

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Raul Pino, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor
Nancy Wyman
Lt. Governor

Drinking Water Section

March 4, 2016

Kevin Grady
Protection Forester
CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
Bureau of Natural Resources
Goodwin State Forest
23 Potter Road
Hampton, CT 06247

Re: Notice of Scoping for Cockaponset State Forest Prescribed Burn
DPH Project No.: 2016-0020

Dear Mr. Grady:

The Department of Public Health (DPH) Drinking Water Section (DWS) Source Assessment and Protection Unit has reviewed the above referenced Notice of Scoping. Please refer to the attached report for our comments.

If you have any questions, please contact Pat Bisacky of my staff at the number below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric McPhee', written over a horizontal line.

Eric McPhee
Supervising Environmental Analyst
Source Assessment and Protection Unit
Drinking Water Section

Cc: Cindy Gaudino, Connecticut Water Company

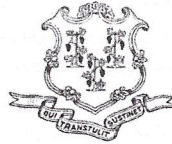


Phone: (860) 509-7333 • Fax: (860) 509-7359 • VP: (860) 899-1611
410 Capitol Avenue, P.O. Box 340308, MS#51WAT
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Eric McPhee, Supervising Environmental Analyst *EDM*

FROM: Patricia Bisacky, Environmental Analyst *PB*

DATE: March 4, 2016

SUBJECT: Notice of Scoping for Cockaponset State Forest Prescribed Burn

DPH PROJECT: 2016-0020

TOWNS: Chester and Haddam

The Department of Public Health (DPH) Drinking Water Section (DWS) Source Assessment and Protection Unit has reviewed the above referenced Notice of Scoping. The Turkey Hill Block, Compartment 17 of Cockaponset State Forest lies partially within the public water supply watersheds of the Turkey Hill and Great Brook Reservoirs, sources of public drinking water for the customers of the Connecticut Water Company (CWC) Shoreline Region Chester System (PWSID# CT0261031). The proposed project is a 197 acre prescribed burn that will consume primarily leaf litter and downed branches. The intent is to partially promote the regeneration of an oak forest.

The DWS has the following concerns regarding the introduction of prescribed burns to sustain the ecosystems in Cockaponset State Forest:

- Erosion from the burned areas may contribute excessive nutrients to the public drinking water sources of supply.
- Sedimentation from uncontrolled erosion may reduce the storage capacity of the public drinking water supply reservoirs.
- Unprotected fueling of vehicles, improper fuel storage and maintenance and repair of vehicles within the public drinking water supply watershed can potentially adversely impact the sources of public drinking water supply.
- Flame retardant chemicals and foams contain constituents that may promote algal growth in the public drinking water sources of supply or be harmful to public health if consumed.

In order to mitigate potential impacts from the prescribed burn, the DWS requests the following:

- Please indicate whether alternative practices were considered to achieve the management goal and provide the justification of why the prescribed burn alternative was selected.
- Please indicate if locations not located in a drinking water watershed were considered that could achieve the same ecological benefit.



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- Develop an emergency contingency plan in the event that the fire escapes from the target area. CWC and the DPH DWS should be notified in case of emergency.
- Ensure that appropriate erosion controls are in place prior to conducting the burn and that the controls are monitored for effectiveness and repaired as needed after the burn.
- Prohibit the fueling of vehicles, fuel storage and use of accelerants in the public drinking water supply watershed area.
- Prohibit the use of chemical flame retardants and foams within the public drinking water supply watershed area.
- Notify the Connecticut Water Company prior to conducting the prescribed burn.