

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

**Date:** March 24, 2015  
**Applicant Name:** Town of Newtown  
**Project Name:** Hawleyville Low Pressure Sewer Extension Project  
**DPH Project:** 2015-00834  
**Funding Source:** STEAP  
**State Funds:** \$500,000.00  
**Staff Contact:** Carlos Esguerra  
**Town:** Newtown

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### Project Description:

As part of an economic development project, the Town of Newtown desires to provide nineteen developed and undeveloped parcels with access to public sewers. The town intends to provide these public sewers via a low pressure sanitary sewer system servicing the properties in the Hawleyville section of Town. Properties that are currently developed will be provided with a semi-positive displacement grinder pump(s) and a service lateral extending from the grinder pump(s) discharge to the low pressure sewer main. For commercial/industrial properties that are currently undeveloped, the intent of the project is to provide an adequately sized low pressure sewer connection stub to the property line to serve the property in the future. It is estimated that approximately 7,350 linear feet of low pressure sewer, approximately 3,100 linear feet of a 6-inch dry force main installed in the same trench as the low pressure sewer, and approximately 500 linear feet of gravity sewer will be provided as part of this project. Also, there will be an odor control system (Bioxide) and control panel within a secure chain link fence provided as part of the project.

The Town has been awarded a grant through the Small Town Economic Assistance (STEAP) Program to fund a portion of this project.

### Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) Section 22a-1a-3 Determination of Environmental Significance (direct/indirect)

1. Impacts on air quality, ambient noise levels, and water quality
  - a. Air Quality – The proposed project is not expected to cause significant adverse air quality effects. Limited fugitive dust emissions can occur during materials handling, storage, and movement of equipment at the site. Fugitive dust is most likely to be a problem during periods of intense activity and would be accentuated by windy and/or dry weather conditions. Potential air quality impacts from fugitive dust will be addressed through construction best management practices which may include:
    - Covering, shielding, or stabilizing stockpiled material as necessary.
    - Limiting dust-producing construction activities during high wind conditions.
    - Water trucks and/or chemical treatments (calcium chloride) to minimize dust as needed.

MEMO- CT DEEP

March 11, 2015

Page 2 of 5

- b. Noise - The Proposed Action is not anticipated to have long-term adverse impacts to the existing noise environment. The project may result in short-term construction noise impacts. Construction equipment is anticipated to be the principal source of noise during the proposed project. Construction activity will occur during daytime hours when higher sound levels are generally more tolerable at nearby receptors. In addition, adverse noise impacts due to construction activities would be temporary in nature, and no single receptor is expected to be exposed to high sound levels due to construction for an extended period of time.
- c. Water Quality - The Proposed project will not result in discharges to the Pond Brook or groundwater at the site that would degrade water quality. The proposed project will provide the minimum separation distance from sewer to public water supply. No construction activities are proposed within any surface waterbody or wetland. Construction-period erosion and sedimentation control measures will comply with the *Connecticut Guidelines for Erosion and Sedimentation Control* as amended.

Registration under the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) *General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewater Associated with Construction Activity* is not required since the proposed area of disturbance is less than 5 acres. However, the erosion and sediment control and land use regulations of the Town of Newtown will be implemented.

2. Impact on a public water supply or serious effects on groundwater, flooding, coastal, inland wetlands, erosion, or sedimentation
  - a. Water Supply – There is a public water supply service (Aquarion Water) within the project area, along Mt. Pleasant Road. The low pressure sewer and dry force main are designed and will be constructed to be protective of the existing water supply mains, including maintaining setbacks as recommended by the water utility and CTDPH. The Project is not located within a public water supply watershed.
  - b. Groundwater – Although public water services are available within the proposed project area, Department of Public Health DWS database indicated that several properties remain on their own wells. The proposed project will provide the minimum separation distance from sanitary sewer manholes, cleanouts, and grinder pumps to public water supply wells pursuant to the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) section 19-13-B51 (d). In addition to ensuring that the sanitary sewer system is designed to be protective of public health, during construction the recommendation in the “*General Construction Best Management Practices for Sites within Public Drinking Water Supply Area*” will be adhered to.

MEMO- CT DEEP

March 11, 2015

Page 3 of 5

- c. Flood Plains – which are areas that would be impacted by floodwaters of some depth, are delineated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The proposed project is not located within the hundred-year flood zone on the FEMA DFIRM Floodzone and Floodway map and will have no direct adverse impacts to the floodplain.
  - d. Coastal Zone - The project area is not within a Coastal Boundary and therefore would have no impact upon Coastal Resources.
  - e. Aquifer Protection - The project area is not within an Aquifer Protection District
  - f. Inland Wetlands - There are wetlands adjacent to the Project Area; however, there are no anticipated direct/indirect impacts to federally-recognized and state jurisdictional wetlands since work will be done outside of existing wetland areas. A Town of Newtown Inland Wetlands Permit Application is required for construction activities occurring on land within 100 feet of any wetland or watercourse. A wetland permit has been issued by the Inland Wetlands Commission of the Town of Newtown on February 26, 2015. No structures will be installed in wetland areas. Erosion and sediment controls will be maintained and silt fence, silt sacks and haybales will be installed where deemed necessary along the sewer extension. Erosion and sedimentation control measures will comply with the *Connecticut Guidelines for Erosion and Sedimentation Control* as amended.
3. Disruption or alteration of an historic, archeological, cultural or recreational building, object, district, site or surroundings
- a. SHPO - The majority of the low pressure sewer work proposed is in previously disturbed areas; therefore, no impacts to historical or archeological resources are anticipated as a result of the sewer extension project. Fuss & O'Neill submitted a letter to the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on November 12, 2014 for confirmation that additional properties, landmarks or areas of historical or archeological significance that are not listed on the State and Federal register do not exist within the project area. The State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed the proposed project and indicated that there are no properties listed on the National of Historic Places recorded within or adjacent to the proposed project (SHPO letter dated January,6, 2015)
  - b. NDDDB – The information on “State and Federal Listed Species and Significant Natural Communities Maps” dated December 2014 indicates that no endangered species or natural resources were found to exist within the project area. The Connecticut Natural Diversity Database (CT NDDDB) mapping identifies general areas of concern for known occurrences of State and Federally-listed endangered,

