

MEMO

To: Members of the Warwick City Council

From: Daniel O'Rourke, Chief of Water Division

Date: December 28, 2017

Re: Quarterly Report

Pursuant to PCO-8-14 Sub A, the Water Division is pleased to present the following report specific to items referenced in the resolution.

- 1. The Water Division is awaiting notification from the Rhode Island Department of Health regarding the latest round of lead and copper testing by the Providence Water Supply Board. Results below the 0.015 parts per million will allow the Water Division to be placed on reduced monitoring (every 3 years vs. yearly).
- 2. The Water Division is being requested to provide an updated list of all lead line locations throughout the distribution system. The goal is to provide additional transparency to water customers. We will be coordinating with other city departments to provide the information utilizing current available resources, and/or the required elements to obtain this objective.
- 3. During the 2018 calendar year the United States
 Environmental Protection Agency will require additional
 under the UCMR (Unregulated Containment Monitoring
 Rule). This rule requires the EPA to establish a new list of

no more than 30 containments to be monitored every five years. All of the required monitoring (UCMR2-4) is the result of the EPA's Information Collection Rule promulgated in 1997. All of these rules are the result of the original Safe Drinking Water Act and subsequent amendments to the original act.

What does this mean for the Water Division? It is another example of yet another unfunded mandate which will cost an additional \$15,000 in the first year. In the larger picture it is an additional means to identify potential problems and to safeguard this most precious resource.

- 4. The Water Division continues to coordinate with management of the Providence Water Supply Board to reactivate a critical discontinued interconnection which can be utilized during any unforeseen emergency with the two major connections (Natick and Pettaconsett).
- 5. We have finalized bid specifications for an RFP/ bid for the inspection of critical water mains. These mains encompass crossings under waterways and interstate highways. Technology is available which will not only detect leaks in areas but will provide a critical conditional analysis of the remaining structural pipe integrity.
- 6. Results of the 2016/2017 audit are not yet available. Provided the multi-year rate study is on track, the Water Division would like to be placed on the Rhode Island Department of Health Center for Drinking Water Quality Project priority list for future borrowing needs through the state revolving loan fund (R.I. Infrastructure Bank). Of course this would require the use of revenue bonds

authorized by the City Council and approved by the administration.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at extension number 9734.

Cc: Ray Studley- Chief of Staff Mayor's Office
Janine Burke- WSA Director
Rick Crenca- Director of Public Works



Department of Health

Three Capitol Hill Providence, RI 02908-5097

TTY: 711
www.health.ri.gov

December 22, 2017

Dear Water Supplier,

The Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Drinking Water Quality (DWQ) has been asked to provide the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) with an update on the progress that has been made regarding Lead Service Lines. The GAO NRE team recently started a new engagement looking at what is known about the number of lead pipes in the country. This letter is to follow up on EPA's 2016 letter asking systems to publicize their materials inventory or maps showing the locations of lead service lines.

Engagement subject: Number of Existing Lead Service Lines

Engagement code: 102396

Source for the work: GAO is beginning this work in response to a congressional mandate from P.L. 115-31 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 and will be addressed to the Senate and House Appropriations Committees (Int., Env. and Related Agencies Subcmtes).

We have received preliminary questions from GAO, the following questions must be responded to by **January 5**, 2018:

- 1. The status of the progress, if any, this water system has made in fulfilling the 2016 request;
- 2. Costs for locating lead service lines;
- 3. Current system-level estimates of the number of lead service lines, if available and;
- 4. Success and challenges in collecting accurate information about the locations of lead service lines and making the information available to the public

DWQ would like to wish you Happy Holidays to you and your families. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 401-222-5956 or email me at <u>Luis Gonzalez@health.ri.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

Luis F. Gonzalez, EIT Sanitary Engineer,

Center for Drinking Water Quality Rhode Island Department of Health 3 Capitol Hill, Rm 209 Providence, RI 02908-5097



