



April 4, 2019

Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Comments on CT Water Quality Standards Triennial Review

Dear DEEP Administrators,

I am writing on behalf of the Norwalk River Watershed Association, and our topics of concern include the pollutants listed as Human Health Water Quality Criteria and the Required Disinfection Period above I95, both of which are currently covered by the Water Quality Standards.

NRWA's suggested revision to the Human Health Water Quality Criteria is the addition of PFAS, micro-plastics, micro-fibers, sodium chloride from road salts, and other emerging contaminants to the list of pollutants. The list of EPA recommended criteria seems incomplete.

In addition, NRWA has argued for years and feels very strongly that the disinfection period above I95 should be extended year-round. Recreation on the Norwalk River occurs all year, not merely from April or May to October or November. Trout season begins in mid-April and extends to the end of February. Brave paddlers use the river all year as well. I walk the river banks year-round and observe families with children playing at the edges of the water and pets swimming and children patting them, including from December through March.

We understand that there are costs to keeping the lights on all year for the wastewater treatment plants and that there is the pollution from the energy required to run the lights that should be taken into consideration. However, we feel the benefits of year-round disinfection outweigh the costs. Disinfection kills e-coli, the indicator bacteria, as well as other pathogens that potentially harm human health and aquatic life. The fishermen and families of Connecticut deserve clean water, especially where the infrastructure to provide clean water is already in place. We suggest that wastewater treatment plants consider using renewable sources of electricity to power their lights. I have made the choice in my home to opt for 100% renewable sources of energy. Shouldn't the State be leading the way toward cleaner water and air all year long?

[New Canaan, Norwalk, Redding, Ridgefield, Weston, Wilton, Lewisboro NY](#)



Let's avoid knowingly dumping bacteria and pathogens in our rivers when we have the infrastructure in place to clean it.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

Louise Washer, President
Norwalk River Watershed Association