

2.0 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

2.1 THE CEPA PROCESS

The format and content of the subject Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) are based upon the requirements of the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA), Sections 22a-1 through 22a-1h of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS), and Sections 22a-1 through 22a-1a-12 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA). State funds will be used for the design, construction, and/or renovation of the proposed facilities, thus triggering the CEPA process. The sponsoring agency of this project is the University of Connecticut (University).

CEPA recognizes the complex relationship between the natural environment and human actions. The CEPA regulations outline a process whereby, through coordination with local, regional, state, and federal governments as well as public and private entities, a sponsoring state agency can determine and minimize impacts to the resources of the state. A major function of the CEPA process is the determination of whether or not a proposed action will have a "significant effect." Significant effect means substantial adverse impact on the environment (RCSA 22a-1a-1, Definitions). Agencies preparing such CEPA documents must consider direct and indirect effects as well as cumulative impacts. Public input and participation are major components of the CEPA process. Therefore, early scoping and information exchange is essential.

Public participation in the CEPA process is encouraged through contact with interested persons and affected agencies. Public project notices were published in the *Environmental Monitor*, a semimonthly online publication published by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), the state agency responsible for public outreach related to the CEPA process. The overall process for public participation and approval of the EIE is summarized below.

- The sponsoring agency must notify state review agencies and other interested parties with regard to the proposed action via a scoping notice. The following notices were published in the *Environmental Monitor* on the CEQ website in accordance with CEPA regulations:
 - The University distributed a notice for the subject project on June 7, 2011, a copy of which is included in Appendix A.
 - The University later amended the scope of the EIE (adding an alternative for the relocation or replacement of Fenton River Wellfield Well A) and issued a second scoping notice on December 20, 2011 (Appendix A).
 - The University later amended the scope of the EIE a second time (adding an alternative for an interconnection with the Metropolitan District Commission [MDC]) and issued a third scoping notice on June 5, 2012 (Appendix A).
- Reviewers are given a minimum of 30 calendar days to respond to the scoping notice with comments about the nature and extent of environmental impacts that might result. The due date for comments was posted in the *Environmental Monitor* on the CEQ website.

- In the initial case, July 7, 2011 was close of the comment period.
- The close of the public comment period for the first revised scoping notice was January 19, 2012, but it was later revised to February 1, 2012.
- The close of the public comment period for the second revised scoping notice was July 6, 2012.
- Upon the request of 25 or more people, the sponsoring agency must hold a public scoping meeting to further explain the proposed action. Notices of meetings must be published in the *Environmental Monitor* on the CEQ website.
 - Although no such requests were made for the initial project scoping, the University, in collaboration with the Town of Mansfield, voluntarily held a scoping meeting on June 28, 2011. Several residents of Mansfield attended.
 - The University received 56 requests for a public scoping meeting related to the revised scoping notice published on December 20, 2011. The meeting was held on January 24, 2012 and moderated by the University. Approximately 20 people attended, the majority of whom were residents of Mansfield.
 - The University did not receive any requests for a public scoping meeting related to the second revised scoping notice published on June 5, 2012, but a meeting was held on June 21, 2012 and moderated by the University. Approximately 30 people attended, the majority of whom were residents of Mansfield.
- During the preparation of an EIE, the sponsoring agency must consider the issues and comments provided by the reviewers along with other information gathered. Copies of written scoping comments received from all comment periods are included in Appendix B.
- After the EIE is prepared, the sponsoring agency must publish notice of its availability and circulate the EIE for review and comment. Parties to whom the EIE was sent are listed in Section 2.6. Interested parties may provide written comment within 45 days.
- Upon the request of 25 or more people, the sponsoring agency must hold a public hearing in accordance with state statutes and Section 22a-1a-11 of the regulations. A period of no less than 30 days following the date of availability of the EIE must transpire before such public hearing is held.
- The sponsoring agency must review comments, perform any additional environmental study and analysis, and amend the evaluation as appropriate. It is the sponsoring agency's responsibility to respond to all substantive comments received. The agency then finalizes the EIE and prepares its Record of Decision (ROD).
- The sponsoring agency must forward its ROD and the EIE to the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM) for a determination of the adequacy of the evaluation. The following information is included:

1. Public notice documentation
 2. A transcript of the public hearing if one is held
 3. Comments received from all interested parties along with responses to the pertinent issues raised by the public and state agencies
 4. The agency decision relative to proceeding with the proposed action
 5. Intentions for initiating actions for reducing impacts
- The CEPA process concludes with the review of the EIE and ROD by the OPM and its determination of whether or not regulatory requirements have been satisfied. The EIE and ROD are the basis for the implementation of the eventual project.

2.2 **SCOPING**

This project included three scoping periods. The initial scoping period considered the evaluation of the potential no action, two potential interconnections, and two categories of potential new wellfield alternatives. The second scoping period included the potential relocation or replacement of Fenton River Wellfield Well A as a potential alternative. The final scoping period included an interconnection with MDC as a potential alternative to be evaluated as part of this EIE.

The initial scoping period opened on June 7, 2011, closed July 7, 2011, and included a public information meeting. Agency comments were received from the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH). Municipal comments were received from the Town of Mansfield Four Corners Sewer and Water Advisory Committee (MFCSWAC). Public comments were received from The Connecticut Water Company (CWC), the Willimantic River Alliance, and two members of the public. Copies of the comment letters received are included herein as Appendix B. In addition, verbal comments were recorded at the meeting. A summary of the nature of these comments is also included in Appendix B.

