**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY**

**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. Limited fugitive dust emissions can occur during materials handling, storage, and movement of equipment at the site. Fugitive dust is most likely to be a problem during periods of maximum construction activity and would be accentuated by windy and/or dry weather conditions. Potential air quality impacts from fugitive dust will be addressed through construction best management practices which may include:

• Covering, shielding, or stabilizing stockpiled material as necessary.

* Engineered construction entrances to prevent tracking onto town roads.

• Limiting dust-producing construction activities during high wind conditions.

• Water trucks and/or chemical treatments (calcium chloride) to minimize dust as needed.

b. Water Quality - The proposed project will provide increased water quality by the removal of a riverine impoundment. Limited construction activities are proposed adjacent to the surface watercourse, waterbody or wetland.

c. Ambient Noise Levels - The proposed action will not have long-term adverse impacts to the existing noise environment. The project may result in short-term construction noise impact. Construction equipment is anticipated to be the principal source of noise during the proposed project. Any noise impacts would be limited to the duration of the construction activity which will be completed during one construction season.

2. Impact on a public water supply or serious effects on groundwater, flooding, erosion, or sedimentation

a. Water Supply – The proposed project is not located in a public drinking water source water area.

b. Groundwater - The proposed project is not expected to cause significant impacts to project area groundwater.

c. Flooding – The project will decrease upstream flooding for storms of less than the 100 year event.

d. Erosion or Sedimentation – The proposed project is not expected to cause significant impacts. Appropriate BMPs to control sedimentation will be employed during construction.

3. Effect on natural land resources and formations, including coastal and inland wetlands, and the maintenance of in-stream flows – Not applicable.

4. Disruption or alteration of an historic, archeological, cultural or recreational building, object, district, site or surroundings - The proposed project is not expected to cause negative impacts however as per the request of the State Historic Preservation Office, an archaeologist will be present onsite during any on site excavation and/or sediment removal.

5. Effect on natural communities and upon critical species of animal or plant and their habitats or interference with the movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species: No impacts anticipated due to the project location within existing waterway.

6. Use of pesticides, toxic or hazardous materials or any other substance in such quantities as to create extensive detrimental environmental impact – Not applicable.

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 – Not applicable

9. Disruption or division of an established community or inconsistency with adopted municipal or regional plans- Not applicable

10. Displacement or addition of substantial numbers of people – Not applicable.

11. Substantial increase in congestion (traffic, recreational, other) – Not applicable.

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 – The project is not expected to create a hazard to human health or safety.

14. Any other substantial impact on natural, cultural, recreational or scenic resources – Not applicable.

15. OPM commented on the Scoping Notice on May 04, 2017 with a question:

“How did DEEP prioritize this area for restoration over other potential dam removal or restoration projects?”

CT DEEP responded as follows:

“DEEP State Dams Section of the Water Planning and Management Division is responsible for the inspection, repair, replacement or removal of 264 state owned dams. DEEP prioritizes dams by hazard classification. Upper Slater Mill (City) Pond dam is rated a B (significant hazard) dam. After inspections in 2008 both the upper and lower dams were determined to be breach candidates. The State of Connecticut owns these dams and the liability if these dams fail during a major storm event. As our dam infrastructure ages, more funds are going to be needed to keep them safe. These dams have been a high priority for removal for the past decade. The removal will reduce flooding upstream of the upper dam and reduce the risk to the state road (Route 138) directly downstream if the dam were to fail. In today’s budget climate it is difficult to justify spending millions of dollars to repair a failing dam when removal is the most cost effective and permanent way of dealing with this infrastructure. Restoration of the stream’s natural riverine system will also be a benefit to the environment.