

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Manisha Juthani, MD
Commissioner



Ned Lamont
Governor
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Lt. Governor

Drinking Water Section

Environmental Assessment Justification for Categorical Exclusion

A. Project Identification

PWS Name: Baxter Farm Community Water Association
Town: Tolland
PWSID: CT1420021
DWSRF No.: SFY 22-54
Project Name: DWSRF – Water Storage Tank Replacement Project
Project Location: Tolland

B. Summary of Environmental Review

December 20, 2022

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**

Project will replace existing above ground steel storage tank in need of refurbishment or replacement with a dual chamber 10,000-gallon concrete storage tank. The tank will connect to existing wells and distribution piping network.

The current tank has legacy structural damage due to a prior collapse of the roof and has been cited by the DPH for a minor deficiency stating that the finished water storage tank is not adequately protected from contamination and shall be repaired or replaced to address the deficiency.

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 1:1 replacement of existing drinking water facilities that have exceeded their useful service life and the new facility will be located in previously disturbed areas that are in the general vicinity of the facility it replaces. 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 requires 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 Baxter Farm Community Water Association 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)(1)(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.
 - ix. The proposed action is not known or expected to be associated with providing financial assistance to a federal agency through an interagency agreement for a project that is known or expected to have potentially significant environmental impacts.
 - x. The proposed action is not known or expected to conflict with federal, state or local government, or federally-recognized Indian tribe environmental, resource-protection, or land-use laws or regulations.

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 Manchester Water and Sewer Department'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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