



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

TO: Robert Klee
Commissioner
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

FROM: Ben Barnes, Secretary
Office of Policy and Management

DATE: March 2, 2018

SUBJECT: Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) for the Seaside State Park Master Plan and Record of Decision (ROD), dated January, 2018

Based on a review of the subject environmental impact evaluation and record of decision conducted pursuant to C.G.S. 22a-1e, I am herewith advising you of my finding that this evaluation satisfies the requirements of the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA).

OPM recognizes that state expectations for this park will be subject to the terms of any agreements negotiated with a private developer or operator. As DEEP indicates in the attached letter submitted 2/16/2018 to supplement the ROD, any applicable leases, contracts and operations plans will require conformance with the expectations established through this environmental review.

Please contact Bruce Wittchen (860-418-6323) if there are any questions with regard to this finding.

cc: Paul Potamianos, OPM
Thomas Tyler, DEEP
Karl Wagener, CEQ



February 16, 2018

Secretary Benjamin Barnes
Office of Policy and Management
450 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06016

Dear Secretary Barnes:

DEEP appreciates the review by OPM staff of our Record of Decision (ROD) for the development of Seaside State Park in Waterford. Per the e-mail of February 9 from Bruce Whittchen of your staff, we are aware of the concern that the commitment by DEEP to incorporate all “practicable means to avoid or minimize all environmental harm during the design and development of the project”, as expressed on page 5 of the ROD, should be expressly extended to incorporate this commitment into any lease to operate and manage the buildings within the park and into any other contract documents required for future operation of the park.

DEEP believes that the requested assurance is already given within the Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) and ROD, but we are writing you to clearly affirm that applicable leases, contracts and operations plans will specify conformance to these requirements including ensuring public access and protection of natural resources within Seaside State Park.

We do need to recognize that some events hosted within the rehabilitated, leased buildings in the park, out of necessity, due to the nature of the event, e.g., a wedding reception or a conference, may require that general public access be restricted.

This letter is intended to supplement our ROD submittal. Please feel free to incorporate the language of this letter into your close out memo, if you feel that is appropriate, or to reference or append this letter to your close out, if you feel that provides additional clarity.

Again, thank you for your review of our ROD and your input on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert J. Klee", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert J. Klee
Commissioner

cc: Dan Morley, Office of Policy and Management