

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

<b>Date:</b> October 18, 2012	<b>Staff Contact:</b> Cam Walden
<b>Applicant PWS Name:</b> Norwich Public Utilities	<b>Town:</b> Norwich
<b>DPH DWSRF Project #:</b> 20121040011a	<b>PWSID:</b> CT1040011
<b>Project Name:</b> Royal Oaks Project-Norwich	
<b>Funding Source:</b> Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)	
<b>State Funds:</b> \$ 2,317,050	

**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 Norwich Public Utilities has proposed a project to improve the reliability of service and distribution system water quality to the existing Royal Oak Pressure Zone by connecting this zone to the existing Norwich Public Utilities (NPU) Industrial Park Tank Service Zone, replacing older unlined cast iron mains, and decommissioning the Royal Oak Pump Station.

**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 adverse air quality effects.
  - b. Water Quality - The proposed project is not expected to cause significant adverse water quality effects to the adjacent watercourses.
  - 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 expected to cause significant impacts to any public drinking water supply source water area.
  - b. Groundwater - The proposed project is not expected to cause significant impacts to neighboring groundwater.
  - c. Flooding - The proposed water main project area is not located within the 100-year flood zone.

- d. Erosion or Sedimentation - Strict erosion and sediment controls should be employed during construction.
3. Effect on natural land resources and formations, including coastal and inland wetlands, and the maintenance of in-stream flows - If there are any undisturbed areas that will be impacted, 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), respectively.
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 - Based on the comments from Department of Energy and Environmental Protection -Wildlife Division, the project would not impact extant populations of Federally listed endangered or threatened species or species listed in the State Natural Diversity Data Base, pursuant to section 26-306 of the CGS, as endangered, threatened or special concern in the project area.
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 -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 or other agency - No significant impact expected.
9. Disruption or division of an established community or inconsistency with adopted municipal or regional plans- No significant impact expected.
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 - The project is not expected to create significant public hazard and safety.
14. Any other substantial impact on natural, cultural, recreational or scenic resources - No significant impact expected.

## 15. Conclusions:

Based on the comments provided by the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) dated September 5, 2012, it has been determined that the proposed Royal Oaks project does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Evaluation under CEPA. The DPH will coordinate the project with the Town of Norwich to ensure that the DEEP's recommendations will be implemented.

## Recommendations:

Since the water main is to be tested and disinfected after installation, the discharge would be covered by the *General Permit for the Discharge of Hydrostatic Pressure Testing Wastewater* (DEP-PERD-GP-011). This general permit applies to all discharges of waters used to test the structural integrity of new or used tanks and pipelines that hold or transfer drinking water, sewage, or natural gas. The general permit contains pH, chlorine, oil and grease, and suspended solids limits which will need to be complied with during the testing and verified through monitoring. Registration is required to be submitted to the DEEP in order for the discharges to be authorized by this general permit. For further information, please contact the DEEP at 860 424-3018 or visit its website at: [www.ct.gov/deep/](http://www.ct.gov/deep/)

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.

- 5. Sanitation:** Portable toilets should be provided on site. The toilets should be properly maintained to ensure that leaks will be prevented.