

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



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Acting Commissioner

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Drinking Water Section

Environmental Assessment Justification for Categorical Exclusion

A. Project Identification

PWS Name: Regional Water Authority
Town: New Haven
PWSID: CT0930011
DWS Project No.: SFY 21-46
Project Name: West River WTP Improvements Project
Project Location: 2035 Litchfield Turnpike, Woodbridge, CT

B. Summary of Environmental Review

2/22/2021

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

The work to be performed under this project includes the addition of dissolved air floatation (DAF) treatment to the existing water treatment plant, replacement of the sodium hypochlorite disinfection system, and upgrades to the electrical system, including replacement of the emergency power generator. The DAF components will be housed in an addition constructed to the immediate south of the existing building. Piping will be constructed to incorporate the DAF into the existing treatment process. The overall approved capacity of the water treatment plant will not change.

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.

The project area is adjacent to a current Natural Diversity Database (NDDDB) area. The RWA requested a NDDDB review and received a response from the Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection indicating that there are Eastern Box Turtles in the area and provided information and protective measures to be taken during construction activities. These measures will be incorporated into the construction contract.

The RWA requested a review from the State Historic Preservation Office and received a response indicating that in their opinion no historic properties will be affected by this project. 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 Regional Water Authority 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 Regional Water Authority’s public water system through the improved function of the water treatment plant. 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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2/22/2021
Date