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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

July 30, 2012

Mr. Chris Sullivan
Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Re: Draft Connecticut Statewide Total Maximum Daily Load for Bacteria-Impaired Waters
Public Review and Comment

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

We are providing our comments regarding the draft document "Connecticut Statewide Total Maximum Daily Load for Bacteria-Impaired Waters." Two of our staff attended the public information session the CTDEEP conducted on July 17, 2012, and we have read the fact sheet and the watershed specific appendices for the Byram River and Estuary 2 – Greenwich/Stamford.

- **Water quality goal or limit?:** During the public information session, we understood that the total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) being presented are water quality goals, not specific limits at this time. However, we believe the fact sheet implies that these TMDL values are going to be limits when adopted. Can the CTDEEP clarify how these proposed TMDLs are to be interpreted?
- **Terms/definitions:** When we have read the term TMDL in other contexts, it typically is a permit limit. We believe our various environmental stakeholders in town would also interpret it as a permit limit. For the sake of clarity, is there another term that could be used if these proposed standards are truly goals, not permit limits?
- **TMDLs:** In our experience, the term TMDL is most frequently applied to point sources which can more easily measure and control effluent quality. How is it to be reasonably applied and enforced given the highly variable conditions that exist within a watershed – from weather to private property practices?
- **Achieving these standards – testing approach:** When determining if a given water body or discharge is in compliance with a given standard, it is typical to have a standard testing procedure. Such procedures include frequency, sample type (composite vs. grab), sample method, number of samples, sample location, etc. How is the CTDEEP planning to address testing? Who will be required to test and how will it be funded?

Town Hall, 101 Field Point Road, Greenwich, Connecticut 06836-2540

PHONE: (203) 622-7740

FAX NO. (203) 622-3716

- **Timeframe:** We see goals that are quite substantial in terms of load reduction – e.g. a 98% reduction to meet single sample criteria. What is CTDEEP’s timeframe for these locations to meet these goals?
- **Authority:** Many, if not most, stormwater outfalls into the Byram River are part of private drainage networks within the watershed in Greenwich. What authority, if any, is the Town given by CTDEEP regulations to require private property owners to comply with these standards? Will CTDEEP be enforcing water quality standards compliance with private property owners?
- **Interstate and interagency cooperation:** Both the Byram River and the Long Island Sound are impacted by more than just Connecticut – how is CTDEEP working with New York State, for example, on these issues and how will New York contributions be accounted for in CT TMDL standards? How will CTDOT be addressing its facilities (Interstate 95, for example) to help municipalities meet these standards? What will be required of them and are they funded for this?
- **Grants and funding:** Will there be any grants or funding mechanisms in place to help municipalities implement the standards?

Specific Comments: Byram River Appendix

We provide some specific comments below relative to this appendix. Certain information appears to have been incorporated from the Byram Watershed Coalition’s Byram Watershed Management Plan, which has some information that needs corrected and/or updated. We would be happy to work with CTDEEP on this if desired.

