

Westchester County Streams, Byram River Basin,  
Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study  
Fairfield County, Connecticut and Westchester County,  
New York

Appendix A.7  
Phase I Environmental Site Assessment

**PHASE I ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENT  
BYRAM RIVER FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT FEASIBILITY STUDY  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY, CONNECTICUT AND WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW YORK  
APRIL 2018**

**Acronyms:**

CTDEEP – Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

HTRW - Hazardous, Toxic, Radioactive Wastes

NYDEC – New York Department of Environmental Conservation

TSP – Tentatively Selected Plan

UST – Underground Storage Tank

**Executive Summary:**

As part of the feasibility study for flood risk management measure in the Byram River Basin a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) was conducted. The purpose of this ESA is to determine any potential environmental contamination issues that could impact the project. The project currently proposed is a the removal and replacement of the Route 1 bridges (West Putnam Avenue and Hillside Avenue) within the Village of Port Chester, Westchester County, New York. A records review of several databases for any recorded current and past industrial, commercial or other activity that may pose potential impact to the project was conducted. Review of these data bases showed no major activities that would impact the project.

**Introduction:**

The purpose of a Phase I ESA is to identify any hazardous, toxic and radioactive waste (HTRW) conditions that indicate any past or current release of potential contaminants to soils, ground water or surface waters of the project site(s). A Phase I is required by US Army Corps of Engineers Engineering Regulation (ER) 1165-2-132 Hazardous, Toxic, Radioactive Waste (HTRW) Guidance for Civil Works Projects. The scope of this ESA is limited to the areas of proposed construction for this project as defined by the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP). Sites identified from environmental data bases will be classified based on the potential of impacting the project construction.

**Site Location/Description:**

The area of proposed construction is located on the Byram River at the Village of Port Chester, New York and the Town of Greenwich, Connecticut. The river itself is 13 miles long and its source is just above the Connecticut/New York State line above Greenwich. From there it flows southward through Greenwich to the Long Island Sound. For its last two miles the river forms the boundary between New York and Connecticut. Flowing through light to moderate suburban developed areas as the river gets further south the residential density increases. The stream banks are mostly low with slightly sloping in the upper parts. River width varies from 50 – 80 feet. In residential areas, homeowners' properties slope down to the river and are prone to flooding during heavy rains. There are three dams on the Byram where the pool gets upwards of 150 feet wide. The three dams are in the upper to middle sections of the river: 1) the Angelus Drive dam at the northern end; 2) the American Felt Company Dam; and 3) the Pemberwick Dam north of Comly Avenue. Upstream of these dams and between each of them are low road crossings that are prone to flooding. Caroline Pond is located below Pemberwick Dam

Downstream of Caroline Pond there is a mix of higher density residential housing, apartments and commercial development. In this section the stream banks rise more steeply to near vertical in some locations. Retaining walls are frequent in this lower area. Construction of these walls has allowed encroachment into the river bed and affecting flow. The Route 1 bridges, consisting of two stone arch bridges, are located in this lower section. There are two bridges: one carries traffic eastbound (West Putnam Avenue) and the other carries traffic westbound (Hillside Avenue).

**Records Review:**

The following databases were reviewed:

- NPL - National Priorities List
- CERCLIS – Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Information System
- SEM – Superfund Enterprise Management System
- RCRIS – Resource Conservation and Recovery Information System
- TRIS – Toxic Release Inventory system
- CTDEEP State Superfund List
- NYDEC Spills Incident Data Base
- NYDEC Environmental Site Remediation Data Base

**Site Reconnaissance:**

There are 54 known CTDEEP listed contaminated sites within one half mile on both sides of the river (CDM Smith 2018). Of the 54 sites listed within that corridor, only three were close to, if not within the proposed line of construction. Two sites are former gas stations located on West Putnam Avenue at the Byram River. These sites went through the CT DEEP program and are now listed as closed files on the list. The third site is an apartment building (The Pemberwick) on West Putnam Avenue and Homestead Lane. During construction contaminated soil was found. The soil has been removed and the case file has been closed. There are no other CTDEEP sites close to the proposed line of construction.

**Findings:**

Only three known sites are located near the location of the bridge replacement. Those sites have gone through the CT DEEP site remediation program and have been completed or closed. Prior to demolition and/or construction activities, soil testing should occur to determine if there is any potential to encounter fuel oil impacted soil. The level of contamination should not be excessive as these sites have been remediated to CTDEEP guidelines. Existing protocols/procedures and best management practices for excavation and disposal should be enough to accomplish that task.

**Recommendations:**

The proposed replacement of the Route 1 bridges should proceed with minimal impact to the work from any contaminated soil. Any residual contaminated soil from the former gasoline stations can be managed with existing protocols and procedures for excavating low level impacted soil.

**References:**

ASTM E1527 Standard Practice for Environmental Site Assessments: Phase One Environmental Site Assessment Process. November 2005

CDM Smith. Environmental Resources Inventory. February 2018.

CTDEEP – Site Remediation list for Greenwich Town. 2017.

Connecticut General Statutes – 22A-133X

Remediation Letter to CTDEEP Case Manager for Pemberwick Apartments: May 14, 2004.