



State of Connecticut

# Environmental Review Checklist

Last Updated 02/25/2020

## Instructions for Use:

The Environmental Review Checklist (ERC), as defined in Sec. 22a-1a-1(9) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA), is intended to assist state agencies in (1) determining whether a proposed action or category of actions requires public scoping, or (2) in recording an agency's initial assessment of the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects of a proposed action at the completion of public scoping.

For the purposes of CEPA, an Action is defined in Sec 22a-1a-1(2) of the RCSA as an individual activity or a sequence of planned activities initiated or proposed to be undertaken by an agency or agencies, or funded in whole or in part by the state.

Completion of the ERC is only *required* as part of a sponsoring agency's post-scoping notice in which the agency has determined that it will not be preparing an EIE (Sec. 22a-1a-7(d) of the RCSA).

In all other instances, the sponsoring agency has the option to use this form or portions of it, in conjunction with the applicable Environmental Classification Document (ECD), as a tool to assist it in determining whether or not scoping is required and to document the agency's review. This can be especially useful for an agency administering a proposed action that is not specifically represented in the ECD or which may have additional factors and/or indirect or cumulative impacts requiring further consideration.

Even if an agency ultimately determines that public scoping is not necessary, as a matter of public record OPM highly recommends that the agency internally document its decision, and its justification.

In completing this form, include descriptions that are clear, concise, and understandable to the general public.

Note that prior to reviewing a proposed action under the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA), Connecticut General Statutes (CGS), Section 16a-31 requires agencies to review any proposed actions for the acquisition, development or improvement of real properties, or the acquisition of public transportation equipment or facilities, and in excess of \$200,000, for consistency with the policies of the State Plan of Conservation and Development (State C&D Plan).



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## PART I – Initial Review and Determination

Date:	January 6, 2026
Name of Project/Action:	West Queen Street Interconnection Project
Project Addresses:	West Queen Street between Queen Street and Newell Street, Southington, CT
Affected Municipalities:	Southington
Sponsoring Agency:	Department of Public Health (DPH)
Agency Project Number, if applicable:	N/A
Project Funding Source/Program, if known:	Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)

Identify the Environmental Classification Document (ECD) being used in this review:

Generic, or  Agency-Specific

An environmental assessment or environmental impact statement is being prepared pursuant to NEPA, and shall be circulated in accordance with CEPA requirements.

The proposed action requires a written review by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and/or Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Office (NATHPO). Include SHPO/NATHPO reviews as an attachment, or indicate the status of those reviews: Indicate status of SHPO and/or NATHPO review.

Based on the analysis documented in this Environmental Review Checklist (ERC), and in consideration of public comments, this agency has determined that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) for the proposed action is not warranted. Publication of this document to the Environmental Monitor shall satisfy the agency's responsibilities under [Section 22a-1a-7 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies](#) (RCSA).

Completed by: Lisette Stone, Environmental Analyst II, Department of Public Health

*Note that prior to commencing a CEPA review, Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) Section 16a-31 requires state agencies to review certain actions for their consistency with the policies of the State Plan of Conservation and Development (State C&D Plan). Completion of this ERC assumes the agency has determined this proposed action to be consistent with the State C&D Plan.*

## PART II – Detailed Project Information

### **Description of the Purpose & Need of the Proposed Action:**

The purpose of the West Queen Street Water Main Interconnection Project is to improve public water system reliability, hydraulic performance, and fire protection within the Southington Water Department distribution system. The existing system configuration in this area experiences high flows through nearby mains and there is limited redundancy. Installation of an additional interconnection will improve operational flexibility and system resilience, thereby enhancing public health and safety.

The project is located entirely within the Exclusive Service Area of the Southington Water Department and does not involve an increase in authorized withdrawals from any drinking water source.

### **Description of the Proposed Action:**

The proposed action consists of installation of approximately 485 linear feet of new 12-inch diameter ductile iron water main along West Queen Street, extending from the existing 12-inch water main on Queen Street to the intersection of West Queen Street and Newell Street in Southington, Connecticut. Associated work includes trench excavation, pipe installation, connection to the existing distribution system, and restoration of roadway and disturbed areas. Construction will occur entirely within the existing roadway right-of-way and will not involve expansion of service outside the existing service area.

### **Alternatives Considered:**

Alternatives to the proposed action include taking no action or continuing to rely on the existing distribution configuration. These alternatives were not selected because they would not address existing hydraulic limitations, system redundancy concerns, or fire flow needs. The proposed interconnection represents the most practical and cost-effective solution to meet system reliability objectives.