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

SAMPLE LETTER

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OFFICE OF WATER

Dear Commissioner:

There is no higher priority for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency than protecting public health and ensuring the safety of our nation's drinking water. Under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), «State» and other states have the primary responsibility for the implementation and enforcement of drinking water regulations, while the EPA is tasked with oversight of state efforts. Recent events in Flint, Michigan, and other U.S. cities, have led to important discussions about the safety of our nation's drinking water supplies. I am writing today to ask you to join in taking action to strengthen our safe drinking water programs, consistent with our shared recognition of the critical importance of safe drinking water for the health of all Americans.

First, with most states having primacy under SDWA, we need to work together to ensure that states are taking action to demonstrate that the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) is being properly implemented. To this end, the EPA's Office of Water is increasing oversight of state programs to identify and address any deficiencies in current implementation of the Lead and Copper Rule. EPA staff are meeting with every state drinking water program across the country to ensure that states are taking appropriate actions to address lead action level exceedances, including optimizing corrosion control, providing effective public health communication and outreach to residents on steps to reduce exposures to lead, and removing lead service lines where required by the LCR. I ask you to join us in giving these efforts the highest priority.

Second, to assure the public of our shared commitment to addressing lead risks, I ask for your leadership in taking near-term actions to assure the public that we are doing everything we can to work together to address risks from lead in drinking water. Specifically, I urge you to take near-term action in the following areas:

- (1) Confirm that the state's protocols and procedures for implementing the LCR are fully consistent with the LCR and applicable EPA guidance;
- (2) Use relevant EPA guidance on LCR sampling protocols and procedures for optimizing corrosion control;
- (3) Post on your agency's public website all state LCR sampling protocols and guidance for identification of Tier 1 sites (at which LCR sampling is required to be conducted);
- (4) Work with public water systems with a priority emphasis on large systems to increase transparency in implementation of the LCR by posting on their public website and/or on your agency's website:



- o the materials inventory that systems were required to complete under the LCR, including the locations of lead service lines, together with any more updated inventory or map of lead service lines and lead plumbing in the system; and
- lead service lines and lead plumbing in the system, and

 o LCR compliance sampling results collected by the system, as well as justifications for invalidation of LCR samples; and
- (5) Enhance efforts to ensure that residents promptly receive lead sampling results from their homes, together with clear information on lead risks and how to abate them, and that the general public receives prompt information on high lead levels in drinking water systems.

These actions are essential to restoring public confidence in our shared work to ensure safe drinking water for the American people. I ask you for your leadership and partnership in this effort and request that you respond in writing, within the next 30 days, to provide information on your activities in these areas.

To support state efforts to properly implement the LCR, the EPA will be providing information to assist states in understanding steps needed to ensure optimal corrosion control treatment and on appropriate sampling techniques. I am attaching to this letter a memorandum from the EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water summarizing EPA recommendations on sampling techniques. We will also be conducting training for state and public water systems staff to ensure that all water systems understand how to carry out the requirements of the LCR properly. Finally, we are working to revise and strengthen the LCR, but those revisions will take time to propose and finalize; our current expectation is that proposed revisions will be issued in 2017. The actions outlined above are not a substitute for needed revisions to the rule, but we can and should work together to take immediate steps to strengthen implementation of the existing rule.

While we have an immediate focus on lead in drinking water, we recognize that protection of the nation's drinking water involves both legacy and emerging contaminants, and a much broader set of scientific, technical and resource challenges as well as opportunities. This is a shared responsibility involving state, tribal, local and federal governments, system owners and operators, consumers and other stakeholders. Accordingly, in the coming weeks and months, we will be working with states and other stakeholders to identify strategies and actions to improve the safety and sustainability of our drinking water systems, including:

- ensuring adequate and sustained investment in, and attention to, regulatory oversight at all levels
 of government;
- using information technology to enhance transparency and accountability with regard to reporting and public availability of drinking water compliance data;
- leveraging funding sources to finance maintenance, upgrading and replacement of aging infrastructure, especially for poor and overburdened communities; and
- identifying technology and infrastructure to address both existing and emerging contaminants.

