



TOWN OF WATERTOWN CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

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TOWN OF WATERTOWN REPORT TO TOWN COUNCIL

Subject: Overview of Regional Public Water Providers in Connecticut

Date: July 1, 2025

I. Introduction

This document provides an overview of major public water utility providers operating in the State of Connecticut, with a specific focus on three entities that may be of relevance to the Town of Watertown as it considers future planning related to its water and sewer systems.

II. Regional Water Authority (RWA)

Address: 90 Sargent Drive, New Haven, CT

The **Regional Water Authority (RWA)** is a public, non-profit corporation that supplies water to approximately **430,000 consumers** across a **15-town service area** in South Central Connecticut. The map attached (Attachment 2) outlines both areas served by RWA (blue) and towns included in the RWA district but not directly served (green).

Key Service Areas:

- **Served Towns (Consumers Served by RWA):** Ansonia, Branford, Cheshire, Derby, East Haven, Hamden, Milford, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, West Haven, Woodbridge, Seymour, Beacon Falls, Prospect, Wolcott
- **District Towns (Not Served Directly):** Bethany, Guilford, Killingworth, Madison

RWA may be a potential candidate for regionalization efforts, particularly given its proximity to Watertown-adjacent communities such as Prospect and Wolcott.

III. Connecticut Water Company

Regulated by: Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA)

Connecticut Water is a **state-regulated public utility** providing service to over **107,000 customers in 60 towns**, including wastewater services in Southbury. The utility has a broad geographic footprint spanning northwestern, central, and eastern Connecticut. It currently provides **public water service in the Town of Waterbury**, indicating regional integration with Watertown's existing supply arrangements.

Notable Towns Served:

Ashford, Avon, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Bolton, Brooklyn, Canton, Chester, Clinton, Colchester, Coventry, Deep River, Durham, East Hampton, East Windsor, Ellington, Essex, Farmington, Griswold, Guilford, Haddam, Killingworth, Madison, Manchester, Middlebury, Naugatuck, Old Lyme, Oxford, Plainfield, Plymouth, Portland, Prospect, Simsbury, Somers, Southbury, Stafford, Stonington, Suffield, Thomaston, Thompson, Tolland, Vernon, Waterbury, Westbrook, Willington, Windsor Locks, and Woodstock.

Given the company's regional presence and regulatory framework, Connecticut Water represents another potential partner should Watertown consider future sale, lease, or consolidation options.

IV. Aquarion Water Company

Parent Company: Eversource

Service Reach: Over **207,000 customers across 56 towns**

Headquarters: Bridgeport, CT

Aquarion is the **largest investor-owned water utility in New England**, with significant holdings in western and southwestern Connecticut. The utility has expanded aggressively over the past decade, absorbing more than 67 smaller systems since 2011.

Notable Service Areas:

Aquarion serves major portions of Fairfield County (Stamford, Bridgeport, Danbury, Bethel, Newtown, Brookfield, New Milford) and extends into Litchfield and New Haven counties. Over **4,200 customers in Brookfield** alone rely on Aquarion.

Aquarion's existing footprint near Watertown, including partial service in Litchfield County and its extensive resource base, may offer a viable partnership if the Town explores divestiture options for water infrastructure.

V. Comparative Overview (Map Summary)

The three attached maps offer graphical representations of:

- **Map 1:** Statewide overview of public water providers by company (Aquarion – blue, CT Water – orange, RWA – green, MDC – pink, others – black).
- **Map 2:** Specific service area of Regional Water Authority (RWA).
- **Map 3:** Connecticut towns served by Aquarion Water Company as of July 1, 2022.

These visuals are intended to assist in understanding service overlaps, geographic proximity, and potential for integration.

