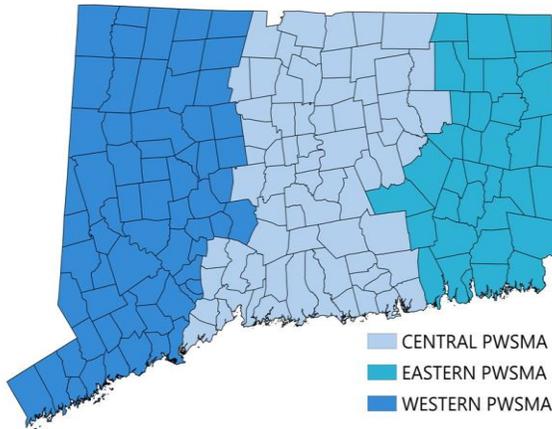


Connecticut's Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) Process

A Coordinated Planning Approach for the State's Public Drinking Water Supply

WHAT ARE THE WUCCs? The Western, Central, and Eastern WUCCs are comprised of one representative from each public water system and one representative from each regional council of government (COG) within three Public Water Supply Management Areas (PWSMAs) established by the Department of Public Health (DPH) pursuant to CGS § 25-33f.



- Completion of an *Integrated Report* providing an overview of public water systems and addressing area-wide water supply issues, concerns, and needs to promote cooperation among public water systems; and
- Completion of an *Executive Summary* to serve as an abbreviated overview of the CWSP.

The WUCCs were required by RCSA § 25-33h-1(f) to submit each of the four components of its CWSP to the DPH within specified timeframes spanning a two-year planning process. Each WUCC held monthly meetings that were open to the public to facilitate this work. Efforts were made throughout this process to be inclusive of diverse viewpoints from water utilities, state and local government, stakeholders, and the public.

Each WUCC prepared its CWSP and submitted the plan to DPH in May (Western and Eastern regions) and June (Central region) of 2018. The CWSPs are required to be updated as necessary or at least every 10 years.

WHY DO THE WUCCs EXIST? Connecticut's regional public water supply planning process was prompted by the State's extended drought in the early 1980s. Public Act 85-535, "An Act Concerning a Connecticut Plan for Public Water Supply Coordination," directed the DPH to administer a procedure to coordinate the planning of public water supply systems in an effort to maximize their efficient and effective development and to promote public health, safety, and welfare. The legislative finding associated with this Public Act was codified in CGS § 25-33c.

WHAT ARE THE WUCCs DOING? In June 2016, the DPH convened the Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) for each PWSMA and directed each WUCC to implement the 2-year planning process established by CGS §§ 25-33g and 25-33h.

The Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) § 25-33h-1(d) requires each WUCC to prepare a CWSP consisting of the following elements in addition to the utilities' individual *Water Supply Plans* prepared for systems within the PWSMA:

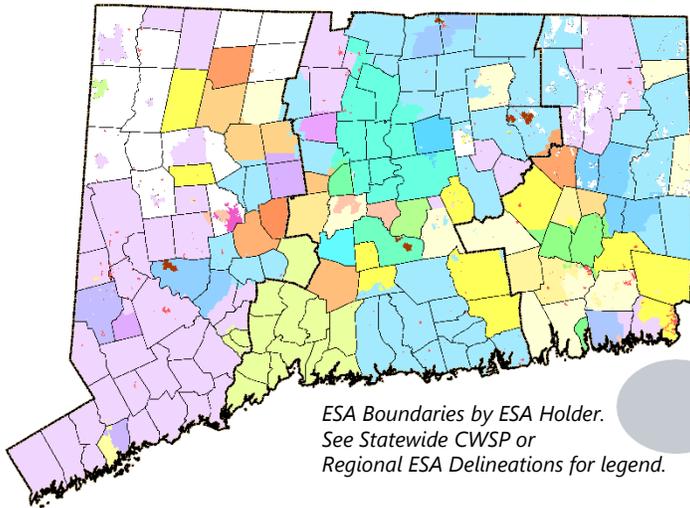
- Completion of a *Water Supply Assessment* of regional water supply conditions and problems;
- Establishment of exclusive service area (ESA) boundaries delineating each public water system's potential service area;



Eastern WUCC Meeting, June 2018

WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF THE WUCC PROCESS? Each of the three regional CWSPs evaluates current water supply conditions and problems in the PWSMA, establishes ESA boundaries assigning responsibility for providing future public water supply to areas where it may be needed, and presents current and projected water demands for public water systems.

