



September 24, 2020

Mr. Eric McPhee
Supervising Sanitary Engineer
Department of Public Health – Drinking Water Section
410 Capitol Avenue-MS#12DWS
P.O. Box 340308, Hartford, CT 06134

Re: Scoping Notice for an Emergency Interconnection between Norwich Public Utilities, Ledyard Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA), and the Town of Preston

Dear Mr. McPhee:

Below is the response to comment for each item provided by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to the above-named project:

Water Diversion

The definition of their use of the term “emergency” should be clarified in the post-scoping notice or the Environmental Impact Evaluation. Section 22a-277(5) of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) exempts from the permit requirement diversions for “fire emergency purposes,” and section 22a-378 of the CGS allows for diversions in response to a state-declared water supply emergency. If neither of these conditions apply, then a permit will be needed for an interconnection between distribution systems or service areas in excess of 50,000 gallons per day in compliance with section 22a-377(b)-1(a) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA). For more information contact the Water and Planning Management Division at 860-424-3704 or online at [Water Diversion Program](#).

GU Response:

The Emergency Water Supply Agreement executed by the City of Groton, the Town of Ledyard, and the Town of Preston identifies the provision of water during a public drinking water supply emergency pursuant to CGS Section 25-32b (i.e. state-declared water supply emergency). GU requests that the DPH clarify this item in its post-scoping notice.



Hydrostatic Pressure Testing Wastewater Discharge

Hydrostatic pressure testing wastewater discharges resulting from this project are authorized as “potable water system maintenance wastewaters” under the *Comprehensive General Permit for Discharges to Surface Water and Groundwater* (Comprehensive General Permit). No formal registration is required under the Comprehensive General Permit for this discharge but operating conditions and effluent limits of the Comprehensive General Permit must be complied with. The Miscellaneous and Comprehensive General Permits are administered by the Water Permitting and Enforcement Division of DEEP’s Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance. A general permit sets terms and conditions for conducting an activity which are protective of the environment. Questions can be directed to Don Gonyea, 860-424-3827, donald.gonyea@ct.gov; or Jim Creighton, 860-424-368, james.creighton@ct.gov.

GU Response:

Following completion of the water main installation, the water main will be pressure and leakage tested in accordance with the appropriate ANSI/AWWA C600 and C651-05, respectively. Prior to discharging the spent water into the environment, it will be de-chlorinated by discharging it water into a pool with de-chlorination tablets.

In addition, GU recently sent in the DEEP’s latest General Permit Registration Form and is aware of the terms and conditions required for this testing procedure.

Flood Management Certification

A Flood Management Certification from DEEP is required with any state funded activity within or over a FEMA designated floodplain, as in the case with a bridge crossing. Because this project is a state action, it must be certified by the sponsoring agency as being in compliance with flood and stormwater management standards specified in section 25-68d of the CGS and section 25-68h-1 through 25-68h-3 of the RCSA and receive approval from DEEP. For further information, contact the Land and Water Resources Division at 860-424-3706. A fact sheet regarding floodplain management and the certification form can be downloaded at Flood Management.

GU Response:

Groton Utilities (GU) agreed to undertake this interconnection project using its own funds without any state funding assistance to help secure state grant funding to cover the cost, in part, for its Water Treatment Plant improvement project which is undergoing complete rehabilitation and is receiving state grant-in -aid and loan assistance from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Program of the Department of Public Health (DPH). The DPH required GU to scope the project since it was indirectly associated with the grant funding it received for the treatment plant improvement project. The scoping notice stated **“Although this emergency interconnection project is not receiving funding from the DWSRF program, it is being scoped due to its association with state grant funding that the City received for the GU WTP project.”** Per email correspondence from Stacy Pappano of the DEEP, the interconnection work is not related to the DWSRF treatment plant contract. The proposed work does not involve State Land or State funding and therefore does not fall within the regulatory FMC requirements. Please refer to the attached copy of the email from Stacy Pappano.



