

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
INFRASTRUCTURE AND REAL ESTATE PROJECTS

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST**

**Project ID No:** \_\_\_\_\_ (issued by OPM)

<b>Date:</b> 9/28/2012	<b>Staff Contact:</b> Nelson Tereso
<b>Municipality:</b> Suffield	<b>Project Name:</b> Suffield Utility Extension
<b>Funding Source:</b> TBD	<b>State Funds:</b> TBD
<b>Type of State Agency Review</b>	<b>Stage 1</b> <u>  X  </u> <b>Stage 2</b> <u>      </u>

**This assessment is being conducted in conformance to the department's Environmental Classification Document to determine CEPA obligations**

**Project Description:**

The Town of Suffield is proposing to utilize state funding for the extension of approximately 2,970 linear feet of water and 2,780 linear feet of sewer lines along Route 75. The extensions will allow for future development of approximately 80-95 acres of buildable land within the Bradley International Airport Development Zone as well as providing utility access to the current business located along Route 75 which now use well water and septic systems limiting their growth/expansion. These parcels consist of a mix of occupied residential, commercial and industrial properties as well as vacant parcels with projected uses consistent with the local zoning requirements.

The CEPA project study area, totaling 169 acres, is located at the south end of Town and is bounded by the Windsor Locks town line to the south, Bradley International Airport to the west, Marketing Drive to the north and the Little Brook to the east. In 2009, the Town of Suffield prepared a feasibility study to evaluate the potential for extending sewer and water utilities to serve existing parcels located at the south end of Route 75. Projected sewer and water flows for a full development of the study area range from 90,000 and 130,000 gallons per day (GPD).

Note: environmental remediation is a positive environmental impact, but not a CEPA activity.

**RCSA sec. 22a-1a-3 Determination of environmental significance (direct/indirect)**

- 1) *Impact on air and water quality or on ambient noise levels*
  - a) *Air*— No negatives impacts are anticipated.
  - b) *Water Quality*— In order to protect wetlands and watercourses on and adjacent to the site, strict erosion and sediment controls should be employed during construction.
  - c) *Noise*— No negatives impacts are anticipated.
  
- 2) *Impact on a public water supply system or serious effects on groundwater, flooding, erosion, or sedimentation*

- a) *Water Supply*— DPH indicates the projected sewer and water flows for a full development of the study area range from 90,000 and 130,000 gallons per day. The water would be provided by the Connecticut Water Company (CWC) Northern Region Western System (PWSID# CT0473011). The DPH Statewide Planning Unit recently performed an analysis of water available from this CWC system in conjunction with the Notice of Scoping for the University of Connecticut Action for Additional Water Supply Sources. In addition an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) was recently published for the Expansion of Bradley Airport Terminal B, a facility that would also be served by this CWC system. There was no water usage estimate provided in this EIE. The DPH Drinking Water Section recommends that the Town of Suffield confirm with CWC that it has sufficient supply capacity to serve the project or that appropriate actions to augment the Northern Region Western System supply will be implemented, as needed, so that this potential future commitment can be met.
  - b) *Groundwater*— The proposed project is not located in a public water supply source water area; therefore no negative impacts are anticipated regarding source water protection.
  - c) *Flooding*— No negatives impacts are anticipated.
- 3) *Disruption or alteration of an historic, archeological, cultural or recreational building, object, district, site or surroundings*— SHPO recommends a scaled-back archaeological reconnaissance survey based on the previous May 2009 study of the Executive Valet Parking Lot parcel within the proposed development area. SHPO still has concerns that there may be intact archaeological resources located along the stream drainage on the eastern margins of the property, but additional testing of the former tobacco fields that comprise the majority of the area are not necessary. SHPO has provided a map identifying the area of concern as part of their review for this project.
- 4) *Effect on natural land resources and formations, including coastal and inland wetlands, and the maintenance of in-stream flows*— The Natural Resources Conservation Service's soil survey depicts an extensive network of wetlands associated with Little Brook and its tributaries throughout the northern portion of the project area and extending along its eastern and southern boundaries. Existing wetlands and watercourses at the site should be delineated by a certified soil scientist. Routing of the utility lines and any subsequent development, including both buildings and access roadways, should avoid regulated areas to the maximum extent practicable. Unavoidable impacts should be mitigated and buffer areas established to further protect wetlands and watercourses. Any work or construction activity within federally 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 or section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. 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.

