

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

Date:	March 17, 2015	Staff Contact:	Eric McPhee
Applicant PWS Name:	Town of Bethel	Town:	Danbury
DPH DWSRF Project #:	2007 0090011a	PWSID:	CT0090011
Project Name:	Eureka Lake Water Storage Tank		
Funding Source:	Manufacturing Assistance Act (MAA) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)		
State Funds:	\$600,000.00 (MAA); \$ 1,455,000.00 (DWSRF)		

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 Town of Bethel proposes to construct a 750,000 gallon partially buried concrete water storage tank at the existing Eureka Lake Water Treatment Plant. The proposed tank is 83 feet in diameter and will extend approximately 8.5 feet above the finished grade. The tank will be surrounded by a 6 foot tall chain link fence. Other appurtenances include two hydrants, connecting water mains and three below ground manholes. The project is being considered to provide potable drinking water storage for daily use, emergencies and fire protection for the Town of Bethel. Engineering services and the initial construction costs for the tank will be funded with the MAA grant from the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) and a local match up to \$1,200,000. The remainder of the tank's construction costs will be funded by the DWSRF.

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 water tank is to be tested and disinfected, the discharge would be covered by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) *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 proposed project is not in a public water supply source water area, therefore it is not expected to cause significant impact to any public water system sources of supply.
 - b. Groundwater - The proposed project is not expected to cause significant impacts to neighboring groundwater.
 - c. Flooding –The proposed project 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 – On February 10, 2015, the City of Danbury Environmental Impact Commission granted approval of application number EIC #837R to the Town of Bethel finding that the proposed activity will cause no greater than minimal impact upon wetlands or watercourses if carried out as proposed.
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--The Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDDB), maintained by DEEP, contains a record of the Eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina carolina*), listed by the State as a species of special concern pursuant to section 26-306 of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS), in the vicinity of this proposed project. If work is to be done during the box turtle's active period (April 1 to November 1) then the recommendations provided by the DEEP Wildlife Division in the correspondence dated September 4, 2014 must be adhered to.
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 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. The Town will provide personnel to maintain traffic rules and public safety 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 significant public hazard and safety.
14. Any other substantial impact on natural, cultural, recreational or scenic resources - No significant impact expected

Conclusions:

Based on the DPH's environmental assessment of this project which includes comments provided by the DEEP dated September 4, 2014, it has been determined that the project does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) under CEPA. The DPH will coordinate with the Town of Bethel to ensure that the recommendations by the DEEP are implemented.

Recommendations:

Prior to starting the project construction, the following best management practices should be considered:

1. **Construction Maintenance:** No construction should take place before erosion and sedimentation controls are installed. These controls should be properly installed, maintained, inspected regularly, and remain in place until the project construction is completed. During construction and until a vegetative cover is reestablished, the project area should be inspected daily and after rainfall to verify erosion control measures are properly functioning. Any defects on the structure must be immediately repaired.
2. **Emergency Response Plan:** Develop an Emergency Spill Response Plan before construction begins. Spill response equipment should be available on-site at all times along with personnel trained in the proper use of such equipment.
3. **Hazardous Materials Storage:** Hazardous materials should be removed from the site during non-work hours or otherwise stored in a secure area to prevent vandalism. Place covered trashcans and recycling receptacles around the site. Cover and maintain dumpsters. Check frequently for leaks. Place dumpsters under a roof or cover with tarps or plastic sheeting. Never clean a dumpster by hosing it down on site.
4. **Vehicles and Machinery:** Methods and locations of refueling, servicing, and storage of vehicles and machinery should be addressed and included as notes on the final site plans. All equipment fueling or minor repairs should occur on a fueling pad. Onsite fuel storage for heavy equipment should have containment and be located in a secure area where it will not be vandalized or struck by equipment or vehicles on the job site.