

**Record of Decision
Environmental Impact Evaluation
Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments
Regional Wastewater Study**

March 15, 2022

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document constitutes the Record of Decision (ROD) for the July 2021 Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) under the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act to evaluate the potential impacts of creating a regional water pollution control facility (WPCF) in Ansonia to treat wastewater generated in Ansonia, Derby and Seymour with a discharge of treated wastewater into the Housatonic River in Derby.

1.1 Project Scoping

In 2018, the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments retained the engineering firm of Black & Veatch (B&V) to prepare a study that evaluated alternatives to regionalize the wastewater operations of Ansonia, Derby, Naugatuck, Seymour and Beacon Falls. The final recommendation of the B&V study was to upgrade the Ansonia WPCF to treat wastewater generated in Ansonia, Derby and Seymour with a discharge of treated wastewater into the Housatonic River in Derby. This project is expected to be funded from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Clean Water Fund, thereby triggering the CEPA review process.

The EIE included a Scoping Notice published in the *Environmental Monitor* on 11/5/2019 and 11/19/2019. The comment period of the Scoping Notice closed on 12/5/2019. No comments were received during the scoping period. A Post Scoping Notice was then published in the *Environmental Monitor* on 9/21/2021.

Outreach occurred with numerous Connecticut state agencies on the EIE, including the Office of Policy and Management, Council on Environmental Quality, Commission on Culture & Tourism, Department of Public Health, and Department of Transportation.

1.2 Public Review of the EIE

A Notice of the Availability of the EIE was published in the *Environmental Monitor* on 10/5/2021, 10/19/2021, 11/2/2021 and 11/16/2021. In addition, a Notice of Availability was published in the *Connecticut Post* and the *Waterbury Republican American* newspapers on 10/7/2021, 10/14/2021 and 10/21/2021. An electronic copy of the EIE was made available on the *Environmental Monitor*. Electronic copies of the EIE were also sent to the Town Clerks of Ansonia, Derby, Naugatuck, Seymour and Beacon Falls to be made available for public review and comment.

The public comment period of the EIE closed on 12/6/2021. Documentation of EIE notifications and public comments is included herein.

Section 22a-1a-9 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies requires that a sponsoring agency, in this case DEEP, review all comments submitted on its EIE and any other pertinent information it obtains following circulation of the EIE and conduct further environmental study

and analysis or amend the evaluation if it determines that such action is appropriate. In all cases, the sponsoring agency must prepare responses to the substantive issues raised in review of the EIE and forward such responses as well as any supplemental materials or amendments and all comments received on the evaluation, to the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM). The sponsoring agency must prepare a concise public Record of Decision (ROD), taking into consideration its findings in the EIE and comments received. The ROD must then be forwarded to OPM for their review and finding of consistency. The subject document comprises the public record of decision for this project.

2.0 RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS

Written comments on the EIE were received from the Council on Environmental Quality and from one member of the public, as follows:

1. Council on Environmental Quality – Letter dated 11/19/2021 from Peter Hearn, Executive Director
2. Lynne Bonnett – Email dated 10/12/2021

Responses to comments are addressed individually below.

2.1 Council on Environmental Quality

Review Comment No. 1:

“The EIE referenced the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information, Planning and Consultation database to make its determination that there are ‘no known endangered species will be impacted by project construction activities’. The Council is of the belief that because the EIE was funded through the Regional Performance Incentive Program of the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), a review of the state’s Natural Diversity Database (NDDDB) was also required. Will that source be referenced prior to initiation of construction activities?”

Response to Review Comment No. 1:

A review of the NDB will be conducted within two years prior to the initiation of construction activities (as required by the regulations). Commencement of construction is not projected to occur within the next two years.

Review Comment No. 2:

“Stormwater flows over the projected 20-year horizon of the planning period are expected to increase. These projected periods of extreme rainfall events will have to be handled by the new sewer lines and the Ansonia facility. Has the design of the conveyance lines and the plant capacity at Ansonia been determined to be adequate to handle these increased precipitation

events without triggering bypass events in the system? Additionally, is the capacity of the new lines and facility sufficient to handle eventual infiltration and inflow during future storms?

The Council recommends that whenever capital improvements are to be made at the Ansonia plant, its resilience to increasing storms and flooding are utmost considerations in its design.”

Response to Review Comment No. 2:

The regionalization conveyance and treatment facilities will be designed so that there will be no wet weather bypassing.

During the regionalization study, it was determined that all three towns involved have significant problems with excessive infiltration and inflow (I/I) in their collection systems, which lead to unnecessarily high flows during wet weather events. Therefore, an accelerated 5-year catch-up program of collection system renewal is slated for all three communities, including flow monitoring. Final conveyance pipe sizes and pump station peak capacities will be confirmed during preliminary design, to prevent future wet weather overflows, based on historic rainfall patterns and updated trends projected.

