

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Raul Pino, M.D., M.P.H.  
Commissioner

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Lt. Governor

### Drinking Water Section Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Environmental Assessment Justification for Categorical Exclusion

#### **A. Project Identification**

PWS Name: Regional Water Authority (RWA)  
Town: Branford  
PWSID: CT0930011  
DWS Project No.: SFY18-37  
Project Name: Brushy Plains Water System Improvements  
Project Location: 36 Cherry Hill Rd/ 280 Brushy Plain Rd, Branford CT, 06405

#### **B. Summary of Environmental Review**

June 21, 2018

The environmental aspects of this project have been reviewed in accordance with State and Federal regulations. The findings of the environmental review are summarized below.

##### **1. Project Description**

RWA has recently constructed a new water main to connect the North Branford Service Area to the Cherry Hill Service Area. With this newly constructed piping system the Brushy Plains Standpipe is now longer required to serve the Cherry Hill Service Area. This project includes the demolition of the Brushy Plains Standpipe due to its costly maintenance and excessive storage times leading to low chlorine levels and increased chance of the creation of disinfection by-products. In addition to the Standpipe demolition it is proposed that the Cherry Hill Pump Station be upgraded to maintain fire flows and a higher quality of water to the Cherry Hill Service Area in the absence of the Standpipe.

##### **2. Justification for Categorical Exclusion from Connecticut Environmental Policy Act Requirements**

The DPH has performed a review of the project under the Environmental Classification Document (ECD) for Connecticut state agencies and determined that this project is well defined and sufficiently limited in scope to qualify as a Category IV project consisting of minor renovations to existing facilities. Based on this determination a review pursuant to the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA) is not warranted.

The public water system will be required to obtain any necessary local permits, as applicable. Copies of all required permits must be submitted to the DPH prior to any DWSRF funds being dispersed.

The project area is not within an identified flood plain.

It is not reasonable to expect any adverse impact to the natural diversity of the surrounding area as the project areas are not within any current Natural Diversity Database Areas.



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Although it is not expected that anything of archeological significance will be found, the DPH required the contract language to include procedures for notifying appropriate entities, should anything of significance be found during construction.

### **3. Justification for Categorical Exclusion from National Environmental Policy Act Requirements**

Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. Part 6, Procedures for Implementing the Requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the DPH has reviewed the proposed scope of work submitted by the RWA in its application for DWSRF assistance. The result of this review indicates that there are no environmental concerns with this project, as discussed below:

- a. With respect to the criteria set forth in 40 CFR Part 6, the proposed project involves actions that are consistent with the eligibility for granting a Categorical Exclusion pursuant to 40 CFR Part 6.204 (a)(ii). Specifically, the project actions are related to existing infrastructure systems that involve minor upgrading, and rehabilitation of the existing system and system components.
- b. With respect to the criteria set forth in 40 CFR Part 6.204 (b) for not granting a Categorical Exclusion:
  - i. The proposed action is not known or expected to have potentially significant impacts on the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time;
  - ii. The proposed action is not known or expected to have any adverse human health or environmental effects on any community;
  - iii. The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect federally listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat;
  - iv. The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect any national natural landmarks;
  - v. The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect any natural resource areas (e.g. flood plains, wetlands, farmlands, or aquifer recharge zones);
  - vi. The proposed action is not known or expected to cause significant adverse air quality effects;
  - vii. The proposed action is not known or expected to have any effects on land use or growth patterns; and
  - viii. The proposed action is not known or expected to cause significant public controversy.

### **C. Conclusion**

Based on the DPH's review, none of the NEPA criteria which would result in the denial of a Categorical Exclusion are met. The proposed action is not known or expected to have any adverse impact on the quality of the human environment. The action will provide a direct public health benefit to residents served by the RWA's public water system through the improved quality of potable water being provided. Furthermore, the Department has reviewed the action against the ECD for Connecticut state agencies and determined it is a Category IV action for which a review under the CEPA is not warranted. As a result, the proposed action has met the criteria to be categorically excluded from further NEPA or CEPA review.



Sara Ramsbottom  
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6/21/2018

Date