404/ 401 Water Quality Certification

It is unknown whether the pipes will be installed under the roadway or shoulders, with no direct wetland impacts, or beyond previously filled areas. If there are any undeveloped areas within the area to be impacted, it is recommended that a certified soil scientist perform a reconnaissance of the site in order to determine whether there are any areas which would be regulated as wetlands or watercourses as defined by section 22a-38 (15) and (16) of the CGS, respectively. If the reconnaissance identifies regulated areas, they should be clearly delineated. Any activity within federal regulated wetland areas or watercourses at the site may require a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pursuant to section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Further information is available on-line at [Army Corps of Engineers, New England District](#) or by calling the Corps Regulatory Branch in Concord, Massachusetts at 978-318-8338. If a permit is required from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, a Water Quality Certificate will also be required from DEEP pursuant to section 401 of the Clean Water Act. For further information, contact the Land and Water Resources Division at 860-424-3019. A fact sheet regarding 401 Water Quality Certification is available on-line at [401 Certification](#).

GU Response:

The water main will be installed along the Poquetanuck Cove bridge. Small portion of the main will be installed on the Road at both ends of the bridge connecting the existing distribution mains located in the Town of Preston and Town of Ledyard.

Natural Diversity Database- Wildlife Division

The Natural Diversity Database (NDDB) is a record of state or federal listed species maintained by the Wildlife Division that may be found in the project area. A cursory review shows that the location of this project falls within the boundaries of a NDDB area. Please be advised that should state or federal permits be required, a formal application must be sent to the Wildlife Division prior to submitting permit applications for a detailed review of the species that may occur in this area. The applicant must submit a *Request for Natural Diversity Data Base State Listed Species Review Form* (DEEP-APP-007) and all required attachments, including maps, to the NDDB for further review. Additional information concerning NDDB reviews and the request form may be found on-line at NDDB Requests.

GU Response:

The DEEP has reviewed the NDDB documentation submitted by our project consultant, Milone & MacBroom, Inc. on behalf of GU for this project. Based on their review, a determination supporting the activities is outlined in its letter dated June 28, 2019 and it is valid for two years. GU will submit an updated NDDB request to DEEP for their review if the project is not started by June 28, 2021. Please see the attached copy of the DEEP NDDB determination document.

Stormwater During Construction

Stormwater discharges from construction sites where one or more acres are to be disturbed, regardless of project phasing, require a permit from the Permitting & Enforcement Division. The *General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters Associated with Construction Activities* (DEEP-WPED-GP-015) will cover these discharges. For projects disturbing five or more acres, registration describing the site and the construction



activity must be submitted to DEEP prior to the initiation of construction. A stormwater pollution control plan, including measures such as erosion and sediment controls and post construction stormwater management, must be prepared. A goal of 80 percent removal of total suspended solids from the stormwater discharge shall be used in designing and installing post-construction stormwater management measures. The general permit also requires that post- construction control measures incorporate runoff reduction practices, such as LID techniques, to meet performance standards specified in the permit.

The construction stormwater general permit dictates separate compliance procedures for Locally Approvable projects and Locally Exempt projects (as defined in the permit). Locally Exempt construction projects disturbing over 1 acre must submit a registration form and Stormwater Pollution Control Plan (SWPCP) to DEEP. Locally Approvable construction projects with a total disturbed area of one to five acres are not required to register with DEEP provided the development plan has been approved by a municipal land use agency and adheres to local erosion and sediment control land use regulations and the *CT Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control*. Locally Approvable construction projects with a total disturbed area of five or more acres must submit a registration form to DEEP. This registration shall include a certification by a Qualified Professional who designed the project and a certification by a Qualified Professional or regional Conservation District who reviewed the SWPCP and deemed it consistent with the requirements of the general permit. The SWPCP for Locally Approvable projects is not required to be submitted to DEEP unless requested. For further information, contact the division at 860-424-3018. A copy of the general permit as well as registration forms may be downloaded at: [Construction Stormwater GP](#).

GU Response:

Groton Utilities will use Best Management Practices to reduce any impacts from stormwater discharge during construction.

Idling

Section 22a-174-18(b)(3)(C) of the RCSA limits the idling of mobile sources to 3 minutes. This regulation applies to most vehicles such as trucks and other diesel engine-powered vehicles commonly used on construction sites. Adhering to the regulation will reduce unnecessary idling at truck staging zones, delivery or truck dumping areas and further reduce on-road and construction equipment emissions. Use of posted signs indicating the three-minute idling limit is recommended. It should be noted that only DEEP can enforce Section 22a-174-18(b)(3)(C) of the RCSA. Therefore, it is recommended that the project sponsor include language similar to the anti-idling regulations in the contract specifications for construction in order to allow them to enforce idling restrictions at the project site without the involvement of DEEP.

