



State of Connecticut

# Environmental Review Checklist

Last Updated 02/25/2020

## Instructions for Use:

The Environmental Review Checklist (ERC), as defined in Sec. 22a-1a-1(9) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA), is intended to assist state agencies in (1) determining whether a proposed action or category of actions requires public scoping, or (2) in recording an agency's initial assessment of the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects of a proposed action at the completion of public scoping.

For the purposes of CEPA, an Action is defined in Sec 22a-1a-1(2) of the RCSA as an individual activity or a sequence of planned activities initiated or proposed to be undertaken by an agency or agencies, or funded in whole or in part by the state.

Completion of the ERC is only *required* as part of a sponsoring agency's post-scoping notice in which the agency has determined that it will not be preparing an EIE (Sec. 22a-1a-7(d) of the RCSA).

In all other instances, the sponsoring agency has the option to use this form or portions of it, in conjunction with the applicable Environmental Classification Document (ECD), as a tool to assist it in determining whether or not scoping is required and to document the agency's review. This can be especially useful for an agency administering a proposed action that is not specifically represented in the ECD or which may have additional factors and/or indirect or cumulative impacts requiring further consideration.

Even if an agency ultimately determines that public scoping is not necessary, as a matter of public record OPM highly recommends that the agency internally document its decision, and its justification.

In completing this form, include descriptions that are clear, concise, and understandable to the general public.

Note that prior to reviewing a proposed action under the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA), Connecticut General Statutes (CGS), Section 16a-31 requires agencies to review any proposed actions for the acquisition, development or improvement of real properties, or the acquisition of public transportation equipment or facilities, and in excess of \$200,000, for consistency with the policies of the State Plan of Conservation and Development (State C&D Plan).



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## PART I – Initial Review and Determination

Date: March 2, 2023  
Name of Project/Action: Extension of Water Lines from Winsted into Barkhamsted  
Project Addresses: Old New Hartford Road, east of Battistoni Drive (close to the Barkhamsted town line), heading east to a location behind the Mallory Brook Plaza  
Affected Municipalities: Barkhamsted and Winchester  
Sponsoring Agency: Department of Public Health  
Agency Project Number, if applicable: N/A  
Project Funding Source/Program, if known: Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP)

Identify the Environmental Classification Document (ECD) being used in this review:

- Generic, or  Agency-Specific
- An environmental assessment or environmental impact statement is being prepared pursuant to NEPA, and shall be circulated in accordance with CEPA requirements.
- The proposed action requires a written review by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and/or Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Office (NATHPO). Include SHPO/NATHPO reviews as an attachment, or indicate the status of those reviews: Indicate status of SHPO and/or NATHPO review.

Based on the analysis documented in this Environmental Review Checklist (ERC), and in consideration of public comments, this agency has determined that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) for the proposed action is not warranted. Publication of this document to the Environmental Monitor shall satisfy the agency's responsibilities under [Section 22a-1a-7 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies](#) (RCSA).

Completed by: Lisette Stone, Environmental Analyst, Source Assessment and Protection Unit, DPH DWS

*Note that prior to commencing a CEPA review, Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) Section 16a-31 requires state agencies to review certain actions for their consistency with the policies of the State Plan of Conservation and Development (State C&D Plan). Completion of this ERC assumes the agency has determined this proposed action to be consistent with the State C&D Plan.*

## PART II – Detailed Project Information

### Description of the Purpose & Need of the Proposed Action:

The Town of Barkhamsted is seeking financial assistance through the Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) program to fund an extension of service via water main from the Town of Winchester into Barkhamsted. The Town of Barkhamsted and the Town of Winchester previously executed an interlocal agreement for the extension of sewer lines which have been constructed and are currently serving Mallory Brook Plaza. They also will provide service to an affordable housing development in that area, which is in the design phase with plans for construction in the near future. The STEAP grant application from Barkhamsted is to fund the extension of water lines from Winchester. Initially, the plan is to service the shopping center although, similar to the sewer lines, the lines will be sized to provide water to the homes along Old North Road, plus the affordable housing development, when it is complete. The installation of water lines connecting the western end of Barkhamsted to the public water supply from the Town of Winchester is important for Mallory Brook Plaza, Barkhamsted's only shopping center, and the affordable housing project proposed behind the Plaza.

### Description of the Proposed Action:

The project consists of an 8" diameter watermain extension on Old New Hartford Road. The project begins at the existing watermain terminus 65 linear feet (l.f) west of the Winchester/New Hartford Town Line and continues easterly 1,890 l.f. completing Phase 1. Phase 1 will provide domestic service along Old New Hartford Road, provide domestic and fire service to Mallory Brook Plaza, and support Phase 2 (660 l.f.) expansion. Phase 2 expansion will provide service to a proposed affordable housing project currently in the design phase and sponsored by The Barkhamsted Housing Trust, Inc.

