

Memo

To: UConn Hazardous Waste Site Storage Study (HWS3) Advisory Committee

Glenn Warner, UConn Institute of Water Resources
Mike Callahan, Windham Waterworks Commission
Meg Reich, Willimantic River Alliance
Greg Padick, Town of Mansfield
Karla Fox, University of Connecticut
Jeffrey Smith, CT OPM
Pamela Schipani, UConn Department of Residential Life
Jennifer Kaufman, Mansfield resident

From: Rich Miller, Director, Office of Environmental Policy (OEP); Jason Coite,
Environmental Compliance Analyst, OEP *RAM JMC*

Date: April 3, 2008

Re: Status of UConn Hazardous Waste Storage Facility Site Evaluation;
April 10th Public Meeting

This is to update you on the status of our site evaluation process and provide you with background information about why UConn has had to deviate slightly from the prior recommendations and preferred site alternatives advanced in 2004.

As you know, during 2003 and 2004, UConn worked with an environmental and engineering consultant (SEA Consultants, Inc.) to comparatively evaluate various on-campus sites as potential new locations for the University's <90-day hazardous waste storage facility (HWSF). We greatly appreciated your collective advice and assistance throughout that process, as members of our Hazardous Waste Storage Site Study (HWS3) Advisory Committee. In August 2004, we initiated a formal Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) and held a public informational ("early scoping") meeting, as is required by the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA).

Of the alternative sites considered, a southern portion of the UConn transfer station, immediately adjacent to the western fence line of our water pollution control facility (WPCF), was selected as the preferred option. However, shortly after the EIE was initiated, that parcel within the transfer station became the staging area for equipment and materials associated with the ongoing landfill closure project. That use delayed any further progress on the EIE. Then, based on its proximity to the existing WPCF,

UConn also determined that the much of the transfer station would need to be set aside as the most feasible location for potential future expansion of the sewage plant – this kind of planning for future WPCF growth is a standard practice when wastewater flows reach half the plant's design capacity. Thus, the transfer station site could no longer be considered as a possible site for relocation of the HWSF.

The comparative study also listed an area within the WPCF fence line as the next most suitable site. Available space in the WPCF consisted of the northeast embankment (see figures available with the CT Council on Environmental Quality notice, <http://www.ct.gov/ceq/cwp/view.asp?Q=249438&a=987>). Upon review of a conceptual layout, it was revealed that the campus's main sewer line is buried directly under this area. A new waste facility at this location would require that the force main be reconstructed around the building footprint. Thus, this second preferred site was no longer a feasible option for relocation of the HWSF.

Alternatively, and in the spirit of consistency with the general objectives and recommendations of the site study and the HWS3 Advisory Committee, UConn then worked with our EIE contractor, Baystate Environmental Consultants, Inc. to consider alternative locations in the vicinity of the two preferred sites. We evaluated the inactive incinerator building located within the WPCF fence line. Three things made this location problematic:

1. Close proximity to a drainage swale that contributes to Eagleville Brook
2. Demolition or renovation of the incinerator building would be cost-prohibitive
3. Construction activity in that location would likely disturb the liner for the incinerator ash residue that extends over much of the adjacent F-Lot and down to the site.

Also, while both sites within the WPCF fence line could technically accommodate a large tractor trailer, the turning radius would be very tight and difficult to maneuver.

We then evaluated an undeveloped area immediately adjacent to, and north of, the Transfer Station and WPCF fence line. This area was not specifically addressed during the 2004 comparative site study. Initial considerations about this site include the following.

- There are storage cages used by UConn Facilities along the southeastern edge of the site (storage for masonry, utility piping, catch basin covers, etc.) which might have to be relocated.
- The site is accessible via the access roadway to the Transfer Station.
- There is sufficient square-footage to accommodate the proposed floor plan with tractor-trailer access and turning radius.
- Shallow bedrock is suspected beneath the western portion of the site.
- A 6"-sewer main from the landfill transects a portion of the site from east-to-west.

- The Celeron Trail bike path, which connects the main campus to Celeron Apartments and Hunting Lodge Road, runs along the northern perimeter of the site.

In June 2007, OEP invited DEP and OPM staff to the campus to review this site. Their comments included the following:

- OPM preferred the eastern portion of the preferred site because of the obvious signs of ledge outcropping on the western portion.
- Both departments recommended that consideration be given to relocating the storage cage in order to configure the HWSF further away from the Celeron Trail.
- Consideration should be given to either relocating the Celeron Trail or maintaining an adequate vegetated buffer along with other heightened security measures.
- The CL&P right-of-way for overhead lines that transects the site north-to-south needs to be evaluated for possible issues relating to site use or access.

As you know, given these changes and the nearly four years that have passed since the initial public meeting on this EIE, UConn has decided to conduct a second public scoping meeting, which is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., on April 10, 2008, at the Bishop Center, Room 7. Your presence and comments are welcome. Please contact me (486-8741) or Jason Coite (486-9305) if you have any questions or need more information.

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