



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

79 ELM STREET, HARTFORD, CT 06106-5127

To: Cameron Walden - Supervising Sanitary Engineer
DPH - Drinking Water Section, 410 Capitol Avenue, MS#51WAT, Hartford

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

Date: May 20, 2011 **E-Mail:** david.fox@ct.gov

Subject: East Lyme - New London Interconnection

The Department of Environmental Protection has received the Notice of Scoping for the proposed project to interconnect the water supply systems of New London and East Lyme. This project is supported by the Department as a means to resolve long standing water supply issues in the region. The following comments are submitted for your consideration.

The Department had previously reviewed this project during the Stage 1 Site Review process conducted by the Department of Economic & Community Development. Our comments dated May 14, 2010 (enclosed) are still applicable and should be addressed as planning for the project proceeds. The Natural Diversity Data Base has an additional comment, below, concerning a Federally endangered plant species. Their previous comments concerning the State threatened Tiger Spiketail dragonfly are also still applicable.

The Chaffseed (*Schwalbea americana*), a Federally endangered plant species, has been documented in the vicinity of the project. In Connecticut, Chaffseed is known to occur in old fields and roadsides. Before any work is initiated, a thorough botanical survey of the project area should be conducted and the results forwarded to the Natural Diversity Data Base for further review. Botanical field surveys should be performed by a qualified botanist when the target plant species is identifiable (July-August). A report summarizing the results of such survey should include (1) the survey date(s), (2) descriptions of the habitat and component vascular plant species, (3) notes on the presence/absence of State-listed or Federally-listed plant species, (4) detailed maps of the area surveyed including the location and extent of State-listed or Federally-listed plant species, and (5) a statement/resume indicating the botanist's qualifications. The report should be sent to Nancy Murray, who may be reached at nancy.murray@ct.gov or 860-424-3589 if there are any questions regarding survey protocols.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. If there are any questions concerning these comments, please contact me.

cc: Robert Hannon, DEP/OPPD
Doug Hoskins, DEP/IWRD
Nancy Murray, DEP/NDDB