### Alternatives Considered:

Other than No Action, there was no alternative considered.

### Public concerns or controversy associated with the proposed action:

DPH received comments from Margaret Miner on December 27, 2022 that consisted primarily of questions related to specific aspects of the project. Jim Rollins, Director of Winchester Department of Public Works and Don Stein, Barkhamsted First Selectman responded to these inquiries directly. Please see attachment, that includes all comments/questions from Ms. Miner as well as the responses to each question: [Winsted-Barkhamsted Response to Comments](#). CT DEEP also provided comments with recommendations, which are assessed in Part IV. DPH did not view either of these commenters as raising concerns or controversy.

### PART III – Site Characteristics (Check all that apply)

The proposed action is non-site specific, or encompasses multiple sites;

Current site ownership:  N/A,  State;  Municipal,  Private,  
 Other: Please Explain.

Anticipated ownership upon project completion:  N/A,  State;  Municipal,  Private,  
 Other: Please Explain.

#### Locational Guide Map Criteria:

<http://ctmaps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ba47efccdb304e02893b7b8e8cff556a>

#### Priority Funding Area factors:

- Designated as a Priority Funding Area, including  Balanced, or  Village PFA;
- Urban Area or Urban Cluster, as designated by the most recent US Census Data;
- Public Transit, defined as being within a ½ mile buffer surrounding existing or planned mass transit;
- Existing or planned sewer service from an adopted Wastewater Facility Plan;
- Existing or planned water service from an adopted Public Drinking Water Supply Plan;
- Existing local bus service provided 7 days a week.

#### Conservation Area factors:

- Core Forest Area(s), defined as greater than 250 acres based on the 2006 Land Cover Dataset;
- Existing or potential drinking water supply watershed(s);
- Aquifer Protection Area(s);
- Wetland Soils greater than 25 acres;
- Undeveloped Prime, Statewide Important and/or locally important agricultural soils greater than 25 acres;
- Category 1, 2, or 3 Hurricane Inundation Zone(s);
- 100 year Flood Zone(s);
- Critical Habitat;
- Locally Important Conservation Area(s),
- Protected Land (list type): Enter text.
- Local, State, or National Historic District(s).

**PART IV – Assessment of Environmental Significance – Direct, Indirect, And Cumulative Effects**

<b>Required Factors for Consideration (Section 22a-1a-3 of the RCSA)</b>	<b>Agency’s Assessment and Explanation</b>
Effect on water quality, including surface water and groundwater;	The proposed public water supply and the sewer that was previously installed remove the requirement for septic for the shopping plaza and the proposed affordable housing development, and therefore reduce the potential for contamination of this area by large septic systems.
Effect on a public water supply system;	Confirmation that Winsted Water Works (WWW) has sufficient capacity to supply the needs of both Winchester and Barkhamsted was provided in a Letter from Jim Rollins, Winchester Department of Public Works Director, to DPH dated December 1, 2022. In the letter, Mr. Rollins provided that WWW’s safe yield is over 3 million gallons per day. Winsted is averaging less than 800,000 gallons per day. Barkhamsted is limited to 100,000 gallons per day, per the interlocal agreement.
Effect on flooding, in-stream flows, erosion or sedimentation;	There will be a review by the Barkhamsted Inland Wetlands Commission as there is a brook crossing to the east, but that is expected to result in a ruling that this extension is not a problem as it is in the town road.
Disruption or alteration of an historic, archeological, cultural, or recreational building, object, district, site or its surroundings; A. Alteration of an historic building, district, structure, object, or its setting; OR B. Disruption of an archeological or sacred site;	The project is not expected to cause negative impacts.
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;	According to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Comments Dated December 21, 2022 “A cursory review shows that although the property is not within a Natural Diversity Database area, there are known northern spring salamander occurrences in the larger vicinity. A formal NDDB review is not required, but a review is recommended to alleviate any concerns on potential impacts to this species.” And,  “In the absence of detailed plans, the concerns would depend on the chosen technique for extending the water pipe across the unnamed stream that flows into Mallory Brook, a coldwater stream that supports wild brook trout. Proper erosion and sedimentation control best management practices should be instituted throughout the duration of this project. Care should be