The preferred route for the sewer line in the Feasibility Study involves several wetland crossings in the northern portion of the project area to serve what appears to be marginally developable parcels and an overland route paralleling and adjacent to

wetlands in the southern portion. A much less expensive option, with less environmental impacts, would be to connect the more developable properties in the southern portion of the project area into the Windsor Locks sewer system, with a line along Route 75. This arrangement, avoiding any wetland impact, would require an intermunicipal agreement between Suffield and Windsor Locks.

The final plans and specifications for proposed sewer line extensions must be approved by the Municipal Facilities section of the DEEP Water Planning & Standards Division before construction is initiated. A demonstrated need for sewers should be provided.

- 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 (NDDDB) contains no records of extant populations of Federally listed endangered or threatened species or species listed by the State as endangered, threatened or special concern on the study area property. However, this property is adjacent to Bradley International Airport and the airport has many extant populations of state-listed species. Although the utility extension project is not expected to have a detrimental effect on wildlife species, it is recommended that another NDDDB request be submitted for any proposed development plans for this property. If the project is not implemented within 12 months, then another NDDDB review should be requested for up-to-date information.
- 6) *Use of pesticides, toxic or hazardous materials or any other substance in such quantities as to create extensive detrimental environmental impact*— If the water main is to be tested and disinfected, the discharge would be covered by the General Permit for the Discharge of Hydrostatic Pressure Testing Wastewater (DEP-PERD-GP-011).
- 7) *Substantial aesthetic or visual effects*— No negatives impacts are anticipated.
- 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*— The proposed development is generally consistent with the Conservation and Development Policies Plan for Connecticut 2005-2010 (C&D Plan). The majority of the project area is designated as a Growth Area in the C&D Plan's Locational Guide Map.
- 9) *Disruption or division of an established community or inconsistency with adopted municipal or regional plans*— The project area is within the 5-year future service area depicted in the Water Supply Plan for the Connecticut Water Company, Northern Region revised in November 2011.
- 10) *Displacement or addition of substantial numbers of people*— No negatives impacts are anticipated.
- 11) *Substantial increase in congestion (traffic, recreational, other)*— No negatives impacts are anticipated.

- 12) *A substantial increase in the type or rate of energy use as a direct or indirect result of the action*— No negatives impacts are anticipated.
- 13) *The creation of a hazard to human health or safety*— No negatives impacts are anticipated.
- 14) *Any other substantial impact on natural, cultural, recreational or scenic resources*—The Department of Agriculture (DOAG) indicates the Town of Suffield has a very active agricultural lands preservation program. DOAG has worked with the Town of Suffield on many agricultural projects and discussed proposed development around the airport. The area around the airport is recognized as a growth area on the C&D Plan and the Town of Suffield has zoned this area for commercial and industrial use. Sewer and water exist in the area and also extended to the State Correctional facility.

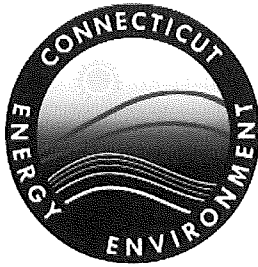
**Conclusion:**

The Town of Suffield shall address the following concerns as a requirement for utilization of state funding for the proposed project:

