

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

Date:	April 7, 2020	Staff Contact:	Eric McPhee
Applicant PWS Name:	Cedar Ridge	Town:	Willington
PWSID:	CT1600081		
Project Name:	Cedar Ridge Public Water Interconnection		
Funding Source:	Drinking Water State Revolving Fund		
State Funds:	\$600,000.00		

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 Cedar Ridge Apartments Public Water System serves the 100-unit Cedar Ridge Apartments in Willington. The public water system submitted a feasibility study to the Department of Public Health (DPH) with alternatives proposed to resolve ongoing water quantity and quality issues and to upgrade its aging infrastructure. The study identified an interconnection with Connecticut Water Company (CWC) as the most cost-effective, long term option.

Cedar Ridge Apartments proposes to install 2,500 feet of water main to interconnect with CWC's 8-inch water main on Baxter Road in Mansfield. A meter pit is proposed to be installed in Burt Latham Road where the two public water systems will be joined. Upon interconnection with CWC, Cedar Ridge Apartments public water system will abandon of all its public drinking water wells due to low yields and poor water quality and will discontinue use of its aging pump station and hydro pneumatic storage tanks.

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 impacts to air quality.
 - b. Water Quality – Hydrostatic pressure testing wastewater discharges resulting from this project are authorized as “potable water system maintenance wastewaters” under the [Comprehensive General Permit](#) for Surface Water and Groundwater (Comprehensive General Permit). No registration is required under the Comprehensive General Permit for this discharge, but Cedar Ridge Apartments Public Water System must comply with operating conditions and effluent limits of the Comprehensive General Permit.
 - 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 intended to provide a safe and adequate supply of public drinking water to an existing system with wells that have low yields and poor water quality. Cedar Ridge Apartments Public Water System will abandon its existing sources of supply when the interconnection with Connecticut Water Company is completed.

Water Diversion-DEEP Comment: The regional pipeline to Mansfield was permitted by DEEP under Water Diversion Permit No. DIV-201401487. For the 100-unit complex, the proposed transfer of water likely will not exceed 50,000 gallons per day. In the event that the transfer could exceed 50,000gpd, DEEP Water Planning and Management Division should be contacted to discuss permitting requirements. DPH must address how the project aligns with the following condition, listed in the previously mentioned water diversion permit:

***New Service Connections.** New service connections along the distribution pipeline route from Tolland, or more intensive use of an existing service connection along said route, from water supplied pursuant to this permit shall be limited to only those proposed land uses of an intensity allowed under local plans of conservation and development as of the date of the Connecticut Office of Policy and Managements' notice of Environmental Impact Evaluation sufficiency (September 16, 2013. Connections for users of greater intensity will be allowed only if determination is made by State or local agencies, within their applicable authorities, including but not limited to the Public Utility Regulatory Authority pursuant to Section 16-10 Connecticut General Statutes, that such connection is necessary to address a demonstrated environmental, public health, public safety, economic, social, or general welfare concern. The permittees shall provide in the annual report as, required by Condition #23 of this permit, a list of the number and types of customers connected to the pipeline during the prior year.*

DPH response: Cedar Ridge Apartments Public Water System's average daily demand under current conditions is approximately 10,000 gallons per day. This amount is expected to decrease once an interconnection is finalized as a portion of the water used daily is provided to backwash the drinking water treatment systems and is discharged as waste. The Public Water System serves an existing apartment complex that predates the referenced Notice of Sufficiency for the Environmental Impact Evaluation. Moreover, the proposed project is intended to resolve ongoing water quantity and quality issues. DPH will remind the Connecticut Water Company of this annual reporting requirement.

- b. Groundwater – The proposed project is not expected to cause significant impacts to groundwater.
 - c. Flooding – No significant impacts expected.
 - d. Erosion or Sedimentation – Cedar Ridge Apartments Public Water System will ensure that best management practices are implemented during construction to control erosion and sedimentation.
3. Effect on natural land resources and formations, including coastal and inland wetlands, and the maintenance of in-stream flows – No significant impacts expected.
 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 – DEEP Comment: A cursory review shows that the southern end of Baxter Road in Mansfield, in the vicinity of where it intersects with Route 195, falls within the boundaries of the Natural Diversity Database. Please be advised that should state permits be required, a formal application may need to be sent to the Wildlife Division prior to submitting permit applications for a detailed review of the species that may occur in this area. The applicant must submit a *Request for Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB) State Listed Species Review Form* (DEEP-APP-007) and all required attachments, including maps, to the NDDB for further review.

6. Use of pesticides, toxic or hazardous materials or any other substance in such quantities as to create extensive detrimental environmental impact – The proposed project is not expected to cause negative impacts.
7. Substantial aesthetic or visual effects -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 –The proposed project is consistent with Policy 14 of Growth Management Principle #4: “**RELY** upon the capacity of the land, to the extent possible, to provide drinking water and wastewater disposal needs beyond the limits of the existing service area. Support the introduction or expansion of public water and/or sewer services or advanced on-site wastewater treatment systems only when there is a demonstrated environmental, public health, public safety, economic, social, or general welfare concern, and then introduce such services only at a scale which responds to the existing need without serving as an attraction to more extensive development.”
9. Disruption or division of an established community or inconsistency with adopted municipal or regional plans-The proposed project is consistent with the requirements of the Final Record of Decision for the Environmental Impact Evaluation for Potential Sources of Water Supply for the University of Connecticut. As required by the decision, Cedar Ridge Apartments Public Water System submitted a Request for Water Service Review to the Water Supply Advisory Committee on January 8, 2020. This request was approved on January 10, 2020 with a condition that the water main extension is limited to serving only the existing units.
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.
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 – No significant impact expected.
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 the proposed project which includes a review of the comments provided by the DEEP dated February 10, 2020 and Mr. Charles Vidich dated February 24, 2020, 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 Cedar Ridge Apartments Public Water System to ensure that the recommendations by the DEEP are implemented.