The second scoping period opened on December 20, 2011, closed February 1, 2012, and included a public information meeting to present and solicit comments on the inclusion of a potential relocation of Fenton River Well A. Agency comments were received from the CT DEEP and the DPH. Public comments were received from the Connecticut Forest & Park Association and four members of the public. Copies of the comment letters received as a result of the scoping notice are included herein as Appendix B. In addition, verbal comments were recorded on the transcript of the meeting. A summary of the nature of these comments is also included in Appendix B.

The third scoping period opened on June 5, 2012, closed July 6, 2012, and included a public information meeting to present and solicit comments regarding a potential interconnection with MDC. Agency comments were received from CEQ, CT DEEP, and DPH. Public comments were received from CWC, the Farmington River Watershed Association (FRWA), and four members of the public. Copies of the comment letters received as a result of the scoping notice are included herein as Appendix B. In addition, verbal comments were recorded on the transcript of the meeting. A summary of the nature of these comments is also included in Appendix B.

2.3 AGENCY OUTREACH AND REVIEW

During the preparation of the subject EIE, numerous agency representatives were consulted. Table 2.4-1 lists these representatives in alphabetical order by affiliation.

TABLE 2.4-1
Agencies/Organizations Consulted

Affiliation	Contact
Council on Environmental Quality	Karl Wagener
Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (Fisheries)	Brian Murphy
Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (Fisheries)	Neil Hagstrom
Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (NDDB*)	Dawn McKay
Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (NDDB*)	Elaine Hinsch
Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (Scoping)	David Fox
Department of Public Health (Public Water Systems)	Pat Bisacky
Department of Public Health (Public Water Systems)	Steve Messer
Department of Public Health (Scoping)	Lori Mathieu
Office of the State Archaeologist	Nicholas Bellantoni
RailAmerica, Inc.	Donna Killingsworth
State Historic Preservation Office	Daniel Forrest
State Historic Preservation Office	David Bahlman
The Connecticut Water Company	Craig Patla
The Connecticut Water Company	David Radka
The Connecticut Water Company	Terry O'Neill
The Metropolitan District Commission	Scott Jellison
Town of Coventry – Water Pollution Control Authority	Mike Ruef
Town of Mansfield	Matthew Hart
Town of Mansfield	Linda Painter
Town of Mansfield	Lon Hultgren
Town of Mansfield Four Corners Sewer and Water Advisory Committee (Scoping)	Kenneth Rawn Meg Reich
Windham Water Works	Jim Hooper
Windham Water Works	Paul Deveny

*Natural Diversity Data Base

2.4 PROJECT COORDINATION MEETINGS

During the preparation of this EIE, numerous meetings were convened to define and discuss the scope of the project. Table 2.5-1 lists the project-related meetings (exclusive of the scoping meetings described above).

**TABLE 2.5-1
Summary of Project Meetings**

Meeting Date	Location	Principal Purpose	Overview of Representation
9/26/2011	University of Connecticut	Project Kickoff Meeting	MMI, UConn, Town, EPG, MFC
10/18/2011	Connecticut Water Company	Data Collection	MMI, CWC
10/26/2011	DEEP Fisheries	Data Collection	MMI, DEEP Inland Fisheries staff
11/8/2011	University of Connecticut	Project Status Meeting	MMI, UConn, Town, MFC
1/3/2012	Windham Water Works	Data Collection	MMI, UConn, WWW
2/7/2012 (two meetings)	University of Connecticut	Project Status Meeting Hydraulics Meeting	MMI, UConn, Town, MFC MMI, UConn
3/6/2012	University of Connecticut	Well A Modeling Project Status Meeting	MMI, UConn
4/10/2012	Connecticut DPH	Consider Additional Alternative	MMI, UConn, DPH, Town
9/14/2012	University of Connecticut	Project Status Meeting	MMI, UConn, Town
10/10/2012	University of Connecticut	Project Status Meeting	MMI, UConn, Town

CWC = The Connecticut Water Company
 DPH = Connecticut Department of Public Health
 EPG = Environmental Partners Group
 MFC = Mansfield Four Corners Sewer and Water Advisory Committee
 MMI = Milone & MacBroom, Inc.
 Town = Town of Mansfield
 UConn = University of Connecticut
 WWW = Windham Water Works

2.5 PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT ON EIE

Formal notice of the availability of this EIE has been published in the *Hartford Courant*, the *Willimantic Chronicle*, and in the *Environmental Monitor*. An electronic copy of this document is also available on the *Environmental Monitor*. The document was sent to the following agencies and entities for review and comment:

- Council on Environmental Quality
- Connecticut DEEP
- Connecticut DPH
- Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism
- Connecticut Office of Policy and Management
- Town of Bolton (with public copy available with Town Clerk)
- Town of Coventry (with public copy available with Town Clerk)
- Town of East Hartford (with public copy available with Town Clerk)
- Town of Manchester (with public copy available with Town Clerk)
- Town of Mansfield (with public copy available with Town Clerk)
- Town of Tolland (with public copy available with Town Clerk)
- Town of Vernon (with public copy available with Town Clerk)
- Town of Windham (with public copy available with Town Clerk)