



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: May 13, 2021
Name of Project/Action: Norwich Public Utilities- Countryside Drive Association Consolidation with Norwich Public Utilities
Project Address(es): Evergreen Street, Sunrise Street, & Lawler Lane
Affected Municipalities: Norwich

Sponsoring Agency(ies): Department of Public Health
Agency Project Number, if applicable: N/A
Project Funding Source(s)/Program(s), if known: Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

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:

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: Raul Tejada, Sanitary Engineer 3

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 Norwich Public Utilities (NPU) is seeking financial assistance under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program to fund the construction of the water main to consolidate the residential homes of the Countryside Drive Association (CDA) public water system with NPU's distribution system. This consolidation project is necessary to allow NPU to absorb the customers currently served by CDA public water to ensure they receive adequate supply and acceptable water quality because the Association is planning to discontinue the operation of the water system and abandon the facility including the domestic well.

Description of the Proposed Action:

The proposed project will comprise the installation of approximately 1,200 lineal feet of 8-inch diameter Ductile Iron Pipe along Lawler Lane and approximately 1,400 lineal feet of 4-inch diameter Polyethylene Pipe along Evergreen Street to serve a total of 22 residential homes. Based on the information identified in the Preliminary Engineering Report, a well, which is a sole source of water supply for CDA is in close proximity to septic systems and coliform bacteria have been detected in the well water on various occasions. Realizing that the source of supply is contaminated with coliform bacteria and that their existing infrastructure is aged, the CDA has determined that receiving water service from NPU and properly abandoning their existing water system is the best long term solution to address these issues. The new main will be installed along the edge of the road.

Alternatives Considered:

There are other alternatives identified in the Preliminary Engineering Report including reconstruction of the existing public water system and installation of a well for each homeowner.

Public concerns or controversy associated with the proposed action:

The homeowner association met in 2019 to discuss the proposed water main extension project to consolidate the CDA residential homes with NPU distribution system and voted in support to move forward with the proposed project.

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:
- Anticipated ownership upon project completion: N/A, State; Municipal, Private, Other:

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): Private
- Local, State, or National Historic District(s).

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

Required Factors for Consideration (Section 22a-1a-3 of the RCSA)	Agency’s Assessment and Explanation
Effect on water quality, including surface water and groundwater;	The proposed project is not expected to cause significant impacts to water quality including groundwater and surface water.
Effect on a public water supply system;	The purpose of the proposed project is to consolidate the residential homes currently served by CDA public water system with NPU’s distribution system to ensure they receive adequate supply and acceptable water quality, thereby allowing CDA to abandon their aged water system facilities including the well.
Effect on flooding, in-stream flows, erosion or sedimentation;	Stormwater discharges from construction sites where one or more acres are to be disturbed, regardless of project phasing, require a permit from the Permitting & Enforcement Division. The <i>General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters Associated with Construction Activities</i> (DEEP-WPED-GP-015) will cover these discharges.
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 proposed 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;	The proposed project is not expected to cause negative impact to any state listed species.
Use of pesticides, toxic or hazardous materials or any other substance in such quantities as to cause unreasonable adverse effects on the environment;	Pre-existing pipes may contain PCB contamination in caulk joints and paint. Care must be taken to properly identify and manage this material when discovered. For further information, contact the Bureau of Materials Management & Compliance Assurance, PCB Program at 860-424-3368. Additional information is also available on-line at: PCB Program.
Substantial aesthetic or visual effects;	The proposed project is not expected to cause negative 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;	The project is consistent with the first policy of Growth Management Principle #1: ENSURE the safety and integrity of existing infrastructure over its useful life through the timely budgeting for maintenance, repairs and necessary upgrades, and can serve as a performance indicator for measuring progress of the percentage of state capital investment in the priority funding area.
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 proposed project is not expected to cause negative impacts.
Displacement or addition of substantial numbers of people;	The proposed project is not expected to cause negative impacts.
Substantial increase in congestion (traffic, recreational, other);	The proposed project is not expected to cause negative impacts.
A substantial increase in the type or rate of energy use as a direct or indirect result of the action;	The proposed project is not expected to cause negative impacts.
The creation of a hazard to human health or safety;	The proposed project is not expected to cause negative impacts.
Effect on air quality;	Section 22a-174-18(b)(3)(C) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) limits the idling of mobile sources to 3 minutes. This regulation applies to most vehicles such as trucks and other diesel engine-powered vehicles commonly used on construction sites. Adhering to the regulation will reduce unnecessary idling at truck staging zones, delivery or truck dumping areas and further reduce on-road and construction equipment emissions. Use of posted signs indicating the three-minute idling limit is recommended. It should be noted that only DEEP can enforce section 22a-174-18(b)(3)(C) of the RCSA. Therefore, it is recommended that the project sponsor include language similar to the anti-idling regulations in the contract specifications for construction in order to allow them to enforce idling restrictions at the project site without the involvement of DEEP. DEEP typically recommends the use of newer off-road construction equipment that meets the latest EPA or California Air Resources Board (CARB) standards. If that newer equipment cannot be used,

	<p>equipment with the best available controls on diesel emissions including retrofitting with diesel oxidation catalysts or particulate filters in addition to the use of ultra-low sulfur fuel would be the second choice that can be effective in reducing exhaust emissions. The use of newer equipment that meets EPA standards would obviate the need for retrofits.</p> <p>DEEP also recommends the use of newer on-road vehicles that meet either the latest EPA or CARB standards for construction projects. These on-road vehicles include dump trucks, fuel delivery trucks and other vehicles typically found at construction sites. On-road vehicles older than the 2007-model year typically should be retrofitted with diesel oxidation catalysts or diesel particulate filters for projects. The use of newer vehicles that meet EPA standards would eliminate the need for retrofits.</p>
Effect on ambient noise levels;	The proposed project is not expected to cause significant noise in the immediate area.
Effect on existing land resources and landscapes, including coastal and inland wetlands;	The proposed project is not expected to cause negative impacts.
Effect on agricultural resources;	The proposed project is not expected to cause negative impacts.
Adequacy of existing or proposed utilities and infrastructure;	The existing water system serving the CDA has a documented water quality issues and NPU has sufficient capacity to provide safe and adequate supply of drinking water to the intended customers.
Effect on greenhouse gas emissions as a direct or indirect result of the action;	The proposed project is not expected to cause negative impacts.
Effect of a changing climate on the action, including any resiliency measures incorporated into the action;	Replacing CDA's sole source of supply with a reliable water supply from NPU will enhance the CDA's resiliency to climate change impacts such as increased risk of drought."
Any other substantial effects on natural, cultural, recreational, or scenic resources.	The proposed project is not expected to cause negative impacts.
Cumulative effects.	The cumulative impacts of this 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

PART VI – Sponsoring Agency Comments and Recommendations

Based on the DPH's environmental assessment of the proposed project which includes a review of the comments provided by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection dated April 5, 2021, it has been determined that the project does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) under CEPA. The DPH will coordinate with the Norwich Public Utilities to ensure that the recommendations by the DEEP are implemented.

PART VII - Public Comments and Sponsoring Agency Responses:

Comments and responses are incorporated into the check list items.