Eastern Region Water Utility Coordinating Committee



September 19, 2016

To the Following Eastern WUCC Members:

The Honorable Michael J. Zambo, First Selectman, Town of Ashford The Honorable Roy A. Piper, First Selectman, Town of Canterbury The Honorable Matthew Cunningham, First Selectman, Town of Chaplain The Honorable Arthur Brodeur, First Selectman, Town of Eastford The Honorable Allen R. Cahill, First Selectman, Town of Hampton Sean Hendricks, Town Manager, Town of Killingly The Honorable Craig Baldwin, First Selectman, Town of Pomfret The Honorable Anthony Falzarano, Mayor, Town of Putnam The Honorable Daniel D. Syme, First Selectman, Town of Scotland The Honorable Russell M. Gray, First Selectman, Town of Sterling The Honorable Albert L. Goodhall, Jr., First Selectman, Town of Union Neal Beets, Town Manager, Town of Windham The Honorable Allen D. Walker, Jr., First Selectman, Town of Woodstock

Robert Congdon, Tri-Chair congdon@preston-ct.org 860-887-5581 Ext.105

Mark Decker, Tri-Chair MarkDecker@npumail.com 860-823-4168

Patrick Bernardo, Tri-Chair Patrick.bernardo@suez-na.com 856-718-7003

Samuel Alexander, Recording Secretary Samuel.alexander@neccog.org 860-774-1253

And other municipalities in the northern Eastern Region:

The Honorable Richard A. Ives, First Selectman, Town of Brooklyn The Honorable Paul E. Sweet, First Selectman, Town of Plainfield The Honorable Kenneth Beausoleil, First Selectman, Town of Thompson

RE: Advisement of Member Status and Right to Claim an Exclusive Service Area Preliminary Exclusive Service Area Boundary Delineation Eastern Region WUCC

The Eastern Region Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) is in a two year drinking water supply planning process in the eastern region public water supply management area. Many of your municipalities are WUCC members by virtue of your municipality owning a public water system and therefore able to participate as voting members in the process.

As part of this process, exclusive service areas will be delineated in the northern portion of the Eastern Region. The term "exclusive service area" is defined in Section 25-33h-1(a)(5) of the RCSA as "an area where public water is supplied by one system". Functionally, an ESA boundary defines a provider, either a public water system or a municipality, who will be responsible for providing public water service within the ESA boundary in the event that it becomes necessary to supply public water service. Existing public water systems will automatically receive an ESA coincident with their existing service area as part of this process.

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The purpose of this letter is to advise you that as municipalities you have the right to claim the ESA for your community regardless of your WUCC member status. Connecticut General Statute 7-234, as passed in 1967, reaffirmed the authority of municipalities to provide water service and further established that any town, city, borough, or district organized for municipal purposes may acquire, construct, and operate a water system where there are no existing private waterworks system or where private owners of existing systems are willing to sell. Note that there are currently two communities in southeastern Connecticut which maintain ESAs but do not currently own public water systems.

Please be advised that a Declaration Form is expected to be issued by the Eastern WUCC in October to allow water utilities and municipalities the opportunity to declare ESA boundaries in which they will be responsible for providing public water service when the need arises. Areas currently provided with public water service will automatically receive an ESA coincident with their existing service area.

We encourage you to consider the water supply needs of your municipality. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of the Tri-Chairs at the phone numbers or email addresses listed above, or the Eastern WUCC's consultant, Mr. Scott Bighinatti of Milone & MacBroom, Inc., at 203-271-1773 or sbighinatti@mminc.com. You may also discuss your concerns with us at our next regularly scheduled Eastern WUCC meeting to be held on October 12, 2016 at the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments office, 5 Connecticut Avenue, Norwich, CT at 1:00 PM. You are also encouraged to provide comment on this process via our online survey by typing the following into your web browser: bit.ly/EWUCC1.

Additional information pertaining to the Eastern Region Water Utility Coordinating Committee, including past and future meeting agendas, meeting minutes, correspondence, schedules, mapping, and publications may be found at the following web site: http://www.ct.gov/dph/wucc. We look forward to your participation in this important process.

Very Truly Yours,

Robert Congdon /

Eastern Region WUCC Tri-Chair

Mark Decker

Eastern Region WUCC Tri-Chair

Patrick Bernardo

Eastern WUCC Tri-Chair