

To: Eric McPhee, Department of Public Health
From: Laschone Garrison
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Date: 10/2/2025

Subject: Scoping for Ridgefield High School and Middle School Interconnection

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has received the Notice of Scoping for Ridgefield High School and Middle School Interconnection. The proposed address for the project begins at the intersection of North Salem and Craigmoor Road, continuing northwest along North Salem Road, and terminating at 700 North Salem Road in Ridgefield, CT. The Town of Ridgefield proposes to interconnect their High School and Middle School Water System with the Aquarion Water Company Ridgefield System. This proposed interconnection includes installation of approximately 950 linear feet of new water main northwest along North Salem Road, from the intersection of Craigmoor Road and North Salem Road, to the school campuses at 700 North Salem Road in Ridgefield, CT. A meter pit will be installed at the school campus' location, and a connection will be made between the meter pit, new water main, and the campus' existing distribution system. This proposed interconnection to Aquarion's Ridgefield system will improve water quality, provide system redundancy, reliability, and reduce operational costs. The project scope includes disconnecting the schools' from the existing well that currently serves these campuses and discontinuing its use as a public water supply.

The following comments are submitted in response to the scoping requirements of the [Connecticut Environmental Policy Act](#). Scoping is the gathering and analysis of information that a state agency will use to establish the scope of environmental review of a proposed project. Scoping is done in the early planning stages of a project and DEEP is a commenting agency. Contact information is included as well as any necessary links to DEEP's webpages.

1. Effect on water quality, including surface water and groundwater.

Melissa Fahnestock, Water Planning and Management Division, Melissa.Fahnestock@ct.gov

The proposed construction site is not located in an [Aquifer Protection Area](#), a parcel prioritized for source water protection as shown on the [Parcel Prioritization for Source Water Protection Viewer](#), or in an area of coarse-grained deposits as shown on the [CT Surficial Aquifer Potential Map](#). This area is not a current source and is not likely a future source for groundwater. There are no concerns related to the Aquifer Protection Area Program.

Melissa Mostowy, Water Planning and Management Division, Melissa.Mostowy@ct.gov

As stated in the project description, the proposed water main connection is located within the Aquarion Water Company's Exclusive Service Area, and is therefore exempt from water diversion permitting requirements pursuant to Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Sec. 22a-377(b)-1(5), provided the quantity of water withdrawn from any source feeding the proposed extension does not exceed the quantity authorized pursuant to any applicable permit issued or registration filed under section 22a-368 of the Connecticut General Statutes (Connecticut Water Diversion Policy Act).

Marlene Krajewski, Water Planning and Management Division, Marlene.Krajewski@ct.gov

The proposed water main connection appears unlikely to impact nearby surface waterbodies. The Watersheds Program has no comments or concerns related to this proposal.

2. Effect on flooding, in-stream flows, erosion, or sedimentation.

Susan Jacobson, Land and Water Resources Division, Susan.Jacobson@ct.gov

Flood Management Certification: - If proposed activities are being funded or conducted by a state agency AND are being conducted within a FEMA designated floodplain, the applicant should consult with the DEEP's Land and Water Resources Division for information on how to comply with the States Flood Management Statutes and Regulations. For information on identifying if the site is in a flood zone, please see FEMA's website: [FEMA Flood Map Service Center](#). For information on Flood Management Certification, please see DEEP's website: [Flood Management Certification Fact Sheet](#).

3. 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.

Robin Blum, Wildlife Division NDDB program, Robin.Blum@ct.gov

The project location appears to be outside of a Natural Diversity Database Area (NDDB). Project proponents should recheck NDDB maps and confirm. If outside NDDB Area, no further consultation is required. If project located within NDDB Area, a review request should be submitted through DEEP's [ezFile Portal](#). These comments address only state-listed species and do not address potential impacts to more common wildlife species.

4. Use of pesticides, toxic or hazardous materials or any other substance in such quantities as to cause unreasonable adverse effects on the environment.

No comments submitted at this time.

5. A substantial increase in the type or rate of energy use as a direct or indirect result of the action.

No comments submitted at this time.

6. Effect on air quality.

No comments submitted at this time.

7. Effect on existing land resources and landscapes, including coastal and inland wetlands.

Danielle Missell, LWRD, Danielle.Missell@ct.gov

The project does not appear to affect any wetlands or watercourses. If wetlands or watercourse impact occurs permitting from LWRD may be required.

8. Adequacy of existing or proposed utilities and infrastructure.

No comments submitted at this time.

9. Effect on greenhouse gas emissions as a direct or indirect result of the action.

No comments submitted at this time.

10. Effect of a changing climate on the action, including any resiliency measures incorporated into the action.

No comments submitted at this time

11. Additional Comments/ Concerns:

No additional comments submitted at this time.

List of permits:

Federal Section 404 Clean Water Act, Inland, Water Quality Certification (WQC)

- Required for this project.
- Based on the information provided, it cannot be determined if fill is proposed in Waters of the U.S. A state and federal wetland delineation will be required if fill is proposed in Waters of the U.S. Wetlands and Watercourses should be clearly field delineated by a qualified soil scientist. If work is being proposed in a wetland or watercourse (crossings, fill, structures, culverts etc.), contact the [Army Corps of Engineers](#) to determine if it is within their jurisdiction.
- Not required.

State 401 Water Quality Permit

- Required. (if a federal 404 WQC is required, a state 401 is also required because the programs are tied together)
- Based on the information provided, it cannot be determined if fill is proposed in Waters of the U.S. A state and federal wetland delineation will be required if fill is proposed in Waters of the U.S. For a pre-application meeting, contact: Darcy.winther@ct.gov
- Not required.

General Permit for Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters from Construction Activities (Construction Stormwater GP). Note: Without detailed plans, several options might be checked, please review these options to determine which is applicable for the project.

- If between one and five acres of disturbance and approved at the local level, not required to register with DEEP.
- If five or more acres of disturbance and approved at the local level, must complete registration form and Stormwater Pollution Control Plan to DEEP at least 60 days prior to the initiation of construction. Registrations shall include a certification by the Qualified Professional who designed the project and a certification by a Qualified Professional or regional Conservation District who reviewed the SWPCP and deemed it consistent with the requirements of the general permit. In addition to measures such as erosion and sediment controls and post-construction stormwater management, the SWPCP must include a schedule for plan implementation and routine inspections. For further information, contact the division at 860-424-3025 or DEEP.StormwaterStaff@ct.gov
- Projects exempt from local permitting (conducted by government authorities) disturbing over one acre must submit a registration form and Stormwater Pollution Control Plan to DEEP at least 60-90 days, as identified by the permit, prior to initiating construction.

The Construction Stormwater General Permit registrations must be filed electronically through [DEEP's ezFile Portal](#). Additional information can be found online at: [Construction Stormwater GP](#).

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. These comments are based on the reviews provided by relevant staff and offices within DEEP during the designated comment period. They may not represent all applicable programs within DEEP. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions concerning these comments.

cc: Eric Hammerling, Office Director, DEEP/ERSI