As always, the EPA appreciates your leadership and engagement as a partner in our efforts to protect public health and the environment. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or your staff may contact Peter Grevatt, Director of the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water at grevatt.peter@epa.gov or (202) 564-8954.

Thank you in advance for your support to ensure that we are fulfilling our joint responsibility for the protection of public health and to restore public confidence in our shared work to ensure safe drinking water for the American people.

Sincerely,

Joel Beauvais Deputy Assistant Administrator

Enclosure



Nicole Alexander-Scott MD, MPH Director

Department of Health Three Capitol Hill Providence, RI 02908-5097

TTY: 771 www.health.ri.gov

29 March 2016

Joel Beauvais, Deputy Assistant Administrator United States Environmental Protection Agency Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Deputy Assistant Administrator Beauvais:

The mission of the Rhode Island Department of Health ("Department") is to prevent disease and protect and promote the health and safety of the people of Rhode Island. Key to achieving this mission is the assurance of the safety of our drinking water and prevention of lead poisoning.

Therefore, in response to your letter, we are pleased to take this opportunity to share with you what our state is doing to reduce exposure to lead through drinking water. With respect to your near-term requests:

1) "Confirm that the state's protocols and procedures for implementing the LCR are fully consistent with the LCR and applicable EPA guidance."

The Department's implementation of the LCR is consistent with EPA regulations and applicable guidance documents. More detailed information was provided on March 16, 2016 to Jane Downing, EPA Region 1 Branch Chief.

Additionally, a thorough review of sampling, maintenance of water quality parameters, reporting requirements, and our implementation of them, has been undertaken. Also, training has been scheduled for water system operators to review their responsibilities under the SDWA, and the recent changes to EPA's sampling protocol guidance.

2) "Use relevant EPA guidance on LCR sampling protocols and procedures for optimizing corrosion control."

The Department follows relevant guidance and federal regulations. As requested, we have posted a slightly modified version of the newly revised sampling protocol, edited to make it easier for water systems to use for their residents. Suppliers have been notified of its availability. Our laboratory has ordered wide-mouth bottles for lead sampling purposes. We look forward to the revised guidance on corrosion control optimization that will be available shortly.

3) "Post on you agency's public website all state LCR sampling protocols and guidance for identification of Tier 1 sites (at which LCR sampling is required to be conducted)."

All regulations and protocols are and have been online, though we are in the process of creating a more user-friendly location for all lead-related documents.

- 4) "Work with public water systems with a priority and emphasis on large systems to increase transparency in implementation of LCR by posting on their public website and/or on your agency's website:
 - The materials inventory that systems were required to complete under the LCR, including the locations of lead service lines, together with any more updated inventory or map of lead service lines and lead plumbing in the system; and
 - LCR compliance sampling results collected by the system, as well as justification for invalidation of LCR samples."

Posting of lead service line location data and individual sampling data may be a significant challenge for many water systems. The Rhode Island Department of Health will work with and encourage water systems in the state to provide documentation to the public concerning materials inventories and associated maps and sample results. Our largest system plans to have a look-up table for public side lead service lines available within two weeks.

- o The materials survey was required over 20 years ago. Systems were not required to report the results of that survey to the State. However, the state is working closely with systems to get any available information on line, and to gather more and better data where there is a need.
- With respect to sample results, some systems collect hundreds of samples each year. It may take some effort for water systems to put these results online in a usable format. The Department already makes 90th percentile summaries available online, as well as all individual lead results that are reported to the Department electronically.
- 5) "Enhance efforts to ensure that residents promptly receive lead sampling results from their homes, together with clear information on lead risks and how to abate them, and that the general public receives prompt information on high lead levels in drinking water systems."

