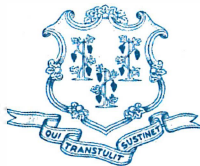


# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell, MPH  
Commissioner

Ned Lamont  
Governor  
Susan Bysiewicz  
Lt. Governor

February 3, 2020

Dear Honorable Members of the Energy and Technology Committee:

In accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 25-33n, on or before the second Wednesday after the convening of each regular session of the General Assembly, the Commissioner of Public Health shall submit a report to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment and public utilities, which describes the status of, for the year ending the preceding June thirtieth, the water planning process established under sections 25-33g to 25-33j, inclusive, and efforts to expedite the process.

I hereby provide you with the Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) Annual Report with this letter.

If you have any questions, please contact Lori Mathieu, Public Health Branch Chief, Environmental Health and Drinking Water Branch, at (860) 509-7333.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell".

Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell, MPH  
Commissioner



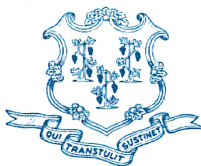
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# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell, MPH  
Commissioner

Ned Lamont  
Governor  
Susan Bysiewicz  
Lt. Governor

February 3, 2020

Dear Honorable Members of the Planning and Development Committee:

In accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 25-33n, on or before the second Wednesday after the convening of each regular session of the General Assembly, the Commissioner of Public Health shall submit a report to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment and public utilities, which describes the status of, for the year ending the preceding June thirtieth, the water planning process established under sections 25-33g to 25-33j, inclusive, and efforts to expedite the process.

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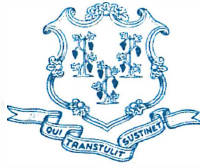
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# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell, MPH  
Commissioner



Ned Lamont  
Governor  
Susan Bysiewicz  
Lt. Governor

February 3, 2020

Dear Honorable Members of the Environment Committee:

In accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 25-33n, on or before the second Wednesday after the convening of each regular session of the General Assembly, the Commissioner of Public Health shall submit a report to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment and public utilities, which describes the status of, for the year ending the preceding June thirtieth, the water planning process established under sections 25-33g to 25-33j, inclusive, and efforts to expedite the process.

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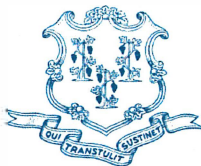
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# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell, MPH  
Commissioner

Ned Lamont  
Governor  
Susan Bysiewicz  
Lt. Governor

February 3, 2020

Dear Honorable Members of the Public Health Committee:

In accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 25-33n, on or before the second Wednesday after the convening of each regular session of the General Assembly, the Commissioner of Public Health shall submit a report to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment and public utilities, which describes the status of, for the year ending the preceding June thirtieth, the water planning process established under sections 25-33g to 25-33j, inclusive, and efforts to expedite the process.

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# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

