group shall make recommendations to the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly on a regulatory structure to coordinate communication and water releases during high flow events. In making such recommendations, the

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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stakeholder group shall consider a variety of alternatives, including but not limited to:

(a) recommending a continuation, expansion, or reconstitution of the stakeholder group for such purpose;

(b) recommending a legislative mandate for coordination of water releases; or

(c) recommending the legislature initiate an independent water regulating district with the authority to direct water releases pursuant to title twenty-one of article fifteen of the environmental conservation law.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.