- Existing wetlands and watercourses at the site should be delineated by a certified soil scientist. Routing of the utility lines and any subsequent development, including both buildings and access roadways, should avoid regulated areas to the maximum extent practicable. Unavoidable impacts should be mitigated and buffer areas established to further protect wetlands and watercourses.
- The final plans and specifications for proposed sewer line extensions must be approved by the Municipal Facilities section of the DEEP Water Planning & Standards Division before construction is initiated.
- The preferred route for the sewer line in the Feasibility Study involves several wetland crossings in the northern portion of the project area to serve what appears to be marginally developable parcels and an overland route paralleling and adjacent to wetlands in the southern portion. A much less expensive option, with less environmental impacts, would be to connect the more developable properties in the southern portion of the project area into the Windsor Locks sewer system, with a line along Route 75. This arrangement, avoiding any wetland impact, would require an intermunicipal agreement between Suffield and Windsor Locks.
- Stormwater discharges from construction sites where one or more acres are to be disturbed require a permit pursuant to 40 CFR 122.26.
- The Town of Suffield shall confirm with the Connecticut Water Company that it has sufficient supply capacity to serve the project or that appropriate actions to augment the Northern Region Western System supply will be implemented, as needed, so that this potential future commitment can be met.
- SHPO recommends a scaled-back archaeological reconnaissance survey based on the previous May 2009 study of the Executive Valet Parking Lot parcel within the proposed development area.

**Recommendations:**

The Environmental Assessment for this project does not appear to trigger an obligation under CEPA for an EIE.



**CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF  
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**  
**OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**  
79 ELM STREET, HARTFORD, CT 06106-5127

---

**To:** Mark Hood - Project Manager  
DECD - Office of Responsible Development, 505 Hudson Street, Hartford, CT

**From:** David J. Fox - Senior Environmental Analyst      **Telephone:** 860-424-4111

**Date:** September 20, 2012      **E-Mail:** [david.fox@ct.gov](mailto:david.fox@ct.gov)

**Subject:** Suffield Utility Extension

---

The Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) has received the Notice of Scoping for proposed extension of sewer and water lines to facilitate development of up to 95 acres of land along Route 75 in Suffield. The following comments are submitted for your consideration.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service's soil survey depicts an extensive network of wetlands associated with Little Brook and its tributaries throughout the northern portion of the project area and extending along its eastern and southern boundaries. Wetlands are also shown in the *Feasibility Report for Route 75 Sewer and Water Main Extension, Suffield CT* dated June 2009. Existing wetlands and watercourses at the site should be delineated by a certified soil scientist. Routing of the utility lines and any subsequent development, including both buildings and access roadways, should avoid regulated areas to the maximum extent practicable. Unavoidable impacts should be mitigated and buffer areas established to further protect wetlands and watercourses.

Any inland wetlands or watercourses at the site are regulated by the local inland wetlands agency, pursuant to section 22a-42 of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS). Many local agencies have established setback or buffer areas that require review and approval of activities within these upland areas adjacent to wetlands or watercourses. The local agency should be contacted regarding permit requirements.

Any work or construction activity within federally 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 or section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. Further information is available on-line at: [Army COE](#) 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 Inland Water Resources Division at 860-424-3019. A fact sheet regarding 401 Water Quality Certification is available on-line at: [401 Certification](#).

Projects that impact less than 1 acre of inland wetlands may qualify for a programmatic general permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued on July 15, 2011. Projects

impacting less than 5000 sq.ft. (Category I) regulated by DEEP or a municipal wetland agency, are non-reporting to the Corps, provided they meet the conditions of the general permit. For projects impacting more than 5000 sq.ft. of wetlands (Category II), the applicant must send the standard application form to the Army Corps and may not proceed with the project until written notification is received from the Corps. All appropriate state and local permits must be obtained. In addition, DEEP must find, through the Category II Federal/State screening meeting, that any project which impacts more than 5000 sq.ft. of wetlands is likely to have minimal or no impact on water quality. If it is determined that the project is reasonably likely to have more than a minimal impact, an individual section 404 permit and 401 Water Quality Certificate would be required. The Programmatic General Permit for the State of Connecticut may be found on-line at: [Corps PGP](#)

The final plans and specifications for proposed sewer line extensions must be approved by the Municipal Facilities section of the Water Planning & Standards Division pursuant to section 22a-416 of the CGS before construction is initiated. For further information, contact the section at 860-424-3704. A demonstrated need for sewers should be provided. This could include information on inadequacy of septic systems at existing developed properties or plans to expand these facilities that would require sewers as well as any plans for new development that could not be accommodated by septic systems.