Water systems are already required to inform consumers within 30 days of results being received from the lab, and to certify as much. Residents whose sample results are above the Lead Action Level are notified immediately, and given appropriate information to reduce their exposure. Systems who fail to properly notify participants are given violations. We are willing to explore possible ways to enhance this effort.

The Rhode Island Department of Health has enjoyed a positive and constructive working relationship with our primary contact, EPA Region 1. This partnership has allowed us to ensure

that our citizens are consistently provided with safe drinking water. We look forward to working together to meet these important challenges and maintain the public trust.

Please contact June Swallow, Chief of the Center for Drinking Water Quality, at (401) 222-7790 or at june.swallow@health.ri.gov with any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

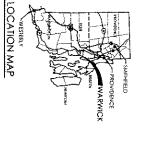
Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH

Director

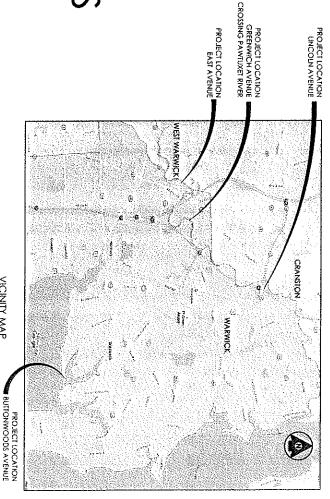
Rhode Island Department of Health



WARWICK WATER DIVISION



CRITICAL WATER MAINS



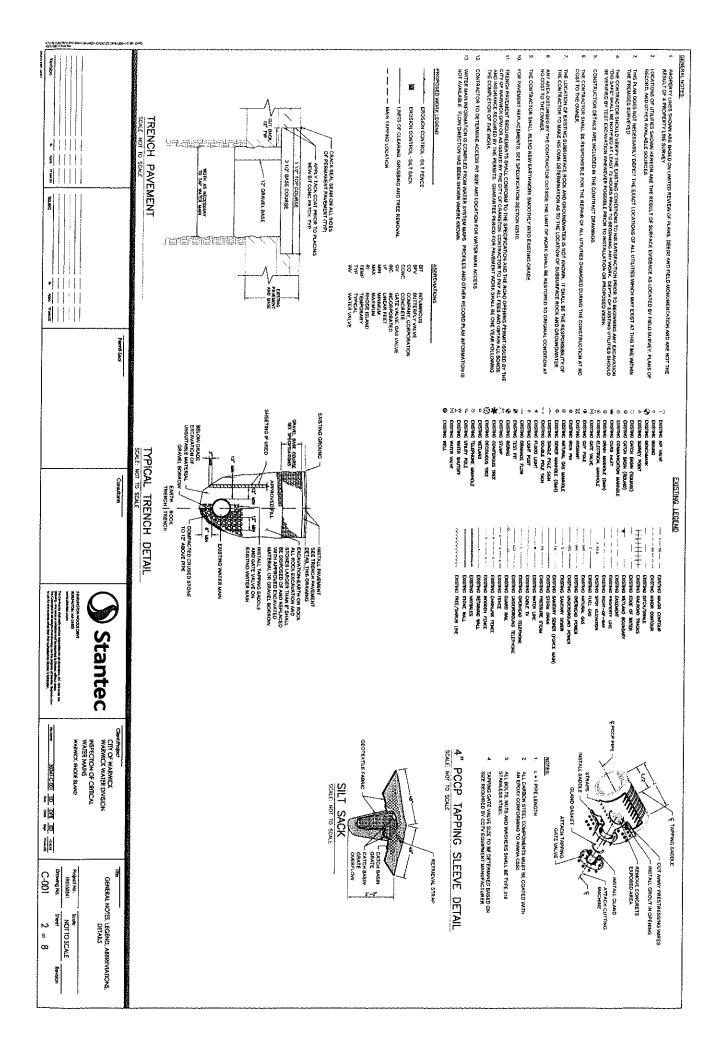
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Project Number: 195150341

