

South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority

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<http://www.rwater.com>

September 19, 2018

Ms. Corinne Fitting
Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Re: Proposed Stream classifications for Housatonic, Hudson, and Southwest Coastal River Basins

Dear Ms. Fitting:

The Regional Water Authority (RWA) has reviewed the proposed stream classifications for the Housatonic, Hudson, and Southwest Coastal River Basins of Connecticut as noticed by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) on June 12, 2018. The RWA provides approximately 45 million gallons per day of drinking water to some 430,000 consumers in our region. The source of this water is a system of watershed and aquifer areas that cover about 120 square miles within 24 municipalities. The RWA has a long history of caring for natural environments and fully recognizes that the way we manage our system is integral to protecting the quality of our region's ecosystems.

Both active and inactive RWA public water supply sources are contained within the Housatonic River basin. These include two Level A mapped aquifers for two active wellfields located along the Housatonic River known as the Seymour and Derby Wellfields. In addition, the RWA owns what is known as the Peat Swamp Reservoir System, an inactive surface water source that was acquired when the RWA purchased the Birmingham Utilities water system in 2008. This system contains Peat Swamp Reservoir (also known as Beaver Brook Reservoir), Middle Reservoir, and a network of associated stream diversions that were constructed around the early 20th century. All of the above sources were registered as existing sources in accordance with the 1982 Connecticut Water Diversion Policy Act.

Our comments and recommended changes are shown in the table below, with the affected stream segments also shown in the attached map. They concern stream segments that are directly downstream of several diversions associated with the Peat Swamp Reservoir System, as described in the RWA's Water Supply Plan. These diversions are associated with small structural or earthen impoundments, which in some cases are not readily visible on maps or aerial imagery, and understandably were missed in the classification process.

RWA Comments: Housatonic Basin Stream Classifications

Comment Number	Stream Segment	Proposed Classification	RWA Recommended Classification	Comment
1	103016318	1	Automatic 3 or 4	Segment downstream of Hopp Brook Diversion to Peat Swamp Reservoir
2	103017595	1	Automatic 3 or 4	Portions of segment downstream of Burzinski #1 West and Burzinski #2 diversions to Peat Swamp Reservoir
3	103017423	1	Automatic 3 or 4	57 foot segment between two proposed Automatic 3 segments; merge for consistency
4	103017053	3	Automatic 3 or 4	Segment downstream of Wildcat Mountain Diversion to Peat Swamp Reservoir
5	103017260	2	Automatic 3 or 4	Portion of segment downstream of Black Brook Diversion to Peat Swamp Reservoir
6	103017572	1	Automatic 3 or 4	Portions of segment downstream of Burzinski #3 and Turning Dam diversions to Peat Swamp Reservoir
7	103017729	1	Automatic 3 or 4	Portion downstream of Burzinski #1 East diversion to Peat Swamp Reservoir

Please let me know if we can be of assistance in answering questions or providing additional information on specific details of rivers and streams within the RWA's water system. We would be happy to provide field visits to specific water system locations to CT DEEP staff if it would be helpful.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. If you have any questions, please contact me at 203-401-2733 or jhudak@rwater.com.

Sincerely,



Environmental Planning Manager

cc. Lori Mathieu, CT DPH
 Ted Norris, RWA

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