

Additional comments of the **Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments**  
regarding the **Alteration of the Boundaries of the Public Water Supply Management Areas and the**  
**Priorities for Initiation of the Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) Planning Process**  
**Established in Connecticut General Statute 25-33f to 25-33h, inclusive**

The Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (NECCOG) submitted written comments on May 19, 2014 and testified as well during that public hearing. These comments are in addition to the testimony previously presented and in no way are meant to supersede or alter those comments. As stated previously, we are in full support of the proposed boundary changes as proposed.

We want to emphasize that the State has recently reset the planning regions (each as councils of governments) and has additionally provided each with a significant increase in funding to allow each of the regions to provide planning services (such as water supply planning) that were previously difficult if not impossible to provide. As stated in the Office of Policy and Management's report titled Status Report Analysis of the Boundaries of Logical Planning Regions (page 2): "Connecticut's planning regions provide a geographic framework within which municipalities can jointly address common interests, and coordinate such interests with state plans and programs." We believe that in light of the newly created regions - that other regional initiatives should follow the same regional delineation's as is proposed for the northeastern corner of Connecticut. One of the primary goals of the newly formed regions is to work toward constancy in how we plan and deliver services as a state compared to the fragmentation in service delivery now in place.

We want to make clear that where it makes sense to collaborate and cooperate (as we do now for homeland security, transportation and other issues) with our neighboring regions we are committed to do so in order to facilitate the planning process. The NECCOG borders two regions (SCCOG and CRCOG) in Connecticut, one region in Massachusetts and one region in Rhode Island that each have some overlap or influence on water issues in our region. We understand that regional planning is not conducted in a vacuum and that political boundaries do not contain environmental realities. What we ask is that the Department of Public Health allow us to proceed with the Water Utility Coordinating Committee planning process based on the newly configured councils of governments.

Thank you for your consideration of our position. Please refer any questions or requests for additional information to: John Filchak, NECCOG Executive Director, john.filchak@neccog.org.