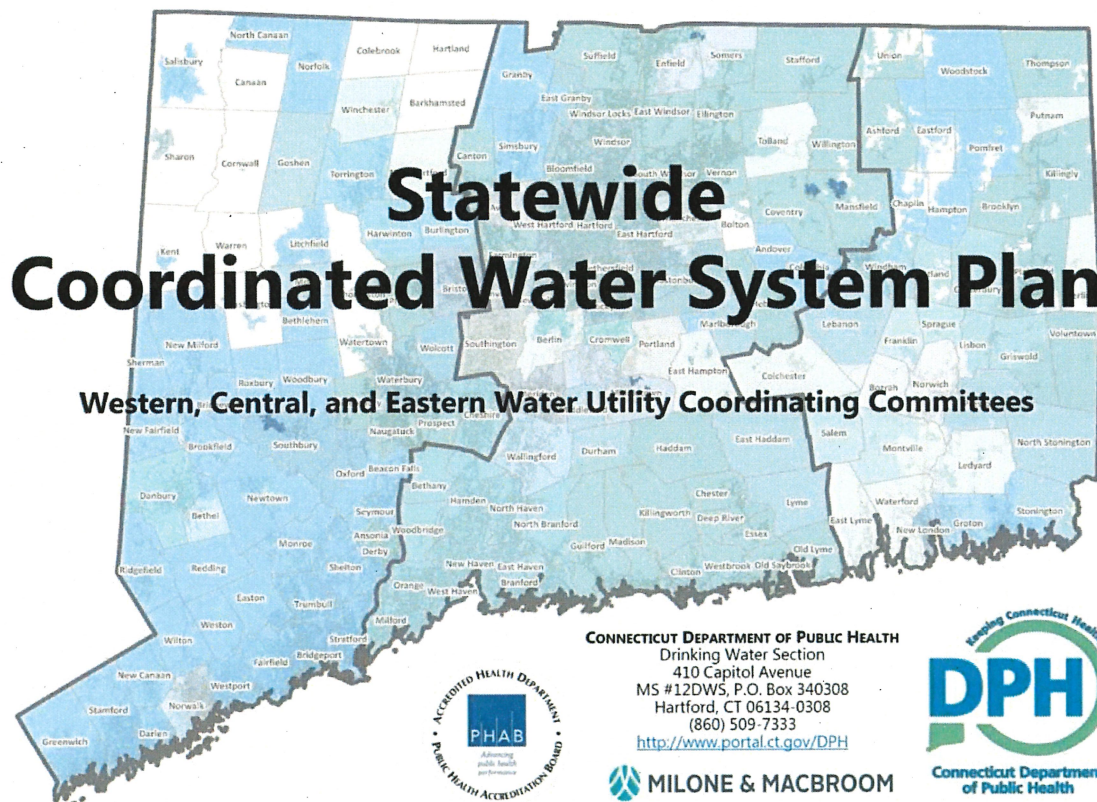


Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell, MPH  
Commissioner

Ned Lamont  
Governor  
Susan Bysiewicz  
Lt. Governor

### ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WATER UTILITY COORDINATING COMMITTEE (WUCC) PLANNING PROCESS FOR PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS (PURSUANT TO CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTE § 25-33n)

Report Period: July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019



February 3, 2020

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page Number</u>
I) <u>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</u>	2
II) <u>WUCC PLANNING PROCESS STATUS/PROGRESS</u>	2
III) <u>DPH PLAN TO COMPLETE THE WUCC PROCESS</u>	4
IV) <u>NEXT STEPS</u>	4
V) <u>CONCLUSION</u>	4

I) EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Pursuant to § 25-33n of the Connecticut General Statutes (*Conn. Gen. Stat.*), the Commissioner of Public Health (Commissioner) is required, on or before the second Wednesday after the convening of each regular session of the General Assembly, to submit a report to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment and public utilities, which describes the status of, for the year ending the preceding June thirtieth, the water planning process established under *Conn. Gen. Stat.* §§ 25-33g to 25-33j, inclusive, and efforts to expedite the process (WUCC Annual Report). This report, which is required to cover the period from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019, will describe the status of the water planning process established under *Conn. Gen. Stat.* §§ 25-33g to 25-33j, inclusive, and efforts to expedite the process.

II) WUCC PLANNING PROCESS STATUS/PROGRESS JULY 1, 2018 – JUNE 30, 2019:

Previous to this report period, the WUCCs, DPH, stakeholders and the WUCC consultant had compiled information, analyzed it, and drafted water system coordinated plans pursuant to the defined regulatory process (RCSA Section 25-33h-1).

Concurrent to the development of the coordinated plans, the state was developing several important, related plans:

- Connecticut State Water Plan

The State Water Plan has been prepared to help planners, regulators, and lawmakers make decisions about managing Connecticut's water in a manner that is consistent throughout the state with stakeholder-defined principles and available scientific data. The Plan in and of itself is not the solution to Connecticut's water issues, but it is a collection of scientific information, policy recommendations, and forward-looking steps that should help frame future water management laws, regulations, and resolution of specific local issues.

([https://www.dropbox.com/s/mcl6x9lf64mxibp/Connecticut%20State%20Water%20Plan\\_FINAL%20REPORT.pdf?dl=1](https://www.dropbox.com/s/mcl6x9lf64mxibp/Connecticut%20State%20Water%20Plan_FINAL%20REPORT.pdf?dl=1) )

- Connecticut Drought Preparedness and Response Plan

The Connecticut Drought Preparedness and Response Plan ("Drought Plan") provides state and local decisionmakers and public water suppliers with a set of formal operating procedures and administrative guidance for proactive drought planning and response. The Drought Plan is designated as a "support plan" within the State Response Framework, Connecticut's umbrella emergency management operations document. The State Interagency Drought Workgroup (IDW), consisting of representatives from five state agencies, is responsible for facilitating the planning and response activities of the Drought Plan. Subject matter experts from two federal agencies provide technical assistance to the IDW.

