

From: Bud Butler

Date: Friday, January 9, 2009 8:18 AM

To: <stacy.pappano@ct.gov> **Cc:** Christine Hayward

<christinehayward@town.new-hartford.ct.us>

Subject: EIE - Comments

Good Morning Stacy: I am a long time New Hartford resident and familiar with the Town's pending Wastewater expansion project. I have read your EIE and would like to make a specific suggestion relative to protection of the Town's aquifer which, in my opinion, has not received adequate emphasis under the current environmental impact statement. (Note: To the best of my knowledge there is no (s) on Meadow) Specific to the Pine Meadow sector referenced on page (6), item iv, paragraph (c). the EIE notes the following:

c. Aquifers and Water Supply The proposed project area for the upgrade of the treatment plant is not in an identified aquifer protection zone. There are two water supply wells, Black Bridge and Pine Meadow, located southeast of the main town area known as the Pine Meadows area. These are operated for the Town of New Hartford by Connecticut Water Company. The area of influence for these two wells is in the Pine Meadows section of the Town. Although the water supply does not show an indication of deterioration from the septic systems in the area despite poor quality soils for septic system use, it may be necessary to extend sewers to the Pine Meadows area of the Town in the future if the water supply shows deterioration.

The first statement of this section is confusing, although I believe that I understand that you meant to qualify that the Plant work site is not in the aquifer protection zone, the choice of wording may confuse readers as they examine the very next paragraph that follows and the statement contained on page 9, item (x) paragraph (d). More important to my observation: The DEP has not with its statement prioritized the need for connections to the sewer plant in this sector, rather the statement continues to read as follows:

*For this reason, this section of the Town is included as a **potential** (emphasis added) area for sewer service within the twenty-year planning period of the upgraded treatment facilities. However, further into the report, page (9), item x, paragraph (d) Pine Meadows, it is noted that: Pine Meadows This area known as the Pine Meadows section of the Town includes Main Street (Route 44) between Wickett Street and Church Street, Wickett Street, Black Bridge Road up to 10 Street, 10 Street, and Church Street. This area has been fully developed with approximately 100 residences and an elementary school. The lots in this Pine Meadows area are in a designated aquifer protection zone. This area does have the potential need for sewer extensions*

due to the proximity of the Town's two public water supply wells. The sections along Main Street (Route 44) and Church Street are designated as a "Neighborhood Conservation Area". The area to the northeast of Route 44 extending to the Farmington River that includes portions of 10 Street and Black Bridge Road where the elementary school is located is designated as a "Preservation Area". This is due to the 100-year flood plain. Sewers would be allowed in this area to protect the public water supply wells if chronic problems were documented with septic systems and public health was threatened.

With the recognition that that Town wells are in a Aquifer Protection Zone with poor soils, the Town's highest density housing, small lots, aging septic systems and the added pressure of the Pine Meadow school septic system adjacent to the well at Blackbridge, it is unconscionable to me that line expansion has not been prioritized and hook-ups mandated in the entire Pine Meadow sector. A recent survey of Church St. properties, that area nearest the Town's second public well, further illustrates my point. When public sewers were installed to the benefit of abutting Church St. properties and then left to the elective connection of the owner, only (1) of (13) properties were hooked into the existing sewer line. It is my understanding, from hydrologists that I have consulted on the subject, that Monitoring wells could be installed. However, according to the same experts, they are expensive and not a reliable means of insuring pollution detection. Further they present no means of detouring effluent, nor remediating a claimed property. It seems to me that once polluted, these wells could become unrecoverable and their inaccessibility could place emergency and long term hardship to the residents of the area along with unnecessary financial burden to the taxpayers of New Hartford. In my opinion, *"if chronic problems were documented with septic systems and public health was threatened"* it is already a defined problem. I subscribe to the adage that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. It makes good engineering and business common sense judgment to invest in preventive measures now at less risk and expense by prescribing mandatory hook-ups in these specific areas. If you should need any qualification of my comments, please feel free to contact me as shown below. Regards, Denton

Please acknowledge your receipt of my comments for the record by return e-mail .

Cc: George Hicks, DEP
Earl MacInnes, First Selectmen, New Hartford
Kenneth Krohner, Chairman, New Hartford WPCA