

**State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health
Drinking Water Section, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY**

Date:	May 24, 2013	Staff Contact:	Eric McPhee
Applicant PWS Name:	Torrington Water Company	Town:	Burlington
Project Name:	Library Lane and George Washington Turnpike Water Main Project		
PWSID:	CT1430011		
Funding Source:	STEAP		
State Funds:	\$188,765.00		

This assessment is being conducted in conformance to the generic Environmental Classification Document for Connecticut state agencies to determine Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA) obligations

Project Description: Torrington Water Company plans to install two segments of 8 inch ductile iron water main: from the intersection of Route 4 and Library Lane 900 feet north along Library Lane, and on George Washington Turnpike from the intersection with Thompsons Way approximately 900' southeast to the intersection with Cornwall Road. This project has been awarded a STEAP grant and will provide water supply to businesses within Burlington's central business zone. The Torrington Water Company will provide the water supply, oversee this project and will own and maintain this extension when the project is completed

Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) Section 22a-1a-3 Determination of environmental significance (direct/indirect)

1. Impact on air and water quality or on ambient noise levels
 - a. Air Quality – The proposed project is not expected to cause significant adverse air quality effects.
 - b. Water Quality - The proposed project is not expected to cause significant adverse water quality effects to the adjacent watercourses. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection provided comments on possible stormwater discharges. Stormwater discharges from construction sites where one or more acres are to be disturbed require a permit pursuant to 40 CFR 122.26. The Permitting & Enforcement Division has issued a *General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters Associated with Construction Activities* (DEP-PERD-GP-015) that will cover these discharges. For projects disturbing five or more acres, registration describing the site and the construction activity must be submitted to the Department 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. For sites where more than 10 acres will be disturbed, the plan must be submitted to the Department. A goal of 80 percent removal of total suspended solids from the stormwater discharge shall be used in designing and installing stormwater management measures. For construction projects with a total disturbed area between one and five acres, no registration is required as long as the project is reviewed by the town and receives written approval of its erosion and sediment control measures and it adheres to the *Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control*. If no review is conducted by the town or written approval is not provided, the permittee must register with the Department. 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](#).

- c. Ambient Noise Levels - The proposed project is not expected to cause significant noise in the immediate area;
2. Impact on a public water supply or serious effects on groundwater, flooding, erosion, or sedimentation
 - a. Water Supply – The proposed project is not in a public water supply source water area, therefore it is not expected to cause significant impact to any public water system sources of supply.
 - b. Groundwater - The proposed project is not expected to cause significant impacts to neighboring groundwater.
 - c. Flooding –The proposed project is not located within the 100-year flood zone on the community’s flood insurance rate map.
 - d. In order to protect any wetlands and watercourses adjacent to the site, strict erosion and sediment controls should be employed during construction. Additionally, all silt fencing should be removed after soils are stable so that reptile and amphibian movement between uplands and wetlands is not restricted. The *Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control* prepared by the Connecticut Council on Soil and Water Conservation in cooperation with DEP is a recommended source of technical assistance in the selection and design of appropriate control measures. The 2002 revised edition of the Guidelines, published as DEP Bulletin 34 may be obtained at the DEP bookstore, either by telephone 860-424-3555 or online at: [DEP Bookstore](#).
3. Effect on natural land resources and formations, including coastal and inland wetlands, and the maintenance of in-stream flows - The proposed water main extension will not require a permit from the Inland Water Resources Division for the diversion of waters of the State pursuant to section 22a-368 of the CGS provided of meets the exemption criteria of section 22a-377(b)-1(a)(5) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.
 4. Disruption or alteration of an historic, archeological, cultural or recreational building, object, district, site or surroundings - The proposed project is not expected to cause negative impacts.
 5. Effect on natural communities and upon critical species of animal or plant and their habitats: interference with the movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species - The Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB), maintained by DEEP, contains a record of the Eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina*), listed by the State as a species of special concern pursuant to section 26-306 of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS), in the vicinity of this proposed project. Eastern box turtles require old field and deciduous forest habitats, which can include power lines and logged woodlands. They are often found near small streams and ponds; the adults are completely terrestrial but the young may be semiaquatic, and hibernate on land by digging down in the soil from October to April. They have an extremely small home range and can usually be found in the same area year after year. This species is dormant from November 1 to April 1. It has been negatively impacted by the loss of suitable habitat.

