

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

Date:	January 8, 2013	Staff Contact:	Eric McPhee
Applicant PWS Name:	Putnam Water Pollution Control Authority	Town:	Putnam
DPH DWSRF Project #:	2012 1160011a	PWSID:	CT1160011
Project Name:	Putnam Water Main Replacement		
Funding Source:	Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)		
State Funds:	\$ 7,389,000.00		

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: The proposed project is the replacement and/or rehabilitation of existing water mains within the Putnam Water Pollution Control Authority's (WPCA) drinking water distribution system. A hydraulic study was conducted which identified mains that require replacement or rehabilitation to improve the system water quality. The proposed improvements are consistent with recommendations for system maintenance from the most recent Water Supply Plan.

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 - 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).
 - 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 project is not located in a public drinking water supply source water area.
 - b. Groundwater - The proposed project is not expected to cause significant impacts to neighboring groundwater.

- c. Flooding – The water main replacements on Mechanic and Thompson Streets are within the 100-year flood zone on the community's Flood Insurance Rate Map. Because it is a State action, the project must be certified by DPH as being in compliance with flood and stormwater management standards specified in section 25-68d of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) and section 25-68h-1 through 25-68h-3 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) and receive approval from the Department.
 - d. Erosion or Sedimentation - In order to protect any wetlands and watercourses adjacent to the site, strict erosion and sediment controls should be employed during construction. 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.
3. 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 bands of alluvial and floodplain soil, a regulated wetland soil, that would be crossed by the proposed route of the Thomson Street and South Main Street water mains. The local inland wetlands agency should be contacted regarding permit requirements.
 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 - Based on the comments from Department of Energy and Environmental Protection -Wildlife Division, the project would not impact extant populations of Federally listed endangered or threatened species or species listed in the State Natural Diversity Data Base, pursuant to section 26-306 of the CGS, as endangered, threatened or special concern in the project area.
 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 is expected.
 7. Substantial aesthetic or visual effects - The project construction is expected to be completed in a short period of time. Due to the nature and timeframe of the project construction, 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 a significant hazard to human health and safety.
14. Any other substantial impact on natural, cultural, recreational or scenic resources - No significant impact expected.

Conclusions:

Based on the comments provided by the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) dated September 20, 2012, it has been determined that the proposed Putnam Water Main Replacement project does not require the preparation of Environmental Impact Evaluation under CEPA. The DPH will coordinate the project with the Putnam WPCA to ensure that the DEEP's recommendations will be implemented.

Recommendations:

The water main replacements on Mechanic and Thompson Streets are within the 100-year flood zone on the community's Flood Insurance Rate Map. Because it is a State action, the project must be certified by DPH as being in compliance with flood and stormwater management standards specified in section 25-68d of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) and section 25-68h-1 through 25-68h-3 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) and receive approval from the Department. For further information, contact the Inland Water Resources Division at 860-424-3706. A fact sheet regarding floodplain management and the certification form can be downloaded at: [Flood Management](#).

The Natural Resources Conservation Service's soil survey depicts bands of alluvial and floodplain soil, a regulated wetland soil, that would be crossed by the proposed route of the Thomson Street and South Main Street water mains. It is unknown whether the main will be installed under the roadway or shoulders, with no direct wetland impacts, or beyond previously filled areas. If the pipeline is to be routed beyond the developed right-of-way, it is recommended that a certified soil scientist perform a reconnaissance of the site in order to determine whether there are any areas which would be regulated as wetlands or watercourses as defined by section 22a-38 (15) and (16) of the CGS, respectively. If the reconnaissance identifies regulated areas, they should be delineated. Any inland wetlands or watercourses at the site are regulated by the local inland wetlands agency, pursuant to section 22a-42 of the CGS. Many local agencies have established setback or buffer areas and require review and approval of activities within these upland areas adjacent to wetlands or watercourses. The local agency should be contacted regarding permit requirements.

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 DEEP bookstore, either by telephone 860-424-3555 or online at: [DEEP Bookstore](#)

If the water mains are 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](#)

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](#).