WHAT IS THE VISION FOR THIS PLANNING PROCESS? As envisioned in Connecticut General Statute (CGS) § 25-33c, "an adequate supply of potable water for domestic, commercial and industrial use is vital to the health and well-being of the people of the state. Readily available water for use in public water systems is limited and should be developed with a minimum of loss and waste." This vision statement guided the Coordinated Water System Plan (CWSP) process and requires sustained vigilance by state agencies and public water systems to ensure adequate water quality and quantity is maintained. The CWSP prepared by each WUCC evaluates current public water supply conditions and future needs at a regional scale and provides guidance towards improving regional coordination and the technical, managerial, and financial capacity of public water supply systems.



ESA boundaries delineate existing and potential future service areas of public water systems, identify responsible parties to own and operate “community” (residential) public water systems developed through the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity process (CGS § 16-262m), and resolve competing future service area claims by public water systems resulting from the assignment of overlapping franchise areas over time by the state legislature. When municipal land use and development goals result in the need for the creation of a new public water system, the designated ESA provider will be part of that process.

The CWSPs identify potential regional projects to encourage system resiliency and redundancy, provide a desktop review of potential environmental impacts of new supply sources identified in water supply plans that may meet regional needs, and quantifies how water conservation may reduce projected water demands. The CWSPs identify regional needs as opposed to site-specific capital improvement projects, leaving such decisions to the individual utilities to evaluate with assistance from the respective WUCC. Several potential projects are identified in order to facilitate further discussion and possible funding.

Each CWSP contains more than 60 recommendations for the WUCC to pursue in order to improve public water supply conditions through the year 2030. These recommendations fall into the topic areas of responsible planning, drought management, source protection, water conservation, resiliency, and funding. Some recommendations will require action by DPH or other state agencies, while others will rely on action by COGs or by individual public water systems. These recommendations provide the basis for discussion and action by each WUCC and its members over the next 10 years.

WHAT IS THE OUTCOME OF THE WUCC PROCESS? The DPH has interpreted the primary messages of the each CWSP into the following top needs for public water systems in the state, which are intended to serve as guiding principles for future regulations, water planning, capital improvement projects, and funding goals. They are:

1. **Regionalization and Interconnections**
Ensure redundant and environmentally responsible supplies.
2. **Water Conservation and Water Efficiency**
Reduce future demands and unnecessary water use.
3. **Reduce Clustering of Small Water Systems**
Encourage consolidations and ensure responsible planning to mitigate proliferation of adjacent small systems.
4. **Assistance to Small Public Water Systems**
Ensure proper technical, managerial, and financial capacity of small public water systems.
5. **Investment in Infrastructure**
Replace aging infrastructure, including mains a century old.
6. **Funding**
Provide grants and loans for planning, projects, and small systems in line with the above needs.
7. **Drought Management and Resilience**
Increase awareness of drought impacts and standardize responses to the extent practicable.
8. **Resiliency to Storms and Climate Change**
Reduce recovery time and adapt to future conditions.
9. **Protection of Watersheds and Supplies**
Continue to ensure adequate water supplies with high water quality.
10. **Improvements to Water Demand and Water Quality Planning**
Avoid the development of unnecessary new sources and ensure proper consideration of regulated and unregulated contaminants.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS? Each WUCC will work to implement the recommendations of their CWSP, including ensuring that water demand and projection data in the CWSPs are updated sooner than is required to facilitate regional planning, and working with DPH to provide assistance to small water systems. DPH plans to hold workshops in 2019 to educate public water systems on the outcome of the planning process and to work towards implementation of regional and statewide public water supply projects.

WHAT IF I WANT MORE INFORMATION? Visit the WUCC webpages located on the DPH website at <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Drinking-Water/WUCC/Water-Utility-Coordinating-Committee/>