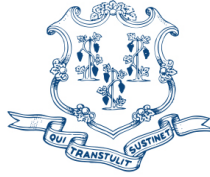


STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Manisha Juthani, MD
Commissioner



Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

Drinking Water Section

Environmental Assessment Justification for Categorical Exclusion

A. Project Identification

PWS Name: Waterbury Water Department
Town: Waterbury
PWSID: CT1510011
DWS Project No.: SFY 23-34
Project Name: Third Water Transmission Main Rehabilitation
Project Location: Thomaston Avenue, Waterbury, CT

B. Summary of Environmental Review

5/1/2024

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 Third Water Supply Transmission Main was installed circa 1969 to efficiently transport water from the Water Treatment Plant located on hills in the town of Thomaston, CT into the City of Waterbury with length of approximately 39,000 feet (7.4 miles).

In recent years, the water transmission main has experienced several major leaks and breaks. The City is concerned that these ongoing problems are a significant threat to both public safety and the transmission main's reliability as one of the City's vital water supply components. The City is considering rehabilitation of the transmission main 5500 feet segment, at the Waterbury Thomaston Avenue .

Due to deterioration of the existing 42-inch Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) transmission main, fully structural slip-lining was selected as the preferred trenchless pipeline rehabilitation method and with minimal disturbances of the exiting street pavement . From the slip-lining pipe material alternatives, the high density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe was preferred as rehabilitation pipe material for this project.

The DR11 HDPE pipe is suitable for the existing pipe working pressure and accommodates a working pressure of 200 psi and can withstand routine surges of 300 psi and occasional surges of 400 psi and can have a lifespan of over 100 years. The flexibility of HDPE pipe



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material also allows less efforts navigation slip-lining process in the exiting PCCP pipe with a considerable number of alignment curves.

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 partially within an identified flood plain and DEEP was contacted with regards to the need to initiate a Flood Management Certification. On 2/2/2024, the DEEP, after reviewing the consultant – Tighe&Bond - request, determined that they do not have a regulatory role in the proposed work.

An NDDB Environmental Review request has been submitted and on 4/29/2024 DEEP responded by issuing the NDDB - New Determination Number : 202406070 requesting implementation of specific Best Management Practices will avoid negative impacts to listed species: Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*), Eastern pondmussel (*Ligumia nasuta*) and Eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina carolina*)

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 Waterbury Water Department 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 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 provided the required Best Management Practices are implemented;
- 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 Waterbury Water Department'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.

Florin Ghisa

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Drinking Water Section

5/2/2024

Date