VI. Recommendations & Next Steps

Given the Town's ongoing deliberations regarding the future of its Water and Sewer Authority, this report is presented to inform future evaluation of potential regional partnerships or sale of assets. Further due diligence will be necessary to assess:

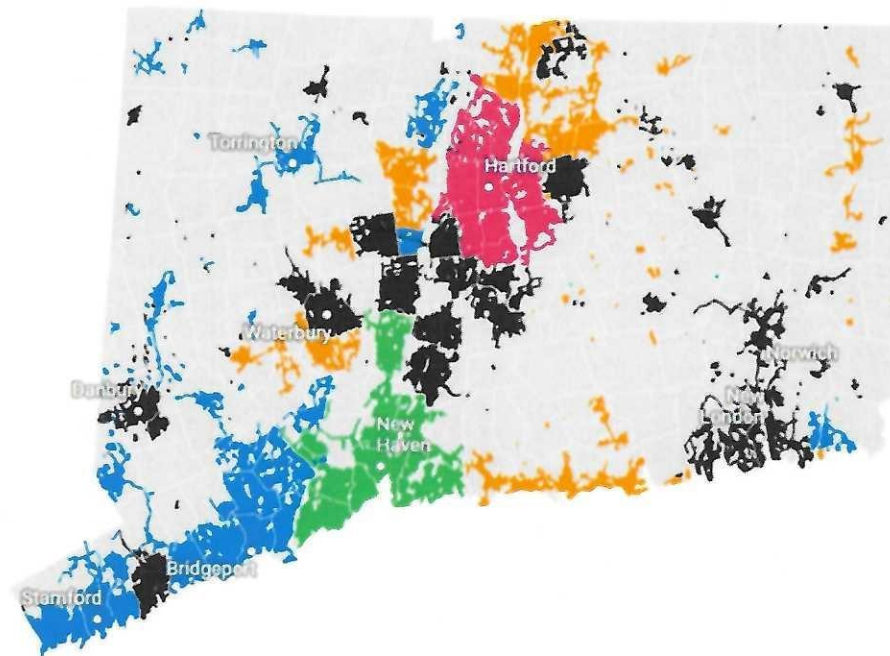
1. **Asset compatibility** and infrastructure integration.
2. **Ratepayer impacts** under each utility's rate structure.
3. **Capital investment requirements** and transition logistics.
4. **Regulatory implications** with PURA and other oversight bodies.

It is recommended that the Town initiate exploratory outreach meetings with each of these entities—starting with RWA and Connecticut Water—while continuing to assess internal financial readiness and operational capacity.