### **Public concerns or controversy associated with the proposed action:**

DPH received comments from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). DEEP's comments have been acknowledged and addressed by the applicant and are assessed in Part IV. No public controversy or opposition was identified.

## PART III – Site Characteristics (Check all that apply)

The proposed action is non-site specific, or encompasses multiple sites;	<input type="checkbox"/>
Current site ownership:	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A, <input type="checkbox"/> State; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Municipal, <input type="checkbox"/> Private, <input type="checkbox"/> Other: Please Explain.
Anticipated ownership upon project completion:	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A, <input type="checkbox"/> State; <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Municipal, <input type="checkbox"/> Private, <input type="checkbox"/> Other: Please Explain.

**Locational Guide Map Criteria:**

[2018-2023 Locational Guide Map \(arcgis.com\)](http://arcgis.com)

Priority Funding Area factors:

- Designated as a Priority Funding Area, including  Balanced, or  Village PFA;
- Urban Area or Urban Cluster, as designated by the most recent US Census Data;
- Public Transit, defined as being within a ½ mile buffer surrounding existing or planned mass transit;
- Existing or planned sewer service from an adopted Wastewater Facility Plan;
- Existing or planned water service from an adopted Public Drinking Water Supply Plan;
- Existing local bus service provided 7 days a week.

Conservation Area factors:

- Core Forest Area(s), defined as greater than 250 acres based on the 2006 Land Cover Dataset;
- Existing or potential drinking water supply watershed(s);
- Aquifer Protection Area(s);
- Wetland Soils greater than 25 acres;
- Undeveloped Prime, Statewide Important and/or locally important agricultural soils greater than 25 acres;
- Category 1, 2, or 3 Hurricane Inundation Zone(s);
- 100 year Flood Zone(s);
- Critical Habitat;
- Locally Important Conservation Area(s),
- Protected Land (list type): Enter text.
- Local, State, or National Historic District(s).

## PART IV - Assessment of Environmental Significance – Direct, Indirect, And Cumulative Effects

Required Factors for Consideration (Section 22a-1a-3 of the RCSA)	Agency's Assessment and Explanation
Effect on water quality, including surface water and groundwater;	<p>The project is located within the Southington Water Department's Exclusive Service Area and qualifies for the exemption under Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies §22a-377(b)-1(5) for water diversions incidental to extending distribution mains, provided authorized withdrawal limits are not exceeded. The project does not increase the quantity of water withdrawn from any source authorized under Connecticut General Statutes §22a-368.</p> <p>The project site is not located within an Aquifer Protection Area or a parcel prioritized for source water protection. However, the site overlies coarse-grained deposits with potential groundwater yield. In response to DEEP recommendations, the construction contractor will implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) consistent with the Connecticut Aquifer Protection Area Program Municipal Manual to protect groundwater during construction.</p> <p>The Quinnipiac River, which has impaired water quality, is located less than one-quarter mile from the project area. Erosion and sediment control measures will be implemented during construction to prevent indirect impacts to surface waters</p>
Effect on a public water supply system;	<p>The project will improve distribution system reliability, reduce high flows through nearby mains, and enhance fire protection capabilities within the Southington Water Department system. The project provides a direct public health and safety benefit by strengthening existing infrastructure without expanding service or increasing withdrawals.</p>
Effect on flooding, in-stream flows, erosion or sedimentation;	<p>The project does not occur within a FEMA-designated floodplain. Therefore, Flood Management Certification is not required. Standard erosion and sedimentation controls will be implemented during construction to minimize localized impacts</p>
Disruption or alteration of an historic, archeological, cultural, or recreational building, object, district, site or its surroundings; A. Alteration of an historic building, district, structure, object, or its	<p>The project is confined to an existing roadway corridor and is not expected to disrupt or alter any historic, archaeological, cultural, or recreational resources.</p>

