

April 4, 2022

Frederick Riese  
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106-5127  
(sent only via email to [Frederick.riese@ct.gov](mailto:Frederick.riese@ct.gov))

Subject: Environmental Impact Evaluation – Comments on Cultural Resources  
Ox Brook Flood Control Master Plan Project  
Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Dear Mr. Riese:

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has reviewed the referenced project in response to your request for our comments regarding potential effects to historic properties. The referenced Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) describes the purpose and need of the project and offers several alternatives relating to six project elements. As noted in the EIE, although SHPO understands that this document was prepared pursuant to the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA), our office has additional review responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106) should federal permitting be required. These comments are provided in accordance with both CEPA and Section 106. To facilitate review by our office, a Phase IA Cultural Resources Assessment report was included as Appendix D prepared by Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc. (AHS). The background research is comprehensive and demonstrates knowledge of the project area; it meets the standards set forth in the *Environmental Review Primer for Connecticut's Archaeological Resources*.

As noted in the report prepared by AHS, there are no previously reported archaeological sites or properties listed in the State or National Registers of Historic Places recorded within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for this project. SHPO understands that additional assessments may be required as the preferred project alternatives are selected and proposed work areas required for storage, staging, and access are selected. Background research, visual reconnaissance, and limited coring of the APE revealed substantial prior disturbances. As a result, SHPO concurs with AHS that activities associated with the Ox Brook Flood Control Master Plan or its alternatives are not likely to impact significant archaeological deposits. SHPO also agrees that most of the above-ground historic resources identified by AHS are common styles that lack sufficient integrity and association to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

SHPO-1

A single resource was identified as potentially eligible for listing on the State Register of Historic Places: the dam at Elton Rogers Park. This dam, constructed in 1872 by the Bridgeport Hydraulic Company, is an important component of an engineered historic water system. The dam is comprised of an earthen and masonry structure that is no longer functional and has areas of collapse. SHPO does not object to the project alternatives, but encourages the preservation of as much of the remaining historic dam and its related elements to the greatest extent possible.

SHPO-2

SHPO requests that the dam is documented to meet state-level documentation standards which consist of narrative text, photographs, and photographic site plan. If possible, photographs of the dam during its dismantling should be included as part of the documentation. The submitted documentation should be both archivally stable and user-friendly. It is SHPO's opinion that the proposed undertaking will constitute no adverse effect conditional upon the proposed work being able to accommodate this documentation request to minimize the historic loss.

SHPO-2

SHPO appreciates the opportunity to review and comment upon this project. Do not hesitate to contact Catherine Labadia, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, for additional information at (860) 500-2329 or [catherine.labadia@ct.gov](mailto:catherine.labadia@ct.gov).

Sincerely,



Jonathan Kinney  
State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: Burke, CZA



# COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Keith Ainsworth  
*Acting Chair*

Alicea Charamut

David Kalafa

Kip Kolesinskis

Matthew Reiser

Charles Vidich

William Warzecha

\_\_\_\_\_

Peter Hearn  
*Executive Director*

March 23, 2022

Frederick Riese  
CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) for the Ox Brook Flood Control Master Plan

Dear Mr. Riese:

The Council on Environmental Quality (“Council”) has reviewed the EIE for the Ox Brook Flood Control Master Plan and has the following questions regarding Phase 1.

The EIE states that “there are no identified NDDB areas within the Project Area or immediate vicinity” and that “the Project is not expected to impact listed Connecticut species or their habitats”. The Council notes that the Natural Diversity Database (NDDB) mapping is a pre-screening tool and is not a substitute for an on-site survey. A survey of the areas potentially impacted by Phase 1 of the proposed project is recommended, prior to construction, to assess the presence of wildlife and endangered, threatened and special concern species or suitable habitat that might be present. If found, the Council recommends consultation with the NDDB to develop and implement plans to eliminate or mitigate any potential adverse impacts.

CEQ-1

The EIE sheet C1.00 identifies a vernal pool immediately north of the existing dam within Elton Rodgers Park. The EIE does not indicate if potential negative impacts on the vernal pool envelope (VPE) and the critical terrestrial habitat (CTH) were examined. The Council recommends an assessment to determine the potential impact the proposed action would have on the VPE and CTH and/or if one or more vernal pools would be created by the proposed project.

CEQ-2

The Council notes that the proposed work associated with Phase 1 of the proposed project has the potential to introduce or expand the habitat for invasive species. The EIE does not indicate that action to eradicate invasive species is included in the plan. The Council recommends the inclusion of an invasive species control/eradication component for the construction with a follow-up during the following year.

CEQ-3

The United Illuminating Company has received Connecticut Siting Council approval (Docket 490 – January 2021) to construct a 115/13.8- kilovolt (kV) air-insulated replacement substation facility located on the existing Old Town Substation parcel at 282 Kaechele Place and two parcels immediately north totaling approximately 3 acres that are owned by the United Illuminating Company at 312 and 330 Kaechele Place in Bridgeport. The Council notes that coordination of the two construction projects might avoid unanticipated issues and benefit both projects.

CEQ-4

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Peter Hearn, Executive Director

## Jennifer Burke

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**From:** Jennifer Burke  
**Sent:** Friday, April 1, 2022 11:12 AM  
**To:** Jennifer Burke  
**Subject:** FW: Ox took EIE Plan

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**From:** Roman-Christy, Rosalina <[Rosalina.Roman-Christy@Bridgeportct.gov](mailto:Rosalina.Roman-Christy@Bridgeportct.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2022 2:15 PM  
**To:** Riese, Frederick <[Frederick.Riese@ct.gov](mailto:Frederick.Riese@ct.gov)>  
**Cc:** Urquidi, Jon <[jon.urquidi@bridgeportct.gov](mailto:jon.urquidi@bridgeportct.gov)>  
**Subject:** Ox took EIE Plan

Dear Mr. Riese:

My name is Rosalina Roman-Christy. I am the councilwoman for the 135th district, which has been immensely impacted by severe flooding. The flooding problem has been going on for over 40 years. On behalf of my constituents, I want to know how your study is going to ease the flooding coming from the Oxbrook area as well the Island Brook Pond, and how long is it going to take before funding is granted to mitigate this problem. Thank you.

RRC-1

Respectfully,

Rosalina Roman-Christy, MS  
Councilwoman 135th District

Sent from my iPhone

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CONNECTICUT ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT  
PUBLIC HEARING  
HELD VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE  
OX BROOK FLOOD CONTROL MASTER PLAN  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT EVALUATION

MARCH 29, 2022

COMMENCING AT 7:00 P.M.

**COPY**

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PRESENT:

FREDERICK RIESE, CT DEEP

JON URQUIDI, CITY ENGINEER

STEPHEN LECCO, GZA GEOENVIRONMENTAL, INC.

SETH TAYLOR, GZA GEOENVIRONMENTAL, INC.

JENNIFER BURKE, GZA GEOENVIRONMENTAL, INC.

ROSALINA ROMAN-CHRISTY, CITY OF BRIDGEPORT COUNCILWOMAN

JACK HENNESSY, CONNECTICUT STATE REPRESENTATIVE

(All members present via remote videoconference.)

