

PUBLIC HEARING
7:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2008
DURHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY

Environmental Impact Evaluation and Engineering Study for the Extension of Public Water System from Middletown to Durham.

The purpose of the meeting is to solicit public comments on the scope of this study.

MINUTES

In attendance

Town of Durham: Laura Francis, John Szewczyk, James McLaughlin, and Bill Milardo.

Environmental Protection Agency: Anni Laughlin.

Department of Environmental Protection: Martin Beskind, and Darrell Smith.

Fuss & O'Neill: Kevin Flood and Peter Grose.

Laura Francis called the meeting to order by reading the call. She talked about the history of the project, about the year 2000 study, and the need to do a feasibility study to update the costs and available water supply. She thanked Anni Laughlin, Mike Beskind, Kevin Flood, Peter Grose, and Bill Milardo for all the technical hours they have put in to this project. She stated there would be an increase in the area of study but noted there were still physical, environmental and fiscal challenges. She then introduced Martin Beskind of the State DEP.

M. Beskind stated this project would supply drinking water from Middletown to Durham to a total of eight-five homes; this would be the base core to satisfy the EPA. He stated there was state funding for the core portion but the DEP is required by state statute to do a feasibility and engineering study. He then introduced Kevin Flood, Senior Project Manager of Fuss & O'Neill.

Kevin Flood presented a PowerPoint presentation that outlined the Environmental Impact Evaluation and Engineering Study as follows:

1. 2000 Water Study
Contamination and costs have changed along with the available supply of water; Environmental Impact Evaluation is needed.
2. Purpose of Current
To assess whether the contamination has changed since the last study.
3. Review areas included
Durham Meadows Superfund site is the base core, Durham Heights, RSD#13, Durham Center Water System, Transfer Station, Miller Road, Cherry Hill, and (3) gas stations between Durham Heights and the Superfund site.
4. Alternative for providing water
The possibility to hook Main Street into the Durham Center Water System.
5. Updating water demands/projections
Projected demands will include domestic water use only and fire protection.
6. Determine upgrades needed for supply and transmission
Water main sizes and other possible infrastructure necessary to meet demands such as storage tanks, booster station upgrade, distribution system loops, pressure regulating vaults, additional supply and treatment.

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Kim Garvis, Town Clerk

7. Update costs for alternatives
Costs for the base area superfund site domestic only and domestic, and fire protection need to be updated. Other areas will be added sequentially resulting in different scenarios. A summary table will be provided.
8. Environmental Impact Evaluation
Access and summarizing alternatives using available information from prior report. Discuss advantages and disadvantages of alternatives; delineate wetland or water quality impacts and list potential mitigation steps.
9. Report findings
Report findings will be available to public and state agencies. A draft report will be submitted to CT DEP and DPH for review, another public hearing will be held, acceptance of the comments, and the submission of a final report with the incorporated comments.

Martin Beskind, DEP then opened the meeting up to comments.

Dick Kellish, owner of Main Street properties, questioned the mandatory report as just that. He stated for forty years the town has had the same problems, polluted water and wells. He has had to put in several storage tanks and charcoal filters. What he sees is just another tens years of the EPA not doing anything.

M. Beskind responded that he agreed this has been a long struggle and noted the difference with this update is that it follows a Record of Decision and the DEP is close to the point where something will be done. He stated DEP management will seek funding for their portion and the Superfund site would be paid for by the state.

Dan Kellish talked about a conversation he had with Anni Laughlin of the EPA eight years ago and stated that nothing has happened and asked what has gone on during this period. A. Laughlin responded that she understood his comments and pointed out specific items between 2000 and today. The EPA issued a Record of Decision; water to be brought in from Middletown to Durham. The Town of Durham acquired the Durham Center Water System which took the town many years to acquire the water rights to, and the Town of Durham had to focus on remedying many issues with the Durham Center Water System. Dan Kellish then asked what the costs of the last study and current study were and asked when they predicted to start this project. M. Beskind responded the current study would cost \$113,000 and the 2000 study cost \$100,000. He predicted an early April 2009 date depending on the extent of the comments which may affect the time but felt that this was a realistic date.

Donia Viola asked if Middletown has agreed to the arrangement. L. Francis stated they have agreed to the concept and no contractual agreement has been made yet commenting that part of this study will be addressing costs. Kevin Flood commented that Middletown would have to identify improvements if this extension is approved and there would be some cost sharing.

Norman Jason stated he purchased his home nine years ago and didn't have potable water. He was told work was going to be done very soon, that potable water would be available. In the meantime there are very sick people on Main Street although he is not sure what attributed to this. He stated he does not want this to take another eight years to get done.

James McLaughlin commented the Superfund site was identified in 1989 and asked if the DEP at the state level corrected a contamination problem elsewhere with the EPA involved suggesting they may have held up the process for Durham. M. Beskind responded yes to his first question and indicated obtaining the water rights to the Durham Center Water System was very drawn out.

Roger Kleeman asked who would operate the system, pay for the water to get into town and how Fuss & O'Neill were selected. M. Beskind responded that once the project was funded and constructed

individuals would pay through water rates. L. Francis stated Fuss & O'Neill did the prior report and were most cost effective.

Dick Kellish asked if the town could add on to the system in the future. K. Flood stated that it would depend on the water main size being brought down and how much was allotted to fire protection.

Darrell Smith of the DEP stated there was an adequate supply to areas discussed tonight from Middletown but commented Middletown will need to make planned improvements for several years if Durham becomes a reality.

Dan Kellish asked who authorized Merriam and Durham Manufacturing to wash their boxes with TCE and stated the residents did not pollute the water why should the residents bear the burden of the expense. A. Laughlin responded that these manufacturing companies existed prior to the EPA and DEP and there were no environmental laws at that time.

R. Kleeman felt the study should look at the town's current water company to see if it can deliver water to these areas; stating it would alleviate the cost burden. A. Laughlin stated there was a concern about contamination of the town water wells on the fairground.

Lewis Hinman stated he felt there was no other alternative but to do what was being suggested as quickly as possible at the best possible price. He felt pinning contamination on two companies was not fair as there were many other polluters.

L. Francis asked about the feasibility of putting in other services underground at the same time. K. Flood responded that coordinating with other utilities at the same time made sense and suggested starting early discussions.

A resident asked if there was any consideration to going east for water; to reactivate the Laurel Brook Reservoir with a water tank and pump house; or if the watershed area off of Higganum Road was considered. Peter Grose stated a Diversion Permit is required to pump an excess of 50,000 gallons a day saying this is a very risky, costly, lengthy process, and studies involved map over all four seasons. Costs would be involved and it would be a question of if the permit would be granted, there is no guarantee. M. Beskind said other sources have been looked at but Middletown has a well established system and already has a Diversion Permit.

L. Francis thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Moncata