

Representative Policy Board  
**Land Use Committee**  
**South Central Connecticut Regional Water District**  
Via Remote Access\*\*

**AGENDA**

**Regular Meeting of Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.**

1. Safety Moment
2. Approval of Minutes – February 10, 2021 meeting
3. Eli Whitney Museum Update: B. Brown
4. Updates on other land and RWA properties – including invasive species update
5. Other land items
6. Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.
7. Adjourn

**Note:** Due to the pandemic, the Claire C. Bennett Watershed Fund Recreation Program annual meeting for 2021 has not been scheduled. The regular meeting of the Land Use Committee on April 14, 2021 will take place at 5:30 p.m.

**Reminder:** Special joint meeting with CAC to review FY 2022 Budget – **April 19, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.**

\*\*In accordance with the Governor Lamont's, Executive Order No. 7B for the Protection of Public Health and Safety during COVID-19 Pandemic and Response, the public meeting will be held remotely. Members of the public may attend the meeting via conference call, videoconference or other technology. For information on attending the meeting via remote access, and to view meeting documents, please visit <https://www.rwater.com/about-us/our-boards/board-meetings-minutes?year=2021&category=1435&meettype=&page=>. For questions, contact the board office at 203-401-2515.

**Topic: RPB Land Use Committee Meeting**

Time: Mar 10, 2021 05:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting (*via conference call*)

Dial by your location

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

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Meeting ID: 856 5754 9024

Passcode: 932120

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kd4zeWxC1V>

# SAFETY MOMENT

## MARCH – MOLD PREVENTION

Molds are part of the natural environment. Outdoors, mold breaks down dead organic matter such as fallen leaves and dead trees, but indoors, mold spores can cause health problems such as allergic reactions, asthma attacks and irritate the eyes, nose, skin and lungs.

### Tips to Prevent Mold:

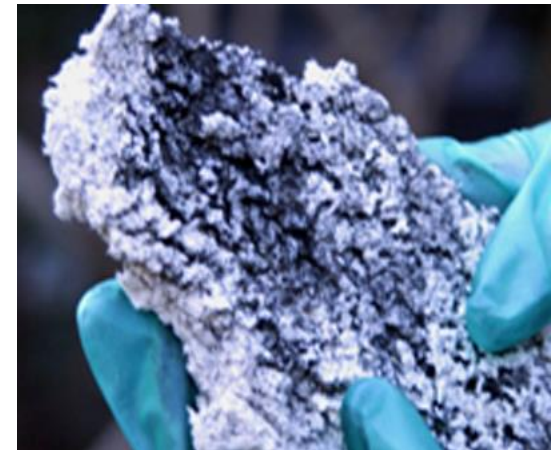
- Repair water leaks quickly
- Clean and repair roof gutters regularly
- Keep air conditioning drip pans clean
- Keep indoor humidity low
- Wipe down condensation that collects around windows and doors.

Service – Teamwork – Accountability – Respect – Safety

Tap Into  
Safety



Regional Water Authority



Safety is a core company value at the Regional Water Authority .  
It is our goal to reduce workplace injuries to zero.

 Regional Water Authority

**UNAPPROVED DRAFT**

**Representative Policy Board  
Land Use Committee  
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District**

**Minutes of February 10, 2021 Meeting**

The regular meeting of the Land Use Committee of the Representative Policy Board of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water District (“RWA”) took place on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 via remote access. Chair Betkoski presided.

Present: Committee Members: P. Betkoski, B. Eitzer, R. Harvey, M. Horbal, G. Malloy, J. Oslander and J. Mowat Young  
Authority: S. Sack  
Management: T. Norris and J. Triana  
RPB Staff: J. Slubowski

Chair Betkoski called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m. He reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

On motion made by Mr. Eitzer, seconded by Mr. Horbal, and unanimously carried the Committee approved the minutes of its January 13, 2021 meeting.

