

Date: August 13, 2013

To: Chief Elected Official, Water Pollution Control Authority, Superintendent, Consulting Engineer, and Regional Planning Organization

From: George V. Hicks, P.E., Supervising Sanitary Engineer, Municipal Facilities

Re: Wastewater Infrastructure Improvements for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 and FY 2015 Clean Water Fund Priority List

Overview:

We are preparing to issue the Clean Water Fund (CWF) Priority List covering FY 2014 and FY 2015 (7/1/13 – 6/30/15) and are requesting that you review and update the information which we currently have in our files. During this past legislative session, the State’s Capital Budget passed with funding for the CWF of \$385M for FY14 and \$479M for FY15.

Verify Project Needs:

- If your project is on the current FY 2012 & FY 2013 Priority List, please review costs and schedule and update the information for our records. The Priority List can be viewed on the general Clean Water Fund website at www.ct.gov/deep/cleanwaterfund and by clicking on “Final FY 2012 & FY 2013 Priority List”.
- If a project on the current Priority List has been constructed through funds other than the CWF, please inform this office of this fact as well.
- Review your community’s funding needs for new projects to be initiated between now and July 1, 2015 and complete the form, which can be found at www.ct.gov/deep/cleanwaterfund and by clicking on “FY 2014 & FY 2015 Priority List Project Request Form”.
- Please submit the Project Request Form by September 13, 2013.

Unique Opportunities under FY14 and FY15 Funding:

Low Impact Development (LID) for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Communities

In order to provide incentives for LID features into a CSO project, the Department is considering a new funding reserve specifically designated for LID demonstration or pilot projects in CSO communities that are working toward compliance with their CSO Long Term Control Plans. Eligible candidates are the Bridgeport WPCA, the Greater New Haven WPCA, the Metropolitan District, and Norwich Public Utilities.

Renewable and Energy Management

The Department is also considering a reserve for projects that result in a reduction in electrical energy to operate the treatment plant and for projects that generate electricity at the treatment plant.

Phosphorus Funding

Section 64, subsection (c) of Public Act 13-239 provides a financial incentive for the first three phosphorus removal projects at wastewater treatment plants that meet certain requirements. The three projects funded under the Public Act will received an increase in grant funding from 30% to 50% for components related to phosphorus treatment. For more information on this, please visit www.ct.gov/deep/cleanwaterfund and click “Phosphorus Three Program”.

In addition to the funding available under Public Act 13-239, the Commissioner may establish a reserve for funding phosphorus removal projects necessary to meet phosphorus limits in currently issued permits. Please let the Department know if you intend on initiating a process upgrade for phosphorus removal in FY 2014 or FY 2015.

Resiliency Reserve

Superstorm Sandy and Hurricane Irene emphasized the importance of resiliency planning for wastewater treatment plants. In addition, Public Act No. 13-15 requires the Commissioner, when establishing the priority list, to consider the necessity and feasibility of implementing measures designed to mitigate the impact of a rise in sea level rise over the projected life span of the projects. Therefore, the Department is considering establishing a Resiliency Reserve to assist communities in planning and implementing resiliency measures at treatment plants.

How to Contact Us:

All information should be submitted to Ivonne Hall via mail at CT DEEP, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127 or via email at ivonne.hall@ct.gov. If you have any questions, please call George Hicks at (860) 424-3752.

What Happens Next?

From the information that you submit, a project priority point evaluation will be made by DEEP and a draft priority list will be developed. If you are requesting construction funding, it is critical that you provide a realistic schedule that accounts for development of design documents, review and approval of the construction plans and specifications by local boards and the DEEP, time required to appropriate local funding and time to bid the project.

Please be aware that construction financing will be based upon the priority points of the project and that funding reserves will be established apart from the priority points ranking. Each funding reserve is for a particular purpose and is set at a level which balances the demand and availability of funding.

You will be provided a copy of the draft priority list and the public notice of the hearing as soon as they become available.