[https://www.ct.gov/waterstatus/lib/waterstatus/2018.11.06\\_state\\_drought\\_plan\\_adopted.pdf](https://www.ct.gov/waterstatus/lib/waterstatus/2018.11.06_state_drought_plan_adopted.pdf)



- Drinking Water Vulnerability Assessment and Resilience Plan

The State recognizes that future storms and hazards may cause severe damage to homes, businesses, infrastructure and public facilities across Connecticut. It is essential that our infrastructure and public facilities be hardened in anticipation of future events. The goal in developing a DWVAR Plan is to assess, identify, and address vulnerabilities for community water systems (CWS) in Connecticut's four coastal counties (Fairfield, New Haven, New London, and Middlesex). The DWVAR Plan will ensure preparedness and resiliency of CWS before, during, and after future storms and hazards, such as drought and climate change.

[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Departments-and-Agencies/DPH/dph/drinking\\_water/pdf/DWVARP\\_Public.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Departments-and-Agencies/DPH/dph/drinking_water/pdf/DWVARP_Public.pdf)

The concurrent development of these four plans benefitted each of the planning efforts due to the exchange of data, risks and recommendations with the authors and stakeholders of the other plans. The three WUCC coordinated plan drafts are more comprehensive documents having been able to both glean and contribute information.

After comments on the first coordinated plan drafts were received and incorporated, in August of 2018 revised coordinated water system plans were published and a second legal notice announcing another public comment period was distributed and published. Additional comments were received during this public comment period.

Both versions of the coordinated water system plans and the comments received during both comment periods are available at: <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Drinking-Water/WUCC/Water-Utility-Coordinating-Committee>. The coordinated water system plans include additional public comments that were received during the development of each of the individual components of the plans. Tables are also provided that detail how these comments were incorporated into the plan elements.

On December 20, 2018, the Commissioner approved the Western, Central and Eastern WUCC coordinated water system plans pursuant to Section 25-33h-1(g) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

In early 2019, the coordinated plans were published and distributed. The final approved plans are available at:

<https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Drinking-Water/WUCC/Water-Utility-Coordinating-Committee>.

During this reporting period, meetings were held for each of the three WUCCs. The meetings handled ongoing business within the planning regions, and discussed the implementation of the coordinated plans. Attendees included water utilities, environmentalists, local health departments, consultants, small water system operators, municipal officials, state agencies, and council of government representatives. Chairs and recording secretaries moderated and recorded the meetings. All attendees were invited to contribute; a public comment period also provided at each meeting. All meetings were publicly noticed, and all agendas and minutes were published.

III) DPH PLAN TO COMPLETE THE WUCC PROCESS:

The development of the three coordinated water system plans is now completed. The final approved plans are available at:

<https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Drinking-Water/WUCC/Water-Utility-Coordinating-Committee>.

With the completion of the coordinated plans, the focus will now be on implementing the recommendations of the plans and maintaining the data in the plans.

IV) NEXT STEPS:

Implementation of the coordinated plans will begin with an initial implementation meeting on January 30, 2020. This meeting will include all three WUCCs. The meeting will discuss the development of a framework for a prioritized implementation of coordinated water supply plan recommendations that will include and involve regional and town officials as well as local health departments.

A webinar is planned for January 2020 that will summarize the coordinated plans and announce the implementation meeting.

V) CONCLUSION:

The completion of this important collaborative effort provides for a coordinated approach for public water system planning on a regional and statewide basis, ensuring that future development is provided the best option for safe and adequate drinking water, while ensuring that Connecticut's environmental resources and rural areas are protected. This plan provides the framework to move the state forward in assuring an adequate supply of potable water for domestic, commercial and industrial use which is vital to the health and well-being of the people of the state as is the stated finding by the 1985 legislature as memorialized under CGS section 25-33c.

The coordinated water system plans analyzed, on a statewide and regional level: water conservation, water rates, droughts, small water system viability, protection of drinking water supply sources and other drinking water planning concepts. Water utilities, planners, local health directors, local and regional government, state and federal agencies and elected officials now have a resource available to them to assist in decision-making and planning. Implementation of the coordinated plan recommendations will improve Connecticut's drinking water resiliency.