Mr. Triana, the RWA’s Real Estate Manager, provided an overview of historic areas of the Land Use Plan by town, which included:

- North Branford
- Lake Saltonstall area
- Lake Whitney Systems
- West River
- Maltby Lakes
- Prospect
- Birmingham Utilities area
- North Cheshire Wellfield area

Discussion took place regarding RWA’s cost of existing structures and a possible trip to Eli Whitney Museum.

Mr. Triana reported that the next Land Use Plan Amendment will include locations of historical significance.

Update on *The Land We Need for the Water We Use Program* – J. Triana reported:

Reservoir Levels (Percent Full)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average	Drought Status
January 31, 2021	85	88	77	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
January 2021	1.23	1.97	3.59
Fiscal YTD (6/1/20 – 1/31/21)	26.33	33.04	30.69

Land We Need for the Water We Use Program (Dispositions/Acquisitions)

- [nothing to report]

Hamden/Bethany, DePodesta and Hendrickson properties – Received the check for the DePodesta property. Posted required OSWLA signs at both the properties.

Hamden, Olin property option – Corresponded with HLCT on this matter. Received letter from Save the Sound and other organizations requesting a meeting about this matter.

Rental houses:

- Hamden, 95 Ives St. (HA 13) and 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Hamden town attorneys agreed that condemnation would be the way to go. Said it could take months. Requested to bifurcate the disposition applications.

Forestry Update

- Guilford – West of Sugar Loaf ash salvage (GU 4) – 40% complete
- North Branford - Beech Street Softwood (NB 4) – **Complete**
- Killingworth - East Hammonasset Leaf Screen Thinning, (KI 4) - Contract not yet awarded.
- Hamden - Overstory removal and Tornado Salvage, (HA 36) – Not started yet
- Bethany – East of Lake Bethany hardwood (BE 18) – **Complete.**
- Madison - Nathan’s Pond Slash Wall Harvest (MA 5) – Contract awarded. Will likely start in February.
- Seymour - Silvermine Road Slash Wall Harvest (SE 9) – **Awarded contract. Likely start this winter.**
  - Gave out two new maple tapping permits.
  - Met with Jeff Ward (Chief Scientist, CAES) to discuss new study involving white oak saplings in Bethany.
  - Documented encroachments on several parcels.
  - Removed cedar trees from Sperry Road field for licensee & for future boundary posts.

Recreation

- Discussed mountain bike possibilities with people from Madison at Genesee.
- Held bird walk at Lake Bethany with 5 people.
- Reviewed possible fishing trails at Lake Chamberlain with environmental consultant.
- Checked part of Quinnipiac Trail with CFP staff about drainage improvements.
- Submitted annual report to DPH.
- Posted notice of openings for recreation staff and started receiving and reviewing applications.
- Discussed possible relocation of Mattabesset Trail onto RWA property south of Poole Rd. in Madison.

	January		December	
	2021	2020	2020	2019
Permit Holders	6,129	3,762	6,016	3,761

Special Activity Permits

- U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (Raymond Putnam)-walk the unnamed tributary to Farm River, hand excavate 20-inch test pits, fill after recording data. Take photos of abutting property. (Working on gaining access to abutting property; investigating possible

wetland violations), 1739, 1744 and 1778 Middletown Avenue, North Branford, (01/06/21-12/31/21)

- CONSOR Engineering (Michael Balboni) – Perform a routine and underwater inspection of the Waite Street Bridge over Lake Whitney; (1/26/21-2/23/21)-date of 2/9/21.
- UConn, Dept of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology (Dr. Mark Urban) – Research on pond amphibians - Totoket mountain in Northford; ridge north of Lake Gaillard; 60 ponds distributed to the west and east of Big Gulph Brook (3/1/2021 - 3/1/2022)

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
  - Agricultural fields – Discussed two fields with potential farmers. Sent draft agreements to Potter for taking over three hayfields from Bozzuto. Approved request from Urbano to apply lime and fertilizer to the Sperry Rd. field.
  - North Branford, Sol’s Path field (NB 4) – Executed license agreement with couple to use field for Christmas trees.
  - North Branford, 229 Forest Rd. (NB 17) – Surveyor found and set pins. Met with abutter. Sent draft agreement for them to review.
  - Killingworth, Bunker Hill Rd. (KI 9A) – Sent letter about one of the buildings in the easement and removing boat in pond. Offered license agreement for use of portion of field.
  - Bethany, Hoadley Rd. (BE 18) – Sent letter about ditch that crosses the property line.
  - Madison, Suffolk Dr. (MA 12) – Sent letter about fence over the line that was originally found in 2003.
- Invasive plants – Documented and treated invasive populations in Killingworth, North Branford, Hamden, Bethany and Woodbridge. This included using a contractor to mow about a half acre at one of the sediment detention ponds by Lake Whitney. Spoke to Chris Ozyck from Yale’s URI program about using them as contractors for hand pulling and cutting of invasives. Worked on grant from state regarding aquatic invasive plant management.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	29.70 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	~26 acres

- Deer hunt – Final hunter surveys received. Submitted annual report to DPH. Renewal of permit submitted to DPH
- East Haven, 196 Beach Ave. – Murtha staff will initiate a title report for the area to understand our easements.
- Branford, Parish Farm Rd. – Contacted by Branford Engineering Dept. about possibility of easement for sanitary sewer extension to address issues with septic systems in the area.
- North Branford recreation dept. – Corresponded with NB Recreation staff and set date to lead walk for them.

Mr. Norris, the RWA’s Vice President of Asset Management, provided an update on the Derby Tank project.

The next regular meeting of the committee is Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

At 6:36 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

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Peter Betkoski, Chairman

**March 10, 2021**  
**Land Use Committee Meeting**

Reservoir Levels (Percent Full)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average	Drought Status
February 28, 2021	89	92	82	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
February 2021	3.83	3.24	3.34
Fiscal YTD (6/1/20 – 2/28/21)	30.16	36.28	34.03

Land We Need for the Water We Use Program (Dispositions/Acquisitions)

- Durham - Corresponded with property owner of 16+/- acres.
- Madison – Corresponded with a property owner of 19+/- acres.

Hamden, DePodesta property (HA 38) – Submitted easement to file on the Hamden land records.

Cheshire, Ricci property – State announced that the town received the OSWLA grant and we will receive a portion of the award.

Hamden, Olin property option – Met with town council member, HLCT, and Save the Sound staff. Determined we could transfer the option without impacting any plans of the town.

North Branford, Beech St. and Poms La. parcels – Contacted by party potentially interested in buying the parcels.

Rental houses:

- Hamden, 95 Ives St. (HA 13) and 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Decided to bifurcate the two applications. Sent draft of the Ives St. house disposition to Ted for his review.

Forestry Update

- Guilford – West of Sugar Loaf ash salvage (GU 4) – 40% complete
  - Killingworth - East Hammonasset Leaf Screen Thinning, (KI 4) - Contract not yet awarded.
  - Hamden - Overstory removal and Tornado Salvage, (HA 36) – Not started yet. **Logger awarded contract experiencing health issues.**
  - Madison - Nathan’s Pond Slash Wall Harvest (MA 5) – Contract awarded. Not started yet.
  - Seymour - Silvermine Road Slash Wall Harvest (SE 9) – Awarded contract. Not started yet.
- Started inventories for harvests coming up this year.
  - Attended digital meeting with West Point Military Academy’s Forestry Department. Discussed our timber harvesting, specifically slash wall deer exclosures.
  - Modified the firewood permit renewal system, and completed mailing of renewal paperwork to permit holders.

Recreation



- Mounted new “no horses” signs at Lake Chamberlain dam.
- Sent change-in-use application to DPH for Lake Chamberlain fishing trails. Received final preliminary assessment for the project. Attended Bethany inland wetlands meeting about the project.
- Discussed possible capstone project for Quinnipiac students to plan a trail along the Mill River.
- Hike for Sugarloaf was moved to Lake Saltonstall due to deep snow. Ten people attended.
- Received and organized photos for the photo contest.
- Five interviews were held with potential recreation staff members. Three have been offered the position.

	February		January	
	2021	2020	2021	2020
Permit Holders	6,131	3,780	6,129	3,762

\* - Although the overall number of permits continued to increase for the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive month due to COVID restrictions, this is the first time since Dec. 2019 that the number of permits bought was less than same month of the previous year.

### Special Activity Permits

- A. DiCesare Associates (Clay Carlson) - I-95 bridge inspection for CTDOT – Lake Saltonstall, East Haven (2/9/2021 & 2/10/2021)-cancelled by CTDOT- will reschedule
- Yale University School of the Environment- (Dr. Craig R. Brodersen) - Field trips in field botany and forestry. - North Madison Cedar Swamp off of Rt. 80, 2/10/2021 - 5/31/2021 (actual use Spring Semester 2021)
- Hamden Fire Department (Richard Lennon) – to conduct annual cold water rescue training – Clark’s Pond, Hamden – 2/12/21 – 3/31/21
- Branford Parks & Open Space Authority (Richard Shanahan) – to scout out a potential suitable route for possible future relocation of a portion of the Branford Trail, West of Brushy Plain Road, east of Lake Saltonstall, north of Lidyhites Pond, Branford – 3/1/21 – 5/31/21
- Allington Fire Department (Deputy Chief Michael Esposito) – cold water rescue training, Maltby Lakes, West Haven – 2/22/21 – 2/26/21
- Northeast Work & Safety Boats, LLC (Jack Casey) – to conduct bridge inspection at Lake Saltonstall – 2/26/21 – 3/12/21
- A. DiCesare Associates (Clay Carlson) - I-95 bridge inspection for CTDOT – Lake Saltonstall, East Haven (3/3/2021 & 3/4/2021)-rescheduled to these dates

### Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
  - Agricultural fields – Discussed fields with seven potential farmers. Received signature pages and check for Guilford fields from Potter, but did not include a COI.
  - Killingworth, Bunker Hill Rd. (KI 9A) – Spoke to Lally on the phone. Sent draft license agreement.
  - Seymour, 8 Jefferson Rd. (SE 1) – Corresponded with Lupoli to either pay the fee or remove the encroachment, else we will move the fence to the property line in June.
  - Killingworth, Rt. 148 (KI 3 and KI 3A) – Discovered encroachments from abutters from property.
  - North Branford, Beech St. (NB 4A) – Emailed Gaudio to move vehicles which he did by the end of the month.
- Invasive plants – Cut and documented invasive plants in Bethany, North Branford, and Branford. Submitted application to state regarding aquatic invasive plant management.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	~26 acres
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Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	~25 acres
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- Deer hunt – DPH issued permit for all areas covering the next 10 years.
- East Haven, Beach Ave. – Title searcher is having problems since the town hall has not been open. Have only been able to access what is online.
- Regional Conservation Partnership – Held steering committee meeting. Contacted potential speakers for zoom meetings.
- Branford, Queach Rd. gate – Corresponded with Branford Land Trust staff about gate that was installed on the road. We will wait to put our lock out after the gate is painted.
- Hamden, LWWTP campus – Corresponded with two girl scouts about placing bat boxes at the LWWTP property.
- North Branford, path through Northford properties – Discussed possibility of a trail or path through Northford properties by the Farm River with Andy Bozzuto.
- Derby Tank – Reviewed the draft lease for the tank site and sent comments to CP&D.

#### Attachments

- February 8, 2021 - A Hacker Tried to Poison a Florida City's Water Supply, Officials Say – Wired
- March 3, 2021 - Two Weeks After Winter Storm, Water Crisis Continues in Mississippi – WVIT
- February 9, 2021 - Are We Prepared? Checking in with CT Water Companies After FL Cybersecurity Breach – WVIT
- February 16, 2021 - Connecticut Water sends residents warning letter about increased levels of toxic chemicals PFAS in source water – Hartford Courant

#### Upcoming Agenda Items

April 2021 –

## **A Hacker Tried to Poison a Florida City's Water Supply, Officials Say**

The attacker upped sodium hydroxide levels in the Oldsmar, Florida, water supply to extremely dangerous levels. The cursor began clicking through the water treatment plant's controls. Within seconds, the intruder was attempting to change the water supply's levels of sodium hydroxide. Photograph: Getty Images

Around 8 am on Friday morning, an employee of a water treatment plant in the 15,000-person city of Oldsmar, Florida, noticed that his mouse cursor was moving strangely on his computer screen, out of his control, as local police would later tell it. Initially, he wasn't concerned; the plant used the remote-access software TeamViewer to allow staff to share screens and troubleshoot IT issues, and his boss often connected to his computer to monitor the facility's systems.

But a few hours later, police say, the plant operator noticed his mouse moving out of his control again. This time there would be no illusion of benign monitoring from a supervisor or IT person. The cursor began clicking through the water treatment plant's controls. Within seconds, the intruder was attempting to change the water supply's levels of sodium hydroxide, also known as lye or caustic soda, moving the setting from 100 parts per million to 11,100 parts per million. In low concentrations the corrosive chemical regulates the PH level of potable water. At high levels, it severely damages any human tissue it touches.

According to city officials, the operator quickly spotted the intrusion and returned the sodium hydroxide to normal levels. Even if he hadn't, the poisoned water would have taken 24 to 36 hours to reach the city's population, and automated PH testing safeguards would have triggered an alarm and caught the change before anyone was harmed, they say.

"Did this come from down the street or outside the country? No idea." Bob Gualtieri, Pinellas County Sheriff

But if the events described by local officials are confirmed—they have yet to be corroborated firsthand by external security auditors—they may well represent a rare publicly reported cyberintrusion aimed at actively sabotaging the systems that control a US city's critical infrastructure. "This is dangerous stuff," said Bob Gualtieri, the sheriff of Pinellas County, Florida, of which Oldsmar is a part, in a press conference Monday afternoon. "This is somebody that is trying, it appears on the surface, to do something bad."

In a follow-up call with WIRED, Gualtieri said that the hacker appears to have compromised the water treatment plant's TeamViewer software to gain remote access to the target computer, and that network logs confirm the operator's mouse takeover story. But the sheriff had little else to share about how the hacker accessed TeamViewer or gained initial access to the plant's IT network. He also provided no details as to how the intruder broke into the so-called operational technology network that controls physical equipment in industrial control systems and is typically segregated from the internet-connected IT network.

Gualter said the city's own forensic investigators, as well as the FBI and Secret Service, are seeking those answers. "That's the million-dollar question, and it's a point of concern, because we don't know where the hole is and how sophisticated these people are," Gualter said. "Did this come from down the street or outside the country? No idea."

Security professionals have long advised not only segregating IT and OT networks for maximal security but also limiting or ideally eliminating all connections from operational technology systems to the internet. But Gualter conceded that the plant's OT systems were externally accessible, and that all evidence points to the attacker accessing them from the internet. "There is merit to the point that critical infrastructure components shouldn't be connected," Gualter said. "If you're connected, you're vulnerable."

Gualter said that the water treatment facility had uninstalled TeamViewer since the attack, but he couldn't otherwise comment on what other security measures the plant was taking to remove the intruder's access or prevent another breach. He added that officials have warned all government organizations in the wider Tampa Bay area to review their security protocols and make updates to protect themselves. "We want to make sure that everyone realizes these kind of bad actors are out there. It's happening," Oldsmar mayor Eric Seidel said in a press conference. "So really take a hard look at what you have in place."

As unprecedented as Oldsmar's public announcement of a cybersabotage attempt on its water systems may be, the attack it describes is hardly unique, says Lesley Carhart, a principal threat analyst at industrial control system security firm Dragos. She says she's seen incidents firsthand in which even unsophisticated hackers access software applications that offer control of physical equipment—such as the TeamViewer remote access tool reportedly used in Oldsmar or the human-machine interfaces (HMIs) that directly control equipment—and start messing with them. Thousands of such systems are discoverable over the internet with search tools like Shodan, she points out. It's often only the complexity and safeguards in industrial control systems that prevent hacker meddling from having serious consequences.

"Do I think that on a regular basis people are logging in to HMI systems and hitting buttons? Absolutely," says Carhart. "Do those things have a measurable impact on the real world? Very rarely."

Carhart points to a comparable incident—albeit one carried out by an insider rather than an external attacker—when a disgruntled IT consultant for a sewage treatment plant in the Australian shire of Maroochy used his remote access to

dump millions of gallons of raw sewage into local parks and rivers. On the other end of the sophistication spectrum, the Russian hacker group known as Sandworm in December 2015 hijacked a remote-access software similar to the TeamViewer program used in Oldmar to open circuit breakers in Ukrainian electric utilities, turning off the power to a quarter-million civilians. And there's an even more direct precedent: In 2016, Verizon Security Solutions reported that hackers broke into an unidentified water utility and changed the chemical levels.

Water treatment and sewage plants, Carhart says, are often some of the most digitally vulnerable critical infrastructure targets in the United States, made more so by the budget cuts and remote work scenarios imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic. She says she has dealt with entire cities whose municipal water treatment plant has only a single IT person.

"They're doing whatever they have to to keep water flowing and sewage treated. If they don't have the resources to do that and do cybersecurity, what are they going to do?" she asks. "They're going to keep the process running, keep society running. That's what they have to do."

## **Two Weeks After Winter Storm, Water Crisis Continues in Mississippi**

For more than two weeks now, residents in the city of 160,000 have been warned to boil any water that does come out of kitchen taps before using it

By Jeff Martin and Leah Willingham • Published March 3, 2021 - WVIT

For more than two weeks after winter storms ravaged the south, residents in Jackson, Mississippi have been warned to boil any water that does come out of kitchen taps before using it.

Frustrations are mounting in Mississippi's largest city, more than two weeks since winter storms and freezing weather ravaged the city's water system — knocking out water for drinking and making it impossible for many to even flush their toilets.

For more than two weeks now, residents in the city of 160,000 have been warned to boil any water that does come out of kitchen taps before using it.

"I pray it comes back on," Jackson resident Nita Smith said. "I'm not sure how much more of this we can take."

Smith has not had water at her house for nearly three weeks now, she said. She's concerned about her mother who has diabetes, since not having water makes it difficult to take her medicine.

A key focus of city crews this week is filling the system's water tanks to an optimal level, officials said in an update late Tuesday. Workers are also continuing to fix dozens of water main breaks and leaks throughout the capital city.

City officials on Wednesday planned to continue distributing water for flushing toilets at several pick-up points.

But they have given no specific timeline for when the crisis will be resolved.

The system has not been able to provide a sustainable flow of water throughout the city since the mid-February storms, city officials have said.

"Our system has basically crashed like a computer and now we're trying to rebuilt it," Jackson Public Works Director Charles Williams said at a recent briefing. The city does not have exact numbers of people still without water, Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba has said.

The city's water mains are more than a century old, and needs related to its infrastructure have gone unaddressed for decades, the mayor said.

We more than likely have more than a \$2 billion issue with our infrastructure," he said.

## Are We Prepared? Checking in with CT Water Companies After FL Cybersecurity Breach

By Caitlin Burchill • Published February 9, 2021 - WVIT

As the FBI and Secret Service investigate who tried to poison a Florida city's water supply, water suppliers in Connecticut say they're confident in the checks and balances they have in place to keep our drinking water safe.

Friday, officials say someone hacked into the Oldsmar, Florida water treatment plant and tried to fill the water with a harmful chemical.

"While we may be hearing about this in the news for the first time, this is certainly not a new threat. This is something that we have been prepared for, for years," said Regional Water Authority spokesperson Kate Rayner.

NBC Connecticut asked RWA in the New Haven area, MDC based in Greater Hartford, Connecticut Water providing services around the state or Aquarion Water Company mainly in western Connecticut too: they told NBC Connecticut they have many levels of security in place to stop what happened Friday from happening at their facilities.

"We have predetermined chemical levels set with our SCADA system, so you can't just increase the level beyond a historic level. This adds extra protection," said Aquarion Water Company director of corporate communications Peter Fazekas.

In interviews, Aquarion Water Company and RWA both specified that their network controlling their water system is separate from their corporate network.

Plus, they have a human checks and balance component in place too.

"There is somebody monitoring water treatment levels 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We always have eyes on the quality of the water," said Rayner.

In a statement, MDC says in part, "...the MDC continues to make critical investments in cybersecurity as part of our operational and capital infrastructure planning and stresses the importance of ongoing assessment of internal controls, collaboration with government agencies, preparedness training exercises and sharing of information, policies and procedures."

Connecticut Water, in a statement said, they have "...followed industry practices, implemented cybersecurity measures, and invested in systems and controls designed to protect our computer and operating systems." And, ..."Critical water quality parameters are monitored by our licensed and state certified water treatment plant and distribution systems operators."

But no matter the measures in place, Art House says we should still be concerned.

He's a cybersecurity and intelligence expert who worked for the Obama administration and has served as our state's cyber security risk officer.

"Yeah, this is really serious. As a country we are genially far too complacent about cyber threats. We don't want to scare people, but it's a clear and present danger," he said.

House says this Florida example is a small example of something he's most worried about, a big attack from a nation state that would shut down our critical infrastructure.

"I mean look if power goes out, you can put on another blanket. You can find a can of soup, but if you don't have safe water to drink you die. You have to get water, you have to find it, so it is the breaking point for a lot of communities."

He says Connecticut communities need to practice our response and recovery if our water was compromised.

"Every town is susceptible to being hacked. Every city. Every household. Every company. We need to have an action plan. What would you do if it happened to you?"

## **Connecticut Water sends residents warning letter about increased levels of toxic chemicals PFAS in source water**

By Christopher Arnott - Hartford Courant - Feb 16, 2021

Connecticut Water sent a notification to Unionville customers recently that PFAS, known as forever chemicals, have been detected in measurable amounts in source water in Farmington.

In a letter dated Jan. 29, Connecticut Water says “We recently tested water sources in the Unionville system. One groundwater source, our Connecticut Sand & Stone wellfield in Farmington, showed detectable levels of PFAS at 18 parts per trillion (ppt). This is a water source for customers throughout the Unionville system.

PFAS stands for “Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances” and refers to a large number of so-called “forever chemicals” that find their way into drinking water from sources such as food packaging, fabric coatings, nonstick cookware and firefighting foam. That last item has been cited in previous examples of PFAS detected in Farmington, when the foam has leaked into the Farmington River. Hundreds of fire stations across the state store and use the foam.

There are growing concerns across the nation about how PFAS chemicals can impact public health and the environment. Research indicates that even tiny amounts of these compounds in drinking water can lead to various types of cancer, immune system and childhood development problems, high cholesterol, diabetes and other serious health issues.

“There is nothing that you need to do at this time,” the letter states. “Your drinking water continues to meet or exceed all federal and state regulatory standards. We will take whatever actions are necessary to continue to meet any new standards for PFAS in drinking water when they are established by EPA or DPH.”

The notification was made voluntarily, says Connecticut Water spokesperson Dan Meaney. “We knew some customers may want to know. These are within the standards.”

Meaney notes that PFAS standards are currently under review both locally by the Connecticut Department of Public Health and nationally by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. During that review period, the EPA has set a Health Advisory limit of 70 parts per trillion for PFAS in drinking water. The Connecticut DPH also used 70 ppt as its Drinking Water Action Level for PFAS.

According to the Connecticut Water site, in voluntary tests conducted in 2019, no PFAS were found in its surface water supply sources.

Since June 2019 however, Connecticut Water has sent letters to the following towns stating that PFAS have been detected: Farmington, East Windsor, Brooklyn, Killingly, Thompson, Windsor Locks, Suffield, and Avon. In all the cases, PFAS levels were below the state and federal action levels.