If work must be done during the box turtle’s active period (April 1 to November 1) then the Wildlife Division recommends the following precautionary measures to protect box turtle habitat:

- that the workers be apprised of these species descriptions and possible presence and that the area be searched each day prior to working,

- that work conducted in these habitats during the early morning and evening hours should occur with special care not to harm basking or foraging individuals,
- that any turtles encountered be moved out of the way, just outside the work zone,
- that all precautions should be taken to avoid degradation to wetland habitats including any wet meadows and seasonal pools,
- that if silt fences are used, they should be removed as soon as the project is completed, and
- that no heavy machinery or vehicles be parked in any suitable habitat.

Please be advised that the Wildlife Division has not made a field inspection of the project nor have they seen detailed timetables for work to be done. Consultation with the Wildlife Division should not be substituted for site-specific surveys that may be required for environmental assessments. The time of year when this work will take place will affect this species if they are present on the site when the work is scheduled. Please be advised that should state permits be required or should state involvement occur in some other fashion, specific restrictions or conditions relating to the species discussed above may apply. In this situation, additional evaluation of the proposal by the DEEP Wildlife Division should be requested. If the proposed project has not been initiated within 12 months of this review, contact the NDDDB for an updated review. A fact sheet with additional information regarding box turtles is available on-line at: [Box Turtles](#).

6. Use of pesticides, toxic or hazardous materials or any other substance in such quantities as to create extensive detrimental environmental impact - No significant impact expected.
7. Substantial aesthetic or visual effects - The project is not expected to cause substantial aesthetic or visual impacts in the area.
8. Inconsistency with the written and/or mapped policies of the statewide Plan of Conservation and Development and such other plans and policies developed or coordinated by the Office of Policy and Management or other agency - No significant impact expected.
9. Disruption or division of an established community or inconsistency with adopted municipal or regional plans- No significant impact expected.
10. Displacement or addition of substantial numbers of people - No significant impact expected.
11. Substantial increase in congestion (traffic, recreational, other) – The proposed project is not expected to create substantial traffic congestion in the area.
12. A substantial increase in the type or rate of energy use as a direct or indirect result of the action - No significant impact expected.
13. The creation of a hazard to human health or safety - The project is not expected to create significant public hazard and safety.
14. Any other substantial impact on natural, cultural, recreational or scenic resources - No significant impact expected.

Conclusions:

Based on the DPH's environmental assessment of this project which includes comments provided by the DEEP dated May 17, 2013, 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 Torrington Water Company to ensure that the recommendations by the DEEP are implemented.

Recommendations:

If the water line is to be pressure tested and disinfected, the discharge would be covered by the *General Permit for the Discharge of Hydrostatic Pressure Testing Wastewater* (DEP-PERD-GP-011). This general permit applies to all discharges of waters used to test the structural integrity of new or used tanks and pipelines that hold or transfer drinking water, sewage, or natural gas. The general permit contains pH, chlorine, oil and grease, and suspended solids limits which will need to be complied with during the testing and verified through monitoring. Registration is required to be submitted to the Department in order for the discharges to be authorized by this general permit. A fact sheet, the general permit which includes the registration form, titled Notice of Coverage, and the Application Transmittal form may be downloaded at: [Hydrostatic GP](#).

Prior to starting the project construction, the following best management practices should be considered:

1. **Construction Maintenance:** No construction should take place before erosion and sedimentation controls are installed. These controls should be properly installed, maintained, inspected regularly, and remain in place until the project construction is completed. During construction and until a vegetative cover is reestablished, the project area should be inspected daily and after rainfall to verify erosion control measures are properly functioning. Any defects on the structure must be immediately repaired.
2. **Emergency Response Plan:** Develop an Emergency Spill Response Plan before construction begins. Spill response equipment should be available on-site at all times along with personnel trained in the proper use of such equipment.
3. **Hazardous Materials Storage:** Hazardous materials should be removed from the site during non-work hours or otherwise stored in a secure area to prevent vandalism. Place covered trashcans and recycling receptacles around the site. Cover and maintain dumpsters. Check frequently for leaks. Place dumpsters under a roof or cover with tarps or plastic sheeting. Never clean a dumpster by hosing it down on site.
4. **Vehicles and Machinery:** Methods and locations of refueling, servicing, and storage of vehicles and machinery should be addressed and included as notes on the final site plans. All equipment fueling or minor repairs should occur on a fueling pad. Onsite fuel storage for heavy equipment should have containment and be located in a secure area where it will not be vandalized or struck by equipment or vehicles on the job site.