

**State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health**  
**Drinking Water Section, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST**

<b>Date:</b>	December 4, 2012	<b>Staff Contact:</b>	Eric McPhee
<b>Applicant PWS Name:</b>	The Metropolitan District Commission	<b>Town:</b>	West Hartford
<b>DPH DWSRF Project #:</b>	2012 0640011c	<b>PWSID:</b>	CT0640011
<b>Project Name:</b>	West Hartford WTP North Storage Basin		
<b>Funding Source:</b>	Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)		
<b>State Funds:</b>	\$ 4,800,000		

**This assessment is being conducted in conformance to the generic Environmental Classification Document for Connecticut state agencies to determine Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA) obligations**

**Project Description:** The West Hartford Water Treatment Facility (WHWTF), owned and operated by the Metropolitan District (the MDC), is a slow sand filtration plant that treats an average daily flow of 44 million gallons per day (mgd) and a maximum daily flow of 86 mgd. Source waters from Barkhamsted and Nepaug Reservoirs flow by gravity via a system of raw water transmission mains to Reservoir No. 5 and the treatment plant. Finished water is stored in two filtered water basins, a 6 million gallon (MG) basin built in 1918 and a 9 MG basin built in 1925. In November 2006, Tighe & Bond prepared the Filtered Water Basin Interconnection Study, which evaluated alternatives that would provide additional flexibility to plant operations. One of the recommendations of the study was construction of a 2.5 MG wire-wound concrete storage tank. Completion of this storage tank will provide additional flexibility in the operations of the West Hartford Water Treatment Facility.

**Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) Section 22a-1a-3 Determination of environmental significance (direct/indirect)**

1. Impact on air and water quality or on ambient noise levels
  - a. Air Quality – The proposed project is not expected to cause significant adverse air quality effects.
  - b. Water Quality - If the tank is to be tested and disinfected, the discharge would be covered by the General Permit for the Discharge of Hydrostatic Pressure Testing Wastewater (DEP-PERD-GP-011).
  - c. Ambient Noise Levels - The proposed project is not expected to cause significant noise in the immediate area;
2. Impact on a public water supply or serious effects on groundwater, flooding, erosion, or sedimentation
  - a. Water Supply – The project is located within the public water supply watershed of West Hartford Reservoir Number 1, an inactive supply of public drinking water for the

customers of the MDC. The MDC has applied for and received a water company land change in use permit pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 25-32. The application materials submitted for review and conditions imposed by DPH Permit #WCL2012-24 demonstrate that this project will not have a significant adverse impact to the present and future purity and adequacy of this source of public drinking water supply.

- b. Groundwater - The proposed project is not expected to cause significant impacts to neighboring groundwater.
  - c. Flooding - The proposed storage basin project area is not located within the 100-year flood zone on the community's Flood Insurance Rate Map.
  - d. Erosion or Sedimentation - In order to protect any wetlands and watercourses adjacent to the site, strict erosion and sediment controls should be employed during construction.
3. Effect on natural land resources and formations, including coastal and inland wetlands, and the maintenance of in-stream flows – The MDC received approval to conduct this activity from the West Hartford Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency on May 4, 2011. No other natural land resources and formations are expected to be significantly impacted.
  4. Disruption or alteration of an historic, archeological, cultural or recreational building, object, district, site or surroundings - The proposed project is not expected to cause negative impacts.
  5. Effect on natural communities and upon critical species of animal or plant and their habitats: interference with the movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species - Based on the comments from Department of Energy and Environmental Protection -Wildlife Division, the project would not impact extant populations of Federally listed endangered or threatened species or species listed in the State Natural Diversity Data Base, pursuant to section 26-306 of the CGS, as endangered, threatened or special concern in the project area.
  6. Use of pesticides, toxic or hazardous materials or any other substance in such quantities as to create extensive detrimental environmental impact - No significant impact is expected.
  7. Substantial aesthetic or visual effects - The project construction is expected to be completed in a short period of time. Due to the nature and timeframe of the project construction, the project is not expected to cause substantial aesthetic or visual impacts in the area.
  8. Inconsistency with the written and/or mapped policies of the statewide Plan of Conservation and Development and such other plans and policies developed or coordinated by the Office of Policy and Management or other agency - No significant impact expected.
  9. Disruption or division of an established community or inconsistency with adopted municipal or regional plans- No significant impact expected.
  10. Displacement or addition of substantial numbers of people - No significant impact expected.

11. Substantial increase in congestion (traffic, recreational, other) – The proposed project is not expected to create substantial traffic congestion in the area.
12. A substantial increase in the type or rate of energy use as a direct or indirect result of the action - No significant impact expected.
13. The creation of a hazard to human health or safety - The project is not expected to create a significant hazard to human health and safety.
14. Any other substantial impact on natural, cultural, recreational or scenic resources - No significant impact expected.

### **Conclusions:**

Based on the comments provided by the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) dated August 1, 2012, it has been determined that the proposed North Storage Basin project does not require the preparation of Environmental Impact Evaluation under CEPA. The DPH will coordinate the project with the MDC to ensure that the DEEP's recommendations will be implemented.

### **Recommendations:**

If the tank is to be tested and disinfected, the discharge would be covered by the *General Permit for the Discharge of Hydrostatic Pressure Testing Wastewater* (DEP-PERD-GP-011). This general permit applies to all discharges of waters used to test the structural integrity of new or used tanks and pipelines that hold or transfer drinking water, sewage, or natural gas. The general permit contains pH, chlorine, oil and grease, and suspended solids limits which will need to be complied with during the testing and verified through monitoring. Registration is required to be submitted to the Department in order for the discharges to be authorized by this general permit. A fact sheet, the general permit which includes the registration form, titled Notice of Coverage, and the Application Transmittal form may be downloaded at: [Hydrostatic GP](#)

The Natural Diversity Data Base, maintained by DEEP, contains no records of extant populations of Federally listed endangered or threatened species or species listed by the State, pursuant to section 26-306 of the CGS, as endangered, threatened or special concern at either project area. This information is not the result of comprehensive or site-specific field investigations. Also, be advised that this is a preliminary review. A more detailed review may be conducted as part of any subsequent environmental permit applications submitted to DEEP for the proposed site. Consultation with the Natural Diversity Data Base should not be substituted for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. The extent of investigation by competent biologist(s) of the flora and fauna found at the site would depend on the nature of the existing habitat(s). If field investigations reveal any Federal or State listed species, please contact the DEEP Geologic & Natural History Survey at 860-424-3540.