

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

<b>Date:</b>	July 11, 2017	<b>Staff Contact:</b>	Eric McPhee
<b>Applicant Name:</b>	Bethel Water Department		
<b>Project Name:</b>	Briar Cliff Booster Station and Long Meadow Water Main Extension		
<b>Funding Source:</b>	DWSRF		
<b>State Funds:</b>	\$585,000.00		

**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 Bethel Water Department is currently under a consent order with the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) to provide adequate pressure to the Briar Cliff Manor neighborhood. The Town of Bethel has applied for funding through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to install a booster pump station at the intersection of Nashville Road and Briar Cliff Manor to address low system pressures at the customer services on Briar Cliff Manor, Crestview Drive, and Long Meadow Lane. The underground booster pump station is designed to increase pressures above the 25 psi minimum pressure, as required by the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. In addition, construction of the proposed project would ensure adequate firefighting flows for the neighborhood. The project also includes the installation of approximately 600 feet of new 8" distribution water main from Briar Cliff Manor to Long Meadow Lane. The installation of the water main in Long Meadow Lane will allow the properties currently connected directly to the transmission main to reconnect to the properly pressurized water main via new service lines.

**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 – If the proposed booster pump station is powered by a reciprocating engine, the Bethel Water Department will inquire with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Air Bureau to determine if it is necessary to apply for and obtain permits prior to installation.
  - b. Water Quality - If the water main is to be tested and disinfected, the discharge would be covered by the (DEEP) *General Permit for the Discharge of Hydrostatic Pressure Testing Wastewater* (Hydrostatic GP). The Hydrostatic GP will expire March 29, 2018. If the project occurs before that date then the Bethel Water Department is required to register under that General Permit. If the project occurs after that date, it is expected to be covered under a proposed General Permit that has not been issued yet entitled *Comprehensive General Permit for Discharges to Surface and Groundwater*.
  - 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 a significant impact to neighboring groundwater resources.
  - 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 wetlands and watercourses on and adjacent to the site, strict erosion and sediment controls should be employed during construction. The *Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control* prepared by the Connecticut Council on Soil and Water Conservation in cooperation with DEEP is a recommended source of technical assistance in the selection and design of appropriate control measures. The 2002-revised edition of the Guidelines is available online at [Erosion Control Guidelines](#).
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 project area, 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 (CGS). If the reconnaissance identifies regulated areas, they should be clearly delineated. The Bethel Water Department will ensure that it will apply for permits with the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the DEEP as necessary.
  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 –The proposed project is to correct an identified deficiency in the Bethel Water Department’s distribution system. It is not a growth-related project, however it appears to be located in a Priority Funding Area.
  9. Disruption or division of an established community or inconsistency with adopted municipal or regional plans- The project is located within an existing water service area as indicated in Bethel’s Plan of 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 – A review by DEEP staff indicates that the proposed project area has known hazardous or solid waste related concerns. If contaminated soils are encountered during a utility construction project that is not owned by the utility and the contamination was not created by the utility, the following procedures are recommended. The utility may reuse the contaminated soil in the same excavation within the same area of concern without prior approval by DEEP provided: 1) Any condition that would be a significant environmental hazard as defined in CGS Section 22a-6(u) is reported by the utility and that the location is identified on a map submitted to the DEEP Remediation Division; 2) Any excess contaminated material is disposed of in accordance with the solid and hazardous waste regulation as appropriate; and 3) The upper 1 foot of the excavation is filled with the clean fill material or paved. Any sampling required to make a determination as to whether a significant environmental hazard exists or how excess spoils will be disposed of is the responsibility of the entity (public or private) performing the excavation. For further information, contact the Remediation Division at 860-424-3366. The Connecticut Remediation Standard Regulations are available on-line at [Guidance for Utility Company Excavation](#).
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 June 9, 2017, 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 Bethel Water Department 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.