Map 1

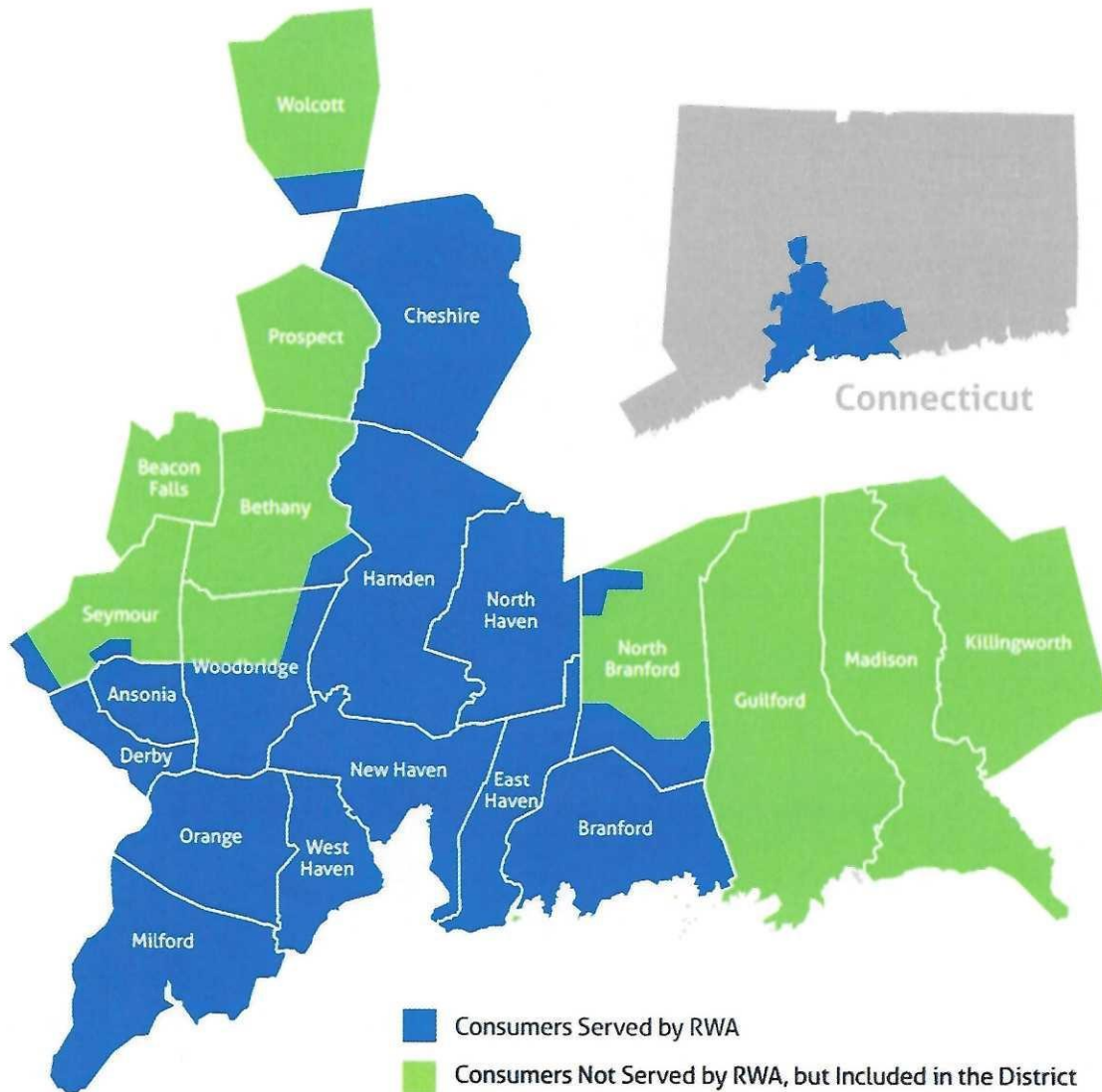
Public water providers in the state

- Aquarion Water
- Connecticut Water Company
- Regional Water Authority
- The Metropolitan District Commission
- Other public providers



Map 2

Our Service Area



Mission: To provide Connecticut customers with high-quality water and reliable water service at affordable rates through cost-efficient operations and exceptional customer service

Serving 207K customers,
representing a
population of ~685K
within 56 towns

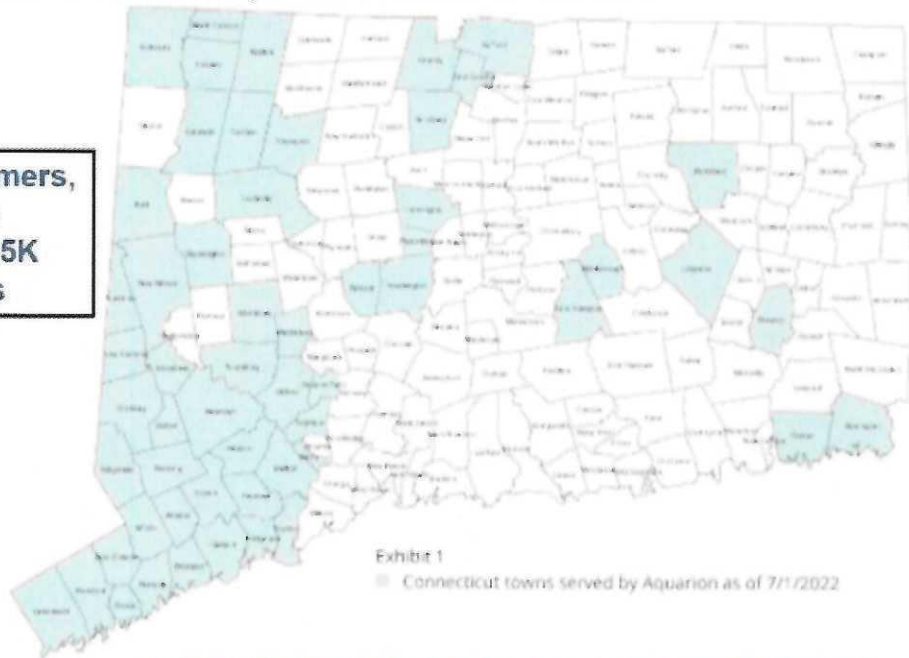


Exhibit 1
Connecticut towns served by Aquarion as of 7/1/2022





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TOWN OF WATERTOWN BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

TO: Watertown Town Council

FROM: Mark A. Raimo, Town Manager

DATE: July 1, 2025

RE: Summary of Key Activities – Water and Sewer Authority Planning and Waterbury Litigation Response

I. Background

In light of the court judgment in *City of Waterbury v. Town of Watertown*, the Town has engaged—and continues to engage—in a comprehensive planning effort to assess payment options, potential system restructuring, and long-term ratepayer impact mitigation strategies. This memo provides a summary of actions and meetings from June 16 to June 25, 2025.