Similarly, hydraulic capacity will be provided at the regional treatment plant to handle the peak design flows that are confirmed during preliminary design. There is adequate space available at the Ansonia plant to accommodate such layout adjustments if required. Preliminary design also will include hydraulic profile analysis to confirm safe operation without bypassing during projected future flood stage conditions.

2.2 Response to Lynne Bonnett, New Haven, CT

Review Comment No. 3:

“Can you please tell me where the sewage sludge is going after treatment? “

Response to Review Comment No. 3:

The plan is to haul thickened sludge offsite to one of the regional sludge incineration facilities that are licensed to process biosolids residuals. This is consistent with how the communities are currently disposing of their wastewater treatment plant sludge. During detailed design, the option of dewatering sludge onsite also will be considered, which would provide the capability to reduce the volume of sludge transported. Determination of which sludge incineration facility to use would depend on available capacity and economic considerations (lowest net cost to ratepayers) at the competing facilities. Current sludge incineration facility options include Naugatuck (operated by Veolia), Waterbury and New Haven (both operated by Synagro) as well as facilities located further from the area.

It should be noted that the plan to consolidate the wastewater treatment from three treatment plants into a single facility should not impact the net amount of sludge from within this area.

3.0 SPONSORING AGENCY DECISION

Based on the analysis undertaken in the preparation of the EIE as well as consideration of all comments received, DEEP concludes that the proposed action will have no significant impact on the environment. Additionally, all practical means to avoid or minimize environmental harm will be implemented.

APPENDIX A

Publications in the Environmental Monitor

Scoping Notice Published in the 11/5/2019 and 11/19/2019

Environmental Monitor

Notice of Scoping for Regional Wastewater Study

Project Title: Regional Wastewater Study for the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments for consolidation alternatives for five municipalities.

Municipalities where proposed action might be located: Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Derby, Naugatuck, Seymour

Project Description: The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), together with the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG), proposes to evaluate potential wastewater treatment consolidation alternatives for five municipalities in the Naugatuck Valley. The purpose and need of this study is to identify and evaluate feasible and cost-effective options for reducing the number of treatment facilities while addressing the wastewater treatment challenges faced by the participating municipalities, in order to lower their future wastewater treatment costs and enhance treatment capacity, reliability, and environmental quality. The facilities being evaluated are located in Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Derby, Naugatuck, and Seymour.

The NVCOG received a grant award from the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to conduct a study of regional wastewater treatment alternatives for several communities that are burdened by deficient treatment facilities, regulatory compliance citations, and /or the high cost of upgrading or maintaining individual wastewater treatment facilities.

Phase 1 of the study analyzed existing conditions at facilities in the participating towns, and included community outreach to each of the participating municipalities (see Phase 1 Addendum). Phase 1 was completed in spring 2019, and resulted in a broad list of potential alternatives that would require more thorough evaluation (see full list on page 4 and locational maps on pages 5-29 of the attached Phase 1 report, below).

Phase 2 of the study is expected to narrow down the list of alternatives, so that only those alternatives considered to be prudent and feasible will be the subject of a more extensive technical and engineering analysis. The resulting Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) and Record of Decision is expected to identify a preferred alternative.

Project Document: [NVCOG Phase 1 Report 3-22-19 and Community Outreach Addendum](#).

Written comments from the public are welcomed and will be accepted until the close of business on: Thursday, December 5, 2019.

Any person may ask the sponsoring agency to hold a Public Scoping Meeting by sending such a request to the address below. If a meeting is requested by 25 or more individuals, or by an association that represents 25 or more members, the sponsoring agency shall schedule a Public Scoping Meeting. Such requests must be made by Friday, November 15, 2019.

Written comments and/or requests for a public scoping meeting should be sent to

Name: Stela Marusin, Sanitary Engineer III, Bureau of Water Protection & Land Reuse
Agency: Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
Address: 79 Elm Street, Hartford CT 06106-5127
E-Mail: Stela.Marusin@ct.gov
Fax: 860-424-4067

If you have questions about the public meeting, or other questions about the scoping for this project, contact:

Name: Stela Marusin
Agency: Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
Address: 79 Elm Street, Hartford CT 06106-5127
Phone: 860-424-3742
Fax: 860-424-4067
E-Mail: Stela.Marusin@ct.gov

Post Scoping Notice Published in the 9/21/2021 Environmental Monitor

Post-Scoping Notice for Naugatuck Valley Regional Wastewater Study

Municipalities where proposed project would be located: Ansonia, Derby, Seymour

CEPA Determination: On 11/5/2019 and continuing to 11/19/2019, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection published a [Notice of Scoping](#) to solicit public comments for this proposed project in the *Environmental Monitor*.

No comments were received during the public comment period.

Due to the complexity of this project and the multiple towns this project may serve, DEEP decided to proceed with the preparation of an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) following the November 2019 scoping notices, and plans to post the draft EIE in the October 5, 2021 edition of the Environmental Monitor. Over the course of the phased study, it was determined that the recommendations from the study will affect only three of the five original towns involved in the first phase of the study. Although DEEP did not adhere to the 6-month series of notifications updating the status of the preparation of the EIE as required by the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA) regulations, this notice provides all of the necessary project information as required by CEPA regulations.