The preferred route for the sewer line in the *Feasibility Study* involves several wetland crossings in the northern portion of the project area to serve what appears to be marginally developable parcels and an overland route paralleling and adjacent to wetlands in the southern portion. A much less expensive option, with less environmental impacts, would be to connect the more developable properties in the southern portion of the project area into the Windsor Locks sewer system, with a line along Route 75. This arrangement, avoiding any wetland impact, would require an intermunicipal agreement between Suffield and Windsor Locks.

The Suffield water pollution control facility has a design capacity of 2.02 million gallons per day (mgd); average flows in 2011 were 1.64 mgd. The Windsor Locks water pollution control facility has a design capacity of 2.15 mgd; average flows in 2011 were 1.76 mgd.

The project area is within the 5-year future service area depicted in the Water Supply Plan for the Connecticut Water Company, Northern Region revised in November 2011. The plan calculates that there is adequate supply to meet average daily demand with the DPH recommended 1.15 margin of safety. Additional groundwater supply and interconnection with the Metropolitan District Commission are proposed to meet maximum day demands with projected growth of the sprawling system.

If the water main is to be 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](#)

Stony Brook from its mouth on the Connecticut River upstream to its confluence with Muddy Brook in Suffield is on the Department's Impaired Waters List in the *2010 State of Connecticut Integrated Water Quality Report* for the following impaired designated uses: Habitat for Fish, Other Aquatic Life and Wildlife; cause - unknown; potential sources - unknown. Little Brook flows into Stony Brook downstream of the project area, highlighting the importance of careful control of sediment and erosion during project construction. The report is available on-line at: [Water Quality Report](#).

In order to protect wetlands and watercourses on and adjacent to the site, strict erosion and sediment controls should be employed during construction. The *Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control* prepared by the Connecticut Council on Soil and Water Conservation in cooperation with DEEP is a recommended source of technical assistance in the selection and design of appropriate control measures. The 2002 revised edition of the Guidelines is available online at: [Erosion Control Guidelines](#).

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 post-construction 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](#).

The Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB) contains no records of extant populations of Federally listed endangered or threatened species or species listed by the State, pursuant to section 26-306 of the CGS, as endangered, threatened or special concern on the study area property. However, this property is adjacent to Bradley International Airport and the airport has many extant populations of state-listed species. Although the utility extension project is not expected to have a detrimental effect on wildlife species, it is recommended that another NDDB request be submitted for any proposed development plans for this property. The NDDB may recommend that surveys be conducted for any additional projects on this site. A report of the survey shall include (1) the survey date(s); (2) descriptions of the habitat; (3) notes on the presence/absence of State-listed species; (4) detailed maps of the area surveyed including the location and extent of State listed species; and (5) a statement/résumé indicating the biologist's

qualifications. The report should be sent to Jenny Dickson of the Wildlife Division [jenny.dickson@ct.gov](mailto:jenny.dickson@ct.gov) for further review and management recommendations.

