



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT
DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION, CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PLANNING

May 04, 2017

Dan Biron
Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
Water Management and Planning Division
79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Re: Notice of Scoping for United Pond Dam and City Pond Dam Removal

Dear Mr. Biron –

The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) has reviewed this scoping notice and submits the following comments:

- DEEP's scoping notice identifies the following as key objectives of this project:
 - *Eliminate a migratory barrier to diadromous fish*
 - *Restore natural riverine functions (e.g. sediment transport, restoration of floodplain functions and values, maintenance of normal thermal regimes, re-establishment of natural riverine vegetative communities).*

Due to the Ashland Dam, which is only a half mile upstream of these two dams and was recently rebuilt without any provision for fish passage, the project appears to restore only a relatively small stretch of river. How did DEEP prioritize this area for restoration over other potential dam removal or restoration projects?

- While OPM believes people around the state support the broadly-stated goals behind this project, it is likely that many believe the removal or restoration of a dam near them should be a high priority, based on their familiarity with a particular location. Given the limited funding available for such projects relative to the number of dams that might warrant removal or restoration, OPM believes that scoping notices such as this should more clearly identify how a particular project was chosen for funding so the public can better understand and support such projects.

Sincerely:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matthew Pafford".

Matthew Pafford
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