Agency contact:

Name: Stela Marusin

Agency: Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Address: 79 Elm Street, Hartford CT 06106

E-Mail: Stela.Marusin@ct.gov

Environmental Impact Evaluation Notice Published in the 10/5/2021, 10/19/2021, 11/2/2021 and 11/16/2021 Environmental Monitor

Notice of an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) for Naugatuck Valley Regional Wastewater Study

Municipalities where proposed action is to be located: Ansonia, Derby, Seymour

Project Description: The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), together with the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG), evaluated potential wastewater treatment consolidation alternatives for five municipalities in the Naugatuck Valley. The purpose and need of this study are to identify and evaluate feasible and cost-effective options for reducing the number of treatment facilities while addressing the wastewater treatment challenges faced by the participating municipalities, in order to lower their future wastewater treatment costs and enhance treatment capacity, reliability, and environmental quality. The facilities originally evaluated are located in the municipalities of Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Derby, Naugatuck and Seymour. The final recommendation of the study is for a regional wastewater utility providing service to Ansonia, Derby, and Seymour.

The NVCOG received a grant award from the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to conduct a study of regional wastewater treatment alternatives for several communities that are burdened by deficient treatment facilities, regulatory compliance citations, and/or the high cost of upgrading or maintaining individual wastewater treatment facilities.

Phase 1 of the study analyzed existing conditions and capacities at facilities in the participating towns and

included community outreach to each of the participating municipalities. Phase 1 was completed in spring 2019 and resulted in a broad list of potential alternatives that required more thorough evaluation.

Phase 2 of the study narrowed down the list of alternatives, only those alternatives considered to be prudent and feasible were the subject of a more extensive technical and engineering analysis. The resulting Environmental Impact Evaluation has identified a preferred alternative.

The public can view a copy of this EIE here: [Naugatuck Valley Regional Wastewater Study](#). It can also be accessed at the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments website at: [NVCOG Wastewater Regionalization Final Report](#).

Scoping Notice and Post Scoping Notice: The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection published a [Scoping Notice on November 5, 2019](#) and a [Post-Scoping Notice on September 21, 2021](#) in the Environmental Monitor.

Any person can ask the sponsoring agency to hold a public hearing by sending such a request to the address below by **October 15, 2021**. If a public hearing is requested by 25 or more individuals, or by an association that represents 25 or more members, the sponsoring agency shall schedule a public hearing.

Comments on this EIE will be accepted until the close of business on: **December 6, 2021**.

For questions on this EIE or to send your written comments about this EIE, please contact:

Name: Stela Marusin, Sanitary Engineer III

Agency: Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Address: 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106

E-Mail: Stela.Marusin@ct.gov

APPENDIX B



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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Public Notice of Availability of Environmental Impact Evaluation

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection hereby gives notice that an Environmental Impact Evaluation has been prepared pursuant to Section 22a-1b of the Connecticut General Statutes and Section 22a-1a-7 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies for the proposed Regional Wastewater Study prepared for the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments dated July 1, 2021.

The report recommends decommissioning the Derby and Seymour wastewater treatment facilities, and pumping wastewater from those communities to an expanded regional facility located at the site of the current Ansonia treatment plant. The study also recommends pumping the treated effluent from the regional facility back to Derby for discharge to the Housatonic River. The required treatment plant and conveyance infrastructure would be implemented in a phased approach, over a period of six years.

The study comprised of five municipalities: Naugatuck, Beacon Falls, Seymour, Ansonia and Derby, where each of the communities have their own treatment plants. The study explored regional alternatives as an option to the alternative where each community continues to address their own wastewater needs and act individually to meet those needs. The primary objective of the consolidation study was to investigate the potential for cost efficiencies through a more regionalized approach to wastewater treatment for the communities in the study area.

Copies of this document are available at the Water Protection and Land Reuse Bureau of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection at 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT, 06106 or by calling Stela Marusin at 860-424-3742 or email to stela.marusin@ct.gov. A copy is also available for inspection at the office of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) and in the town clerk's offices in Naugatuck, Beacon Falls, Seymour, Ansonia and Derby. The deadline for submission of comments is December 6, 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer L. Perry".

Jennifer L. Perry, P.E.
Director of Water Planning & Management Division
Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse

APPENDIX C

Public comments on the EIE



Appendix C CEQ
Comments.pdf



Appendix C Lynne
Bonnett comments.pdf

APPENDIX D

Newspaper Publication Documents



Affidavit of
Publication CT Post ar



Affidavit of
Publication Waterbury



Waterbury
Republican American



Invoice Graystone.pdf



CT Post 10 14 21
paper.pdf



CT Post 10 7 21
paper.pdf

APPENDIX E

Environmental Impact Evaluation



Appendix E NVCOG
EIE_070121.pdf