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October 3, 2013

Patrick O'Brien Office of Policy and Management Bureau of Assets Management 450 Capitol Avenue - MS#52ASP Hartford, CT 06106-1379

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has reviewed the Notice of Proposed Land Transfer involving 5.3 acres of undeveloped land at 326 Main Street in Newington. The Department has no objection to the proposed transfer. Given the property's location and size, it would not serve as a useful addition to the state's system of parks, forests, wildlife areas and other natural open spaces nor provide high quality active or passive recreation opportunities.

The Department has reviewed the property pursuant to section 4b-47(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS). The transfer of property will be subject to restrictions regarding development in the floodplain that will be imposed during the certification process required by section 25-68d of the CGS. This comment letter does not require a response from OPM under section 4b-47(a) of the CGS, and we understand it will be included on the OPM website listing properties for which comment periods have expired.

In addition, the Natural Diversity Data Base, maintained by the Department, contains no records of extant populations of Federally listed endangered or threatened species or species listed by the State, pursuant to section 26-306 of the CGS, as endangered, threatened or special concern at the property. This information is not the result of comprehensive or site-specific field investigations.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this proposed land transfer. If there are any questions regarding these comments, please contact David Fox of the Office of Environmental Review at 860-424-4111 or <u>david fox@ct gov</u>.

Sincerely

Daniel C. Esty