MEMO- CT DEEP

March 11, 2015

Page 4 of 5

threatened and special concern species and significant natural communities. The map of the project has been submitted to the NDDB for review and comments. The majority of the low pressure sewer work proposed is in previously disturbed areas; therefore, no significant impacts are expected.

4. 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. The chemical feed station is equipped with a double walled containment tank for leak prevention, and the bioxide chemical (nitrate salts) is non-toxic to the environment.
5. Substantial aesthetic or visual effects – the project is not expected to cause substantial aesthetic or visual impacts in the area. There will be an odor control “Bioxide” system and control panel within a secured chain link fence with plastic slats to improve aesthetics. In addition, trees and bushes will be planted outside the fence to reduce visual impacts.
6. Consistency with the written policies of the Statewide Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) and such other plans and policies developed or coordinated by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) or other agency – *The Conservation and Development Policies: The Plan for Connecticut, 2013-2018* (POCD) provides the policy and planning framework for administrative and programmatic actions and capital and operational investment decisions for state government. The project is generally consistent with the Growth Management Principles identified in the POCD; specifically Principles #1, #2, #3, #4 and #6. The project is consistent with Growth Management Principle #1 regarding expansion of sewers since economic development will be focused in the Hawleyville area to connect with existing physical sewer infrastructure. Water, gas, and Level 3 power already exist in this corridor. Consistency with Growth Management Principle #2 is provided since the project will promote housing and/or affordable housing as part of mixed use and transit oriented development and enhance housing mobility and choice across income levels in the Hawleyville area, which is currently characterized by mixed use development. The project is consistent with Growth Management Principle #3 because it is located within an area with existing and planned infrastructure, and is along the state Route 6 corridor in proximity to existing transportation options such as Interstate 84 and state Route 25. The project is generally consistent with the sewer extension policy of Growth Management Principle #4 since economic development will be focused in the Hawleyville area, suitable for such development. The proposed project is also consistent with Growth Management Principle #6 since the project was planned across multiple levels of government; including consistency with the Newtown Plan of Conservation & Development, goals established by the Newtown Economic Development Commission (EDC), and the goals of the Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials (HVCEO) Guidance Bulletin #94. The POCD Interactive Locational Guide Map identifies the project as predominantly within Priority Funding Areas (PFAs) since the site is located within Urban Areas and within areas of existing water and sewer services. The fact that the project is within a PFA is not necessarily

MEMO- CT DEEP

March 11, 2015

Page 5 of 5

- indicative that it is consistent with the statewide POCD. However, consistency is demonstrated by the project's general conformance with the POCD's smart growth principles. The project intersects a small section of a Balanced Priority Funding Area defined by inclusion of water and sewer service areas within the 100-year floodplain (elevation of 384 feet). However, the project will be constructed on an existing roadway (at elevation of 402+/- feet) located above the floodplain elevation.
7. Disruption or division of an established community or inconsistency with adopted municipal or regional plans – As stated in the POCD 2013-2018 Update, The Hawleyville area is consistent with several growth principles. The sewer extension project will provide reasonable opportunities for commercial and industrial land to be developed consistent with the HVCEO regional plan from 1998, State POCD and the townwide Plan of Development for the region.
  8. Displacement or addition of substantial number of people – Development of commercial and industrial land is not expected to increase the number of people. It will, however, increase the number of workers to the vicinity during working hours to support the various businesses to be sited on the vacant properties in the project area.
  9. Substantial increase in congestion (traffic, recreational, other) – the proposed project may cause occasional delays in traffic along Mount Pleasant Road and Hawleyville Road, though the increased amount of traffic is expected to be minimal.
  10. Substantial increase in the type or rate of energy use as a direct or indirect result of the action – No significant impact is expected. The proposed small horsepower (1 HP) grinder pumps and fractional HP pumps at the chemical feed station will have minimal power requirements.
  11. The creation of hazard to human health or safety – The project is not expected to create a hazard to human health or safety. The project will improve public health through elimination of subsurface sewerage disposal systems which have the potential to pollute groundwater beneath the project area and leach into surface waters.
  12. Any other substantial impact on nature, cultural, recreational or scenic resources – No significant impacts are expected as part of the project.

### **Conclusions:**

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) received comments from Department of Public Health (Source Water Protection Unit and Private Well Program) on March 2, 2015. DEEP included a condition in the STEAP funding agreement requiring Newtown to incorporate design and construction measures aimed at meeting DPH requirements. Based on the comments received, it is recommended that an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) is not warranted for this project and that a post-scoping notice to that effect be prepared.