II. Legal and Strategic Planning Actions

- **Supreme Court Petition:** Attorney Jessell has directed Attorney Kirsch to prepare and file the Petition for Certification with the Connecticut Supreme Court. This has been completed.
 - **System Sale Options:** Attorney Jessell has initiated a review of the Town Charter and Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) provisions relevant to the potential sale of the Watertown Water and Sewer Authority (WSA).
 - **RFQ vs. RFP Strategy:** Discussions are ongoing regarding issuing a **Request for Qualifications (RFQ)** to assess market interest without committing to a sale, as opposed to a **Request for Proposals (RFP)**, which implies active intent to divest.
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III. Financial Coordination

- **Fixed Asset Inventory:** Finance and WSA staff are collaborating on a review of the full inventory of fixed assets for valuation and future decision-making.
- **Budget Planning:** Communication has been initiated with bond counsel regarding the statutory basis for potential special bonding mechanisms.

- **Short-Term Funding:** Contact has been made with short-term lending sources to give options for repayment.
 - **Long-Term Bonding Inquiry:** Contact was made with State Representative Joe Polletta to explore the viability of State-supported long-term bonding to assist with Waterbury repayment.
 - **Fire District Billing Allocation:** WSA and Finance are actively working to finalize the **proportionate billing associated with the Watertown Fire District**, which will directly impact the Town's liability calculation.
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IV. Task Force & Meeting Coordination

- A kickoff meeting of the Town Task Force was held on **Monday, June 23, 2025**.
 - **Key participants** include: Town Manager, Town Attorney, 2 Council Members, and 2 WSA leadership.
 - Coordination discussions are actively underway with **City of Waterbury, Connecticut Water**, and engineering consultants including **Tighe & Bond** and **CDM Smith**, to assist with financial and operational due diligence.
 - Next meeting scheduled for July 7, 2025.
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V. Regionalization and Buyer Options

- **Potential Buyers Identified:** The **Regional Water Authority (RWA)**, **Connecticut Water Company**, and **Aquarion Water** have been identified as potential entities with the capability and possible interest to acquire or manage Watertown's water and sewer systems.
 - **Waterbury as Acquirer:** Conversations have also been initiated with the **City of Waterbury** regarding the possibility of assuming ownership of the system to offset judgment obligations and expand their customer base.
 - **Ongoing Engagement:** Watertown has held an initial meeting with the City of Waterbury and is currently in the process of **scheduling a second meeting** to advance discussions related to settlement structure and future operations.
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VI. Operational Priorities

- **Ratepayer Protection:** All planning efforts are focused on minimizing the long-term financial burden on Watertown residents and businesses.
- **Public Fire Protection Costs:** A detailed analysis is underway to clarify existing fire protection charges applied to WSA and/or the Fire District.

- **Staffing Impacts:** Any potential RFQ or transition strategy will include provisions addressing the status of current WSA personnel to maintain operational continuity and institutional knowledge.
 - **WSA Special Meeting:** The **WSA has been asked to schedule a Special Meeting as soon as possible** to begin formal discussion of potential **rate adjustments** and to review and determine recommended **reserve amounts required to operate the WSA**. This analysis is essential to help the Town calculate what funds may be available for a potential **lump sum payment** to the City of Waterbury.
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VII. Next Steps

1. Finalize and certify the WSA fixed asset inventory.
 2. Complete allocation of liability to the Watertown Fire District.
 3. Continue outreach to prospective buyers and technical consultants.
 4. Schedule and conduct a second meeting with the City of Waterbury.
 5. Develop a public communication and messaging strategy.
 6. Create financial models to compare lump sum and structured repayment scenarios.
 7. Evaluate long-term rate impacts and adjust WSA financial planning accordingly.
 8. Convene WSA Special Meeting to address rates and reserve funding.
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