



To: Meredith Andrews, Connecticut Department of Transportation

From: Jordan DiDomenico

Telephone: 860-424-3708

Email: Jordan.DiDomenico@ct.gov

Date: 8/19/2024

Subject: Scoping Notice for Retaining Wall Replacement Along Route 44, Putnam

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has received the Notice of Scoping for the replacement of a section of retaining wall that supports Route 44 in the Town of Putnam, to ensure the safety of the traveling public. The existing rubble stone retaining wall has shown visual signs of deterioration. Proposed improvements to the wall include replacing approximately 270-feet of the existing wall that supports Route 44. The improvement will also include approximately 500-feet of full-depth reconstruction adjacent to the retaining wall. The proposed roadway cross-section will match the existing cross-section with 11-foot travel lanes and 4-foot shoulders in each direction, and a 5-foot concrete sidewalk. Approximately 1,400-feet of sidewalk will be reconstructed to extend beyond the roadway construction limits due to the poor condition of adjoining sidewalk. Roadside safety appurtenances atop the retaining wall will be upgraded to current design standards. There are right-of-way impacts associated with the proposed improvements. The impacts include construction easements to complete the proposed improvements to the existing retaining wall. A permanent maintenance easement will be granted to the State of Connecticut for the maintenance of the retaining wall.

The following comments are submitted in response to the scoping requirements of the [Connecticut Environmental Policy Act](#). As you know, scoping is the gathering and analysis of information that a state agency will use to establish the scope of environmental review of a proposed project. Scoping is done in the early planning stages of a project and DEEP is a commenting agency. Contact information is included as well as any necessary links to DEEP's webpages.

1. Effect on water quality, including surface water and groundwater.

Melissa Mostowy, Water Planning and Management Division, Melissa.Mostowy@ct.gov:

There are no concerns regarding the project in relation to the Water Diversion Program.

Melissa Fahnestock, Water Planning and Management Division, Melissa.Fahnestock@ct.gov:

The proposed construction site is not located in an [Aquifer Protection Area](#) nor is it located in a parcel prioritized for source water protection as shown on the [Parcel Prioritization for Source Water Protection Viewer](#), indicating that the property is not in a surface water or groundwater protection area. However, the site is located in an area of coarse-grained deposits with a thickness of 50-100 feet per the [CT Surficial Aquifer Potential Map](#). Coarse-grained deposits of thickness greater than 50 feet are considered to have the greatest long term potential ground water yields and should be considered a future source area that should be protected. To ensure protection of this future groundwater source, it is recommended that the construction company implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) from the [Connecticut's Aquifer Protection Area Program Municipal Manual](#) entitled BMPs for Temporary Construction Operations in Aquifer Protection Areas. This can be found in [Section 14.4.8 of the Appendices of the Municipal Manual](#).

Emma Coffey, Water Planning and Management Division, Emma.Coffey@ct.gov:

The proposed replacement retaining wall and construction activities appear to be approximately 150 ft to 200 ft. from where the Little River outlets to the Quinebaug River. These waterbodies were both included in the [2022 Integrated Water Quality Report](#), and regarded as impaired due to Escherichia coli (E. coli) bacteria. To reduce further impairment of these waterbodies, DEEP recommends incorporating the use of Green Infrastructure and/or Low Impact Development in this project to reduce the impact of polluted stormwater from reaching receiving surface waters. Please refer to the [National Menu of Best Management Practices \(BMPs\) for Stormwater – Construction](#) for further guidance on ways to reduce negative impacts on these local waterways.

2. Effect on flooding, in-stream flows, erosion, or sedimentation.

If proposed activities are being funded or conducted by a state agency AND are being conducted within a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designated floodplain, the applicant should consult with the DEEP's Land and Water Resources Division for information on how to comply with the States Flood Management Statutes and Regulations. For information on identifying if the site is in a flood zone, please see FEMA's website: [FEMA Flood Map Service Center](#). For information on Flood Management Certification, please see DEEP's website: [Flood Management Certification Fact Sheet](#).

Contact:

Darcy.Winther@ct.gov

3. Effect on natural communities and upon critical plant and animal species and their habitat; interference with the movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species.

Robin Blum, NDDB Program, Wildlife Division, Robin.Blum@ct.gov:

There are no anticipated impacts relative to listed wildlife or plant species. Please note that comments from the NDDDB Program are limited to plant and wildlife species that are listed as endangered, threatened, or special concern, and do not include non-listed plant and wildlife species.

Mike Steeves, HCE Program, Fisheries Division, MichaelE.Steeves@ct.gov:

There are no concerns related to fisheries resources.

4. Use of pesticides, toxic or hazardous materials or any other substance in such quantities as to cause unreasonable adverse effects on the environment.

No comments submitted at this time.

5. A substantial increase in the type or rate of energy use as a direct or indirect result of the action.

No comments submitted at this time.

6. Effect on air quality.

No comments submitted at this time.

7. Effect on existing land resources and landscapes, including coastal and inland wetlands.

No comments submitted at this time.

8. Adequacy of existing or proposed utilities and infrastructure.

No comments submitted at this time.

9. Effect on greenhouse gas emissions as a direct or indirect result of the action.

No comments submitted at this time.

10. Effect of a changing climate on the action, including any resiliency measures incorporated into the action.

No comments submitted at this time.

11. Additional Comments/ Concerns:

No comments submitted at this time.

List of permits:

Federal Section 404 Clean Water Act, Water Quality Permit

- ☐ Required for this project.
- ☒ May be required for this project. Contact the [Army Corps of Engineers](#) to determine jurisdiction.
- ☐ Not required.

State 401 Water Quality Permit

- ☐ Required (necessary for state approval when a Federal 404 is required)
- ☐ May be required, contact Land and Water Resources Division, or request a pre-application meeting.
- ☒ May be required, unable to state with information provided at this stage.
- ☐ Not required.

General Permit for Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters from Construction Activities (Construction Stormwater GP). Note: Without detailed plans, several options might be checked, please review these options to determine which is applicable for the project.

- ☒ If between one and five acres of disturbance and approved at the local level, not required to register with DEEP.
- ☐ If five or more acres of disturbance and approved at the local level, must complete registration form and Stormwater Pollution Control Plan to DEEP at least 60 days prior to the initiation of construction. Registrations shall include a certification by the 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. In addition to measures such as erosion and sediment controls and post-construction stormwater management, the SWPCP must include a schedule for plan implementation and routine inspections. For further information, contact the division at 860-424-3025 or DEEP.StormwaterStaff@ct.gov
- ☒ Projects exempt from local permitting (conducted by government authorities) disturbing over one acre must submit a registration form and Stormwater Pollution Control Plan to DEEP at least 60-90 days, as identified by the permit, prior to initiating construction.

The Construction Stormwater General Permit registrations must be filed electronically through [DEEP's ezFile Portal](#). Additional information can be found online at: [Construction Stormwater GP](#).

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. These comments are based on the reviews provided by relevant staff and offices within DEEP during the designated comment period. They may not represent all applicable programs within DEEP. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions concerning these comments.

cc: Eric Hammerling, Office Director, DEEP/ERSI