

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



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Commissioner

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Governor
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Drinking Water Section

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Environmental Assessment Justification for Categorical Exclusion

A. Project Identification

PWS Name: Regional Water Authority (RWA)
Town: New Haven
PWSID: CT0930011
DWSRF No.: SFY 19-05
Project Name: System-Wide RTU and Hardware Upgrade
Project Location: multiple in RWA's service area

B. Summary of Environmental Review

October 30, 2018

The environmental aspects of this project have been reviewed in accordance with State and Federal regulations. The findings of the environmental review are summarized below.

1. **Project Description**

This project will upgrade radio telemetry units (RTUs) and hardware at sites throughout Regional Water Authority's (RWA's) distribution system. The project will improve monitoring, improve disaster response and disaster recovery, and enable more flexibility to RWA operators to allow control of the water system from multiple locations. Under RWA's current control system, much of the control for remote sites is only available either on site or at RWA headquarters located at 90 Sargent Drive. This project will add monitoring of remote sites that cannot currently be monitored remotely. The project will also allow RWA operators to access the water system control systems from multiple sites, rather than just from RWA headquarters. This will allow for a quicker response time in emergencies. This project creates a more robust and redundant control system that will allow for continued monitoring and control of active sites even when components of their distribution system may be compromised by a disaster.

This project will be funded through the Department of Public Health's (DPH) Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF).

2. **Justification for Categorical Exclusion from Connecticut Environmental Policy Act Requirements**

The DPH has performed a review of the project under the Environmental Classification Document (ECD) for Connecticut state agencies and determined that this project is well defined and sufficiently limited in scope to qualify as a Category IV project consisting of minor renovations to existing facilities. Based on this determination a review pursuant to the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA) is not warranted.



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The public water system will be required to obtain any necessary local permits, as applicable. Copies of all required permits must be submitted to the DPH prior to any DWSRF funds being dispersed.

The project area is not within an identified flood plain.

It is not reasonable to expect any adverse impact to the natural diversity of the surrounding area as the project areas are not within any current Natural Diversity Database Areas.

Although it is not expected that anything of archeological significance will be found, the DPH required the contract language to include procedures for notifying appropriate entities, should anything of significance be found during construction.

3. Justification for Categorical Exclusion from National Environmental Policy Act Requirements

Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. Part 6, Procedures for Implementing the Requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the DPH has reviewed the proposed scope of work submitted by the RWA in its application for DWSRF assistance. The result of this review indicates that there are no environmental concerns with this project, as discussed below:

- a. With respect to the criteria set forth in 40 CFR Part 6, the proposed project involves actions that are consistent with the eligibility for granting a Categorical Exclusion pursuant to 40 CFR Part 6.204 (a)(ii). Specifically, the project actions are related to existing infrastructure systems that involve minor upgrading, and rehabilitation of the existing system and system components.
- b. With respect to the criteria set forth in 40 CFR Part 6.204 (b) for not granting a Categorical Exclusion:
 - i. The proposed action is not known or expected to have potentially significant impacts on the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time;
 - ii. The proposed action is not known or expected to have any adverse human health or environmental effects on any community;
 - iii. The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect federally listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat;
 - iv. The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect any national natural landmarks;
 - v. The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect any natural resource areas (e.g. flood plains, wetlands, farmlands, or aquifer recharge zones);
 - vi. The proposed action is not known or expected to cause significant adverse air quality effects;
 - vii. The proposed action is not known or expected to have any effects on land use or growth patterns; and
 - viii. The proposed action is not known or expected to cause significant public controversy.

C. Conclusion

Based on the DPH's review, none of the NEPA criteria which would result in the denial of a Categorical Exclusion are met. The proposed action is not known or expected to have any adverse impact on the quality of the human environment. The action will provide a direct public health benefit to residents served by the RWA's public water system through the improved function of the water main. Furthermore, the Department has reviewed the action against the ECD for Connecticut state agencies and determined it is a Category IV action for which a review under the CEPA is not

warranted. As a result, the proposed action has met the criteria to be categorically excluded from further NEPA or CEPA review.



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Sanitary Engineer, Drinking Water Section

10/30/2018

Date