

**State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health
Drinking Water Section
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY**

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| Date: | December 20, 2016 | Staff Contact: | Eric McPhee |
| Applicant Name: | Town of North Stonington | | |
| Project Name: | Marlborough Town Center Public Water System Phase II | | |
| Funding Source: | Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) | | |
| State Funds: | \$245,400.00 | | |

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 North Stonington has received a Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) Grant to extend the public water main within North Stonington Village. The water main installation will extend 1) from Main Street to the New Emergency Service complex and 2) from the Public Works Garage to the North Stonington Grange. Upon completion of the project, the system extension will be transferred to the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority for operation, service and maintenance.

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 main 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 located in a public drinking water source water area.
 - 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 – Storm water discharges from construction sites where one or more acres are to be disturbed, regardless of project phasing, require an NPDES permit from the Permitting & Enforcement Division. The General Permit for the Discharge of Storm water and Dewatering Wastewaters Associated with Construction Activities (DEEP-WPED-GP-015) will cover these discharges.

3. Effect on natural land resources and formations, including coastal and inland wetlands, and the maintenance of in-stream flows – Any inland wetlands or watercourses at the site are regulated by the local inland wetlands agency, pursuant to section 22a-42 of the CGS. Many local agencies have established setback or buffer areas and require review and approval of activities within these upland areas adjacent to wetlands or watercourses. The local agency should be contacted regarding permit requirements.
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 or interference with the movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species: no significant impacts anticipated.
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 (OPM) or other agency – A majority of the project is located in a Village Priority Funding Area (PFA); however a portion of it is not. The Commissioner of DPH requested an exception from the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management to allow state funding of the portion of the growth project beyond the Village PFA. The Secretary of OPM approved the exception in correspondence dated October 24, 2016.
9. Disruption or division of an established community or inconsistency with adopted municipal or regional plans- The project is consistent with North Stonington’s adopted municipal plan of conservation and development.
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 – Development plans for utilities in urban areas that entail soil excavation should include a protocol for sampling and analysis of potentially contaminated soil. A soil management plan should be developed for the project to deal with soils during construction. The Department’s Guidance for Utility Company Excavation should be used as a guide in developing the plan. The guidance is available on-line at: [Utility Guidance](#).
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 a review of the comments provided by the DEEP dated April 7, 2016, and the Office of Policy and Management dated April 8, 2016, 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 North Stonington to ensure that the recommendations by the DEEP and OPM 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.