

Supplement to the Record of Decision

Additional Information on the Development of the Recommended Project Alternative

Environmental Impact Evaluation Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments Regional Wastewater Study

March 22, 2022

The purpose of this *Supplement to the Record of Decision (Supplement)* is to provide additional detail on the development of the *Regional Wastewater Study (Study)* which initially considered regionalizing wastewater treatment in five municipalities as described in the 11/5/2019 Scoping Notice published in the *Environmental Monitor*. Through a process of evaluation of the various regional alternatives, the recommended plan in the *Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE)* was to regionalize only three (of the original five) municipalities. This *Supplement* will explain how two municipalities were eliminated from consideration, and should the recommended plan in the *EIE* change, the likely next steps necessary to comply with the *Connecticut Environmental Policy Act*.

Five municipalities in the Naugatuck River Valley (Derby, Ansonia, Seymour, Beacon Falls and Naugatuck) each have their own water pollution control facility. The Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments commissioned a study to consider whether there was an opportunity to save cost by implementing a more regionalized approach to wastewater treatment, in which the number of water pollution control facilities would be reduced.

This *Study* was conducted in two phases, with major stakeholders (Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments and each of the five municipalities) providing input at each milestone in the *Study*. The first phase of the *Study* included projecting population, wastewater flows and loads over a 20-year planning period, initial condition assessment of the existing wastewater infrastructure, projecting costs under the ‘base case’ scenario with no regionalization, and developing a ‘long list’ of potential regionalization alternatives.

In the second phase of the *Study*, the long list of regionalization alternatives was refined to a short list of the most advantageous alternatives, which were developed and evaluated further. The short-listed alternatives were developed to the point where their reasonable cost projections could be compared versus the related costs for the base case alternative of no regionalization.

As part of the initial task of the second phase of the *Study*, a review of the wastewater conveyance routes determined that pipeline and pump station systems required to transfer wastewater from Beacon Falls to either Naugatuck or Seymour would be too costly on a capital cost basis. Furthermore, the multiple pump stations required to cross this challenging and remote terrain would be vulnerable to periodic power interruption, raising reliability concerns. For these reasons, Beacon Falls and Naugatuck were eliminated from further consideration in a regional wastewater treatment plan. At this point in time, DEEP expects that Beacon Falls and Naugatuck will upgrade their water pollution control facilities as independent, standalone projects.

This *EIE* only evaluated the recommended plan of regionalizing Derby, Ansonia and Seymour. If this regional plan changes by the elimination of one of the municipalities, then that change will be reassessed by the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection to verify that the original assumptions developed in the *Study* are still valid.