STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING CDBG SMALL CITIES & TECH. SVS

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

Project ID No: (issued by OPM)

Date: 11/24/2015 Staff Contact: Dimple Desai

Municipality: Stafford Project Name: Water and Sewer line ext., & Housing Project

Funding Source: STEAP State Funds: Yes
Type of State Agency Review Stage 1 X Stage 2

This assessment is being conducted in conformance to the department's Environmental Classification Document to determine CEPA obligations

Project Description: The Town of Stafford is provided state financial assistance under the STEAP program for the extension of water and sewer lines to support the development of 79 units of new affordable housing at 87 West Stafford Road, Stafford, CT. The proposed 12" waterline will connect to the existing CT Water Company 12" line and run approximately 2,700' along Route 190 and then an 8" waterline will run an additional 900' off the new access road serving the new affordable housing project. When completed the new 2,700 food CT Water Company service will provide incentive and promote economic development opportunities, allowing existing and potential future commercial establishments to utilize the new waterline, reduce their operating expenses and enhance-enable a wider range of services and products. The proposed sanitary sewer will be an 8" line. This line will run 475'+/- to the site interior to Route 190 along the service road to the project. The Stafford affordable housing project is a standalone project and is not contingent on any other town conceptual plans for long term economic development purposes.

Note: environmental remediation is a positive environmental impact, but not a CEPA activity.

RCSA sec. 22a-1a-3 Determination of environmental significance (direct/indirect)

- 1) Impact on air and water quality or on ambient noise levels
 - a) Air—none
 - b) Water Quality— DEEP strongly supports the use of low impact development practices such as water quality swales and rain gardens for infiltration of stormwater at the proposed housing site.
 - c) *Noise* none
- 2) Impact on a public water supply system or serious effects on groundwater, flooding, erosion, or sedimentation
 - a) Water Supply— If the Town intends to own this water main, it should be aware that it may be creating a new consecutive public water system that will be regulated by the DPH. DPH has indicated that it appears that the system has capacity to accommodate growth even though it may have reached the safe yield. DPH recommends that estimated average day and maximum day demands for the facilities anticipated to be served by the extension are provided to the project engineer for inclusion in system design. Refer to the attached memo dated October 8,

- 2015 from Patricia Bisacky for more details on the requirements and compliance. The town should also review the comments related to sewer extension in this memo. DEEP in its memo dated October 8, 2015 from David J. Fox has indicated that the ability of the utility to provide supply should be confirmed. The ability of the Stafford water pollution control facility to treat the proposed sanitary discharges should also be confirmed. Please refer to the attached memo from David Fox of DEEP.
- b) *Groundwater* As per DEEP, Middle River is impaired and does not meet the designated use of recreation due to bacteria, with potential sources including stormwater. DEEP recommends installation of best management practices designed to encourage stormwater to infiltrate into the ground before entering the Middle River. See DEEP memo from David Fox.
- c) Flooding— The proposed water line crosses the 100-year flood zone of the Middle River. This water main extension will qualify under the Minor Utility Improvement Project category authorized by the DEEP approved General Certification provided that it causes no hydraulic impacts or net changes to impervious areas that would increase peak flows. As per DEEP, the southeastern portion of the housing project site borders the Middle River. DOH may have to certify that the project is in compliance with flood and stromwater management standards (refer to DEEP memo from David Fox).
- 3) Effect on natural land resources and formations, including coastal and inland wetlands, and the maintenance of in-stream flows— DEEP has indicated that the water line crosses two wetland areas. It is unknown whether the main will be installed under the roadway or shoulders, with no direct wetland impacts, or beyond previously filled areas. It is recommended by DEEP that a certified soil scientist perform a reconnaissance of the sites in order to determine whether there are any areas which would be regulated as wetlands or watercourses (please refer to the DEEP memo from David Fox).
- 4) Disruption or alteration of an historic, archeological, cultural or recreational building, object, district, site or surroundings— Did not get any comments on these issues and therefore, do not anticipate any disruptions or alterations.
- 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— Per DEEP, the NDDB contains no records of extant populations of Federally listed endangered or threatened species or species listed by the State.
- 6) Use of pesticides, toxic or hazardous materials or any other substance in such quantities as to create extensive detrimental environmental impact— Not applicable
- 7) Substantial aesthetic or visual effects— Not applicable
- 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 action is supported by GMP #2 because it expands the variety of housing options for underserved population segments. It is a growth related project and is in the priority funding area.
- 9) Disruption or division of an established community or inconsistency with adopted municipal or regional plans— N/A
- 10) Displacement or addition of substantial numbers of people— N/A

- 11) Substantial increase in congestion (traffic, recreational, other)— N/A
- 12) A substantial increase in the type or rate of energy use as a direct or indirect result of the action— N/A
- 13) The creation of a hazard to human health or safety— N/A
- 14) Any other substantial impact on natural, cultural, recreational or scenic resources— N/A

Cumulative Impacts: Not aware of any at this time.

Conclusion:

Following are the issues identified by various State agencies:

DEEP: Address 100 and 500-year flood plain issues. It is recommended that a certified soil scientist perform a reconnaissance of the sites in order to determine whether there are any areas which would be regulated as wetlands or watercourses. DEEP strongly supports the use of low impact development (LID) practices at the proposed housing site. The ability of the utility to provide supply should be confirmed (see memo from DEEP for more details on various recommendations).

DPH: Based on the ownership of the water main, it should be aware that the town may be creating a new consecutive public water system that will be regulated by the DPH. The new water main will provide an opportunity for the public water systems in the region (see memo from DPH for more details).

Recommendations:

The EA for this project appears not to trigger an obligation under CEPA for an EIE.