TO: Thomas Q. Callahan  
Associate Vice President of Infrastructure Planning and Strategic Project Management  
University of Connecticut

FROM: Benjamin Barnes, Secretary  
Office of Policy and Management

DATE: September 16, 2013

SUBJECT: Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) for Potential Sources of Supplemental Water Supply, University of Connecticut, Storrs and Record of Decision (ROD)

Based on a review of the subject environmental impact evaluation and related documentation conducted pursuant to C.G.S. 22a-1e, I am herewith advising you of my finding that this evaluation satisfies the requirements of the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act.

I recognize that UConn conducted this EIE without the benefit of the state's regional water supply planning process, which has not yet been convened in northeastern CT. Although such a process was not available to assist you during the course of your evaluation, I believe UConn can play an important role in kick-starting the formation of the regional water supply planning process, as well as lending its staff expertise to the process in the future. While it is not a substitute for comprehensive water resources planning, DEEP has indicated that, because of the proposed transfer of water between major basins, an impact report evaluating the diversion's effects on water resources of the donor basin will likely be required pursuant to section 22a-369(10) of the General Statutes.

Conservation efforts UConn has made to date have enabled the university to rely on much more limited water sources and have garnered national attention. With the state's considerable investments in UConn's roles as an educator and technology incubator, further improvements in water conservation and treatment
must be recognized as opportunities, not costs. The conservation of potable water supplies and improvements in treatment capabilities are becoming increasingly important, while also creating new commercial opportunities. Despite the additional potable water available through the proposed interconnection, recipients should take full advantage of conservation opportunities, including the use of alternative sources such as reclaimed water for non-potable needs. The state looks forward to UConn’s continued innovations in water conservation practices and technologies.

Please contact Bruce Wittchen (860-418-6323) if there are any questions with regard to this finding.

cc: Paul Potamianos, OPM
    Daniel Esty, DEEP
    Karl Wagener, CEQ