

Iott, Traci

From: Joseph Schnierlein <jschnierlein@optonline.net>
Sent: Friday, April 05, 2019 8:44 AM
To: DEEP WQS
Subject: CT's Water Quality Standards

I am writing this as the Chairman of the Norwalk Mayor's Water Quality Committee. In discussion with our group, we had several concerns that could be addressed in the WQ Standards:

1) year-round treatment of sewage. The Norwalk River has people using the river all year long: swimming, kayaking, and fishing. The lack of treatment during the winter could put users at risk. UV lamps should be left on.

2) Testing for, and monitoring the presence of anthropogenic pharmaceuticals has not been done. As the Norwalk River is one of over 60 rivers and streams that flow into Long Island Sound, this could have an impact on the life in Long Island Sound as has been proven in other areas in Canada as well as the US. With an active shellfish industry, and their filtering of water, it might bioamplify in those species. With background information on the levels of pharmaceuticals, guidelines for acceptable levels can be achieved and we can address the potential sources.

3) Continued and expanded monitoring of the numerous discharge pipes going into the Norwalk River. During rain events, there should be periodic testing for organic hydrocarbons, as well as heavy metals. We do not know what extent I 95 has on the Norwalk River water and the sediments versus other potential sources.

4) DNA investigation as to the species of origin for the bacteria testing in the Norwalk River. There are numerous outflows that have been "hot" with bacteria for decades, yet we do not know if it is mammalian, avian, or anything else. This could help us address the financial as well as human resources we have doing any monitoring.

5) Downstream protection. As was illustrated best by the Aquarion company's recent request to withdraw 1 million gallons per day from the Norwalk River, there was no concern or issues addressed by that action in Norwalk and the Norwalk Harbor. According to what was being requested, it looked as if the Norwalk River stopped at the Wilton / Norwalk border. The river is a critical source for dissolved oxygen during August, Sept. and early October to the upper harbor.

Sincerely

Joseph Schnierlein
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