



The Metropolitan District

water supply · environmental services · geographic information

May 31, 2024

Commissioner Katie Dykes
State of Connecticut
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Dear Commissioner Dykes:

As you may know, on July 20, 2023, the State Department of Public Health approved an application filed by MDC (attached) to abandon rights that the MDC may have in the Colebrook Reservoir as it relates to “future drinking water”. As a result, the MDC no longer makes claim to water that may be impounded behind the Colebrook Dam at level 644 ft to level 701 ft and located in the Colebrook Reservoir.

As such, in the event that the department makes a request or series of requests of the USACE for release(s) of water impounded behind the Colebrook Reservoir Dam between elevation 701 and 644, the MDC does not object to any such requests or resulting releases since the MDC will not use the water storage space from which the requested water will be drawn.

MDC is committed to utilize its 6.5 BG, from both the “Existing 3.5 BG water supply” at level 598 ft to level 644 ft within Colebrook Reservoir, and the 3 BG water supply within Goodwin Reservoir, for the sole purpose to support Wild and Scenic. MDC, since January 2019, no longer prioritizes its available water for purposes to meet its riparian rights obligations, therefore releases can be prioritized based on recreation and fishing. MDC has notified Farmington Power Company of this fact, and provides financial compensation as authorized under contract.

MDC has met and discussed with state legislative leadership, Senator Seminara, and State Representative Anderson, ACOE and Stakeholders to review the traditional “Regime Flow” and determine if there is a more appropriate flow that would benefit the Farmington River Community.

MDC has offered based on historical releases prior to January 2019, recommendations of a minimum flow release strategy that can be offered as interim plan for 2024 starting in May outlined below in **Table 1** below:

TABLE 1

Month	Minimum Flow Release from West Branch
May	200
Jun	250
Jul	300
Aug	250
Sep	125
Oct	125
Nov	125
Dec	125

PROPOSED INTERIM FLOW RELEASE STRATEGY for 2024**The basic legal and statutory “rules” of the river will remain in place:**

- 50 cubic feet per second (cfs) minimum flow from Goodwin Dam, at all times, as established under state statute;
- passing of all “natural” flows up to 150 cfs;
- passing of all releases from *Otis Reservoir*;
- passing of CT DEEP requested fisheries flow releases from DEEP fisheries pool storage in Colebrook;
- When minimum flows are not met by “natural” flows up to 150 cfs, the minimum release amount (provided in TABLE 1) will be met through the release of water from the 10 BG pool.

We fully support the State of Connecticut DEEP, ACOE, and the local community discussing the recreational priorities and augment the Farmington River flows as necessary.

Thank you for your attention.



Scott W. Jellison, P.E., CEO

Cc: Chairman Donald Currey, MDC
Christopher Stone, MDC
Mr. Eric C. Pedersen, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mr. Ryan T. Killman, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Senator Lisa Seminara
Representative Mark W. Anderson
Mr. Graham Stevens, Connecticut DEEP
Attorney Michael J. Cicchetti