



COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Executive Director

November 16, 2011

Ms. Margaret Miner
Rivers Alliance
P.O. Box 1797
Litchfield, CT 06759

Dear Ms. Miner:

I am writing to respond to your inquiry as to whether the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) would perform an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) for the proposed state-funded boat launching facility in Glastonbury, as required by its own Environmental Classification Document (ECD).

After a review of the site plans the Council concurred with your suggestion that the proposed creation of a new launching facility, where none exists now, meets the ECD threshold that necessitates an EIE for "construction of new boat launching facilities."

In three separate communications the Council advised the Office of Policy and Management and DEEP of its opinion that an EIE is required for a project of this nature. DEEP has chosen not to perform the EIE. It advised the Council of this in a letter of October 4, 2011 (enclosed). The Council remains unpersuaded by the response.

Implicit in reluctance to create an EIE is often the misconception that it will add time and expense to a project. The Council notes that an EIE can be both short and inexpensive and also provide an adequate analysis of the environmental considerations that surround most projects. The Council recommends the use of concise, cost effective EIEs. The EIE process is designed to identify environmental mistakes that will be more costly to the public in the long run.

During discussions of this matter the Council's chair, Barbara Wagner, and the executive director, Karl Wagener, being residents of Glastonbury, recused themselves to avoid a perception of conflict of interest.

Thank you for your inquiry. Please continue to keep the Council informed regarding environmental issues that concern you.

Sincerely

Janet Brooks
Council member

Encl.