



Connecticut Department of

**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

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P R E S S R E L E A S E

DEEP Information Meetings in West Hartford and Newington On Maintenance Work for Flood Control Project

Sessions scheduled Wednesday and Thursday evenings

Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) will hold public information sessions this week in West Hartford and Newington to talk with residents about the maintenance work that will be done on the flood control system that runs through those towns.

The sessions will take place:

West Hartford

- Wednesday, Nov. 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Auditorium

Newington

- Thursday, Nov. 5 at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Auditorium

“At these public information meetings we will provide residents with information about the maintenance work and talk with people about what to expect in their own neighborhood,” said DEEP Commissioner Robert Klee. “We need to complete this project to ensure that the flood control system continues to protect lives and property in West Hartford and Newington – but we want to conduct this work in a manner that, as much as possible, addresses issues that have been raised by residents who live nearby.”

Commissioner Klee said the agenda for the public information session will include:

- Opening Remarks – Commissioner Klee
- Overview on the Importance of the Maintenance Work –Arde Ramthun, P.E., State Conservation Engineer, Natural Resource Conservation Service, which is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- Presentation on the Maintenance Work By DEEP Staff
- Breakout groups for each neighborhood to allow for more detailed discussion of the project.
 - In West Hartford, the breakout groups will be for:
 - North (Asylum Avenue to Farmington Avenue)
 - Central (Memorial Road to South Quaker Lane)
 - South (South Quaker Lane to Southwood Drive)

- Breakout groups for the Newington meeting are still being determined.

Background on the Project

Construction of the flood control system for the South Branch of the Park River was started in Hartford in 1964. The final segments – Piper Brook in West Hartford and Mill Brook in Newington – were completed in 1992. The project resulted in the South Branch of the Park River and its major tributaries being modified through changes in alignment and hydraulic efficiency, which significantly reduced flood impacts in the three municipalities.

The \$4.5 million maintenance project involves clearing trees and vegetation in and around the river channel, as well as removing sediment and obstructions from the floodway that could prevent the system from functioning as designed.

This type of work was last done in 1999-2000. The federal Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has informed DEEP that maintenance work must be performed to bring the channel system back to its original condition or the flood control system would be decertified. There are significant financial consequences if the system is decertified.