

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

Date:	July 25, 2017	Staff Contact:	Eric McPhee
Applicant Name:	Southington Water Department		
Project Name:	East Side Pressure Zone Improvements		
Funding Source:	DWSRF		
State Funds:	\$303,035.00 previously allocated under the \$5,800,000 East Side Storage Tank and Pump Station Project		

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 Southington Water Department (SWD) proposes to install 1,350 feet of 12 inch water main in Flanders Road and Pattonwood Drive as part of the first phase of a pipe looping project proposed as additional work to the East Side Storage Tank and Pump Station project. The Scoping Notice for the East Side Storage Tank and Pump Station Project was originally published in the Environmental Monitor on January 20, 2015 and a Post-Scoping Notice was published on April 7, 2015. This looping project, when completed, will eliminate a dead-end water main on Flanders Road.

Southington is proposing to construct 4,800 feet of new water main in phases to create a loop to connect the Flanders Road main to the main on Shuttle Meadow Road. This loop would connect the East Side Pressure Zone to the West Queen Street pressure zone. The loop would improve Southington’s water system in the following ways:

- Eliminate the dead end and associated water quality concerns on Flanders Road by allowing water to cycle back down to the West Queen Street pressure Zone
- Eliminate the need for flushing at the end of Flanders Road
- Provide redundancy to backfeed the West Queen Street pressure zone from the East Side Pressure Zone in the event of a water main break or other emergency

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 –No adverse impacts are anticipated
 - 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 Southington 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 located within the Level A Aquifer Protection Area of the Southington Water Department’s Well 9. The Southington Water Department has consulted with the DPH Source Assessment and Protection Program to determine whether this project will require a water company land change in use permit pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 25-32(b). At a minimum, the work should conform with DPH’s [General Construction Best Management Practices for Sites within a Public Drinking Water Supply Area](#) and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Department’s Best Management Practices from [Connecticut’s Aquifer Protection Area Municipal Manual](#)
 - b. Groundwater – No significant impacts are anticipated if the Southington Water Department employs the best management practices recommended to protect the source of public drinking water supply.
 - 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](#). The general permit for [Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters from Construction Activities](#) may be applicable depending on the size of the disturbance regardless of phasing. This general permit applies to all discharges of stormwater and dewatering wastewater from construction activities.
3. Effect on natural land resources and formations, including coastal and inland wetlands, and the maintenance of in-stream flows – A map of this area shows that Phase 2 may be proposed in or adjacent to a wetland/ watercourse. A certified soil scientist should perform a reconnaissance of the site in order to determine whether it meets the federal definition of a wetland or watercourse as defined in the [1987 Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual and Regional Supplements](#) for the Clean Water Act Section 404 permit program. If the reconnaissance identifies regulated areas, they should be clearly delineated. The Southington Water Department will ensure that it will apply for permits with the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the DEEP, or the Town of Southington 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 Southington Water Department’s distribution system.
9. Disruption or division of an established community or inconsistency with adopted municipal or regional plans- The project is consistent with the Water Supply goals to address water volume and pressure deficiencies on the eastern side of town as stated in the Town of Southington 2016 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 – 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 May 24, 2017 and the Office of Policy and Management dated June 2, 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 Southington 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.