

**State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health
Drinking Water Section, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY**

Date: January 8, 2015	Staff Contact: Raul Tejada
Applicant PWS Name: Norwich Public Utilities	Town: Norwich
Project Name: Mohegan Park Storage Tank	PWSID: CT1040011
DPH DWSRF Project #: 2012-0015	
Funding Source: Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)	
State Funds: \$2,497,958.00	

This assessment is being conducted in conformance to the generic Environmental Classification Document for Connecticut state agencies to determine Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA) obligations

Project Description:

The proposed project will construct a new 2.0 million gallon (MG) concrete tank to replace the existing 5.0 MG steel Mohegan tank and also lower the system pressure to customers in the Norwich Public Utilities (NPU) Low Pressure Zone. A Capital Efficiency Plan™ and a System Gradient Study were completed by Tata and Howard, Inc. to evaluate options to improve the distribution system and water quality and provide adequate fire flow protection. The System Gradient Study found that in addition to being located at too low of an elevation, the existing 5.0 MG tank volume was larger than necessary for future maximum day equalization and fire flow needs.

The new 2.0 MG of storage would be constructed with an overflow elevation of approximately 292 USGS. In conjunction with the project, the pressure gradient of the NPU Low Service Zone will be reduced, as it is currently too high. The change in system gradient to the NPU Low Service Zone will aid in significantly improving the water quality to the distribution system. The new water storage tank will also provide adequate storage for fire protection. Additional project work will include the demolition of the existing 5.0 million gallon steel water storage tank.

Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) Section 22a-1a-3 Determination of environmental significance (direct/indirect)

1. Impact on air and water quality or on ambient noise levels
 - a. Air Quality – The proposed project is not expected to cause significant adverse air quality effects.
 - b. Water Quality - The proposed project is not expected to cause significant adverse water quality effects to the adjacent watercourses.

- c. Ambient Noise Levels - The proposed project is not expected to cause significant noise in the immediate area;
2. Impact on a public water supply or serious effects on groundwater, flooding, erosion, or sedimentation
 - a. Water Supply – The project area is not located within a public drinking water supply source water area. Hence, no significant impact is expected.
 - b. Groundwater – No significant impact expected.
 - c. Flooding –The proposed project is not located within the 100-year flood zone on the community’s flood insurance rate map.
 - d. Erosion and Sedimentation— In order to protect wetlands and watercourses on and adjacent to the site, strict erosion and sediment controls should be employed during construction. The Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control prepared by the Connecticut Council on Soil and Water Conservation in cooperation with DEEP is a recommended source of technical assistance in the selection and design of appropriate control measures.
3. Effect on natural land resources and formations, including coastal and inland wetlands, and the maintenance of in-stream flows— If there are any undisturbed areas that will be impacted, it is recommended that a certified soil scientist perform a reconnaissance of the site in order to determine whether there are any areas which would be regulated as wetlands or watercourses as defined by section 22a-38 (15) and (16) of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS), respectively.
4. Disruption or alteration of an historic, archeological, cultural or recreational building, object, district, site or surroundings—No significant impact expected.
5. Effect on natural communities and upon critical species of animal or plant and their habitats: interference with the movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species – The Natural Diversity Data Base, maintained by DEEP, contains no records of extant populations of Federally listed endangered or threatened species or species listed by the State, pursuant to section 26-306 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as endangered, threatened or special concern in the project area..
6. Use of pesticides, toxic or hazardous materials or any other substance in such quantities as to create extensive detrimental environmental impact - NPU should be aware that large, painted above-ground tanks may have historically been painted with PCB paint and may also have PCB caulk associated with them. Such materials must be managed properly should PCBs be present. Prior to demolition, the paint and any caulk should be tested for the presence of PCBs. In addition, leaching from painted surfaces can also cause adjacent soil contamination. If PCB paint or caulk is confirmed, soil sampling is advisable. Further

information concerning PCBs can be found on-line at: PCB Info or by contacting Lori Saliby of the DEEP PCB Program at 860-424-3329 or lori.saliby@ct.gov.

