



To: Mr. Jeffrey Pfaffinger, Department of Transportation

From: Laschone Garrison

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Date: 2/18/2026

Subject: Scoping for Exit 46, Route 15 (Wilbur Cross Parkway) Improvements (New Haven and Woodbridge)

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has received the Notice of Scoping for Exit 46, Route 15 (Wilbur Cross Parkway) Improvements. The proposed project locations are spread across New Haven and Woodbridge. Specific locations include Route 15 at Interchange 46, which connects to the subnetworks of Route 63 and Route 69. Project limits on Route 15 extend from approximately 1,450 feet south of Bridge No. 0071 (Route 15 over Route 63 - Log Mile 46.24) to the southern limits of the Heroes Tunnel (Log Mile 47.14)

The project proposes installing acceleration and deceleration lanes on Exit 46, which will improve safety, mobility, and connectivity on Route 15, and the immediate connections with Route 69 and Route 63. The project also proposes to construct a new loop ramp to access Route 15 northbound from Route 69. This project is proposed to improve access to Route 15 northbound and reduce congestion on Route 69.

The following comments are submitted in response to the scoping requirements of the [Connecticut Environmental Policy Act](#). 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 Fahnestock, Water Planning and Management Division, Melissa.Fahnestock@ct.gov

The proposed construction site is not located in an [Aquifer Protection Area](#) or 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 0-50 feet per the [CT Surficial Aquifer Potential Map](#) and has the potential for water supply development. To ensure protection of this potential 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 found in [Section 14.4.8 of the Appendices of the Municipal Manual](#).

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

Susan Jacobson, Land and Water Resources Division, Susan.Jacobson@ct.gov

Flood Management Certification: - If proposed activities are being funded or conducted by a state agency AND are being conducted within a 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](#).

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, Wildlife Division - NDDDB Program, Robin.Blum@ct.gov

If the project is located in a Natural Diversity Database Area, then an NDDDB consultation is required. If consultation has not yet been initiated, please submit a request for review using DEEP's on-line ezFile portal.

Bruce Williams, Fisheries Division – HCE program, Bruce.Williams@ct.gov

Fisheries Resources – The nearby West River supports runs of diadromous fish. The Fisheries Division will want to review the placement and design of any new storm drains that discharge to the West River or its tributaries.

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:

Allison Forrest-Laiuppa, ERSPD, Allison.Forrest-Laiuppa@ct.gov

LUST Program has cases at the following addresses:

- There was an Emergency Incident Report (2009-03667) for a 5-gallon gasoline release on July 5, 2009, at 112 Amity Road in New Haven.
- There was a gasoline release discovered during a UST removal on December 10, 1997, at 130 Amity Road in New Haven.
- There was a gasoline and diesel release discovered during a UST removal on November 18, 1996, at 130 Amity Road in New Haven.
- There was a gasoline release discovered during an environmental site assessment on November 21, 2003, at 149 Amity Road in New Haven.
- There was a waste oil release discovered during a UST removal on May 14, 2012, at 149 Amity Road in New Haven.

Lindsay Suhr, Land Acquisition and Management, Lindsay.Suhr@ct.gov

If the project plans to use DEEP property in any way (such as staging equipment or expanding the current footprint) then DOT will need to consult with DEEP's Land and Acquisition Management Office to work through these details.

List of permits:**Federal Section 404 Clean Water Act, Inland, Water Quality Certification (WQC)**

☐ Required for this project.

☒ Based on the information provided, it cannot be determined if fill is proposed in Waters of the U.S. A state and federal wetland delineation will be required if fill is proposed in Waters of the U.S. Wetlands and Watercourses should be clearly field delineated by a qualified soil scientist. If work is being proposed in a wetland or watercourse (crossings, fill, structures, culverts etc.), contact the [Army Corps of Engineers](#) to determine if it is within their jurisdiction.

☐ Not required.

State 401 Water Quality Permit

☐ Required. (if a federal 404 WQC is required, a state 401 is also required because the programs are tied together)

☒ Based on the information provided, it cannot be determined if fill is proposed in Waters of the U.S. A state and federal wetland delineation will be required if fill is proposed in Waters of the U.S. For a pre-application meeting, contact: Susan.Jacobson@ct.gov

☐ Not required.

Effective January 1, 2026: General Permit for Stormwater 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.

The link to the permit application is: <https://portal.ct.gov/deep/water-regulating-and-discharges/stormwater/construction-stormwater-gp>

☐ Projects that disturb less than an acre are not required to submit an application to DEEP, regardless of whether they get local approval.

☐ If between one and five acres of disturbance and approved at the local level, not required to submit an application with DEEP.

☒ If five or more acres of disturbance and approved at the local level, must complete application 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 Water Permitting and Enforcement 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.

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