The Natural Diversity Data Base response is not necessarily the result of comprehensive or site-specific field investigations. Also be advised that this is a preliminary review and not a final determination. A more detailed review may be conducted as part of any subsequent environmental permit applications submitted to DEEP for the proposed site. Consultation with the NDDDB should not be substituted for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. The NDDDB includes all information regarding critical biological resources available at the time of the request. This information is a compilation of data collected over the years by the Department's Natural History Survey and cooperating units of DEEP, private conservation groups and the scientific community. Current research projects and new contributors continue to identify additional populations of species and locations of habitats of concern, as well as, enhance existing data. Such new information is incorporated into the Data Base as it becomes available. If the project is not implemented within 12 months, then another NDDDB review should be requested for up-to-date information.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this proposal. If you have any questions concerning these comments, please contact me.

cc: Robert Hannon, DEEP/OPPD  
Dennis Greci, DEEP/WPSD  
Elaine Hinsch, DEEP/NDDDB  
Jenny Dickson, DEEP/WD



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Jewel Mullen, M.D., M.P.H., M.R.A.  
Commissioner

Dannel P. Malloy  
Governor  
Nancy Wyman  
Lt. Governor

Drinking Water Section

MEMORANDUM

TO: Eric McPhee, Supervising Environmental Analyst *EM*

FROM: Patricia Bisacky, Environmental Analyst 2 *PBS*

DATE: September 21, 2012

SUBJECT: Notice of Scoping for Suffield Utility Extension

DPH PROJECT #: 2012-0290

TOWN: Suffield

---

The Source Water Protection Unit of the Department of Public Health (DPH) Drinking Water Section (DWS) has reviewed the Notice of Scoping for the Suffield Utility Extension. The Town of Suffield is proposing to utilize state funding for the extension of approximately 2,970 linear feet of water and 2,780 linear feet of sewer lines along Route 75. The extensions will allow for future development of approximately 80-95 acres of buildable land within the Bradley International Airport Development Zone as well as providing utility access to the current business located along Route 75 which now use well water and septic systems limiting their growth/expansion. Projected sewer and water flows for a full development of the study area range from 90,000 and 130,000 gallons per day (GPD). The water would be provided by the Connecticut Water Company (CWC) Northern Region Western System (PWSID# CT0473011).

The proposed project is not located in a public water supply source water area; therefore the DWS has no comments regarding source water protection. However, the DPH Statewide Planning Unit recently performed an analysis of water available from this CWC system in conjunction with the Notice of Scoping for the University Connecticut (UCONN) Action for Additional Water Supply Sources. In addition an Environmental Impact Evaluation was recently published for the Expansion of Bradley Airport Terminal B, a facility that would also be served by this CWC system. There was no water usage estimate provided in this EIE. The DWS supports the consolidation of small water systems by interconnection with larger systems with the technical, financial and managerial capabilities to provide a safe and adequate supply of public drinking water. The DWS recommends that the Town of Suffield confirm with CWC that it has sufficient supply capacity to serve the project or that appropriate actions to augment the Northern Region Western System supply will be implemented, as needed, so that this potential future commitment can be met.



Phone: (860) 509-7333 • Fax: (860) 509-7359 • VP: (860) 899-1611  
410 Capitol Avenue, MS#51WAT, P.O. Box 340308  
Hartford, Connecticut 06134-0308  
[www.ct.gov/dph](http://www.ct.gov/dph)

*Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer*

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Jewel Mullen, M.D., M.P.H., M.P.A.  
Commissioner



Dannel P. Malloy  
Governor  
Nancy Wyman  
Lt. Governor

Drinking Water Section

September 21, 2012

Mark Hood  
Department of Economic and Community Development  
505 Hudson Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Notice of Scoping for Suffield Utility Extension

Dear Mr. Hood:

The Department of Public Health Drinking Water Section's Source Water Protection Unit has reviewed the above Notice of Scoping. Please refer to the attached report for our comments.

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please call Pat Bisacky of this office at (860) 509-7333.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric McPhee'.

Eric McPhee  
Supervising Environmental Analyst  
Drinking Water Section

Cc: Dave Radka, Connecticut Water Company



Phone: (860) 509-7333 • Fax: (860) 509-7359 • VP: (860) 899-1611  
410 Capitol Avenue, MS#51WAT, P.O. Box 340308  
Hartford, Connecticut 06134-0308  
[www.ct.gov/dph](http://www.ct.gov/dph)

*Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer*