

**Jennifer Perry**

**Opening Statement for Confirmation**

**Thames River Valley Flood Control Commission**

Good afternoon, Senator Looney, Representative Janowski, Senator Fasano, Representative Camillo and members of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee. My name is Jennifer Perry and it is an honor and privilege to be appointed as a member of the Thames River Valley Flood Control Commission by Governor Malloy.

I am a graduate of the University of Connecticut with a degree in Civil Engineering. I am a professional engineer licensed with the State of Connecticut. I have been employed by the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for over 20 years. I am a resident of the town of Tolland where I live with my two daughters. Currently I am the Supervisor of the Engineering Services Section of the Inland Water Resources Division within the Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse. As the Supervisor of this section I am responsible for overseeing the repair of state owned dams, levee certification, and various state flood control projects. Of particular relevance, operation and maintenance of the 29 state-owned flood control facilities are part of my responsibilities.

I would like to provide a brief overview of the flood control commission's purpose and funding.

The Thames River Valley Flood Control Commission is codified within CGS Section 25-101 et al. Connecticut has participated in the Thames River Flood Control Compact since its inception in 1957. After the 1955 flood the

ACOE constructed various flood control projects in Massachusetts within the greater Thames River Valley, which control floods and provide significant benefits to communities along the basin corridor. These upstream flood control projects include reservoirs at East Brimfield on the Quinebaug River (67 square miles drainage), Buffumville on the Little River (26 square miles drainage), Hodges Village on the French River (30 square miles drainage), and Westville on the Quinebaug River (90 square miles drainage). In Connecticut flood control dams were built at Mansfield Hollow and Thompson. The Thames River Valley Flood Control Commission consists of six members, three from each state.

Under the interstate compact which governs the flood control commission, in return for the benefit of protection from loss of property or life due to flooding, the State of Connecticut reimburses the state of Massachusetts forty percent of the amount of taxes lost by reason of the federal ownership or control of lands for flood control projects and makes an annual payment, which supports the commission activities, office, travel, administration, etc. The Flood Control Commission is charged with among other things establishing the tax loss and invoicing Connecticut. One of my duties as an appointee to this Commission would be to monitor the activities of the flood control commission and assure that Connecticut's payments are made in accordance with the interstate compact. I would also assure that DEEP's budget contains the support dollars as required by the interstate compact.

There is a general funded line item within DEEP's budget for the Thames River Valley Flood Control Commission of \$50,200 to assure appropriate

allocation and obligation of monies necessary to fulfill the financial commitments under the compact.

The Thames River Valley Flood Control Commission makes an annual report to the Governor and the legislature of each state.

I am honored to be nominated and be given the opportunity to represent the state on the Thames River Valley Flood Control Commission. I believe my experience in the areas of dam safety and flood control will make me a useful addition to the commission and allow me to protect the State's interest in assuring flood control protection for its citizens. The periodic flooding such as occurred during recent storms Irene and Sandy highlight the need for Connecticut to continue to be vigilant regarding flood control issues.

I appreciate your kind consideration and welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you might have.

Thank you.