setting; OR B. Disruption of an archeological or sacred site;	
Effect on natural communities and upon critical plant and animal species and their habitat; interference with the movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species;	The Natural Diversity Database (NDDB) is a record of state or federal listed species maintained by the Wildlife Division that may be found in the project area. This site is not in a NDDB area and therefore consultation with the NDDB Program is not required. No impacts to resident or migratory wildlife species are anticipated.
Use of pesticides, toxic or hazardous materials or any other substance in such quantities as to cause unreasonable adverse effects on the environment;	The project is not expected to cause adverse effects.
Substantial aesthetic or visual effects;	The project is not expected to cause adverse effects.
Inconsistency with: (A) the policies of the State C&D Plan, developed in accordance with section 16a-30 of the CGS; (B) other relevant state agency plans; and (C) applicable regional or municipal land use plans;	<p>The project is consistent with the <a href="#">State of Connecticut's Plan of Conservation and Development</a> (POCD) including Growth Management Principles (GMP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4.14: "<i>Support the introduction or expansion of public water...when there is a demonstrated environmental, public health, public safety, economic, social, or general welfare concern</i>" – <u>Id.</u> 16</li> <li>• 5.1: "<i>Utilize a multiple barrier approach to ensure the availability of safe and adequate public water supplies that meet or exceed state and federal drinking water standards</i>" – <u>Id.</u> 17</li> <li>• 6.3 "<i>Support the creation of objective and uniform protocols for public water</i>" – <u>Id.</u> 21</li> </ul>
Disruption or division of an established community or inconsistency with adopted municipal and regional plans, including impacts on existing housing where sections 22a- 1b(c) and 8-37t of the CGS require additional analysis;	The project is not expected to disrupt communities or housing.
Displacement or addition of substantial numbers of people;	The project is not expected to displace any people.
Substantial increase in congestion (traffic, recreational, other);	Temporary traffic-control measures associated with construction is not expected to have significant adverse impacts.

A substantial increase in the type or rate of energy use as a direct or indirect result of the action;	The project is not expected to significantly increase energy use.
The creation of a hazard to human health or safety;	The project is not expected to create a hazard to human health and safety. To the contrary, upon completion the project will provide a direct public health and safety benefit by strengthening existing infrastructure without expanding service or increasing withdrawals.
Effect on air quality;	The project is not expected to affect air quality.
Effect on ambient noise levels;	Temporary construction-related noise may occur but will be localized and short-term.
Effect on existing land resources and landscapes, including coastal and inland wetlands;	DEEP has indicated that the project does not appear to affect inland wetlands or watercourses. If unforeseen impacts occur, appropriate permitting through the DEEP Land and Water Resources Division would be required.
Effect on agricultural resources;	The project is not expected to affect agricultural resources.
Adequacy of existing or proposed utilities and infrastructure;	<p>The proposed project will improve the adequacy and reliability of existing public water infrastructure and will reduce high flows through nearby mains, improve hydraulic performance, and enhance fire protection capabilities in the West Queen Street area.</p> <p>The project does not require expansion of water service, does not increase authorized water withdrawals, and does not place additional demand on source, treatment, or storage infrastructure. Instead, it optimizes the performance of the existing system by increasing redundancy and operational flexibility. No deficiencies in supporting utilities (e.g., sewer, electric, telecommunications, or transportation infrastructure) have been identified that would limit the effectiveness or operation of the proposed water main.</p> <p>Accordingly, the proposed utilities and supporting infrastructure are adequate to support the project, and the project represents an improvement to existing public water infrastructure with clear public health and safety benefits.</p>
Effect on greenhouse gas emissions as a direct or indirect result of the action;	The project is not expected to create greenhouse gas emissions.
Effect of a changing climate on the action, including any resiliency	The project enhances climate resilience by enhancing redundancy and operational flexibility within the existing distribution network,

measures incorporated into the action;	supporting continued service under variable demand and emergency conditions.
Any other substantial effects on natural, cultural, recreational, or scenic resources.	The project is not expected to cause negative impacts.
Cumulative effects.	No significant cumulative environmental impacts are anticipated. The project represents a localized infrastructure improvement with net public benefit.

## PART V - List of Required Permits, Approvals and/or Certifications Identified at the Time of this Review

Possible Permits include: Local Planning & Zoning as applicable. Pursuant to RCSA [19-13-B102\(d\)](#), final plans and specifications are to be submitted to DPH for approval.

## PART VI – Sponsoring Agency Comments and Recommendations

Based on DPH's review of the documents provided, including DEEP's comments and applicant responses, DPH finds the project will not significantly affect the environment and therefore does not require an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) under CEPA.

## PART VII - Public Comments and Sponsoring Agency Responses:

Public comments for this project were accepted through October 16, 2025. During the open comment period, DPH received a comment memorandum from DEEP dated October 15, 2025. DEEP identified no significant impacts, confirmed no NDDDB listed species in the vicinity, and recommended BMPs and routine permits. The Southington Water Department responded to DEEP's comments on October 21, 2025. DPH will work with the Southington Water Department to ensure that DEEP's comments and recommendations are implemented through permit and construction specifications.