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November 1, 2012

Patrick O'Brien
Office of Policy and Management
Bureau of Assets Management
450 Capitol Avenue - MS#52ASP
Hartford, CT 06106-1379

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has reviewed the Notice of Proposed Land Transfer involving the former Manchester Armory on 1.5 acres at 330 Main Street in Manchester. The Department has no objection to the proposed transfer. Given the property's location and the existing buildings, it would not serve as a useful addition to the state's system of parks, forests, wildlife areas and other natural open spaces nor provide high quality active or passive recreation opportunities.

The Department has reviewed the property pursuant to section 4b-47(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) and does not recommend that any portion of the property should be preserved through land transfer, conservation easement or the imposition of restrictions or conditions. This comment letter does not require a response from OPM under section 4b-47(a) of the CGS, and we understand it will be included on the OPM website listing properties for which comment periods have expired.

In addition, the Natural Diversity Data Base, maintained by the Department, contains no records of extant populations of Federally listed endangered or threatened species or species listed by the State, pursuant to section 26-306 of the CGS, as endangered, threatened or special concern at the property. This information is not the result of comprehensive or site-specific field investigations.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this proposed land transfer. If there are any questions regarding these comments, please contact David Fox of the Office of Environmental Review at 860-424-4111 or david.fox@ct.gov.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel C. Esty".

Daniel C. Esty
Commissioner

cc: Shane P. Mallory, DPW