	<p>exercised so as not to increase turbidity levels within this unnamed stream. As a best management practice, any unconfined instream work should be restricted to the period from June 1 to September 30, inclusive.” <u>Id.</u> at 2 and 3.</p> <p>The DPH will coordinate with the Town of Barkhamsted to ensure that the recommendations by the DEEP are implemented.</p>
Use of pesticides, toxic or hazardous materials or any other substance in such quantities as to cause unreasonable adverse effects on the environment;	The project is not expected to cause adverse effects.
Substantial aesthetic or visual effects;	As the project involves running of water lines along the side of a town road, it is not expected to cause substantial aesthetic or visual impacts.
Inconsistency with: (A) the policies of the State C&D Plan, developed in accordance with section 16a-30 of the CGS; (B) other relevant state agency plans; and (C) applicable regional or municipal land use plans;	<p>The project is consistent with the <a href="#">State of Connecticut’s Plan of Conservation and Development</a> (POCD) including Growth Management Principles (GMP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4.14: “<i>Support the introduction or expansion of public water and/or sewer services or alternative on-site wastewater treatment systems</i>” – <u>Id.</u> 16</li> <li>• 5.1: “<i>ensure the availability of safe and adequate public water supplies that meet or exceed state and federal drinking water standards</i>” – <u>Id.</u> 17</li> <li>• 6.3 “<i>Support the creation of objective and uniform protocols for public water and sewer need assessment and support integrated planning for all sewage disposal and water systems, centralized and decentralized, to assist communities in assessing options for addressing the goals of municipal plans of conservation and development</i>” – <u>Id.</u> 21</li> </ul>
Disruption or division of an established community or inconsistency with adopted municipal and regional plans, including impacts on existing housing where sections 22a- 1b(c) and 8-37t of the CGS require additional analysis;	The project is not expected to disrupt communities or housing. There are ten homes in the area from the town line to the likely path of the water line to Mallory Brook Plaza and the proposed affordable housing development. These homes will have the option to connect to the water main, however they will not be required to unless their wells fail or require significant improvements such as hydrofracking. Winsted-Barkhamsted Response to Comments at 1.
Displacement or addition of substantial numbers of people;	The project is not expected to displace any people.

Substantial increase in congestion (traffic, recreational, other);	The project is not expected to cause any increase in congestion.
A substantial increase in the type or rate of energy use as a direct or indirect result of the action;	The project is not expected to significantly increase energy use.
The creation of a hazard to human health or safety;	The project is not expected to create a hazard to human health and safety. To the contrary, upon completion the project will provide a safe and adequate water supply to constituents of Barkhamsted and patrons of Mallory Brook Plaza.
Effect on air quality;	The project is not expected to affect air quality.
Effect on ambient noise levels;	The project is not expected to affect ambient noise levels.
Effect on existing land resources and landscapes, including coastal and inland wetlands;	As the project involves running water lines along the side of a town road, it is not expected to effect land resources, landscapes, or coastal wetlands. It is anticipated that any impacts to inland wetlands will be addressed by the Barkhamsted Inland Wetlands Commission in connection with the brook crossing application discussed above.
Effect on agricultural resources;	The project is not expected to affect agricultural resources.
Adequacy of existing or proposed utilities and infrastructure;	The project will establish new public water system infrastructure to serve northwest portions of Barkhamsted.
Effect on greenhouse gas emissions as a direct or indirect result of the action;	The project is not expected to create greenhouse gas emissions.
Effect of a changing climate on the action, including any resiliency measures incorporated into the action;	The project is intended to increase resiliency by creating redundancy in water supply to those served by the water system.
Any other substantial effects on natural, cultural, recreational, or scenic resources.	The project is not expected to cause negative impacts.
Cumulative effects.	The cumulative impacts of the project are not expected to be significant.

## PART V - List of Required Permits, Approvals and/or Certifications Identified at the Time of this Review

Possible Permits include: General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters Associated with Construction Activities (DEEP-WPED-GP-015); 401 Water Quality Certification;

Comprehensive General Permit for Discharges to Surface Water and Groundwater. Pursuant to [19-13-B102\(d\)](#), final plans and specifications will be submitted to DPH for approval.

## PART VI – Sponsoring Agency Comments and Recommendations

Based on DPH’s review of the documents provided, the project is not one that may significantly affect the environment, and therefore, an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) is not required under CEPA.

## PART VII - Public Comments and Sponsoring Agency Responses:

Based on the DPH’s environmental assessment of the proposed project which includes a review of the comments provided by Margaret Miner dated December 27, 2022 and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) dated December 21, 2022, the project is not expected to significantly affect the environment. Therefore, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 22a-1b(c) of CEPA, the Project does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE). The DPH will coordinate with the Town of Barkhamsted to ensure that the recommendations by the DEEP are implemented. No recommendations were made in the comments provided by Margaret Miner.