Jennifer Still, SHR, License No. SHR000301  
Shea & Driscoll, LLC  
30 Pepperbox Road  
Waterford, CT 06385

1	MR. RIESE: I want to welcome everyone to	07:05:35PM
2	tonight's public hearing on the Ox Brook Flood Control	07:05:37PM
3	Master Plan Environmental Impact Evaluation; and this is	07:05:43PM
4	being held in accordance with the Connecticut	07:05:44PM
5	Environmental Policy Act about which we'll explain a	07:05:49PM
6	little bit more in a few succeeding slides here.	07:05:51PM
7	Next slide.	07:05:54PM
8	And I'd like to welcome all of you and explain	07:05:55PM
9	who all of we are. First of all, let me explain the	07:05:59PM
10	purpose of the hearing and who is here. Tonight joining	07:06:03PM
11	me -- and I'm Frederick Riese. I'm the senior	07:06:09PM
12	environmental analyst with the Department of Energy and	07:06:12PM
13	Environmental Protection in the Office of Environmental	07:06:17PM
14	Review; and also tonight we have from the department Dan	07:06:20PM
15	Biron who's a senior environmental analyst who works in	07:06:23PM
16	flood control and dams. Other members, from the City of	07:06:26PM
17	Bridgeport, John Urquidi who's a city engineer; and from	07:06:31PM
18	GZA Environmental we have Steve Lecco who's an associate	07:06:36PM
19	principal with the firm who is in charge of quality	07:06:38PM
20	control and quality assurance; Jennifer Burke who is the	07:06:40PM
21	senior project engineer; and Seth Taylor who is an	07:06:43PM
22	environmental planner and was a contributing editor to	07:06:49PM
23	the Environmental Impact Evaluation that we're	07:06:56PM
24	discussing tonight.	07:06:57PM
25	And next slide.	07:06:57PM

1	Okay. The purpose of the public hearing	07:06:58PM
2	tonight is really -- it's a twofold purpose. The first	07:07:01PM
3	purpose is to inform the community and anyone else who	07:07:05PM
4	happens to be listening as to what the project is about,	07:07:11PM
5	why we're doing the project, and kind of the purpose,	07:07:15PM
6	need for the project, what's likely to happen, when it's	07:07:18PM
7	likely to happen, just as it's a public educational and	07:07:21PM
8	public information function of the public hearing.	07:07:25PM
9	The second purpose of this hearing, and will	07:07:27PM
10	be the second half of the hearing, is to receive	07:07:32PM
11	comments from the public and from any agencies or	07:07:35PM
12	elected officials that happen to be with us tonight.	07:07:39PM
13	And the purpose of those comments, one, is just to hear	07:07:41PM
14	from you; but also the comments will become part of the	07:07:44PM
15	Record of Decision which is the document that will be	07:07:48PM
16	subsequently prepared to go to the Office of Policy	07:07:51PM
17	Management to document our compliance with the	07:07:56PM
18	requirements of the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act	07:08:00PM
19	and also to allow us a chance to address or respond to	07:08:03PM
20	any questions or concerns that have been raised either	07:08:07PM
21	tonight at the public hearing or through written	07:08:12PM
22	comments during the comment period.	07:08:14PM
23	Next slide.	07:08:16PM
24	Okay. How to participate -- here's the	07:08:18PM
25	housekeeping part of the presentation. First of all, as	07:08:20PM

1 you can see, remain muted during the presentation. We 07:08:25PM  
2 won't be interrupting the presentation for comments but 07:08:29PM  
3 will ask that you hold all comments to the end of the 07:08:32PM  
4 public hearing. And although you're not required to 07:08:36PM  
5 speak, we ask that those who do want to speak add your 07:08:39PM  
6 name to the chat box and use the raised hand feature; 07:08:42PM  
7 and when Jennifer calls upon you, unmute 07:08:45PM  
8 yourself -- which sounds simple enough but it's the part 07:08:49PM  
9 that's often forgotten that requires two or three 07:08:53PM  
10 reminders -- and then give us your name and address. 07:08:56PM  
11 We'd ask initially that you limit your comments to 3 07:08:58PM  
12 minutes. Depending on the number of speakers we have 07:09:00PM  
13 tonight, we may well have time for a second round to 07:09:03PM  
14 give people a second bite at the apple if we don't have 07:09:07PM  
15 a lot of speakers keeping us, you know, here for a long 07:09:11PM  
16 time. 07:09:14PM  
17 We do want to mention -- and I'll leave some 07:09:16PM  
18 time for this -- if anyone is having audio difficulties, 07:09:20PM  
19 which would mean they're not hearing me right 07:09:23PM  
20 now -- there is a call-in feature. And leave this slide 07:09:25PM  
21 up here for a second. You can call the number shown 07:09:29PM  
22 here, the 1464 -- 1646 number and type in that password 07:09:34PM  
23 number, and you'll be able to hear the audio portion via 07:09:38PM  
24 phone link. So I'll leave this up for just a second if 07:09:46PM  
25 you're trying to jot this down. Again, hopefully you're 07:09:49PM



1 seeing this because you wouldn't be hearing me, so I'll 07:09:53PM  
2 give you a few more seconds to jot down that 07:09:55PM  
3 information. You'll be prompted as you call in. Okay. 07:09:59PM  
4 Jen, let's assume that people who need that have that. 07:10:08PM  
5 This picture gave me a little bit of a chuckle 07:10:13PM  
6 because the photo you see in the lower right-hand 07:10:17PM  
7 corner -- that's from what's often now referred to as 07:10:21PM  
8 "before times." We used to hold such meetings as 07:10:24PM  
9 tonight actually in person; and these would be people 07:10:27PM  
10 looking at displays or charettes explaining the project, 07:10:30PM  
11 and, you know, getting a little bit of a primer before 07:10:34PM  
12 the beginning of the public hearing. For most of us, 07:10:38PM  
13 this is still what we think of when we think of a CEPA 07:10:42PM  
14 public hearing; but, unfortunately, it's not the way 07:10:46PM  
15 things have been going on the last couple of years. 07:10:49PM  
16 Again, this hearing is being conducted under 07:10:51PM  
17 the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act which applies 07:10:54PM  
18 to State actions undertaken or funded by State agencies. 07:10:57PM  
19 In this case, the funding agency is -- the Connecticut 07:11:02PM  
20 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is 07:11:06PM  
21 funding this. The City of Bridgeport will actually be 07:11:10PM  
22 administering the project. And because this is a 07:11:12PM  
23 state-funded action it is going to fall under the 07:11:19PM  
24 Connecticut Environmental Policy Act which not only 07:11:24PM  
25 provides for an environmental analysis of the project 07:11:26PM

1 but also a public review, comments, so that the public  
2 can see the documents, understand the decision-making  
3 process, and submit their comments and feedback to us  
4 which can indeed influence the course of the project,  
5 the design. We try to incorporate any feedback that we  
6 get as much as possible.

07:11:29PM  
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7 So next slide.

07:11:52PM

8 As was the case with the last slide, this is  
9 entitled "CEPA process," and it gives you a much more  
10 detailed breakdown of how the Connecticut Environmental  
11 Policy Act functions. There are lists of actions which  
12 are called "environmental classification documents."  
13 There's a statewide one in certain departments,  
14 including ours have their own environmental  
15 classification documents; and that's where that State  
16 action triggered CEPA review comes from. On our  
17 environmental classification document for our  
18 department, flood control projects is one of the actions  
19 that's listed; so because this is a flood control  
20 project, it triggers CEPA.

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21 The initial stage of CEPA is called "public  
22 scoping" which means a chance before we even begin to  
23 undertake developing this document, this Environmental  
24 Impact Evaluation, there's a chance for the public to  
25 (a) bring to our attention things that we might not be

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1 aware of about the project area or concerns that we  
2 should know that we can try and address in the  
3 Environmental Impact Evaluation and any public concerns.  
4 Other agencies may be giving us data on rare and  
5 endangered species or historical properties or other  
6 things that we should know about as we go into the  
7 Environmental Impact Evaluation; and that's why the  
8 process is called "scoping" because it can influence the  
9 scope of the document to be prepared.

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10 At the end of the scoping notice, which is the  
11 scoping period, which as you can see happened last fall,  
12 we prepared something called a "post-scoping notice"  
13 which can tell -- which is prepared from the Office of  
14 Policy Management, and it lets them know what the agency  
15 decision is, either that we will go forward with an  
16 Environmental Impact Evaluation because there are  
17 legitimate concerns or that there doesn't appear to be a  
18 reason to go forward with that.

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19 In this case, we had made a decision as an  
20 agency beforehand -- and I say "as an agency" meaning  
21 both our department and the City of Bridgeport -- that  
22 an Environmental Impact Evaluation would be prepared  
23 because we consider this is a significant action.

