

Effective [Insert Date]

**Generic Environmental Classification Document (ECD)  
For State Agencies**

Prepared Pursuant to Sections 22a-1a-4 and 22a-1a-5  
of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA)

State agencies shall use the Generic ECD for determining CEPA applicability of their proposed actions, unless they have adopted an agency-specific ECD in accordance with RCSA Sections 22a-1a-4 and 22a-1a-5. Note that the criteria in an agency-specific ECD may differ from the comparable criteria in this Generic ECD, and may also include criteria that is unique to that agency.

As used in this document, “**action**” is defined in RCSA Section 22a-1a-1;

As used in this document, “**facility**” means one or more existing and/or concurrently planned or envisioned structures on a site.

**I. Typical Actions That Always Require Public Scoping And The Preparation Of An Environmental Impact Evaluation:**

- a. Construction of a new sewage treatment plant;
- b. Construction of a new permanent regional waste management facility or site, including but not limited to solid, hazardous, biomedical and radioactive wastes; recycling centers; resource recovery facilities; waste conversion facilities; and transfer stations, as defined in CGS Sec. 22a-207.

**II. Typical Actions That Require Public Scoping To Determine Whether An Environmental Impact Evaluation Is Required:**

- a. Construction of a new facility, or major reconstruction, rehabilitation or improvement of an existing facility, or significant change in use of an existing facility, that equals or exceeds 25,000 gross square feet (GSF) of floor space, or contains 25 or more residential units; or an addition to an existing facility in which the addition equals or exceeds 25,000 GSF or contains 25 or more residential units;
  - i. That threshold is increased to 100,000 GSF of floor space, or 100 or more residential units, when the facility is:
    - (1) located on a previously developed property;
    - (2) located immediately adjacent to, and will connect to, an existing distribution system of a community water system; and

(3) located immediately adjacent to existing municipal wastewater infrastructure, and has appropriate documentation from the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA), or designated local board or commission certifying that it has the capacity to accept that wastewater without any significant upgrades or expansion to the existing system.

b. Construction or expansion of new rail or bus rapid transit facilities; Construction of new public roads, or lane additions to existing public roads; Construction of new interchanges with limited access highways, or reconstruction of existing interchanges resulting in increased capacity;

c. Construction of new parking lots, garages, or additions thereto, that provide for an increase in capacity of 200 vehicles or more;

d. Construction of new dam(s), removal or replacement of existing dams, or any reconstruction or major alteration of existing dams resulting in a permanent change in water level of more than four (4) inches, except for emergency repairs deemed necessary by the Commissioner of DEEP pursuant to 22a-402;

e. Construction of new wastewater conveyance infrastructure, or increase in the hydraulic capacity of existing wastewater conveyance infrastructure, or reconstruction of existing conveyance infrastructure on a new alignment outside of the existing right-of-way or easement;

f. Construction of new drinking water distribution infrastructure, or increase in the capacity of existing drinking water distribution infrastructure, or reconstruction of existing distribution infrastructure on a new alignment outside of the existing right-of-way or easement;

g. Demolition or major alteration of any historic landmark or structure as defined in CGS 10-410, or archeological site as defined in CGS 10-381 that is listed or eligible to be listed on the National or State Registers of Historic Places as determined by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)<sup>i</sup>;

h. Any action, other than maintenance or repair of an existing facility, which may significantly affect all of, or a portion of, a block totaling 25 or more contiguous acres identified as important farmlands in 7 CFR § 657.5 of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, which includes prime farmlands, unique farmland, and farmland of statewide and/or local importance;

i. Any action, other than maintenance or repair of an existing facility, which may significantly affect a Core Forest, defined in CGS 16a-3k as unfragmented forest land that is three hundred feet or greater from the boundary between forest land and nonforest land;

- j. Transfer of property from a state agency to a municipality with a requirement that the property will be utilized for a specific purpose different than its existing use;
- k. Increase in the capacity of an existing, permanent regional waste management facility or site, including but not limited to solid, hazardous, biomedical and radioactive wastes; recycling centers; resource recovery facilities; waste conversion facilities; and transfer stations, as defined in CGS Sec. 22a-207;
- l. Any other action that may significantly affect the environment in an adverse manner, including consideration of the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of those factors identified in Section 22a-1a-3 of the RCSA, and in connection with the proposed action's setting, its probability of occurring, its duration, its irreversibility, its controllability, its geographic scope, its magnitude, and regulatory requirements.

**III. Joint Federal/State Actions Undergoing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Review:**

- a. Any and all joint federal/state actions for which environmental assessments or environmental impact statements are prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as amended, shall be recognized as meeting the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA) requirements provided that such NEPA analysis, documents, and public processes meet the CEPA equivalent requirements.

**IV. Actions which do not warrant a review pursuant to CEPA:**

- a. Maintenance, repairs, or renovations of existing facilities, including minor reconstruction, rehabilitation, or improvements<sup>ii</sup>;
- b. Demolition of facilities<sup>iii</sup>;
- c. Environmental remediation and/or hazardous building materials abatement of a building, structure, or property;
- d. Energy conservation measures;
- e. Licenses for non facility-related purposes;
- f. Transfer of property as directed by legislation unless CEPA is specifically required;
- g. Maintenance, repair, or in-kind replacement of sewer and water infrastructure on the same alignment within the existing right-of-way, and without an increase in capacity;
- h. Maintenance, repair, or in-kind replacement of transportation infrastructure on the same alignment within the existing right-of-way, and without an increase in capacity;

- i. Construction or expansion of bicycle or pedestrian transportation infrastructure within the existing right-of-way.

Note that any proposed state action(s) with the potential to impact a historic landmark or structure as defined in CGS 10-410, or archaeological site as defined in CGS 10-381 is not eligible for the exemptions listed above without first receiving verification<sup>iv</sup> from SHPO that the action will have ***No Historic Properties Affected*** or ***No Adverse Effect*** on those resources. If such verification is not obtained the proposed action shall be subject to public scoping.

After reviewing this ECD, agencies that are still uncertain as to the appropriate level of CEPA review for a proposed action are encouraged to consult with OPM.

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<sup>i</sup> SHPO's criteria for determining the historical significance of a property, including its eligibility for listing on the National or State Registers of Historic Places is based on criteria set forth by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Section 106 (36 CFR Part 800). For additional details, see SHPO's NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES FACT SHEET [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DECD/Historic-Preservation/National\\_Register\\_Fact\\_Sheet.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DECD/Historic-Preservation/National_Register_Fact_Sheet.pdf) and contact SHPO staff.

<sup>ii</sup> Examples of such actions include, but are not limited to: replacement of architectural features; interior remodeling or renovations with no significant change in use; additions or renovations to lighting, fire alarm, heating/cooling and mechanical systems; roof repairs; chimney repairs; installation or modification of environmental controls; mechanical systems and/or manufacturing processes to comply with federal and state environmental regulations; energy conservation upgrades such as door and window replacement, lighting replacement, use of low-water use toilets or shower heads, insulation improvement, and installation of Energy Star equipment.

<sup>iii</sup> Requires notice of intent to DECD in accordance with CT CGS 4b-64: [https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap\\_060.htm#sec\\_4b-64](https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_060.htm#sec_4b-64)

<sup>iv</sup> SHPO Project Review Form: [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DECD/Historic-Preservation/ProjectNotificationForm\\_2018.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DECD/Historic-Preservation/ProjectNotificationForm_2018.pdf)