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;- - *	G-001	COVER SHEET, INDEX, LOCATION MAP
2.	C-001	GENERAL NOTES, LEGEND, ABBREVIATIONS
ų.	C-002	TRAFFIC LEGEND AND SUMMARY
4	C-101	BUTTONWOODS AVENUE SITE PLAN
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7.	C-104	LINCOLN AVENUE SITE PLAN PART I
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WATER DIVISION CHIEF DANIEL P. O'ROURKE



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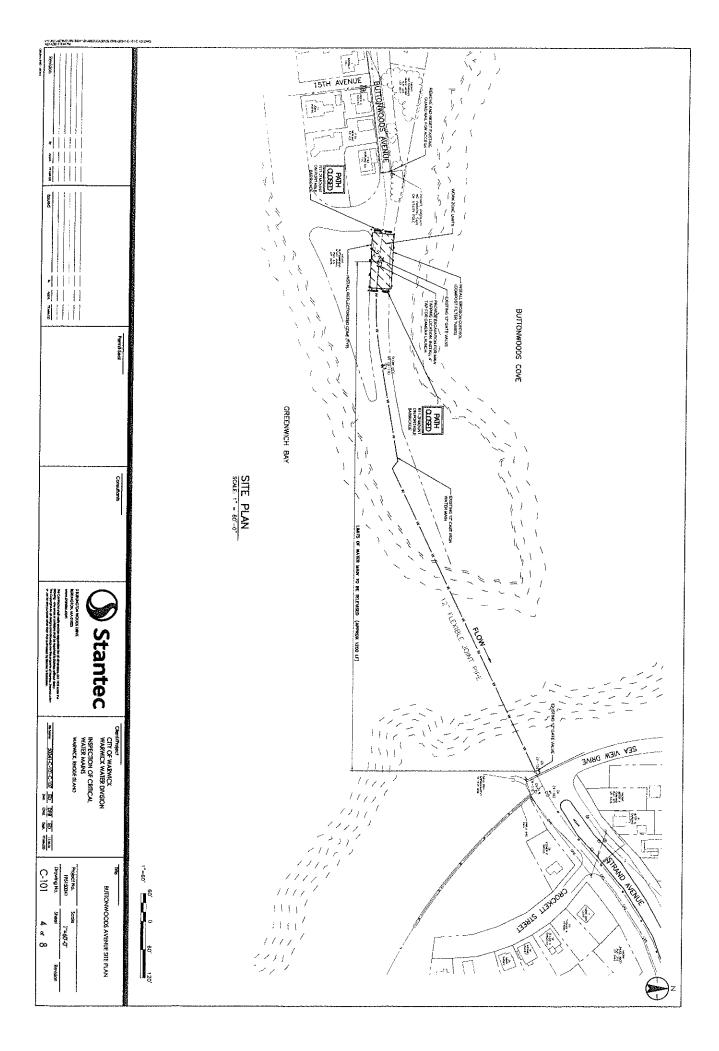
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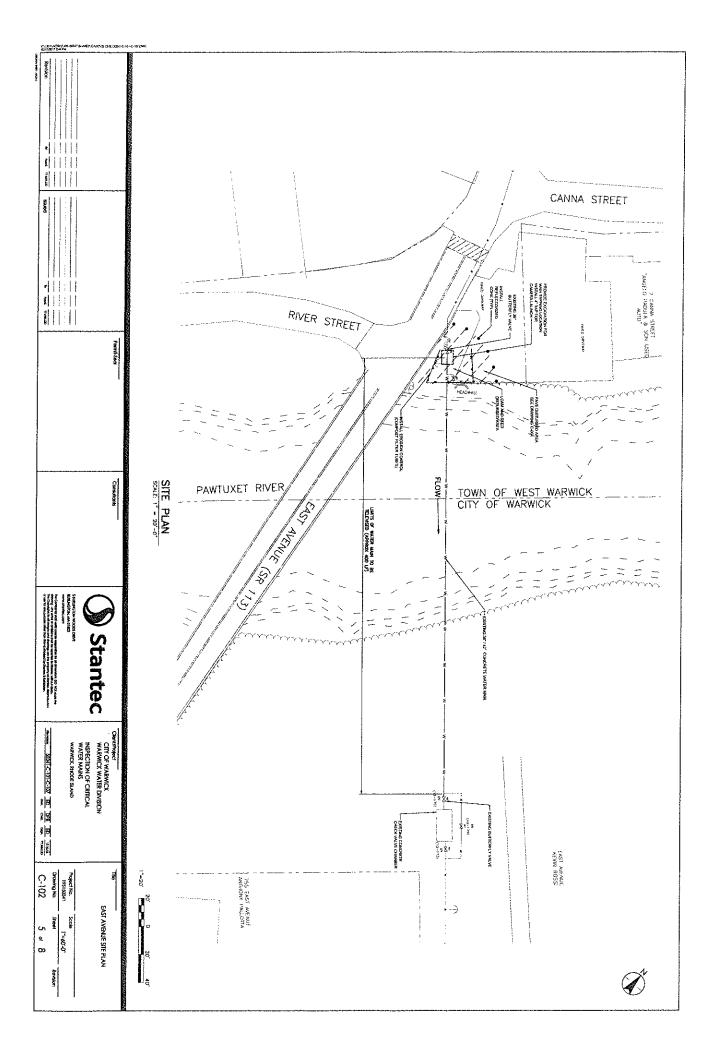