GU Response:

Groton Utilities equipment is furnished with necessary emission controls to meet DEEP's guidelines where applicable. Equipment operators will be briefed on the State of Connecticut's regulation (RSCA 22A – 174-18) regarding excessive idle time.

Clean Vehicles



DEEP typically recommends the use of newer off-road construction equipment that meets the latest EPA or California Air Resources Board (CARB) standards. If that newer equipment cannot be used, equipment with the best available controls on diesel emissions including retrofitting with diesel oxidation catalysts or particulate filters in addition to the use of ultra-low sulfur fuel would be the second choice that can be effective in reducing exhaust emissions. The use of newer equipment that meets EPA standards would obviate the need for retrofits. DEEP also recommends the use of newer on-road vehicles that meet either the latest EPA or CARB standards for construction projects. These on-road vehicles include dump trucks, fuel delivery trucks and other vehicles typically found at construction sites. On-road vehicles older than the 2007-model year typically should be retrofitted with diesel oxidation catalysts or diesel particulate filters for projects. The use of newer vehicles that meet EPA standards would eliminate the need for retrofits.

GU Response:

Insert the information of vehicles and machineries used for this project.

Sincerely,

GROTON UTILITIES

Raymond L. Valentini
Operations Manager

From: [Pappano, Stacy](#)
To: [Walden, Cameron](#)
Cc: [Tejada, Raul](#); [Caiola, Jeff](#)
Subject: RE: FMC - Groton Utilities
Date: Thursday, August 8, 2019 10:29:49 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Cam,

To follow-up on our conversation today, the project you have inquired about does not need to be submitted for a FMC. The interconnection work is not related to the DWSRF treatment plant contract. The proposed work does not involve State Land or State funding and therefore does not fall within the regulatory FMC requirements.

Best,
Stacy

Stacy Pappano
Sanitary Engineer 3
Regulatory North / Southeast
Land & Water Resources Division
Bureau of Water Protection & Land Reuse
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127
P: 860.424.3362 | F: 860.424.4075



From: Caiola, Jeff
Sent: Wednesday, August 07, 2019 2:05 PM
To: Pappano, Stacy <Stacy.Pappano@ct.gov>
Subject: RE: FMC - Groton Utilities

Do you know anything about this?

From: Walden, Cameron <Cameron.Walden@ct.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2019 1:22 PM
To: Caiola, Jeff <Jeff.Caiola@ct.gov>
Cc: Tejada, Raul <Raul.Tejada@ct.gov>
Subject: RE: FMC - Groton Utilities

Jeff,

I just wanted to follow-up on this item with you, let me know if you want to discuss and I'd be happy to give you a call.

Thanks,
Cam

Cameron Walden | Supervising Sanitary Engineer

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
Department of Public Health | Drinking Water Section
410 Capitol Avenue, MS# 12DWS
Hartford, CT 06134
Phone: (860) 509-7333
Fax: (860) 509-7359
After Hours Emergency: (860) 509-8000
Email: Cameron.Walden@ct.gov
Webpage: <http://www.ct.gov/dph>

Let us know how we are doing: [Survey](#)



From: Walden, Cameron
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2019 2:23 PM
To: Caiola, Jeff <Jeff.Caiola@ct.gov>
Cc: Tejada, Raul <Raul.Tejada@ct.gov>
Subject: FMC - Groton Utilities

Jeff,

The DPH scoped a project titled **Notice of Scoping for Emergency Interconnection between Norwich Public Utilities, Ledyard WPCA and the Town of Preston** in the May 21 edition of the EM. Groton Utilities agreed to undertake this interconnection project at their own expense without any state funding, in part, to help secure state grant funding for their Water Treatment Plant which is undergoing complete rehabilitation and is receiving grant and loan assistance from our DWSRF Program. The DPH agreed to scope the project since it was indirectly associated with the grant funding they received for the treatment plant. The scoping notice stated ***“Although this emergency interconnection project is not receiving funding from the DWSRF program, it is being scoped due to its association with state grant funding that the City received for the GU WTP project.”*** In DEEP’s comments to the scoping notice the need for a FMC was detailed. Groton Utilities has requested clarification on the need for an FMC since no

state funds are being used for it. Can you confirm if the FMC would apply in this case?

Thanks,
Cam

Cameron Walden | Supervising Sanitary Engineer

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
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Let us know how we are doing: [Survey](#)