The disposal of demolition waste should be handled in accordance with applicable solid waste statutes and regulations. Demolition debris may be contaminated with asbestos, lead-based paint or chemical residues and require special disposal. Clean fill is defined in section 22a-209-1 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) and includes only natural soil, rock, brick, ceramics, concrete and asphalt paving fragments. Clean fill can be used on site or at appropriate off-site locations. Clean fill does not include uncured asphalt, demolition waste containing other than brick or rubble, contaminated demolition wastes (e.g. contaminated with oil or lead paint), tree stumps, or any kind of contaminated soils. Landclearing debris and waste other than clean fill resulting from demolition activities is considered bulky waste, also defined in section 22a-209-1 of the RCSA. Bulky waste is classified as special waste and must be disposed of at a permitted landfill or other solid waste processing facility pursuant to section 22a-208c of the Connecticut General Statutes and section 22a-209-2 of the RCSA.

Removal of hazardous materials (i.e. asbestos containing material, lead-based paint, PCBs, etc.) shall be performed by a State Licensed Abatement Company. Necessary permit/notification from the Department of Public Health (DPH) and other concerned agencies must be obtained prior to starting the work. Copies of permit/notification must be submitted to the DPH for documentation purposes.

7. Substantial aesthetic or visual effects - The project is not expected to cause substantial aesthetic or visual impacts in the area.
8. Inconsistency with the written and/or mapped policies of the statewide Plan of Conservation and Development and such other plans and policies developed or coordinated by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) or other agency—The project is consistent with OPM's policies of Growth Management Principle #5, Protect and Ensure the Integrity of Environmental Assets Critical to Public Health and Safety.
9. Disruption or division of an established community or inconsistency with adopted municipal or regional plans- No significant impact expected.
10. Displacement or addition of substantial numbers of people - No significant impact expected.
11. Substantial increase in congestion (traffic, recreational, other) – The proposed project is not expected to create substantial traffic congestion in the area.
12. A substantial increase in the type or rate of energy use as a direct or indirect result of the action - No significant impact expected.
13. The creation of a hazard to human health or safety –No significant impact expected.

14. Any other substantial impact on natural, cultural, recreational or scenic resources - No significant impact expected.

Conclusions:

Based on the DPH's environmental assessment of this project which includes comments provided by the DEEP dated September 5, 2012, it has been determined that the project does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) under CEPA. The DPH will coordinate with Norwich Public Utilities to ensure that the recommendations by the DEEP are implemented.

Recommendations:

Prior to starting the project construction, the following best management practices should be considered:

1. **Construction Maintenance:** No construction should take place before erosion and sedimentation controls are installed. These controls should be properly installed, maintained, inspected regularly, and remain in place until the project construction is completed. During construction and until a vegetative cover is reestablished, the project area should be inspected daily and after rainfall to verify erosion control measures are properly functioning. Any defects on the structure must be immediately repaired.
2. **Emergency Response Plan:** Develop an Emergency Spill Response Plan before construction begins. Spill response equipment should be available on-site at all times along with personnel trained in the proper use of such equipment.
3. **Hazardous Materials Storage:** Hazardous materials should be removed from the site during non-work hours or otherwise stored in a secure area to prevent vandalism. Place covered trashcans and recycling receptacles around the site. Cover and maintain dumpsters. Check frequently for leaks. Place dumpsters under a roof or cover with tarps or plastic sheeting. Never clean a dumpster by hosing it down on site.
4. **Vehicles and Machinery:** Methods and locations of refueling, servicing, and storage of vehicles and machinery should be addressed and included as notes on the final site plans. All equipment fueling or minor repairs should occur on a fueling pad. Onsite fuel storage for heavy equipment should have containment and be located in a secure area where it will not be vandalized or struck by equipment or vehicles on the job site.