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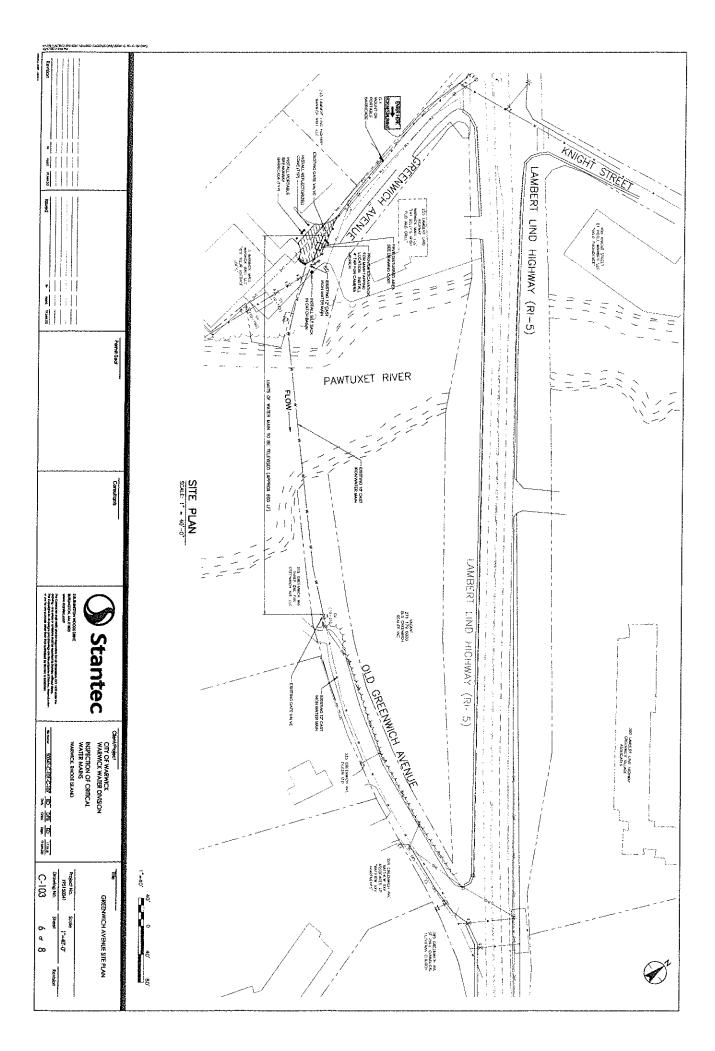
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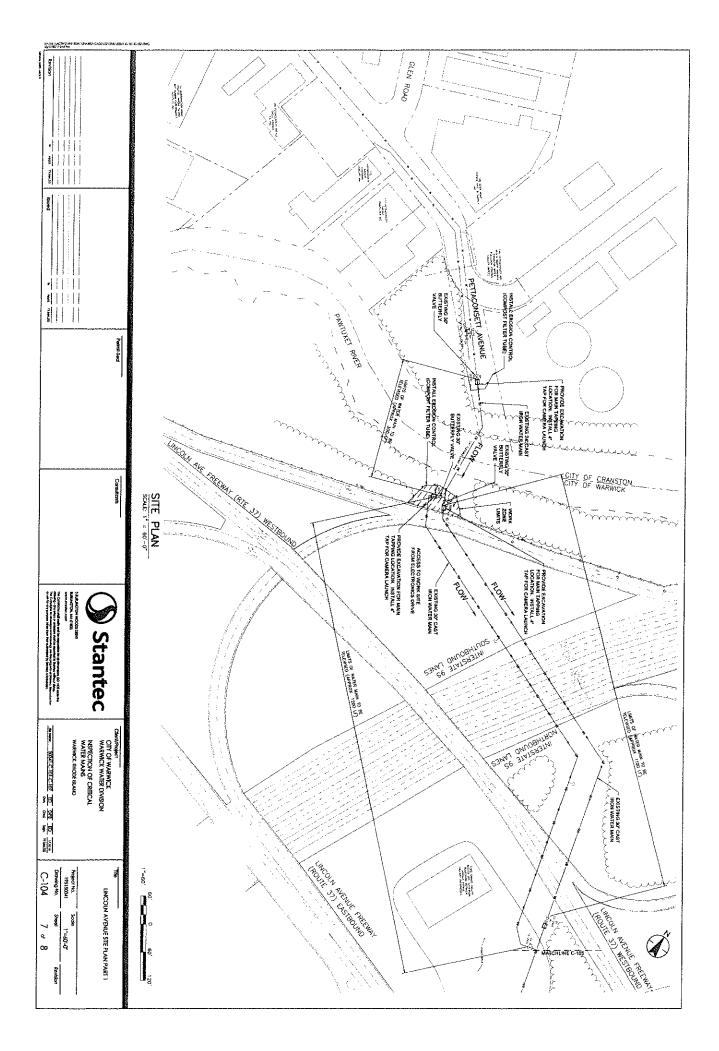
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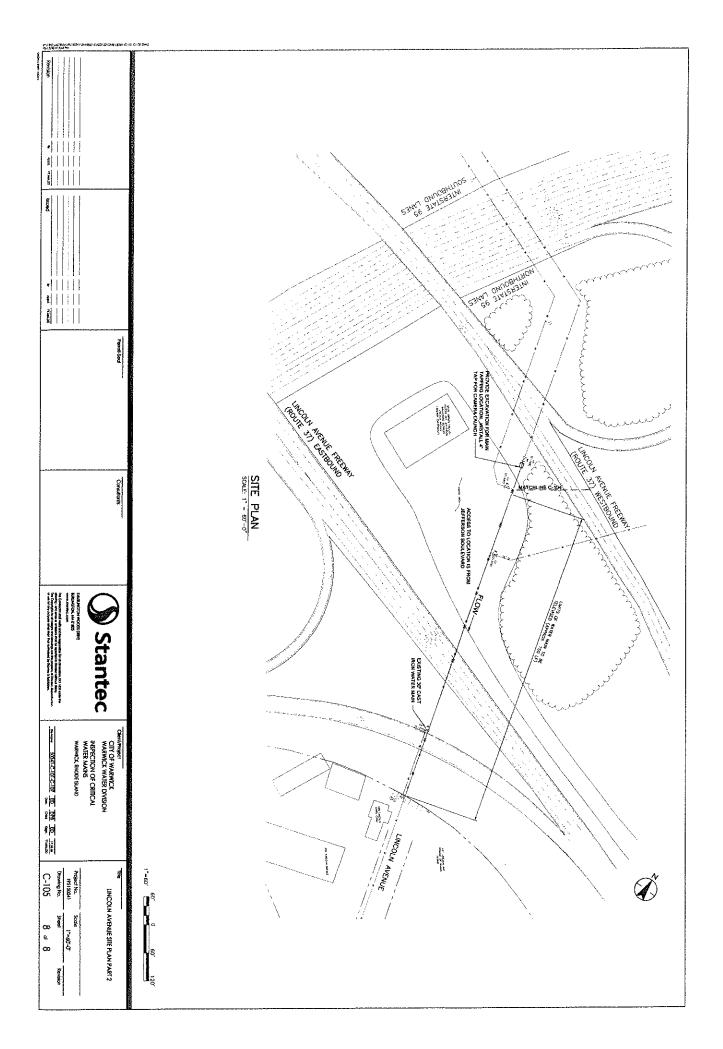
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February 23, 2017

