



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).



State of Connecticut

Environmental Review Checklist

Last Updated 02/25/2020

PART I – Initial Review and Determination

Date: August 21, 2023
Name of Project/Action: Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority's Interconnection of Montville and Seven Oaks Divisions
Project Addresses: Hunters Run and Old Colchester Rd
Affected Municipalities: Montville
Sponsoring Agency: Department of Public Health (DPH)
Agency Project Number, if applicable: N/A
Project Funding Source/Program, if known: Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)

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 Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority (SCWA) is seeking financial assistance under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program to fund the construction of a water main to interconnect the Seven Oaks Division (Seven Oaks) with the Montville Division (Montville) distribution system. The main benefit would be to provide an emergency, two-way interconnection between SCWA's Montville and Seven Oaks Divisions. During drought periods, Montville's well yields are reduced, and combined with peak Summer usage, stress the system. Based on information provided in a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER), this interconnection is most feasible solution to meet Montville's water demands and maintain an adequate margin of safety. Input from Seven Oaks would allow for the Montville wells to recover, and maintain increased margins of safety, especially in the Summer. It is documented in a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) that Seven Oaks has sufficient surplus of water supply to augment the need of Montville.

Description of the Proposed Action:

The proposed project includes the installation of an approximately 2,295 lineal feet of 8-inch diameter water main to connect the terminal ends of the two existing distribution mains located at Hunters Run and the intersection of Leisure Drive and Old Colchester Road. The new water main will traverse along the land behind the United Church of Christ building. A booster pump station to be located at the edge of the Old Colchester Road is also being proposed to pump water from the Seven Oaks Division system to the Montville Division system.

Alternatives Considered:

No alternatives considered with the exception of non-action.

Public concerns or controversy associated with the proposed action:

DPH received correspondence from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) during the public commenting period on April 5, 2023. There were initial questions as to whether or not a Flood Management Certificate (FMC) or a DEEP Diversion Permit under the Water Diversion of the Connecticut Water Diversion Policy Act (CWDPA) pursuant to Connecticut General Statute § 22a-377(c)-1(4) would be required.

A Diversion Permit Need Determination (DPND) issued by DEEP's Water Protection and Land Management Bureau signed July 13, 2023 finds that Montville has two diversion permits (DIV-200600254 and DIV-200602062) and one diversion registration (3004-009-PWS-GR) currently covering the system. With the proposed transfer of gallons per day (gpd) from Montville to Seven Oaks at under 50,000 gpd, DEEP determined that this proposal as presented would be exempt from the water

diversion permitting requirements of CGS § 22a-368 and 22a-377(b)-1(a)(6) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA).

An assessment of the DEEP Land & Water Resources Division (LWRD) was conducted concerning the requirement of an FML. On July 27, 2023 the DEEP LWRD issued a determination that an FML would not be required of this project.

DPH did not find DEEPs comments or recommendations, which are assessed in Part IV, to be of concern 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

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 project is not expected to have any adverse effects on surface or groundwater. A Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) documents that Seven Oaks has sufficient existing surplus of water supply to meet Montville’s water requirements.
Effect on a public water supply system;	The project is not expected to cause negative impacts. On the contrary, the proposed project will ensure that Montville will maintain increased margins of safety (MOS), especially in periods of drought and peak use, such as Summer, which have historically resulted in a depletion of Montville’s MOS . Input from Seven Oaks would allow Montville wells to recover, and maintain its MOS. It is documented in the PER that Seven Oaks has sufficient surplus of water supply to augment the need of Montville.
Effect on flooding, in-stream flows, erosion or sedimentation;	The project is not expected to have adverse effects on flooding, in-stream flows, erosion or sedimentation.
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;	The Natural Diversity Database (NDDDB) is a record of state or federal listed species maintained by the Wildlife Division that may be found in the project area. In a letter dated April 5, 2023, DEEP found that the proposed project is not in a NDDDB area.
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;	The project is not expected to cause adverse effects.
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 State of Connecticut's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) including Growth Management Principles (GMP): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.14: "Support the introduction or expansion of public water and/or sewer services or alternative on-site wastewater treatment systems only when there is a demonstrated environmental, public health, public safety, economic, social, or general welfare concern" – <u>Id.</u> 16 • 5.1: "Utilize a multiple barrier approach to ensure the availability of safe and adequate public water supplies that meet or exceed state and federal drinking water standards" – <u>Id.</u> 17 • 6.3 "Support the creation of objective and uniform protocols for public water" – <u>Id.</u> 21
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.
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. On the contrary, upon completion the project will provide a consistent and adequate water supply to the customers of Montville.
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;	The project is not expected to affect land resources, landscapes, coastal or inland wetlands.

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 the population currently served by the Montville wells, which are currently inefficient to maintain a safe MOS in periods of drought or high demand. The interconnection to Seven Oaks will ensure Montville will sustain an adequate and consistent MOS.
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 Montville 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 DPH’s environmental assessment of the proposed project, which includes a review of the comments provided by DEEP dated April 5, 2023, DPND dated July 13, 2023 and FMC Determination dated July 27, 2023; DPH determined that the project does not require the preparation of an

Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) under CEPA. DPH will coordinate with Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority to ensure that the recommendations by DEEP are implemented.