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24 So post-scoping notice was pretty easy. It  
25 was, yes, we're going to do an EIE. The EIE was

07:14:09PM  
07:14:12PM

1 developed and notice of availability of the document was 07:14:18PM  
2 published back on February 22nd with our comment period 07:14:21PM  
3 that extends through April 11th, so 13 more days to 07:14:27PM  
4 submit any comments. 07:14:31PM

5 Obviously, you'll see tonight's public hearing 07:14:33PM  
6 listed here and -- so we will use any comments that are 07:14:36PM  
7 gathered today to help in the preparation of the Record 07:14:40PM  
8 of Decision which is submitted to the Office of Policy 07:14:44PM  
9 Management who at the end of the day determines that we 07:14:47PM  
10 have adequately evaluated and addressed potential 07:14:50PM  
11 impacts. 07:14:55PM

12 And I think with that we'll go to the next 07:14:55PM  
13 slide and I'll turn it over to Jennifer to outline what 07:14:58PM  
14 the project is about, where it's about, and why we're 07:15:02PM  
15 doing it. So, Jennifer, you're on. 07:15:05PM

16 MS. BURKE: Thanks, Fred, and thanks, 07:15:08PM  
17 everyone, for attending this evening. 07:15:09PM

18 So GZA's role in this project was to help in 07:15:12PM  
19 the development of the Environmental Impact Evaluation 07:15:14PM  
20 report as Fred mentioned. And as part of this, we were 07:15:17PM  
21 not the project designer; so we're taking kind of an 07:15:21PM  
22 independent look at everything, gathering all of the 07:15:25PM  
23 information that exists about the project, about the 07:15:26PM  
24 project area, and reviewing all of the potential impacts 07:15:27PM  
25 and benefits associated with the project. 07:15:32PM

1           So as many of you may know, there's a long           07:15:34PM  
2 history of flooding within multiple areas in the City of           07:15:37PM  
3 Bridgeport, including along Ox Brook. This flooding has           07:15:41PM  
4 lead to repeated flood damages to homes and businesses.           07:15:44PM  
5 It's lead to emergency response demand for fire and           07:15:48PM  
6 police to set up detours, road closures, conduct           07:15:51PM  
7 rescues; and also to public health and safety risks           07:15:55PM  
8 associated with drowning or impacts from the floodwaters           07:15:58PM  
9 and also health risks from what remains after the floods           07:16:03PM  
10 like mold in people's homes. There's been many studies           07:16:05PM  
11 undertaken since the 1970s over a period of 50 years to           07:16:09PM  
12 identify potential solutions. Urban flooding is not a           07:16:13PM  
13 simple solution -- a simple problem to fix. There's not           07:16:16PM  
14 always one solution, so it's something that's been           07:16:20PM  
15 looked at over the years and certain work has been done           07:16:23PM  
16 in some downstream areas and other flood corridors           07:16:26PM  
17 within the city and we're focusing today on Ox Brook.           07:16:30PM  
18           Just to orient folks that may not be familiar           07:16:33PM  
19 with the area on the map, to your right in the blue area           07:16:36PM  
20 is actually Ox Brook which has its headwaters up in           07:16:39PM  
21 Elton Rogers Park in the north and heads south to its           07:16:45PM  
22 junction with the Rooster River. It's just one of many           07:16:47PM  
23 tributaries to the Rooster River which flows generally           07:16:52PM  
24 southward with its tributaries and then discharges to           07:16:56PM  
25 Ash Creek, which is tidal, and then to Long Island           07:17:02PM

1 Sound.

07:17:02PM

2 And then along the eastern side of the  
3 project, there's Island Brook; so Island Brook kind of  
4 parallels to Ox Brook, flows generally north-south,  
5 through Lake Forest, and then discharges out to the  
6 Pequonnock River. And the reason I want to mention that  
7 is we'll be talking a bit more about Island Brook and  
8 about Rooster River as we go through the presentation  
9 tonight, so I wanted everyone to have a good visual  
10 feeling for how everything is situated in town.

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11 So the purpose and need of this project is to  
12 alleviate chronic flooding along the Ox Brook corridor  
13 through the implementation of the Ox Brook Flood Control  
14 Master Plan, which we'll be describing tonight. And the  
15 photo you see here is just one of many repeated flooding  
16 events within the city.

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17 The proposed action we'll be discussing is the  
18 implementation of the Ox Brook Flood Control Master  
19 Plan. In 2001, Kasper Associates developed a six-phase  
20 project that was proposed to reduce flooding along Ox  
21 Brook. Since that time, a detailed design was completed  
22 for Phase 1 only of the project. Phases 2 through 6 are  
23 still at the preliminary design phase, and final design  
24 is still needed. At this point State funding has only  
25 been identified for Phase 1, which is why that phase has

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1 progressed beyond the others. Phases 2 through 6 of the 07:18:22PM  
2 project may take decades to complete and still need 07:18:25PM  
3 funding for design and construction. However, for CEPA, 07:18:28PM  
4 in order to look at the project wholistically, we are 07:18:31PM  
5 evaluating all six phases, Phases 1 through 6, as part 07:18:35PM  
6 of the CEPA review process. And the photos you see here 07:18:40PM  
7 are just some of the existing conditions along the 07:18:43PM  
8 urbanized sections of the channel that we'll be 07:18:44PM  
9 discussing tonight. 07:18:47PM

10 I already kind of gave a general description 07:18:52PM  
11 of the project location along Ox Brook, but this is 07:18:54PM  
12 project specific. North end of the project is within 07:18:58PM  
13 Elton Rogers Park here and along Elton Rogers Dam. The 07:19:03PM  
14 southern limits of the project are down at Lincoln 07:19:06PM  
15 Boulevard where there's an existing diversion structure 07:19:10PM  
16 that sends portions of the flow directly to the Rooster 07:19:12PM  
17 River and other portions remain within the Ox Brook 07:19:16PM  
18 system. And each of these phases are identified in 07:19:19PM  
19 different colors; and we'll be showing maps that 07:19:22PM  
20 highlight each of those area separately throughout the 07:19:26PM  
21 process. 07:19:28PM

22 One thing that's important to note is that as 07:19:29PM  
23 Kasper was designing a solution to address flooding on 07:19:31PM  
24 Ox Brook, it became evident that it needed to be more of 07:19:35PM  
25 a regional approach and that approach needed to include 07:19:38PM

1 Island Brook, which was adjacent and also had its own 07:19:43PM  
2 flooding issues. So as part of this project, there's a 07:19:46PM  
3 proposal to divert flows from Island Brook into Ox Brook 07:19:49PM  
4 into this Elton Rogers detention area we'll be 07:19:55PM  
5 describing and then back out to Island Brook through the 07:19:58PM  
6 Svihra Park diversion and storage area. And I wanted to 07:20:05PM  
7 mention this upfront before we got into the individual 07:20:07PM  
8 phases because it is a bit of a complex project. 07:20:10PM

9 So Phase 1 of the project -- and, again, these 07:20:13PM  
10 phases do need to happen in order, in order not to 07:20:16PM  
11 exacerbate flooding within any areas as part of the 07:20:20PM  
12 individual phases of the project. Phase 1 includes 07:20:24PM  
13 construction of a storage impoundment within Elton 07:20:27PM  
14 Rogers Park via rehabilitation of an existing dam within 07:20:33PM  
15 the park. The dam was built in the 1800s and is 07:20:35PM  
16 currently in a degraded condition and really no longer 07:20:39PM  
17 impounds any significant volume of water; but this 07:20:42PM  
18 project would seek to restore that dam and also to 07:20:45PM  
19 construct two dikes within the northern portion of the 07:20:48PM  
20 property to provide a storage area to capture flood 07:20:51PM  
21 flows and reduce the peak flow being discharged 07:20:55PM  
22 downstream to the upstream end of the Ox Brook system. 07:20:58PM  
23 And this is a key component on its own to try to slow 07:21:02PM  
24 flood flows from reaching the rest of the system. 07:21:07PM  
25 Now, Phase 2 of the project is for another 07:21:11PM



1 storage area and diversion, this time at Svihra Park, 07:21:14PM  
2 which is in this area you see here. Svihra Park and an 07:21:18PM  
3 adjacent private parcel that the City is currently 07:21:24PM  
4 negotiating acquisition of would be used to create a 07:21:25PM  
5 detention storage area which would outlet to Island 07:21:29PM  
6 Brook, which is here in blue. And in order to get flows 07:21:33PM  
7 from the Ox Brook system over to Svihra Park, a 07:21:36PM  
8 diversion would be needed with a box culvert that would 07:21:40PM  
9 go along Wayne Street, Bronx Avenue, Hunting Street, and 07:21:43PM  
10 out to Svihra Park. So that would reroute a portion of 07:21:48PM  
11 Ox Brook along this alignment. Some of the flows would 07:21:51PM  
12 continue in Ox Brook via connection at Quince Street, 07:21:55PM  
13 and then the original Ox Brook channel as it exists 07:21:58PM  
14 today would remain to capture local flood flows. 07:22:02PM