Daniel O'Rourke City of Warwick 935 Sandy Lane Warwick, RI 02889 CHOOF IS LAND WE AT THE PARTY OF THE PARTY O

Department of Health

Three Capitol Hill Providence. Rt 02908-5097

TTY: 711

www.health.ri.gov

Re: FY 2017 Project Priority List

Dear Mr. O'Rourke:

The Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Drinking Water Quality (DWQ) is currently accepting applications for drinking water projects to be placed on the Rhode Island Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Project Priority List (PPL) for FY 2017.

Enclosed, please find a copy of the PPL for FY 2016. Please review your proposed projects and update project costs and anticipated start dates. Anticipated start dates must be as accurate as possible and no more than two years out. Please note that it is very important that the anticipated project start dates be as accurate as possible since the information will be used by the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank to develop a preliminary binding commitment schedule that will be reported to the EPA. In addition, please indicate any project(s) that you wish to remove from the PPL. Any project(s) that received funding in the past year will automatically be removed.

Also enclosed is a Project Priority List Application to be completed in its entirety for any new project(s) for which your facility intends using the DWSRF within the next two years.

Please note the following procedures for submissions of updates and applications:

- 1) The due date is March 24, 2017.
- 2) The updates can be mailed or hand delivered to The Center for Drinking Water Quality, 3 Capitol Hill Room 209, Providence, RI, 02908. If mailed they must be received in this Office by the due date. In addition they can be emailed to carlene.newman@health.ri.gov or faxed to (401) 222-6953.
- 3) Updates may not be made by phone.

The FY2017 Capitalization Grant Operating Procedures has yet to be released by the EPA. However all projects that are approved and receive funding under this FY2017 PPL will be required to comply with the American Iron and Steel (AIS) provisions. Information concerning these provisions can be found at http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/aisrequirement.cfm

The Unified Calendar for DWSRF Projects is enclosed for your information. Please note that the highlighted dates are ones that are most relevant for the engineering aspect of securing DWSRF loans. In order to keep a reasonable schedule that will allow for projects to be approved in time for the 2018 construction season this office asks for your cooperation in adhering to this schedule.

The Center for Drinking Water Quality appreciates your cooperation regarding the update of the PPL. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 222-7768.

Sincerely,

Carlene B. Newman

Principal Sanitary Engineer

Center for Drinking Water Quality

Carlere B Newman

Enclosures