

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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



Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
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: New Haven
PWSID: CT0930011
DWSRF No.: SFY 19-04
Project Name: Seymour Replacement Well 4B
Project Location: Seymour, CT

B. Summary of Environmental Review

February 1, 2019

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

The Seymour Wellfield consists of 4 active gravel wells (Nos. 4R, 5, 6 and 7) and 4 inactive wells (Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4). Multiple withdrawal registrations are cumulatively registered to divert a total of 2.5 mgd.

The project proposes to develop a supplemental backup well to Well No. 4R within 200' of the existing well. Well No. 4R was constructed in 2003 and rehabilitated in 2014 in response to the reduced specific capacity and history of biofouling. In 2016, presence of a low to moderately aggressive bacteria colony and a sharp decline in well efficiency was observed. This project proposes that the backup Well No. 4B share its withdrawal registration with the existing Well No. 4R and will have no negative impact on the water system since the proposed well is supplemental and the two wells will never operate simultaneously.

This project will improve source water quality and minimize the risk to public health by reducing reliance on an existing well with a history of biofouling and a low to moderately aggressive bacteria colony. It will also enhance energy and water efficiency. The existing Well No. 4R has experienced reductions in specific capacity and well efficiency.

This project will be funded through the Department of Public Health's (DPH) Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF).



Phone: (860) 509-7333 • Fax: (860) 509-7359
Telecommunications Relay Service 7-1-1
410 Capitol Avenue, MS#12 DWS, P.O. Box 340308
Hartford, Connecticut 06134-0308
www.ct.gov/dph

Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer



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 within an identified flood plain. A Flood Management Certification Approval was issued by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) on 12/27/2018.

A Natural Diversity Database Area determination was received from DEEP on August 24, 2018, with no negative impacts expected.

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 improved water quality and quantity. 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 A. Ramsbottom, P.E.
Sanitary Engineer, Drinking Water Section

2/1/2019

Date