15 Phase 3 starts at the bottom of our project 07:22:08PM  
16 area at that Lincoln Boulevard diversion structure, and 07:22:11PM  
17 the subsequent phases all proceed from downstream to 07:22:16PM  
18 upstream to address the issues in order; and that's an 07:22:18PM  
19 important portion of the project is the sequencing. 07:22:22PM  
20 This section is largely open channel currently and would 07:22:25PM  
21 remain so. The existing open channel sections would be 07:22:28PM  
22 improved to either rectangular or trapezoidal 07:22:31PM  
23 cross-sections, and then individual street crossings 07:22:37PM  
24 that you see here at streets such as Lincoln Avenue 07:22:39PM  
25 would be also upgraded as a portion of the project. 07:22:42PM

1 Phase 4 this -- if you see the green here, 07:22:46PM  
2 this is the Phase 2 Svihra Park diversion. This 07:22:49PM  
3 is -- Phase 4 is in magenta, so upstream of that 07:22:52PM  
4 diversion; and that includes channel and crossing 07:22:58PM  
5 improvements from Rocton Ave. up to Burnsford Ave. at 07:22:58PM  
6 the north end here. And open channel segments, again, 07:23:03PM  
7 would be improved to either trapezoidal or rectangular 07:23:07PM  
8 sections; and individual street crossings or culverts 07:23:10PM  
9 would be replaced with larger diameter structures to 07:23:13PM  
10 accommodate additional flow and help with the street 07:23:17PM  
11 flooding issues that exist today. 07:23:20PM

12 Phase 5, again, moving upstream. This is the 07:23:23PM  
13 magenta section for Phase 4, and we're heading upstream 07:23:28PM  
14 further; and this would include a small open channel 07:23:31PM  
15 segment being upgraded and then also some closed channel 07:23:35PM  
16 or pipe segments being upgraded. If you notice, there's 07:23:38PM  
17 two lines shown for this phase. The preliminary design 07:23:42PM  
18 has indicated two potential alignments for this work, 07:23:46PM  
19 and as part of final design, final alignment would need 07:23:50PM  
20 to be determined. 07:23:54PM

21 And that brings us to Phase 6, which is a 07:23:56PM  
22 culmination of the entire six-phase process. This phase 07:24:00PM  
23 would include using an additional upland storage area 07:24:04PM  
24 and excavating it to include within and improve upon the 07:24:08PM  
25 storage that's already been created as part of Phase 1; 07:24:14PM

1 and it would also include connecting the diversion from  
2 Island Brook to Ox Brook; and finally a connection of a  
3 new pipe from the dam outlet along Cambridge Street and  
4 then down to Lourmel Street.

5 And I know that was a lot within a very short  
6 period of time. It's a very complex project. There's a  
7 lot more detail regarding this included in the EIE. We  
8 certainly encourage people to review the EIE in more  
9 detail. It's just within the confines of presentation  
10 it's difficult to touch on all of the small details.

11 As part of the CEPA process, we also need to  
12 evaluation various alternatives. The CEPA process  
13 specifically requires the no action alternative to be  
14 assessed. The no action being take no action, flooding  
15 would continue in the way it is now. And this is done  
16 because it creates a baseline for the assessment of  
17 impacts associated with the project. We look at what's  
18 happening now versus what would be impacted through any  
19 of the other alternatives.

20 The other alternatives that were considering  
21 as part of the process were the master plan alternative,  
22 which is the proposed action that I just presented, all  
23 six phases of the master plan.

24 There also were very various subalternates  
25 associated with the master plan and the Phase 1 design

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1 that's been conducted; and also the process looked at 07:25:46PM  
2 other flood protection measures and whether or not they 07:25:49PM  
3 would present viable alternatives to the proposed 07:25:52PM  
4 action. And I'll discuss each of these in a little bit 07:25:56PM  
5 more detail here. 07:25:59PM

6 As I mentioned, the no action alternative 07:26:00PM  
7 indicates that nothing would be done. Flooding would 07:26:03PM  
8 continue to occur, and it would worsen in response to 07:26:06PM  
9 climate change that we are seeing now, more frequent and 07:26:10PM  
10 more intense storm events. Regular maintenance and 07:26:12PM  
11 things like that would occur, but no action would be 07:26:15PM  
12 taken to upgrade the system. Now, this option was 07:26:19PM  
13 determined to be undesirable as the effects that the 07:26:23PM  
14 residents and businesses are subject to and that are 07:26:27PM  
15 on-going are very detrimental; so this would not meet 07:26:31PM  
16 the purpose and need of the work to alleviate chronic 07:26:36PM  
17 flooding in the neighborhood. 07:26:39PM

18 The master plan alternative, as I already 07:26:41PM  
19 discussed, is full implementation of the six phases of 07:26:44PM  
20 Kasper's Ox Brook Flood Control Master Plan over time to 07:26:48PM  
21 reduce flooding in the Ox Brook system. Kasper 07:26:53PM  
22 proceeded with their work for over a period of over a 07:26:59PM  
23 decade; and as part of that, it was a complex design 07:27:02PM  
24 that looked at various options and subalternates. One 07:27:07PM  
25 of those was rather than doing the Svihra Park detention 07:27:11PM

1 and diversion, the option to pipe Ox Brook directly from 07:27:15PM  
2 the Lincoln Boulevard diversion structure within Capital 07:27:15PM  
3 Ave. to Laurel Ave. and then south to Rooster River. 07:27:23PM  
4 Construction of this option would be all along city 07:27:25PM  
5 streets in an urbanized corridor which would have 07:27:29PM  
6 significant traffic and construction impacts as well as 07:27:32PM  
7 utility corridor impacts; and it also would require 07:27:36PM  
8 reconstruction and redesign of the Lincoln Boulevard 07:27:36PM  
9 diversion structure. As such, Kasper dismissed this 07:27:43PM  
10 subalternate as they continued their work. And because, 07:27:46PM  
11 as I mentioned, their period of work was quite long for 07:27:49PM  
12 this process they also through that timeline looked at 07:27:53PM  
13 different pipe sizes, types, channel sizes, and other 07:27:57PM  
14 elements of the project to try to optimize the best 07:28:01PM  
15 solution. And what they came up with for the master 07:28:04PM  
16 plan was the result of those efforts. 07:28:07PM  
17 As part of the Phase 1 design, which was 07:28:10PM  
18 conducted by Tighe & Bond more recently, there were two 07:28:14PM  
19 sub-alternatives that they looked at as part of the 07:28:17PM  
20 Elton Rogers Park Dam rehabilitation project. They knew 07:28:21PM  
21 they wanted more storage for flood flows; so they looked 07:28:23PM  
22 at the use of a depression that exists on the east side 07:28:26PM  
23 of the main impoundment. They had also looked at the 07:28:29PM  
24 potential to create a cutoff channel in the Park Drive 07:28:32PM  
25 right-of-way. However, both of these would result in 07:28:35PM

1 additional wetland impacts and vernal pool impacts, and 07:28:39PM  
2 as such they were determined to be less desirable than 07:28:42PM  
3 the selected alternative for over-deepening an area 07:28:45PM  
4 connected to the main impoundment in an upland area. 07:28:50PM  
5         And, finally, other flood protection measures. 07:28:55PM  
6 So there are other options for flood control, things 07:28:58PM  
7 like acquisition and relocation, acquiring properties 07:29:01PM  
8 and relocating residents or physically relocating their 07:29:05PM  
9 homes to another location within the city. There's 07:29:09PM  
10 options for levies or flood walls, to construct earthen 07:29:12PM  
11 levies or concrete flood walls alongside stream 07:29:16PM  
12 channels. There's also flood proofing which looks at 07:29:20PM  
13 the potential to use engineered methods and engineered 07:29:23PM  
14 products to flood proof a structure to a certain 07:29:28PM  
15 elevation. And then finally elevation of structures. 07:29:31PM  
16 This is something you might see along a coast or a 07:29:34PM  
17 barrier island where structures are actually raised 07:29:38PM  
18 above the flood levels. And all of those were 07:29:40PM  
19 considered and looked at as a whole and also for 07:29:44PM  
20 potential use in smaller areas of the project. The 07:29:47PM  
21 issue with many of these flood control measures is that 07:29:51PM  
22 they're quite expensive especially when you're looking 07:29:55PM  
23 at them in the context of an urban floodplain that's 07:29:58PM  
24 very developed with homes right up toward the stream 07:30:01PM  
25 area; and we have several hundred homes that are within 07:30:04PM