- P. 6: The reference to Table 11 should be changed to Table 12.
- P. 6: The sample data referred to are from 2006-2009. Would CTDEEP consider using more current sample data that are available? We are aware that the Town has additional sample data for the Byram River which we can provide to you if desired.
- P. 7: Consider changing the title to “Byram River Impaired Segment.”
- P. 8: Has consideration been given to the possibility of Port Chester, NY contribution to bacterial loads to the Byram River and/or Long Island Sound?
- PP. 10, 11, 22: This Appendix appears to be oriented to the Byram River, yet on these pages the report references sample data from the Holly Hill Resource Recovery Facility (the Town’s transfer station). Holly Hill stormwater discharges to the Tom’s Brook watershed which in turn discharges into Long Island Sound. We found a discussion of Holly Hill data to be confusing in a Byram River report. As an aside, we also have much more current data that can be provided for Holly Hill stormwater and Tom’s Brook, if you would like to review it for the Long Island Sound Appendix. This reference again occurs on P. 22. In addition, the Town has implemented two stormwater best management practices at the site to help address runoff, and plans for the entire site’s redevelopment incorporate additional improvements. The latter will take time given the economy and availability of capital dollars.
- P. 11: CTDEEP lists several private sector sources. What is the plan to educate these sources and who will require them to participate in achieving stormwater goals?
- P. 17: Certain areas noted as being on septic on this page (e.g. Glenville School) are actually connected to the Town’s wastewater collection system. We would be happy to review those sewered locations with you in greater detail if that would be helpful.
- P. 17: This page also includes a discussion of CSOs. It implies that there are CSOs in the Byram River watershed. The Greenwich, CT, wastewater collection system is a separate system – we do not have combined sewers. We were also under the impression that Port Chester NY was not designed as a CSO system (that would require that town to verify it). Also the Table reference here should refer to Table 12. (See further comments on this below under pps. 24 & 25.)
- P. 23: The report refers to Table 10 on this page – the reference should be changed to Table 11.

- PP. 24 & 25: This section includes several steps to help address water quality. Item No. 5, a program to evaluate the sanitary sewer systems, has already been implemented for some time in Greenwich. In addition, this section appears to need clarification regarding illegal sanitary connections – the Town is pursuing removal of illegal stormwater connections from the sanitary sewer. After extensive research throughout the system, we do not have evidence of illegal sanitary connections to the stormwater system in the Greenwich wastewater collection system. However, as outlined in the Byram Watershed Coalition's report, neighboring Port Chester, NY, does appear to have issues of cross connection between sanitary and storm drain systems, resulting in sanitary discharges to the river under certain conditions. This section could be edited to make it more clear where the purported sanitary sewer issues are occurring.

In addition, we notice that many of the Byram River Watershed Management Plan suggestions for structural improvements are on private properties. How would the CTDEEP be expecting those to be implemented – who would have authority to require them?

Specific Comments: Estuary 2 - Greenwich/Stamford

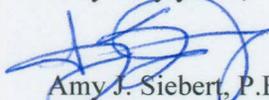
- Pagination: Pages are not numbered, which makes referencing difficult. Please include page numbers on all pages of this Appendix.
- Table 2 - The Port Chester Pump Station is listed as belonging to Greenwich, CT. The Town does not have jurisdiction of this facility, which is owned and operated by Port Chester NY. We respectfully request that this be clarified accordingly wherever this is listed in the document.
- Figure 5 and related text: This section states that "Both plants exceeded their permit limits on several sampling dates from 2009 – 2011." Greenwich respectfully requests a clarification or revision to this - we only experienced 2 exceedances in the 3 years of data presented - this is less than several.
- Figure 6: Belle Haven is mostly served by sanitary sewers - this should be clarified in the text.

Summary

Speaking for the Greenwich Department of Public Works, we are committed to continuing our practices to help maintain and improve stormwater quality. We continue our street sweeping, catch basin cleaning, and other stormwater system maintenance on our public facilities to the extent we can. Our system includes over 10,000 structures and countless miles of piping. We have also implemented a new Town Drainage Manual, which guides land development activities. This manual requires that low impact development be considered first, and we review projects that come to us through our land use approval process for stormwater quality program compliance. We look forward to working more with CTDEEP as it continues to develop a stormwater program for the state.

If you have any questions or we can provide further information, please call me at 203-622,7740; Wastewater Division Manager Richard Feminella at 203-622-7844, or Chief Engineer James Michel at 203-622-7813. We would all be happy to talk to you and provide any clarification we can to our remarks. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,



Amy J. Siebert, P.E.
Commissioner of Public Works

cc: P. Tesei, First Selectman
R. Feminella, DPW
J. Michel, DPW
D. Thompson, DPW
J. Roberto, DPW
D. Savageau, Conservation
M. Long, Environmental Health

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