

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Manisha Juthani, MD  
Commissioner



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Governor  
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Lt. Governor

Drinking Water Section

### Environmental Assessment Justification for Categorical Exclusion

#### A. Project Identification

PWS Name: Worthington Fire District  
Town: Berlin  
PWSID: CT0070031  
DWS Project No.: SFY 23-17  
Project Name: Webster Heights Water Main Replacement  
Project Location: Woodruff Circle and Juniper Lane, Berlin, CT 06037

#### B. Summary of Environmental Review

4/13/2023

The environmental aspects of this project have been reviewed in accordance with State and Federal regulations. The findings of the environmental review are summarized below.

##### 1. Project Description

The Worthington Fire District serves a section of town best known as the Webster Heights sub-division. This sub-division, along with its water and sewer infrastructure, was constructed in the 1960s. The mains within the sub-division are hydraulically important to the overall system, as the Town of Berlin Ledge Drive Interconnection Meter Pit supplements flows to the Worthington distribution system at this location.

Recent flow testing and C factor testing indicated these mains have lost flow capacity and have an estimated C value of 42. Compared to new piping with  $C = 140$ , these pipes pass approximately 30% of a new pipe's capacity. Given the undersized mains (6") in poor hydraulic condition, these mains are a bottleneck to flows systemwide.

Based on the November 2020 study, the most cost-effective way to restore flow capacity and improve flows systemwide would be to replace approximately 2,800 LF of existing 6" cast iron mains with new 8" cement lined ductile iron mains, along Woodruff Circle and Juniper Lane, the "main spine" of the sub-division.

The benefits of this project would be replacing an approximately 60-year-old distribution system piping and 30 water services, enhancing system flows, pressures protection,



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improving water quality by removing significant lengths of older unlined cast iron piping, and improving overall system hydraulics.

This project will be funded through the Department of Public Health’s (DPH) Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF).

**2. Justification for Categorical Exclusion from Connecticut Environmental Policy Act Requirements**

The DPH has performed a review of the project under the Environmental Classification Document (ECD) for Connecticut state agencies and determined that this project is well defined and sufficiently limited in scope to qualify as a Category IV project consisting of minor renovations to existing facilities. Based on this determination a review pursuant to the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA) is not warranted.

The public water system will be required to obtain any necessary local permits, as applicable. Copies of all required permits must be submitted to the DPH prior to any DWSRF funds being dispersed.

The project area is not within an identified flood plain.

It is not reasonable to expect any adverse impact to the natural diversity of the surrounding area as the project areas are not within any current Natural Diversity Database Areas.

Although it is not expected that anything of archeological significance will be found, the DPH required the contract language to include procedures for notifying appropriate entities, should anything of significance be found during construction.

**3. Justification for Categorical Exclusion from National Environmental Policy Act Requirements**

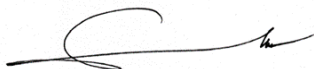
Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. Part 6, Procedures for Implementing the Requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the DPH has reviewed the proposed scope of work submitted by the Worthington Fire District in its application for DWSRF assistance. The result of this review indicates that there are no environmental concerns with this project, as discussed below:

- a. With respect to the criteria set forth in 40 CFR Part 6, the proposed project involves actions that are consistent with the eligibility for granting a Categorical Exclusion pursuant to 40 CFR Part 6.204 (a)(ii). Specifically, the project actions are related to existing infrastructure systems that involve minor upgrading, and rehabilitation of the existing system and system components.
- b. With respect to the criteria set forth in 40 CFR Part 6.204 (b) for not granting a Categorical Exclusion:
  - i. The proposed action is not known or expected to have potentially significant impacts on the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time;

- ii. The proposed action is not known or expected to have any adverse human health or environmental effects on any community;
- iii. The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect federally listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat;
- iv. The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect any national natural landmarks;
- v. The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect any natural resource areas (e.g. flood plains, wetlands, farmlands, or aquifer recharge zones);
- vi. The proposed action is not known or expected to cause significant adverse air quality effects;
- vii. The proposed action is not known or expected to have any effects on land use or growth patterns; and
- viii. The proposed action is not known or expected to cause significant public controversy.

### C. Conclusion

Based on the DPH’s review, none of the NEPA criteria which would result in the denial of a Categorical Exclusion are met. The proposed action is not known or expected to have any adverse impact on the quality of the human environment. The action will provide a direct public health benefit to residents and properties served by the Worthington Fire District’s public water system. Furthermore, the Department has reviewed the action against the ECD for Connecticut state agencies and determined it is a Category IV action for which a review under the CEPA is not warranted. As a result, the proposed action has met the criteria to be categorically excluded from further NEPA or CEPA review.



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4/13/23  
Date