1 the floodplain. So acquiring and relocating or 07:30:09PM  
2 elevating that many structures is really not feasible on 07:30:13PM  
3 an overall basis. Levies and flood walls, again, 07:30:16PM  
4 because this is such a tight floodplain with homes 07:30:20PM  
5 encroaching within it, this really wouldn't be a 07:30:23PM  
6 feasible option. It would also have a very negative 07:30:23PM  
7 visual and aesthetic effect on the neighborhood itself. 07:30:30PM

8 So for these reasons these options may not be 07:30:32PM  
9 good on a wholistic basis for the whole corridor, but 07:30:35PM  
10 they may still have potential on a smaller basic as 07:30:39PM  
11 design continues for Phases 2 through 6. There may be 07:30:42PM  
12 points or locations where these could be a viable method 07:30:46PM  
13 to assist in the overall flood mitigation process. 07:30:50PM

14 So as I mentioned for every CEPA process is to 07:30:57PM  
15 assess and review the potential impacts and how to 07:31:00PM  
16 mitigate for them. CEPA requires the preparer of an EIE 07:31:05PM  
17 to look at all of the natural, physical, and 07:31:09PM  
18 socioeconomic resources that are present and associated 07:31:14PM  
19 with a project area and with a project and to identify 07:31:16PM  
20 and describe those; then look at those in the context of 07:31:20PM  
21 the proposed project or proposed alternative to see 07:31:24PM  
22 that -- and quantify them to the best of our abilities, 07:31:27PM  
23 to look to see what are the actual impacts that will 07:31:31PM  
24 occur, and how can they be evaluated in terms of 07:31:34PM  
25 significance. And then once impacts are identified and 07:31:38PM

1 quantified, if there's something that cannot be avoided, 07:31:41PM  
2 the next goal would be to minimize that impact and 07:31:45PM  
3 within that context also needing to look at mitigation. 07:31:49PM  
4 If an impact can't be avoided and to the extent that 07:31:54PM  
5 it's minimized looking at how to mitigate or make up for 07:31:57PM  
6 or lessen the impact of anything related to the project. 07:32:02PM  
7 And we'll talk about those in detail as we move forward. 07:32:05PM  
8           So the elements of the CEPA review process and 07:32:10PM  
9 of an Environmental Impact Evaluation are far and wide 07:32:14PM  
10 reaching. What you see here are just some of the 07:32:18PM  
11 elements that are looked at as part of the EIE process. 07:32:21PM  
12 Everything related to natural, physical, and 07:32:24PM  
13 socioeconomic resources; things like water resources, 07:32:28PM  
14 noise, and air quality, economic impacts, public health 07:32:30PM  
15 and safety, and more were reviewed as part of the EIE. 07:32:35PM  
16           In terms of natural resources, there are 07:32:40PM  
17 impacts as part of the project. In terms of geology, 07:32:43PM  
18 soils, and topography, there will need to be excavation 07:32:48PM  
19 and fill within Elton Rogers Park and within Svihra Park 07:32:51PM  
20 for the creation of those detention areas to provide for 07:32:55PM  
21 flood storage. Also improvements that are needed along 07:32:59PM  
22 the open channel areas will require grading and moving 07:33:03PM  
23 of soils for that process. Anyone that's seen these 07:33:07PM  
24 sections knows that they're degraded in their current 07:33:11PM  
25 condition and need improvements for their own stability 07:33:15PM



1 and for their carrying functions. For water resources 07:33:18PM  
2 and wetlands and site ecology, there will need to be 07:33:21PM  
3 temporary disturbances of the channel and within the two 07:33:25PM  
4 parks for those improvements and to conduct 07:33:28PM  
5 stabilization activities. There also will be permanent 07:33:31PM  
6 wetland impacts or wetland conversion between wetland 07:33:36PM  
7 type for storage area in both parks in order to create 07:33:40PM  
8 these detention and storage areas. However, at the end 07:33:43PM  
9 of the day, there will be reduction in stream erosion 07:33:47PM  
10 and flooding which are benefits as well as the potential 07:33:50PM  
11 reduction of the regulated flood hazard area under FEMA. 07:33:52PM  
12 And we'll talk a little bit later -- we'll go through 07:33:57PM  
13 the impacts first, but then we'll talk about mitigation 07:33:59PM  
14 for those impacts as well on a category by category 07:34:02PM  
15 basis. 07:34:05PM  
16 In terms of physical impacts, we'll look at 07:34:07PM  
17 things like traffic and pedestrian access. Construction 07:34:10PM  
18 will require some temporary changes in traffic patterns 07:34:14PM  
19 with detours and short-term street closures as part of 07:34:19PM  
20 that street -- the culvert crossing work. So the 07:34:19PM  
21 culverts are situated under roadways that need to be 07:34:24PM  
22 replaces as part of the process, so that will require 07:34:28PM  
23 some temporary closures or lane closures throughout the 07:34:29PM  
24 process. But the long-term improvement will reduce 07:34:32PM  
25 flooding impacts to those roadways which currently 07:34:37PM

1 have -- often have road closures and detours set up 07:34:40PM  
2 during flood events. 07:34:44PM

3 For air quality, there will be temporary 07:34:45PM  
4 increases in air emissions from construction vehicles, 07:34:49PM  
5 and we'll talk about mitigation for that later. 07:34:52PM

6 Similarly, noise levels will temporarily 07:34:54PM  
7 increase in and around the construction areas for the 07:34:58PM  
8 project work. 07:35:02PM

9 For light and shadow and aesthetics and 07:35:04PM  
10 viewsheds, there will be a temporary increase of light 07:35:10PM  
11 during winter periods if they're doing construction at 07:35:11PM  
12 dawn and dusk. Those will be minimized to the extent 07:35:14PM  
13 possible. And in order to work on the channels, there 07:35:17PM  
14 will need to be some vegetation removal which may impact 07:35:20PM  
15 viewsheds for neighbors temporarily until vegetation can 07:35:25PM  
16 be reestablished. 07:35:25PM

17 Because there will be in-street work there 07:35:33PM  
18 will be short-term utility disruptions for construction 07:35:36PM  
19 for utility modifications at street crossings, and there 07:35:41PM  
20 will temporary generation of construction waste and 07:35:41PM  
21 potential disturbance of contaminated materials as work 07:35:47PM  
22 within the urban corridor is continued. 07:35:50PM

23 Once the project is completed, there will be 07:35:53PM  
24 also the need to maintain the system to remove debris 07:35:56PM  
25 and trash that accumulates due to flood flows. 07:36:00PM

1           And finally for physical resource impacts, 07:36:03PM  
2           cultural resources. Because the current dam is degraded 07:36:08PM  
3           and is no longer holding water there do need to be 07:36:12PM  
4           improvements to improve it and restore its function, its 07:36:16PM  
5           safety to meet current dam safety standards and also its 07:36:19PM  
6           "storagability." A Phase 1A archaeological survey was 07:36:24PM  
7           conducted as part of the project which determined that 07:36:28PM  
8           the dam is not National Register of Historic Places 07:36:30PM  
9           eligible, but it is State Register eligible. As such, 07:36:32PM  
10          the project will need to coordinate with the State 07:36:36PM  
11          Historic Preservation Office, or SHPO, to determine what 07:36:42PM  
12          documentation and mitigation is needed before 07:36:43PM  
13          construction. And within the rest of the corridor, 07:36:46PM  
14          there are no National Register eligible properties 07:36:50PM  
15          identified along the urban channel section in the 07:36:53PM  
16          adjacent properties. 07:36:56PM

17                Socioeconomic resources are those that affect 07:37:02PM  
18                the people that are living and working in the community 07:37:04PM  
19                in the project area. There is currently a trail on top 07:37:08PM  
20                of the dam; so as the dam improvements are made, that 07:37:11PM  
21                trail will need to be closed temporarily, and there may 07:37:14PM  
22                also need to be some trail adjustments in the future. 07:37:18PM  
23                Overall, there will be benefits from this project, 07:37:22PM  
24                though, in terms of public health and safety and in 07:37:25PM  
25                terms of the population living in these neighborhoods 07:37:26PM

1 through the reduction in flooding impacts to the homes, 07:37:30PM  
2 to the businesses, and a reduced demand for emergency 07:37:34PM  
3 services as well. There will be the potential for 07:37:37PM  
4 construction or access easements for those sections of 07:37:40PM  
5 the stream that are on private property to facilitate 07:37:44PM  
6 construction, and there may be limited acquisition as 07:37:49PM  
7 design continues for the future phases, Phases 2 through 07:37:52PM  
8 6. Better information will become available about the 07:37:56PM  
9 extent of those potential easements. For Phase 1 of the 07:37:59PM  
10 project, which is the only one funded at this time, 07:38:03PM  
11 there are no easements or acquisitions needed. For 07:38:07PM  
12 Phase 2, the acquisition of the private property next to 07:38:10PM  
13 Svihra Park is something that the City is already 07:38:14PM  
14 pursuing with a willing landowner for that acquisition 07:38:16PM  
15 and sale. 07:38:19PM  
16 So that was a very brief view of the -- kind 07:38:23PM  
17 of the overall impacts associated with the project. 07:38:26PM  
18 We'd also like to talk about mitigation. So mitigation 07:38:30PM  
19 are ways to lessen the potential impacts or make up for 07:38:34PM  
20 those impacts. When it comes to geology and soils and 07:38:38PM  
21 water resources impacts, we will look at the 07:38:42PM  
22 installation of erosion and sediment controls during the 07:38:45PM  
23 construction project and post project during 07:38:49PM  
24 stabilization periods along with a general permit 07:38:54PM  
25 registration with Connecticut DEEP and the preparation 07:38:56PM

1 of a project storm water pollution control plan. 07:38:59PM

2 The all modeling -- the modeling for the 07:39:03PM  
3 current phase, Phase 1, and the future phases will be 07:39:07PM  
4 updated using current design and modeling techniques and 07:39:10PM  
5 also updating specification values used in the design 07:39:15PM  
6 storms to account for climate change. The original 07:39:18PM  
7 models are several decades old at this time, so they do 07:39:21PM  
8 need to be updated to the current state of the art 07:39:25PM  
9 practice as those phases progress from preliminary 07:39:28PM  
10 design to final design. 07:39:33PM

11 The channel sections that will be improved as 07:39:34PM  
12 part of the project also will be stabilized with 07:39:37PM  
13 appropriate materials based on the flows and velocities 07:39:40PM  
14 charted through that modeling effort. And at the end of 07:39:44PM  
15 the project, after Phase 6 is constructed, there's the 07:39:47PM  
16 potential for the City to pursue a map change revision 07:39:50PM  
17 with FEMA which would modify the flood hazard areas 07:39:52PM  
18 identified on the -- along the Ox Brook post 07:39:58PM  
19 construction potentially saving residents along those 07:39:59PM  
20 areas from having to have flood insurance as a 07:40:04PM  
21 requirement as part of a mortgage. 07:40:07PM

22 For site ecology and wetland resources, there 07:40:10PM  
23 will be in lieu fee mitigation for unavoidable impacts 07:40:13PM  
24 from the Army Corp of Engineers as well as restoration 07:40:18PM  
25 and other mitigation that will come through with the 07:40:21PM

1 permits at both the State and local level with  
2 conservation commission.

3 For air quality and noise, idling will be  
4 minimized to 3 minutes or less, and this will help air  
5 quality by reducing emissions and also reduce noise at  
6 the same time. Vehicle emission controls will be  
7 required, and there will also be controls for fugitive  
8 dust. And for sensitive receptors, which have been  
9 identified along the project corridor, the City will be  
10 reaching out to them as part of the project.

11 For light and shadow and aesthetics,  
12 construction will be limited to daytime hours; and there  
13 will be vegetative -- sorry -- vegetative mitigation of  
14 design and construction process to restore some of the  
15 vegetation that's removed for those channel  
16 improvements.

17 For traffic and pedestrian access, there will  
18 be a construction phase maintenance and protection of  
19 traffic plan, which will include noticing, signage, and  
20 alternative routing during construction to keep  
21 pedestrians, bicyclists, and the general public  
22 traversing those areas safe and keep them informed as to  
23 detours that are needed.

24 There will be proper handling and offsite  
25 disposal of construction waste as part of the project,

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1 and all contractors working on the project will be 07:41:46PM  
2 required to contact Call Before You Dig, have utility 07:41:46PM  
3 coordination meetings, and also have outage protocols as 07:41:53PM  
4 they need. 07:41:56PM

5 For pesticides or hazardous materials, if 07:41:56PM  
6 anything is discovered during the process of the work, 07:41:59PM  
7 there will be a full investigation with proper handling, 07:42:02PM  
8 removal, and remediation, if needed. 07:42:06PM

9 And for the Elton Rogers Park Dam, there will 07:42:08PM  
10 be coordination with SHPO to determine what mitigation 07:42:12PM  
11 or documentation may be needed to prior to construction. 07:42:15PM  
12 This could be something like an educational signage 07:42:17PM  
13 being posted in the park to education people traversing 07:42:20PM  
14 that area about the history of the site or also could 07:42:25PM  
15 just be photo documentation of those areas before the 07:42:28PM  
16 improvements to the dam take place. 07:42:31PM

17 As I mentioned before, there may be a need for 07:42:36PM  
18 small trail adjustment in the parks related to the 07:42:39PM  
19 storage areas; and the work will have an overall 07:42:42PM  
20 positive benefit to the neighborhoods through the 07:42:47PM  
21 reduction of flooding impacts. 07:42:49PM

22 If there are acquisitions needed, fair market 07:42:51PM  
23 value will be made for those purchases. 07:42:54PM

24 So that was a very, very quick tour of the 07:42:59PM  
25 project, the potential impacts that have been 07:43:01PM

1 identified, and also the mitigation that's proposed at  
2 this time at this level. There will be additional  
3 mitigation which may come out of the various project  
4 approvals and permits that will be needed for each of  
5 the individual phases as well.

6           So at this point, I'll talk about next steps  
7 within the CEPA process. As Fred eluded to, we'll have  
8 public and agencies are allowed to submit comments until  
9 April 11th of this year. At that point, Connecticut  
10 DEEP, the City, and GZA will look at the comments that  
11 have been received; and DEEP will prepare a Record of  
12 Decision to respond to any substantive comments. That  
13 will be submitted to the Office of Policy and  
14 Management, and then OPM will hopefully issue a  
15 Determination of Adequacy allowing the project to  
16 proceed, especially Phase 1 to go to construction  
17 hopefully later this year.

18           At this point, I'll turn it back to Fred just  
19 to kind of go through the housekeeping items for the  
20 comment process and where you can find more information  
21 about the project.

22           MR. RIESE: Jen, thank you very much for  
23 running through that detailed presentation and I  
24 know -- a lot of tongue twisters and a lot of acronyms,  
25 so thank you for getting us through all of that.

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1           And I do want to thank those members of the           07:44:23PM  
2 public or elected officials who are with us tonight. I           07:44:26PM  
3 want to thank you for taking time to participate in           07:44:30PM  
4 tonight's public hearing. I know you probably had other           07:44:33PM  
5 things you could have been doing this evening, so we           07:44:36PM  
6 definitely appreciate your being here tonight and           07:44:38PM  
7 sticking with us through a lot of those acronyms.           07:44:42PM

8           I do want to mention in the Record of           07:44:44PM  
9 Decision, it's beyond being just a yes or no. Do we go           07:44:47PM  
10 forward with the project? Part of what any sponsoring           07:44:51PM  
11 agency -- in this case the Department of Energy and           07:44:56PM  
12 Environmental Protection -- will address to OPM is: Are           07:45:00PM  
13 we going forward with the action as it was presented in           07:45:03PM  
14 the EIE, or are there modifications that may come up           07:45:08PM  
15 that, you know, we will be making or committing to           07:45:12PM  
16 making some alterations in the project which could be           07:45:15PM  
17 vegetative screening. It could be something aesthetic,           07:45:19PM  
18 whatever. As a result of the comments and analysis,           07:45:22PM  
19 we -- there is the potential to be making some kinds of           07:45:27PM  
20 adjustments in the project.           07:45:32PM

21           We mentioned a number of times that written           07:45:33PM  
22 comments are accepted until the end of April -- business           07:45:36PM  
23 on April 11th. Here is the contact information.           07:45:40PM  
24 Those -- although my phone number is there, we wouldn't           07:45:44PM  
25 be taking comments by phone; but my e-mail, as you can           07:45:50PM

1 see, is frederick.riese@ct.gov, or the mailing address 07:45:56PM  
2 there. Any comments received by April 11th or if 07:45:58PM  
3 they're mailed in postmarked by April 11th are timely 07:46:05PM  
4 submitted and -- so we would address those comments and 07:46:10PM  
5 include them in the package that we forward to the 07:46:15PM  
6 Office of Policy and Management. There is information 07:46:18PM  
7 on the City's website under public notes what I -- what 07:46:20PM  
8 we see on the slide here about the EIE is available at. 07:46:24PM  
9 I don't expect everybody to be able to copy all that 07:46:28PM  
10 down, but I will give you an easier way to get to the 07:46:31PM  
11 that site maybe. If you were to Google Connecticut 07:46:35PM  
12 Council on Environmental Quality, their website, they 07:46:44PM  
13 maintain a publication called the Environmental Monitor 07:46:48PM  
14 which you would see probably featured on that website. 07:46:49PM  
15 If you click on the Environmental Monitor, Ox Brook 07:46:52PM  
16 would be one of the projects listed. Of probably like a 07:46:56PM  
17 half dozen projects at the moment that are listed there, 07:46:59PM  
18 Ox Brook would be one of them and a link -- you know, 07:47:02PM  
19 this link would also be given there; so you don't have 07:47:04PM  
20 to scribble all that long address down. If you just 07:47:08PM  
21 want to Google Connecticut Council of Environmental 07:47:11PM  
22 Quality, you'll get there as well. And as it says here 07:47:14PM  
23 physical copies of the EIE document -- I should have 07:47:17PM  
24 brought one here. I have it here. So it's a fairly 07:47:21PM  
25 large document -- are available at the north branch of 07:47:24PM

1 the Bridgeport Public Library and at the town clerk's 07:47:30PM  
2 office which is requirement of CEPA that documents are 07:47:34PM  
3 available at the town clerk's office. Also you can 07:47:37PM  
4 contact me, and I can make arrangements to get you a 07:47:40PM  
5 copy of the document. 07:47:45PM

6 With that said, we're going to be proceeding 07:47:47PM  
7 with public comments. I'll be turning it over to Jen 07:47:50PM  
8 again for that, but I do want to again thank everybody 07:47:54PM  
9 for being here tonight for your interest in the project. 07:47:57PM  
10 As Jen mentioned, this is a project that's been going on 07:48:01PM  
11 for quite a long time, and we are very encouraged to see 07:48:04PM  
12 that at least we have the light at the end of the tunnel 07:48:10PM  
13 for Phase 1; so we look forward to seeing that happen in 07:48:14PM  
14 the not-to-distant future. 07:48:20PM

15 And with that, I will turn it over to Jen and 07:48:22PM  
16 begin the public comment section of the -- of tonight's 07:48:26PM  
17 public hearing, so thank you. 07:48:30PM

18 MS. BURKE: Thank you. I have Seth monitoring 07:48:32PM  
19 the chat, and usually we allow elected officials or 07:48:35PM  
20 department heads to go first. I can see -- let's see, I 07:48:37PM  
21 see Representative Hennessy. If you'd like, I'll ask 07:48:43PM  
22 you to unmute; and then you should be able to unmute 07:48:45PM  
23 yourself and speak. 07:48:49PM

24 MR. HENNESSY: Hi. Thank you, Jen, and thank 07:48:49PM  
25 you, Fred, for this presentation. 07:48:53PM

JH-1

1           So I echo Fred's desire to see this project  
2 move forward. I was first elected in 2004, and my  
3 primary promise to my constituents in the north end was  
4 to address the flooding of the Ox Brook; and that was 18  
5 years ago. We got the funding around 2015, and I was  
6 told that it would take a couple years for the whole  
7 thing to go through its process. It's 2022 now. Took a  
8 little longer than I expected. My constituents have  
9 complained that the State, the City has not done the due  
10 diligence to mitigate flooding, and I had stood by my  
11 promise to try and move this project forward. I would  
12 really like to thank the city engineer, John Urquidi,  
13 for his steadfast work and quality work, and the  
14 previous engineering firm that did the work. It was all  
15 professionally done, and I'm really happy that this  
16 meeting is taking place.

JH-2

17           Jen, you had mentioned that if we did nothing  
18 regular maintenance would continue, and I'm just  
19 interested to know what kind of regular maintenance that  
20 would be because it just seemed that, you know, the  
21 flooding between the WPCA and the State and the  
22 City -- everybody's pointing fingers at each other  
23 saying, well, it's their department, it's their  
24 department; and, you know, the refuse that winds up  
25 building in the stream -- quite often it's at the

07:48:55PM

07:49:01PM

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07:50:33PM

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07:50:41PM

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07:50:45PM

07:50:49PM

JH-2  
1 homeowner's risk of life and limb to open the channels 07:50:54PM  
2 up after a storm. So I don't really know what this 07:51:00PM  
3 regular maintenance that would continue because it 07:51:04PM  
4 doesn't seem like there is much. 07:51:07PM

5 I'm very happy to hear about the vegetation 07:51:10PM  
6 screening to mitigate the development in Elton Rogers 07:51:14PM  
7 Park. It's rather bucolic. There's is deer. There is 07:51:24PM  
8 wildlife there, and I really think it's a shame to have 07:51:28PM  
9 to disturb that; but I'm happy that the State along 07:51:31PM  
10 with, you know, Corp of Army Engineer take all these 07:51:36PM  
11 things into consideration and are doing what we need to 07:51:41PM  
12 do in order to mitigate disturbance. 07:51:48PM

JH-3  
13 You know, the reason why we're here in this 07:51:52PM  
14 place, it's due to over development of filling in the 07:51:55PM  
15 wetlands in the entire area where there's no absorption 07:52:01PM  
16 of rainfall events; so, you know, that's been done, and 07:52:07PM  
17 we can't undo it. You know, possibly there may be here 07:52:12PM  
18 and there acquisitions of property to create open space 07:52:18PM  
19 and to have some water retention down the road; and I'm 07:52:23PM  
20 very happy to hear that the City is moving forward with 07:52:28PM  
21 Svihra Park and that the landowner is willing to sell 07:52:33PM  
22 it, so that's excellent. That's a major part of the 07:52:37PM  
23 project that needs to be done and -- so I just want to 07:52:42PM  
24 thank you for this wonderful meeting today, and I hope 07:52:48PM  
25 that we can move forward and hope we can break ground 07:52:53PM

JH-3 | 1 this year. Thank you. 07:52:57PM

2 MS. BURKE: Thank you. That's certainly 07:53:00PM

3 everyone's hope. I know it's definitely John's hope to 07:53:01PM

4 get this project and -- shovels in the ground and get 07:53:04PM

5 things moving. We appreciate your comments, and that 07:53:07PM

6 will be captured. We have a stenographer on tonight, 07:53:09PM

7 and that will be captured and put into the public record 07:53:11PM

8 for the project. We also encourage folks if you'd like 07:53:15PM

9 to submit a letter before April 11th to Fred's e-mail 07:53:17PM

10 address or to DEEP's mailbox address as well so -- all 07:53:21PM

11 right. 07:53:27PM

12 Seth, do you have any other -- I don't see 07:53:28PM

13 anything else on my end. 07:53:31PM

14 MR. TAYLOR: No. Nothing. Nothing. 07:53:34PM

15 MS. BURKE: Would anyone else like to comment 07:53:37PM

16 on the project? If so, you can just jot in the chat box 07:53:39PM

17 or raise your hand. We'll call on you and open it right 07:53:42PM

18 up. 07:53:45PM

19 Again, if you don't feel comfort speaking this 07:53:59PM

20 evening, we certainly urge folks to submit written 07:54:02PM

21 comments if that's easier for you as well. 07:54:05PM

22 MR. RIESE: Jen, maybe I can take a second 07:54:17PM

23 here to clear up a point that Representative Hennessy 07:54:19PM

24 brought up. When we say the "no action alternative," 07:54:23PM

25 that means that the project is not implemented; but it 07:54:25PM

1 doesn't mean that any other on-going activities that 07:54:31PM  
2 might otherwise be programmed or occurring, those would 07:54:35PM  
3 go forward. I'm not sure in this case that there are 07:54:38PM  
4 any other planned maintenance activities or planned 07:54:43PM  
5 structural activities. But the no action alternative 07:54:49PM  
6 just means that whatever the proposed action is, that's 07:54:53PM  
7 not going forward; but any other improvements, 07:54:55PM  
8 maintenance, emergency measures, whatever else might 07:54:58PM  
9 otherwise happen in the absence of the project, those 07:55:01PM  
10 would still occur. So I just thought I'd clear up that 07:55:04PM  
11 point about no action alternatives. 07:55:07PM

