



April 19, 2017

Central Connecticut Water Utility Coordinating Committee
c/o Brendan Avery
Hazardville Water Company
281 Hazard Avenue
Enfield, CT 06082
Attn: David Radka, Co-Chair, and Bart Halloran, Co-Chair

Dear Committee Members:

Reference is made to that certain Coordinated Water System Plan, Part II: Preliminary Recommended Exclusive Service Area Boundaries for the Central Connecticut Public Water Supply Management Area, dated March 15, 2017 (the "Preliminary Plan").

On behalf of the University of Connecticut ("UConn"), we appreciate the opportunity to review and submit these comments on the Preliminary Plan recently issued by the Central Connecticut Water Utility Coordinating Committee (the "Central WUCC").

As an initial matter, we agree with the Preliminary Plan's depiction of UConn's water system in the Preliminary Exclusive Service Area Map for the Town of Mansfield, Connecticut (ESA Fig. 37). We further agree with the Preliminary Plan's depiction of the areas that are currently forested and/or agricultural in such map and in the Preliminary Exclusive Service Area Map for the Town of Willington, Connecticut (ESA Fig. 67). UConn has previously requested these areas not be assigned an ESA.

UConn also agrees with the Preliminary Plan's determination that UConn "retain its current service area at its Main and Depot campuses as an existing system, with no delineated ESA." UConn has supplied water for its operations and to other properties receiving this service for many years. UConn is specially authorized by the Connecticut legislature to provide water supply service in this area. For example, General Statutes § 10a-138 authorizes UConn "to furnish, for compensation, running water . . . for any property owned or occupied by it or in which it has an interest by reason of a possibility of reverter or of a restriction on alienation in its favor." It is essential that UConn's continued authority to supply water from its existing system within this area be recognized as part of the water supply planning process.

Although the Preliminary Plan, and the attached map (ESA Fig. 37), recognize UConn's existing service area, we believe some further clarification is necessary to reinforce the Central WUCC's determination that no delineated ESA is assigned to UConn's existing service territory.

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We specifically request that the following changes be made to the Preliminary Plan (with the requested changes depicted in blue, bold and underlined font):

- Table 2-8, Page 2-11:

Mansfield	University of Connecticut <u>will retain its existing service area designation for its Main and Depot campus areas.</u> UConn agricultural land that is not contiguous with the existing service area at the Main and Depot Campuses will remain unassigned. Windham Water Works for a specific area near its existing system in southern Mansfield. CWC for the remaining area within the Town of Mansfield.
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- Section 2.4, Page 2-13:

Mansfield -- **University of Connecticut will retain its current service area at its Main and Depot campuses as an existing system.** Several state-owned agricultural parcels in central Mansfield were requested by the University of Connecticut to remain unassigned, as well as the southern terminus of the Moss Tract in northern Mansfield. CWC refined its ESA declaration to comply with this request.

UConn believes these changes are necessary to create an appropriate record confirming that the Central WUCC is not delineating an ESA within UConn's existing service territory.

These changes are also consistent with the regulatory requirements applicable to this process. See Regs., Conn. State. Agencies § 25-33h-1(d)(B). These clarifications will, among other things, reinforce the boundaries of UConn's existing water service area, *id.* § 25-33h-1(d)(B)(ii)(aa), will recognize UConn's legal authority to supply water to these areas, *id.* § 25-33h-1(d)(B)(ii)(ee), and will avoid potential duplication or overlap of services in these areas, *id.* § 25-33h-1(d)(B)(i)(cc).

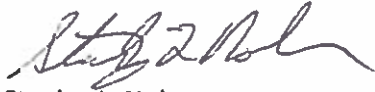
These changes are also consistent with contractual agreements established between UConn and Connecticut Water Company ("CWC"). As you are aware, UConn and CWC recently entered into an agreement for the supply of water and development of water systems in the Town of Mansfield. CWC agreed that it would not use the nature of the commitments outlined in that agreement to support the establishment of an ESA to CWC in UConn's existing service territory. The changes reflected above would recognize these commitments by CWC to UConn in the Preliminary Plan.

Finally, we note the Preliminary Plan identifies UConn's prior participation in this planning process as a member of the Central WUCC, and the Central WUCC's determination that UConn, as a state agency, cannot hold an ESA (as defined in the Preliminary Plan). As you are aware, determinations of this nature are not within the WUCC's authority. Because the Preliminary Plan recognizes UConn's current water system as an existing service area with no ESA holder,¹ UConn does not consider it necessary to resolve whether or not UConn is a "public water supply" for purposes of General Statutes 25-33d.

¹ The Central WUCC's Monthly Meeting #10 presentation confirmed that "Moving forward, the UConn system will be depicted as an existing system with no ESA holder" (see Slide 12).

As participants in this process, we appreciate the time and commitment made by all members of the Central WUCC. We look forward to continuing to work with you in this process and in our related activities in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stanley L. Nolan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Stanley L. Nolan

Director of Utility Operations and Energy Management

