

To: Mr. Eric McPhee, Department of Public Health Drinking Water Section
410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford CT 06134-0308

From: Linda Brunza- Environmental Analyst

Telephone: 860-424-3739

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Email: Linda.Brunza@ct.gov

Subject: Scoping Notice for an Emergency Interconnection between Norwich Public Utilities, Ledyard Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA), and the Town of Preston

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has received the Notice of Scoping for the proposed emergency interconnection between Norwich Public Utilities and Ledyard WPCA as part of the funding received for the Groton Utilities Water Treatment Plant Upgrade project. The interconnection is to provide continuous water service to their customers in the Town of Preston in the event of an emergency. The project will consist of installing new 16-inch diameter ductile iron water pipes totaling 1224 linear feet and associated appurtenances along the Poquetanuck Cove Bridge between Ledyard and Preston.

Water Diversion

The definition of emergency as applied in this project will need to be clarified in the post-scoping notice or the Environmental Impact Evaluation. Section 22a-277(5) of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) exempts from permit requirement diversions for “fire emergency purposes,” and section 22a-378 of the CGS allows for diversions in response to a state-declared water supply emergency. If neither of these emergency exemptions are applicable, then a permit will be needed for an interconnection between distribution systems or service areas in excess of 50,000 gallons per day in compliance with section 22a-377(b)-1(a) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA). For more information, contact the Water and Planning Management Division at 860-424-3704 or online at [Water Diversion Program](#).

Hydrostatic Pressure Testing Wastewater Discharge

Hydrostatic pressure testing wastewater discharges resulting from this project are authorized as “potable water system maintenance wastewaters” under the *Comprehensive General Permit for Discharges to Surface Water and Groundwater* (Comprehensive General Permit). No formal registration is required under the Comprehensive General Permit for this discharge but the applicant must comply with the operating conditions and effluent limits of the Comprehensive General Permit. The *Miscellaneous* and *Comprehensive* General Permits are administered by the Water Permitting and Enforcement Division of DEEP’s Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance. A general permit sets terms and conditions for conducting an activity, which are protective of the environment. Questions can be directed to Don Gonyea, 860-424-3827, donald.gonyea@ct.gov; or Jim Creighton, 860-424-368, james.creighton@ct.gov.

Flood Management Certification

A Flood Management Certification from DEEP is required with any state funded activity within or over a FEMA designated floodplain, as in the case with a bridge crossing. Because this project is a state action, it must be certified by the sponsoring agency as being in compliance with flood and stormwater management standards specified in section 25-68d of the CGS and section 25-68h-1 through 25-68h-3 of the RCSA and receive approval from DEEP. For further information, contact the Land and Water Resources Division at 860-424-3706. A fact sheet regarding floodplain management and the certification form can be downloaded at [Flood Management](#).

404/ 401 Water Quality Certification

The construction methods and exact locations for water pipe installation are currently unknown. DEEP recommends that a certified soil scientist perform a reconnaissance of the site in order to determine whether there are any areas which would be regulated as wetlands or watercourses as defined by section 22a-38 (15) and (16) of the CGS. Any regulated areas identified by the soil scientist should be clearly delineated. Any activity within federal regulated wetland areas or watercourses at the site may require a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pursuant to section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Further information is available on-line at [Army Corps of Engineers, New England District](#) or by calling the Corps Regulatory Branch in Concord, Massachusetts at 978-318-8338. If a permit is required from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, a Water Quality Certificate will also be required from DEEP pursuant to section 401 of the Clean Water Act. For further information, contact the Land and Water Resources Division at 860-424-3019. A fact sheet regarding 401 Water Quality Certification is available on-line at [401 Certification](#).

Natural Diversity Database- Wildlife Division

The Natural Diversity Database (NDDB) is a record of state or federal listed species maintained by the Wildlife Division that may be found in the project area. A cursory review shows that the location of this project falls within the boundaries of a NDDB area. Please be advised that should state or federal permits be required, a formal application must be sent to the Wildlife Division prior to submitting permit applications for a detailed review of the species that may occur in this area. The applicant must submit a *Request for Natural Diversity Data Base State Listed Species Review Form* (DEEP-APP-007) and all required attachments, including maps, to the NDDB for further review. Additional information concerning NDDB reviews and the request form may be found on-line at [NDDB Requests](#).

Stormwater During Construction

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 *General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters Associated with Construction Activities* (DEEP-WPED-GP-015) will cover these discharges. For projects disturbing five or more acres, registration describing the site and the construction activity must be submitted to DEEP prior to the initiation of construction. A stormwater pollution control plan, including measures such as erosion and sediment controls and post construction stormwater management, must be prepared. A goal of 80 percent removal of total suspended solids from the stormwater discharge shall be used in designing and installing post-construction stormwater management measures. The general permit also requires that post-construction control measures incorporate runoff reduction practices, such as LID techniques, to meet performance standards specified in the permit.

The construction stormwater general permit dictates separate compliance procedures for Locally Approvable projects and Locally Exempt projects (as defined in the permit). Locally Exempt construction projects disturbing over 1 acre must submit a registration form and Stormwater Pollution Control Plan

(SWPCP) to DEEP. Locally Approvable construction projects with a total disturbed area of one to five acres are not required to register with DEEP provided the development plan has been approved by a municipal land use agency and adheres to local erosion and sediment control land use regulations and the *CT Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control*. Locally Approvable construction projects with a total disturbed area of five or more acres must submit a registration form to DEEP. This registration shall include a certification by a Qualified Professional who designed the project and a certification by a Qualified Professional or regional Conservation District who reviewed the SWPCP and deemed it consistent with the requirements of the general permit. The SWPCP for Locally Approvable projects is not required to be submitted to DEEP unless requested. For further information, contact the division at 860-424-3018. A copy of the general permit as well as registration forms may be downloaded at: [Construction Stormwater GP](#).

Idling

Section 22a-174-18(b)(3)(C) of the 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.

Clean Vehicles

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, 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.

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. These comments are based on the reviews provided by relevant staff and offices within DEEP during the designated comment period. They may not represent all applicable programs within DEEP. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions concerning these comments.

cc: Robert Hannon, DEEP/ Office of Planning and Programming
Donald Gonyea, DEEP/ Water Permitting and Enforcement Division
Doug Hoskins, DEEP/ Water Planning and Management Division
Louis Corsino, DEEP/ Planning and Standards Division, Air Bureau Mobile Source Group
Robin Blum, DEEP/ Wildlife Division