

September 20, 2021

State Office of Policy Management
Melissa McCaw, Secretary
450 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106-1379

Re: City of Bridgeport Facilities Planning for East
Side and West Side Wastewater Treatment Plants

Dear Secretary McCaw:

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (“DEEP”) is hereby submitting materials related to the Environmental Impact Evaluation (“EIE”) developed pursuant to the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (“CEPA”) requirements for the referenced project for your review and determination of adequacy pursuant to Section 22a-1a of the Regulation of Connecticut State Agencies.

The EIE evaluated the impacts associated with an upgrade to two wastewater treatment plants located in the City of Bridgeport pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 22a-428 due to expansion of the footprint of the wastewater treatment plant processes in environmental justice areas.

The City of Bridgeport is expected to receive grants and loans from the Clean Water Fund for eligible project costs to address the identified aging infrastructure and to alleviate combined sewer overflows in the community. The CEPA vetting process started on October 6, 2020, with the issuance of a Scoping Notice (<https://portal.ct.gov/CEQ/Environmental-Monitor/Environmental-Monitor-Archives/2020/October-6-2020>). A public hearing was solicited during the comment period (Attachment 1), the Scoping Notice was updated on October 20, 2020, (<https://portal.ct.gov/CEQ/Environmental-Monitor/Environmental-Monitor-Archives/2020/October-20-2020v3>) and a virtual scoping meeting was held on October 29, 2020. A post scoping to announce the EIE requirement was posted on January 5, 2021 (<https://portal.ct.gov/CEQ/Environmental-Monitor/Environmental-Monitor-Archives/2021/January-5-2021#post%20scoping>). The EIE was posted on June 6, 2021 (<https://portal.ct.gov/CEQ/Environmental-Monitor/Environmental-Monitor-Archives/2021/June-8-2021>). The Draft Bridgeport WWTP Facility Plan for the East and West Side Treatment Plants, Public Comment Responses from the October 29, 2020 scoping meeting, and the EIE are available at: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Municipal-Wastewater/Environmental-Impact-Evaluations-for-Water-Projects>.

The attached Record of Decision (“ROD”) was developed to respond to the public comments received during the EIE public vetting process.

Enclosed are the following documents for your evaluation of sufficiency of the CEPA vetting

process:

- 1) A ROD with responses to the comments received from the EIE process and a copy of the comments submitted.
- 2) Notice of the EIE published in the CT Post on three consecutive weeks (Attachment 3).
- 3) Scoping Notice for the Bridgeport Facilities Plan (Attachment 4)
- 4) Environmental Impact Evaluation Notice for the Facilities Plan (Attachment 5)

A copy of the EIE document was also submitted to the Town Clerk's Office to be made available for public consultation.

Please provide written confirmation that the above materials and EIE have satisfied the requirements of the CEPA for the referenced project.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Ann Straut at ann.straut@ct.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer L. Perry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Jennifer L. Perry, P.E.

Director

Water Planning and Management Division
Bureau of Water Protection & Land Reuse

cc: Bruce Wittchen, CT OPM
Lauren McBennet Mappa, General Manager, Bridgeport WPCA
Joseph Laliberte, CDMSmith
Megan B. Raymond, SLR Consulting

Record of Decision
Environmental Impact Evaluation
City of Bridgeport Facilities Planning
for East Side and West Side Wastewater Treatment Plants
City of Bridgeport
August 2021

Comment Summary

The Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) for the facility plan regarding upgrades at both the East Side and West Side wastewater treatment plants that serve the City of Bridgeport was initially released for public and agency review and comment on June 5, 2021, in accordance with the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA). A 45-day comment period followed publication and distribution of the EIE. Written comments were received during the comment period, which ended on July 23, 2021. No public hearing was requested or held regarding the proposed project EIE.

This document contains public comments regarding the EIE. Comments were received from the following individuals:

Written Comments (attached at the end of this document)

- Town of Trumbull (July 22, 2021 Letter)

Response to Comments

One comment letter was received from Wright-Pierce on behalf of the Town of Trumbull. Attached you will find a copy of Wright-Pierce's letter and a copy of CDM Smith's response on behalf of the City of Bridgeport.

This section contains DEEP's responses to the issues raised in the comments on the EIE in accordance with CEPA requirements. Most of Wright-Pierce's letter is in regards to the Combined Sewer Overflow Long-Term Control Plan and the Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA) between Trumbull and Bridgeport, which are not the topic of this facility plan or EIE. DEEP defers to the answers provided by CDM Smith regarding those comments. The comment numbers reference the section, page and paragraph in the Trumbull letter. DEEP has only commented where further clarification appeared necessary. No modifications to the EIE are being proposed at this time.

Wright-Pierce Comment Letter (July 22, 2021 Letter)

Response to Topic I / Comment I-1 (Page 3)

As noted in the CDM Smith response letter, the facility plan is required to consider all possible future connections. Monroe needs to be included as a possible future connection per the facility planning requirements in the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Section

22a-482-3(a)(2)(A).

Response to Numerous requests to know the final grant amounts

As noted by CDM Smith response in their response letter, DEEP does not determine grant amounts until the facility plan is finalized and the design is at least 30% completed and a value engineering review has been completed. The final grant percentage will be some blend of 50% eligible CSO components, 30% grant for nutrient eligible components, a 20% grant for the remaining portions of the project including resiliency, green, etc. with the remainder of the eligible project being eligible for a 2% loan.

ATTACHMENT LIST

Attachment 1: Trumbull Comment Letter

Attachment 2: Bridgeport Response Letter

Attachment 3: Public Notice Affidavit from Greystone showing the EIE was published in the CT Post on June 15, June 22, and June 29, 2021.

Attachment 4: Bridgeport Facilities Plan Scoping Notice

Attachment 5: Bridgeport Facilities Plan Environmental Impact Evaluation Notice