12 MS. BURKE: Correct. So emergency response 07:55:11PM  
13 from police and fire would still continue; and if there 07:55:12PM  
14 are emergency maintenance, blockage, clearing blockages, 07:55:15PM  
15 etc., to deal with inundation of roadways, that would 07:55:18PM  
16 still occur. Correct. 07:55:23PM

17 All right. I think I see another commenter. 07:55:25PM  
18 I'm going to unmute you. I think this is Councilwoman. 07:55:28PM

19 MS. ROMAN-CHRISTY: Yes. I'm Councilwoman 07:55:36PM  
20 Rosalina Roman-Christy, and I represent the 135 District 07:55:39PM  
21 which entails the Ox Brook area such as -- my main 07:55:42PM  
22 concern is the Island Brook flow that's coming from the 07:55:52PM  
23 Ox Brook. So many of my constituents have gotten 07:55:59PM  
24 flooded so badly that water has risen into their living 07:56:06PM  
25 room area, and it also comes down into the Woodrow 07:56:11PM

RRC-O-1

1 Bridge area which is constantly flooded. I'd like to 07:56:18PM  
2 see that area, if possible, being taken care of as soon 07:56:22PM  
3 as possible. I mean, these are tax paying individuals. 07:56:29PM  
4 It's all residential, mostly all single-family homes in 07:56:32PM  
5 this area; so I would sincerely appreciate if attention 07:56:35PM  
6 was given to this area probably in 2023 hopefully 07:56:40PM  
7 according to John Urquidi. He's really good about all 07:56:45PM  
8 this stuff, and he's very knowledgeable; so that's my 07:56:48PM  
9 comment right now. 07:56:52PM

10 MS. BURKE: Thank you for that. We appreciate 07:56:56PM  
11 it. I know that definitely the City's goal is to try to 07:56:58PM  
12 get these areas addressed as soon as possible for the 07:57:03PM  
13 residents and to alleviate this chronic flooding in the 07:57:06PM  
14 neighborhoods. 07:57:10PM

15 MS. ROMAN-CHRISTY: Thank you. 07:57:10PM

16 MS. BURKE: Thank you for your comment. 07:57:14PM

17 I'm going to unmute you. All right. 07:57:21PM

JH-4

18 MR. HENNESSY: Okay. Yeah. I just had one 07:57:27PM  
19 other question and that about the historic aspects of 07:57:28PM  
20 the dam. It really is an interesting construction. I'm 07:57:33PM  
21 glad that it's not on the National Registry, but you had 07:57:38PM  
22 mentioned that there was a State historic -- excuse 07:57:42PM  
23 me -- that has to get involved. Could you explain a 07:57:49PM  
24 little bit about that? 07:57:52PM

25 MS. BURKE: Sure. So the State is a little 07:57:55PM



1 less selective, I would say, than the National Register.  
2 There are many more properties than may be eligible for  
3 State Register listing than National Register listing.

4 So as part of the Phase 1A, that was looked  
5 at; and Phase 1A actually is appended to the EIE too, so  
6 there's a lot more information. I'm not the archeology  
7 expert certainly, but that is included in the report but  
8 that's -- it's definitely something where there will be  
9 coordination with the SHPO. SHPO did receive a copy of  
10 the EIE and did not provide commentary for the project  
11 as well, and they will be coordinated with to look at  
12 whatever documentation may be needed. You know,  
13 currently the dam is not really holding back significant  
14 water and not functioning in the way it was intended.  
15 If you walk through there, obviously it's not impounding  
16 anything significant at this point; so repair and  
17 improvements to it would be to restore that storage  
18 capacity that once existed in that area.

19 MR. HENNESSY: I believe that they did core  
20 samplings to test for bad material and that it -- it's  
21 just regular nonhazardous material and that -- and that  
22 removing the earthen structure will not be a problem.

23 MS. BURKE: So they will be looking to  
24 actually add to the structure as it exists now, so it  
25 will be an enhancement of that structure, kind of a

1 rebuild and reconstruction of the dam; so it would be a 07:59:38PM  
2 larger base so that it will meet current dam safety 07:59:41PM  
3 regulations. 07:59:46PM

4 MR. HENNESSY: All right. Thank you very 07:59:48PM  
5 much. 07:59:49PM

6 MR. RIESE: Representative Hennessy, you 07:59:54PM  
7 probably know this, but I didn't know until I read the 07:59:54PM  
8 EIE that the original purpose of the dam, which I was 07:59:57PM  
9 very curious about -- it was originally a water supply 08:00:00PM  
10 impoundment by the Bridgeport Hydraulic Company, so I 08:00:04PM  
11 kept scratching my head saying, Why is this dam here? 08:00:07PM

12 And that was the original reason. 08:00:09PM

13 MS. BURKE: I don't see any other comments 08:00:16PM  
14 with the raised hand feature. Seth, anything else on 08:00:18PM  
15 the chat? 08:00:22PM

16 MR. TAYLOR: No. 08:00:22PM

17 MS. BURKE: Fred, do you want to give it a few 08:00:32PM  
18 more moments? I think everyone on the call has actually 08:00:34PM  
19 spoken for representatives from the public from what I 08:00:37PM  
20 can see. 08:00:37PM

21 MR. RIESE: Yeah. I wouldn't expect that 08:00:41PM  
22 someone who hasn't joined in yet is going to show up. I 08:00:43PM  
23 guess we'll offer you one last chance that if you're out 08:00:49PM  
24 there to give us a comment or two or -- and then we'll 08:00:52PM  
25 wrap it up, give it another minute, I guess. 08:00:57PM

1           And at least, you know, had this hearing been           08:01:05PM  
2 last night, we would have been competing with the UCONN           08:01:05PM  
3 women's basketball game, which would have been a tough           08:01:05PM  
4 sell; but I'm glad we're not competing with that           08:01:14PM  
5 tonight. And I'd like to thank the City of Bridgeport           08:01:16PM  
6 for hosting a UCONN win.           08:01:19PM

7           It doesn't look like anyone else is           08:01:30PM  
8 volunteering to come forward; so if there are no           08:01:33PM  
9 objections, I guess for the record it's 8:01 p.m. on           08:01:37PM  
10 March 29th. And seeing no other speakers, we'll thank           08:01:43PM  
11 those who are here, both general public and GZA and the           08:01:48PM  
12 City; and we'll close this hearing at 8:01 p.m.           08:01:53PM

13           So thank you and good night.           08:01:55PM

14           MS. BURKE: All right. I will stop the  
15 recording now. Thank you.

16           (The hearing was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

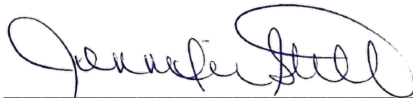
STATE OF CONNECTICUT:

COUNTY OF WINDHAM:

I, Jennifer Still, Licensed Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public, duly commissioned and qualified, do hereby certify that pursuant to Notice, the hearing testimony was reduced to writing by me pursuant to the Connecticut Practice Book, on the 29th day of March, 2022, all member appearing via remote videoconference commencing at 7:00 p.m.; and that the writing is a true record of the testimony given.

I further certify that I am neither attorney or counsel for, nor related to or employed by any of the parties to the action in which this deposition is taken, and further that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney employed by the parties thereto or financially interested in the action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 12th day of April, 2022, at Danielson, Connecticut.



Jennifer Still  
Licensed Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public  
My Commission Expires August 31, 2025  
License No. 0000301