

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Manisha Juthani, MD
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: Norwich Public Utilities
Town: Norwich
PWSID: CT1040011
DWS Project No.: SFY 23-01
Project Name: DWSRF-Caribou Drive Water Main Replacement
Project Location: Norwich

B. Summary of Environmental Review

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 project includes the replacement of approximately 3,650 lineal feet of 8-inch diameter asbestos cement pipe and associated appurtenances along Caribou Drive in Norwich, CT. This project also includes installation of 8 new water service lines and reconnection of 43 current customers to the new water main. The new water main will be installed parallel to the existing pipeline of the water main. The existing water service lines for all customers will be replaced up to the property line and new curb stops will be installed. The existing asbestos cement water main will be abandoned in place.

The new water main will be installed at a minimum depth of 4.5 feet below grade within City's Road right of way.

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



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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 the replacement of existing water main along Caribou Drive. 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 state and 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 located within any current Natural Diversity Database Areas.

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 Norwich Public Utilities 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 replacement of existing water main and associated appurtenances.
- 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 Norwich Public Utilities' public water system through the reliable water main and provide continued water supply to its intended service areas. 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.

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June 28, 2023

Date