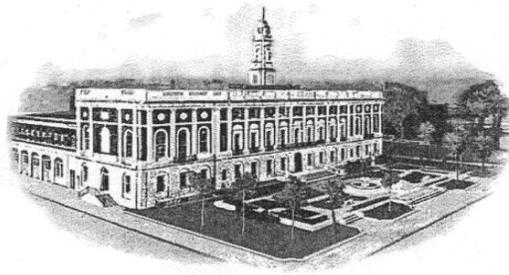


DENIS A. CUEVAS, P.E.
GENERAL MANAGER



TEL: (203) 574-8265 *Main*
Ex. 7402

FAX: (203) 574-8269
E-MAIL: dcuevas@waterburyct.org

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL DEPARTMENT
210 MUNICIPAL ROAD, WATERBURY, CT 06708

Testimony by: Denis Cuevas, General Manager, City of Waterbury Water Pollution Control

In Support of HB 5081 An Act Concerning Phosphorous Reimbursement To Municipalities

Before the Environment Committee

February 19, 2014

The City of Waterbury Water Pollution Control appreciates the opportunity to testify before the Environment Committee in support of House Bill 5081 which proposes changes for Clean Water Fund projects that are eligible to receive financing to undertake phosphorous removal to or at below two-tenths milligrams per liter effluent discharge.

The State DEEP issued the City's Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) NPDES permit on November 2013 with a compliance schedule to begin meeting a 0.7 mg/l phosphorous limit by April 1, 2014 and begin construction no later than April 1, 2018 to meet a 0.2 mg/l phosphorous limit. In the order meet the first limit, WPC's operation and maintenance budget is set to increase by \$750,000 annually. The second limit will require a capital investment of \$50 million which would add to the department's debt and result in an increase to the sewer rates.

The City's WPCF is the fourth largest wastewater treatment facility in the State and the largest facility along the Naugatuck River, this facility serves Waterbury, Watertown, Wolcott and parts of Naugatuck, Prospect and Cheshire. As the largest wastewater treatment facility on the Naugatuck River, we provide treatment to an average effluent flow of 21 million gallons a day.

The Water Pollution Control Department will be working with an engineering firm to determine the specific type of treatment technology that will best meet its needs in the terms of technical feasibility, effluent quality, capital and operational costs. The capital investment would include treatment technologies and operational changes reducing the phosphorous limit to 0.2 mg/l which would result in a 94 percent reduction of the total phosphorous load effluent discharge.

The City of Waterbury has demonstrated a commitment to the environment and has shouldered the burden in terms of cost of building and improving the WPCF. The facility improvements related to phosphorous limits, while necessary for the health of the Naugatuck River, will create a financial burden on Waterbury and its rate payers who are still paying the costs associated with the facilities upgrade completed in 2002. In light of the City's bonding needs, debt service and annual budget commitments, the City must seek and rely upon the assistance from the Clean Water Fund to make additional improvement to its WPCF.

The changes incorporated in the bill will ensure facilities in Connecticut with similar phosphorous reduction requirements the same level of funding to institute the necessary improvements.