



Stewards of the Environment

September 28, 2018

Mr. Richard Iozzo
DPH Drinking Water Section
410 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06134

Re: Water Utility Coordinating Committee Coordinated Plans

Dear Rich:

The purpose of this letter is to express Aquarion Water Company's support for the Coordinated Water System Plans (Plans) prepared by the Eastern, Central and Western Water Utility Coordinating Committees (WUCCs).

Aquarion participated in the development of the Plans in all three regions and I was a tri-chair to the Western WUCC and plan to continue to stay on as co-chair to implement the recommendations within the Plans. The investment of time and resources to the WUCC by water companies, town officials, regional council of governments, and others provided for representation for each Town or City with the State of Connecticut. The regional council of governments (WUCC members) provided valuable and needed planning input to the Plans and provided coordination for the communities unable to regularly attend the meetings. These investments combined with the notification of the WUCC members, Town and City Officials, and any other interested parties of meetings, data requests, and public comment periods allowed for an open and transparent process.

When the legislature created the Connecticut Plan for Public Water Supply Coordination they directed the Department of Public Health (DPH) to develop a coordinated planning process "in order to maximize efficient and effective development of the State's public water supply systems and to promote public health, safety, and welfare...". The WUCCs continue to play a vital role in achieving this objective. The Coordinated Water System Plan, including the individual Water Supply Plans of the water systems in each management area, is where the grassroots water supply planning occurs. This includes local projections for public water supply needs, assessment of available water to meet those needs, and high level plans for developing new supplies (either through development of new sources or transmission of water from existing sources) when necessary. Plans for new source development are then reviewed for adequacy and environmental impact through a variety of State regulatory programs. The WUCCs also provide a unique opportunity for coordination between local communities and public water systems in areas such as emergency response, conservation, and drought planning.

In addition, the Coordinated Plans provide needed support to, and are guided by, Connecticut's State Water Plan. The Coordinated Plans define the public water supply needs within each drainage basin, and the State Water Plan can set the policies for balancing those, and other, out of stream needs with ecological and recreational instream needs. The State Water Plan can also influence conservation, water re-use, and local conservation and development planning that in turn impacts the demand projections in the WUCC Coordinated Plans.



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Aquarion would like to commend the Department and the WUCCs for their hard work in preparing these comprehensive Coordinated Water System Plans and urges their approval. We look forward to continuing to support the WUCCs and their coordinated water system planning efforts.

Sincerely,

Daniel R. Lawrence, P.E.
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