

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

Date:	February 7, 2017	Staff Contact:	Eric McPhee
Applicant Name:	Town of Clinton		
Project Name:	Rocky Ledge Water Main Extension		
Funding Source:	DWSRF		
State Funds:	\$3,000,000.00		

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 Clinton is seeking financial assistance under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program for the extension of water main intended to serve approximately 300 residents which are currently served by private wells. A number of private wells in the project area were identified in the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) as having drinking water that contains E.coli bacteria and elevated concentrations of nitrate. This water quality deterioration has been attributed to substandard on-site septic systems. The recommended action in the PER is to extend a water main to the project area to provide a safe and adequate drinking water supply and then properly abandon the on-site private wells. This action is a part of the Town's plan to abate groundwater pollution impacting public health and the environment as identified in a consent order with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). It will protect public health by providing a safe and adequate supply of drinking water to the area. Abandonment of the drinking water wells will provide for additional space on the residential lots to make any necessary on-site septic system repairs. Because of the area's proximity to centralized public water infrastructure, the alternative of extending public water mains and abandoning the on-site drinking water wells was determined to be the most economical action to achieve the desired public health and environmental benefits and address the requirements of the DEEP Consent Order as it pertains to the Rocky Ledge Needs Area.

The proposed project will comprise of installation of new water main that will be connected to the existing distribution main of the Connecticut Water Company (CWC) located near the intersection of Walnut Hill Road and Killingworth Turnpike. The new main will run northwest along Killingworth Turnpike and terminate between Rocky Ledge Drive and Hurd Bridge Road. The 12-inch pipe will be installed along Killingworth Turnpike while 8-inch diameter pipe will be used along the secondary roads (Happy Acres, Woodland Drive, Margo Lane, Oakwood Lane, and Rocky Ledge Drive). The water main has been minimally sized to meet the demands for domestic water use and satisfy fire protection requirements specified by the Town Fire Marshall for the intended service area.

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 project is proposed to address a DEEP Consent Order with the Town to abate ground water pollution in the Rocky Ledge needs area.
 - 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 – If there are any undeveloped areas within the area to be impacted, it is recommended that a certified soil scientist perform a reconnaissance of the site in order to determine whether there are any areas which would be regulated as wetlands or watercourses as defined by section 22a-38(15) and (16) of the Connecticut General Statutes, respectively. 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 Priority Funding Area as depicted on the Interactive Locational Guide for the Conservation and Development Policies Plan 2013-2018. The remainder of the project is within a Balanced Priority Funding Area because of its location in

the former Level B Aquifer Protection Area for CWC's Clinton Well. The CWC finalized the Level A mapping for the Clinton Well after the Locational Guide Map was adopted. The mapped and adopted source water protection area of the Clinton Well does not extend to the area where the project is proposed to be constructed.

9. Disruption or division of an established community or inconsistency with adopted municipal or regional plans- The project is consistent with Clinton's adopted municipal plan of conservation and development that states that expansion of existing public water supply lines into the Rocky Ledge Area may be utilized as an approach to address the DEEP Consent Order.
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 December 9, 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 Clinton 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.